

St. Luke's Formby

February

2025

Parish Magazine

Price: £1.50 per issue

Cheaper by annual subscription

£12.00 for 10 issues a year



**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

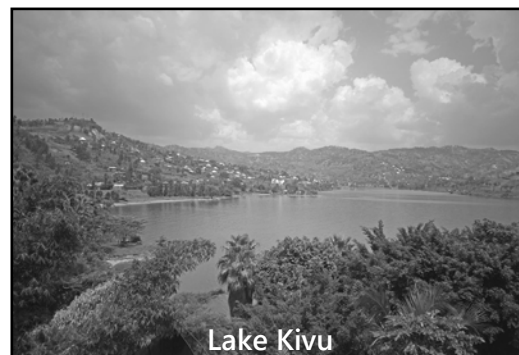
Aim: To support MU members in serving their communities

Achieved:

- Members supported with bedding and kitchen utensils
- Training of 25 MU trainers from all over the Diocese
- Successful Revolving Goat Loan project

Challenges:

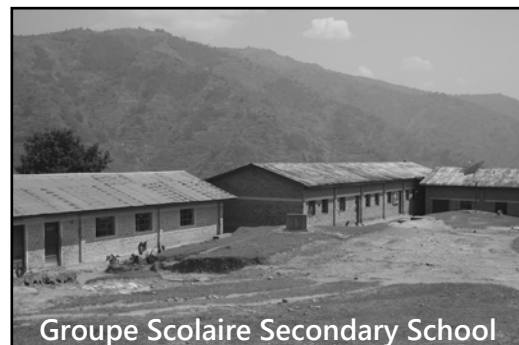
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



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

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



The last two months at St Luke's Formby have been filled with sadness. As you'll see from the Register on the following page, we have had ten funerals and burials in a short space of time. Some have been for long term members of the congregation and others local people who have lived near to St Luke's.

One of the blessings of a church service is the Bible reading, and funerals are no different. Every funeral has at least one Bible reading, and I spend some time talking about what it means and the hope it gives us. As I have reflected on each of the readings that have been chosen, I've been struck afresh by the hope of eternal life that they give us, even from the Old Testament.

For example, two Psalms that are often chosen, Psalm 23 and Psalm 121 both point to eternal life. Psalm 23 begins with the words, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing," and ends with, "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Psalm 121 begins, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?" and ends, "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore." For ever and for evermore: not just the days of our lives, not just now, but for *ever* and for *evermore*. It would be impossible for these promises of God to be true, unless there is life after death.

What the Old Testament hints at, the New Testament shouts from the roof tops: Jesus is risen! There *is* life after death! Resurrection! Because Jesus came back to life, we can have the hope of resurrection too. The resurrection is central to Christianity. It's why we celebrate Easter and it's why Christians meet on a Sunday.

In fact, it's so central, so essential, the apostle Paul says this in the New Testament:

For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:16–19)

If there is no life after death and no hope of resurrection, then Christianity is a waste of time, and we might as well believe in fairy tales. But, if Jesus has been raised from the dead, then it changes everything. Death is no longer the end. This life is not all there is. I wonder do you know this hope? I'd love to tell you more!

With every blessing,

Matt

Joint Editors: Margaret Cooke (e-mail: macooke29@gmail.com) and Ken Davies
(e-mail: kendavies1989@gmail.com)

Illustrator: Joan MacDonald. Cover design: Philip Lowe.

St. Luke's Web Site: <http://www.stlukesformby.org.uk>

St. Luke's Facebook Page: [facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby](https://www.facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby)

CHURCH REGISTER FOR DEC & JAN

Baptisms –

26 Jan - Edie Mills

Funerals & Burials –

3 Dec - Derek Walker (burial of ashes)

14 Dec - Phillip Cooper (burial of ashes)

18 Dec - Dilys Firn

19 Dec - Stephen Fazakerley

19 Dec - Alison Botterill (burial of ashes)

14 Jan - Maureen Linaker

15 Jan - Bryan Brankin

16 Jan - Linda Hornby

22 Jan - Chris Mulford

28 Jan - Margaret Risk

NOTICES

MESSAGE FROM THE MAGAZINE TEAM

We wish our annual subscribers and all at St. Luke's a belated happy and peaceful 2025!

Due to ever rising publication costs we have had to increase our annual subscription for 2025 for 10 copies from **£10 to £12**. We hope this doesn't deter anyone from continuing to purchase our magazine. The cost of a single copy remains at **£1.50**.

Please encourage new church members and non-subscribers to become annual subscribers as this would also help to reduce costs.

As always, we welcome contributions for publication (subject to editors' approval) and also positive feedback on how we can improve content and layout of the magazine.

Thank you!

Editors

EARLY WARNING!

2025 is the year we have to redo the whole church electoral roll, and everyone will have to complete a new application form. Watch for further information. **Jean Cox**

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.

NOTICES CONTINUED

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

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

Together@StLuke's - A new initiative since last 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 – Sat 1st Feb.

Tuesday Lunch – Soup/sandwiches/cake & company, 4th & 18th Feb in the Meeting Room. Donations for lunch welcome. **Anne**

Saturday Open Door Coffee Mornings – Re-started on Jan 11th and 25th. We hosted our Gifts-to-Funds stall on the 25th of Jan. How much raised for church funds will be declared in our March magazine. Our Saturday Coffee Mornings in Feb are from 10-12noon on the 8th and 22nd and will continue into March on the 8th and 22nd.

Why not come along and join us? Just come for a warm drink and a piece of cake, or a toasted teacake – bring along some craft to enjoy with others. Come with friends – or just come along and make new friends. **Jean**

Southport Soup Kitchen – Staff at the SSK would like to express their thanks and gratitude for the wonderful donations – food and financial – that came in up to Christmas. Their thanks go to all at St. Luke's Church and School, Range HS and HABLA Nursery. They are very grateful for your continued support for their guests and needy families for as you know the SSK is a charity dependent on all who support it. **Maggie**

Saving used stamps: Hearing Dogs for the Deaf – please save used postage stamps and pass them to **Irene** who sends them to fund the training of these valuable dogs.

New Boiler Fund – £8,611 has been raised to date, including Gift Aid. The remaining £13,000 has to come out of the church reserves. Further donations welcome to top up the reserves. Many thanks to all who have donated so far.

St Valentine's Day – Fri 14th Feb.

Lent Project (from Ash Wed 5th March) – as in recent years, donations will be shared equally between Lima (Peru) and Shyira (Rwanda). Full details in March magazine.

Next PCC Meeting – Wed 26th March (none in Feb).

ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL NATIVITY ART COMPETITION 2024

There were 54 entries in total. The names of the category winners and overall winner of The Barbara Mossop Trophy are listed below. They were presented with their prize monies and the Trophy during the end of term assemblies in church. We thank staff at St Luke's School for overseeing the competition along with judge Joan MacDonald. Joan wrote the following about the winners and the competition as a whole –



CATEGORY 1 (Reception and Years 1,2,3) and winner of The Barbara Mossop Trophy - Anders Carter aged 6 – “Congratulations, Anders. Using felt tips for colouring certainly has impact. The dark sky tells us it is night-time, so the bright colours of the figures make them really stand out. I particularly liked the Wise Men with their ornate robes. Altogether you made a pleasing image”.

CATEGORY 2 (Years 4,5,6) – Julek Jones aged 8 – “Well done, Julek. Your Nativity colouring makes a cosy picture of the family of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. You have made the garments of the Wise Men look fine and rich so that they stand out. I liked the animals and the impression of the straw strewn around the stable”.

CATEGORY 3 Own Drawing – Sofia Esgaio aged 10 – “Congratulations, Sofia. You should be proud of yourself for this hand-drawn design. You have included all the characters within the stable - making a lovely picture. Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus take

the eye to the centre and the Wise Men look as if they are on the way in. I love the animals and shepherds too”.

“Well done to everyone who took part in the competition. I can see that you have all tried hard and it was a pleasure to look at all your pictures. Congratulations to everybody!”

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER MUSICAL NATIVITY

The Churches Together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown (CTiFAH) Nativity play for Christmas 2024 took place on Saturday 14th December at 11.00am in St. Stephen's church hall in Hightown as St. Stephen's are chairing CTiFAH this year. It was the first time the event was staged outside the centre of Formby. The church hall was packed with people - both sitting and standing round the sides of the hall. The event used the stage in the hall for the performance, and as well as actors the Make Noise choir of adults and children sang. The play was written and expertly directed by Dymrna Edwards and told the traditional Christmas story as depicted in the gospels. The Vicar of St. Stephen's, Rev. Keith Thornborough, gave a short message.

(Photos on p5 courtesy of David Hogben)

GALLERY



3 shepherds



3 Kings giving Herod the news



Herod



Mary with baby (Jesus)



Joseph, Mary & baby & innkeeper

THE SOLSTICE CHOIR FROM ROSCOMMON IN IRELAND ARRIVED AT ST. LUKE'S ON 26TH OCTOBER TO VISIT THE GRAVE OF PERCY FRENCH AND ALSO TO PERFORM IN CHURCH – illustrations to an article in Dec/Jan magazine by Margaret Cooke. Photos by Rev. Dr. Matt Davis.



SMILE LINES: A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: "To Helen, with all my allowance".

A Cambridgeshire local newspaper in January 1900: 'WANTED – a steady respectable able man who can look after a garden, milk a cow, and sing in the church choir.'

RANGE HIGH SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE HELD AT ST. LUKE'S CHURCH ON THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER

The Range High School Carol Service is always an exceptional event combining selections of magnificent music and readings. Months of preparation go into making the carol service a fitting start to the Christmas festivities.

Throughout the evening, the readers retold the story of the birth of Jesus, which was punctuated by performances of beautiful arrangements of well-known traditional Christmas songs, including "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Ding Dong Merrily on High" which included an exceptional solo from Joni Falconer on the flute.

The evening also included the instrumental piece, "Corelli's Christmas Concerto", as well as renowned festive pieces, "Vivaldi's Four Seasons: Winter" and "Cantique de Noel" which Mrs. Davies and the orchestra ably performed.

The performances of "The Wexford Carol", "A Spaceman Came Travelling", "The Hour Before Christmas" and "The Winter Song" by Vocal Range and Harmonix were nothing short of outstanding. Cara Banks, Belle Sloane and Eleanor Baines should be especially commended for their magnificent solos, along with Maria Byrne and Lucy Corbett for their duet.

The evening was made even better with the congregation joining in with the hymns, accompanied by the orchestra.

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

Special thanks goes to Rev. Dr. Matt Davis for his prayers and blessings. At the end of the service, a collection was held with proceeds going to the Shyira Trust, the charity supporting Groupe Scolaire, the secondary school in Shyira, Rwanda, that Range High School have supported for many years. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our friends at St. Luke's Church for the ongoing support offered to Range High School throughout the year. We are extremely honoured and grateful to feel part of their warm and welcoming community.

Mr. Povey

Curriculum Area Leader for Music

Mrs. Bridge

Curriculum Area Leader for RE

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THOUGHT FOR FEBRUARY

I started to prepare my Thought for February on the 6th of January – Epiphany! But alas, so far today, there is not even a hint of an idea of what to write about – no eureka moment one might say! Instead, I stare at a blank computer screen and glance around the room with a tinge of sadness at the Christmas decorations about to be put away in the loft for yet another year.

I decide to ask my friend Jesus for help. I'm sure He can inspire me; and He does, by reminding me that those tiny delicate white flowers we call 'snowdrops' will be at their most beautiful during this cold winter month. They reassure us instantly that the warmer and lighter days of Spring are not too far away. They almost seem to 'smile' at us and to say "we're still here, life goes on and all will be OK". What could be more inspiring?

KD

FROM PARISH PUMP

Former Head of M15 to lead search for new Archbishop of Canterbury

The Prime Minister has appointed Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL to chair the new Crown Nominations Commission for Canterbury.

The Crown Nominations Commission is the C of E committee that will nominate the candidate to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Welby completed his duties on 6th January.

Jonathan Evans has been a crossbench member of the House of Lords since 2014. Until October 2023 he was Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He is currently Chair of the HALO Trust, the anti-landmine charity, and of the Public Interest Committee at KPMG UK. He is a former Director-General of the Security Service, MI5. He is an active and communicant member of his local parish church.

Observations on Love

Marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person. - *Anon*

'One plus one equals one' may not be an accurate mathematical concept, but it is an accurate description of God's intention for the marriage relationship. - *Wayne Mack*

Marriage is the ultimate invitation to growth in unselfishness. Living with another imperfect person pushes us to mature, mellow and master the art of relationship-enhancing self-denial. – *UCB Word for Today*

Our love for God is the root; our love for others is the fruit, expressed through patience, kindness, courtesy, humility, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness and sincerity. - *UCB Word for Today*

Even if it's a little, do something for which there is no pay, but the privilege of doing it. – *Albert Schweitzer*

Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into him alone they flowback. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. - *Richard Rolle*

When you routinely build little kindnesses into your marriage, they build the bond of trust and love between you. And your marriage partner is not a mind reader! So, whenever you think something nice about them, tell them. - *Anon*

The purpose of this world is not to have and to hold, but to forgive and to serve. - *Wilfred Grenfell*

Salt is like love; it can heal, purify, preserve and enrich, but it's useless if it's not sprinkled around. The truth is that all of life is tasteless without love. - *UCB Word for Today*

Love is practical, or it is not love at all. - *P W Heward*

Love seeks one thing only: the good of the one loved. It leaves all the other secondary effects to take care of themselves. - *Thomas Merton*

DIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL HAS GROWN TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL

Recent figures released by the national church show that membership in worshipping communities across the Diocese of Liverpool has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Attendance has increased from 24,700 in 2019 to 25,500 in 2023, making Liverpool one of the few dioceses to achieve this. It is also the only diocese in the northwest to see such a turnaround, reflecting the dedicated efforts of parishes and deaneries in introducing people to Jesus.

Bishop John expressed his gratitude, stating, "I thank God for all the work being carried out across our diocese. So many gifted, committed, and faithful servants are bringing people to Jesus week after week".

While growth remains fragile, it is a source of encouragement. The Diocese is seeing positive change through efforts such as Church Wigan and Fit for Mission. Wigan is currently showing the greatest growth, with over 1,700 people attending inherited church activities and 1,400 more involved in 48 new worshipping communities. Additionally, 2,700 people engage with new initiatives like the pantry network and CAP debt centre.

Bishop John acknowledged that while the road ahead is challenging, the work already done shows the potential for continued growth. "Through God's grace and in the strength of the Spirit, we can introduce more people to Jesus and deepen discipleship", he said.

As we approach Christmas, Bishop John reflected with gratitude on the growth that has occurred, thanking all who have contributed to this progress.

(From Diocesan newsletter 13th December 2024)

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*Technically, the Parish Share is a
voluntary contribution*

CHRISTIANS IN SYRIA

This is an edited article submitted by church members Hugh and Anne Dixon. It contains extracts from a recent email prayer letter they received from their friend in Jordan.

“From 2000-2011, I travelled to Damascus in Syria to scope out Bible background sites. I got to know the Christian and Missionary Alliance pastor there at St. Ebbe’s.

Life for Christians in Syria under the Assads was in some ways good. One pastor told me that they as Christians could do anything if the authorities knew about it in advance. Everything was very tightly controlled. Then came thirteen years of civil war. The pastor in Tartus said that one of the big problems he faced was the dire economic situation which made serving in the church so hard; many believers had to have two jobs so could not help much. Also, large numbers of believers emigrated during the war to be replaced by believers and non-believers who had been internally displaced. So, the war has also been a real opportunity.

After the difficult time of the civil war, Christians who have stayed in Syria can be seen as perseverers who have not emigrated and have followed the call of Christ. If they have coped with thirteen years of civil war and the dangers of ISIS (particularly in the North where at least one believer was martyred) then in some ways they will be ready for their new Jihadi masters even though this is still a very uncertain time for them. They know all about surviving and ministering under ‘controlling’ regimes. On December 11th, Christians there had a national day of fasting and prayer. Christians in Syria need our prayers at this time.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church (CMA) in Syria has around 2,300 members in 23 churches with only 8 ordained ministers.

More information on Christians in Syria from a 2023 Open Doors article can be found at:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20231005001954/https://opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/syria/>

Millions of Syrians poured out into countries like Jordan or were made internal refugees by the civil war that followed the attempted Syrian revolution. This massive displacement has been a huge tragedy but also a huge opportunity. Thousands have come under the sound of the gospel because of these people movements and large numbers are now believers. As I write, there is a steady stream of Syrians returning to their homeland across the Jordanian border - which is good news.

Christian groups like the CMA and the Anglicans are so involved in needed refugee ministries that it seems very unlikely that there will be moves against their activities but of course we do not know. What the new Syrian leader is quoted as saying with regard to treatment of Christians can be seen here: <https://jihadwatch.org/2024/12/al-jolani-when-we-build-the-islamic-caliphate-christians-will-pay-jizya-under-islamic-sharia>”

In 2010 Hugh and Anne went with their friend to the archaeological sites at Amrit and Ugarit. At Amrit was the oldest running track in the world dating back to 1300 BC (around the biblical time of the Judges). There they held a series of sports called the “religious games” – 1000 years before the Greeks used the Olympic idea!

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday 2nd February – Epiphany 4

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Acts 12:25-13:12 & Luke 2:22-40)

Thursday 6th February

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Heb 12:18-24 & Mark 6:7-13)

Sunday 9th February – 4 before Lent

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Acts 13:13-52 & Luke 5:1-11)

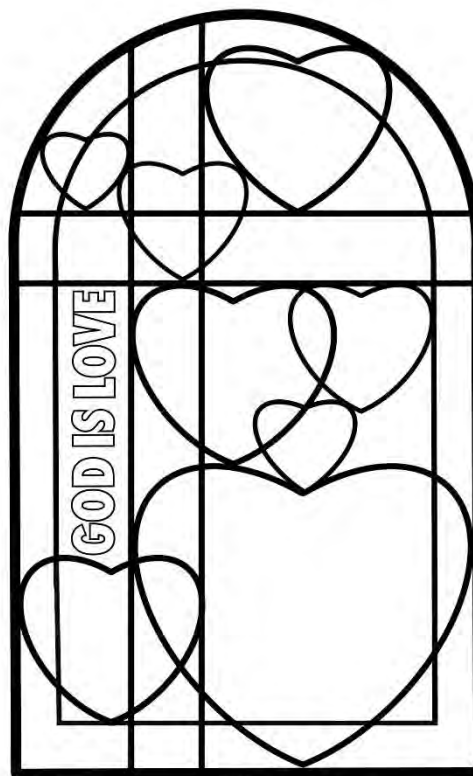
Sunday 16th February – 3 before Lent

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Readings: Acts 14:1-7 & Luke 6:17-26)

Sunday 23rd February – 2 before Lent

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Acts 14:8-20 & Luke 8:22-25)

(* 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 February 2025

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord - as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching (pp)



WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Mrs Jean Watts Prof Allan Hobson
Reader 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 10th 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. February services on 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 – 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 –

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

PCC – if you would like to communicate a concern to the PCC, the **Standing Committee Members** are Rev Dr Matt Davis (Vicar), 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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Tel 01704 876325

PEST CONTROL

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Those notices which didn't come out quite right...

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Jean will be leading a weight-management series Wednesday nights. She's used the programme herself and has been growing like crazy!

This evening at 7:00pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



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WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN FEBRUARY

St Luke's Church – Refer p2 & 3; p10 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 3rd Feb, 10.30-12noon (1st Monday of the month except Bank Holidays) in the Bier House on church site. Free admission.
- Singing Thursdays! (except for 1st Thurs of the month) in the parish hall – check with church for details in Feb.

Formby Methodist

- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (4th Feb) 2-4pm.
- The Carers' Support Group meets every Fri afternoon 2.00-4.00pm at the Methodist Church in Elbow Lane. Contact Irene for further information: tel 876219 or by emailing the Formby Befriending Scheme – info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk
- ADVANCE NOTICE – G Force Choir Concert on Tues 4th March @ 7.30pm.

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

- Two Shared Reader Sessions in Feb – Wed 5th and 19th @ 11.30am. Free tea/coffee. 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 Feb including –
 - Police Help Desk – every 3rd Mon of the month, Mon 17th Feb.
 - Warm Hub Coffee Mornings, Knit & Natter every Thursday, 10.30-12noon, with free hot drinks & biscuits available until 3.30pm throughout the winter months.
 - Thursday IT helpdesk 11am-1pm.
 - Gardening Club sessions as usual throughout Feb.
 - Creative writing group. Check with Library for details.

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

~~~~~  
**LATEST FROM SHYIRA**

Yvonne Yule would like readers to know that the parcels of educational toys (learning resources for Shyira Primary School) and wool for the Mothers' Union - reference previous Dec/Jan magazine - posted to Shyira late October have arrived safely and that another parcel is being planned.



The two photos shown were recently received by John Gelder from Rev. Jacques. They show St. Mark's Church and parishioners rising early on Christmas Day to watch the sunrise.

St. Mark's remains closed until works demanded by the Government have

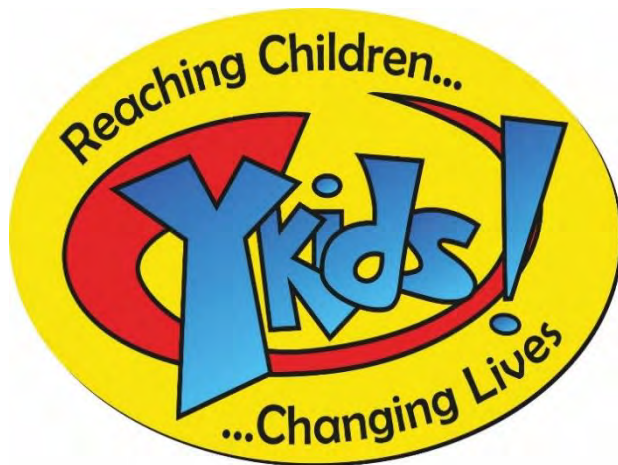
been completed. Rev. Jacques and our brothers and sisters in Christ are hopeful the church may reopen in 2025 – something we must all continue to pray for.



**Yvonne & John**

## CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY ST. LUKE'S

***St. Luke's Church continues to donate 10% of the monies received through voluntary giving each year to several different charities. The PCC decided that for 2025, 8 charities would be supported. These are: Bible Society, Compassion Acts, Embrace the Middle East, Mercy Ships, Scripture Union, Tearfund, Twam (Tools with a Mission) and YKids. Below is an article highlighting the work of YKids.***



### **CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN BOOTLE: 2004-2024**

We have recently received two documents prepared by YKids to mark their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The first is an overview of the many different projects undertaken in the local community, which include work with children and young people, training in youth and children's work, community projects, schools' work, family projects, courses in practical skills to promote wellbeing, social enterprises and faith-based activities. The second is the Faith Impact Report which

focuses on "Making Jesus Known".

The YFaith projects are aimed at helping young people and families to discover the good news of a personal faith in Jesus in exciting and life changing ways. Regular events include:

- Monday Night Live – a monthly outreach event for 11–18-year-olds with an inhouse youth band, guest speakers and gospel-based content on a big screen.
- Weekly Faith Groups for 14–21-year-olds. One of these groups has grown from four regular attenders to over thirty in the last two years.
- Occasional all age services held on Saturdays.
- Resourcing for other groups across Merseyside.
- Community work including hosting a quarterly prayer breakfast.
- Work in local schools including delivering faith assemblies and student mentoring.
- Digital outreach through YFaith on Instagram and YouTube.

The continued creativity and vision of the YKids team is amazing, and the testimonies of some of the young people contained in the report bear witness to the positive impact of the charity's work.

**Hillary Griffin**

.....

### **SMILES LINES –**

A Sunday school teacher was telling her youngsters about Daniel and the Lion's Den. To illustrate the lesson, she drew a picture of Daniel standing, brave and confident, with a group of lions around him. Suddenly, one little girl started to cry. The teacher said, "Don't cry. The lions are not going to eat Daniel".

Snuffling back the tears the girl replied: "That's not what I'm crying about. That little lion, over in the corner, isn't going to get anything to eat".



St. Luke's, Formby

13 December 2024

Dear Friends

**Thank you for your generous donation of £1325 to our work. Your support is empowering people living in extreme poverty, giving them a brighter future.**

Allow us to tell you the story of Elizabeth. She is a trainee at White Angels Single Mothers' Association (WASIMA), a training centre in rural Uganda supporting young women and their children. It is hard to imagine a challenge greater than that which faced her. The father of her child died when she was 6 months pregnant - Elizabeth, literally, had nowhere to go.

Fortunately, she was able to reach out, and at WASIMA, Elizabeth learnt how to make bags, shirts, dresses, and cushions - items of breathtaking beauty out of needle and thread. From the funds she raises through selling them in the market, or to other women she's met at WASIMA, she earns just enough to make a living. Elizabeth now attends the centre as often as she can, using a sewing machine donated by TWAM. "It is hard to make a living", she told us, "but at least single mothers like me can support each other and our children". Her daughter, Betta, is now six years old and attends school.

The very real effect of a single sewing machine can be clearly felt, not just on Elizabeth's life, but on her daughter's, and on the lives of all the women who share experience, ideas, and skills with her. As Elizabeth sews her next skirt or handbag, she's ensuring a better future for her daughter, and taking part in her community. **It is your donation that has enabled TWAM to reach these peoples' lives, and your generosity that has empowered Elizabeth. Thank you for being part of this transformation.**

We trust that you have a Christmas full of peace, hope, joy and rest.

Yours sincerely,

**Jonny Green (Office Manager)**

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*"The care and attention is excellent. All the staff treat mum with great care and respect and ensure her dignity is not compromised in any way."*

*"I was amazed at the standard of Formby Manor having visited care homes when my husband required nursing care. It is far superior to any I have seen."*

*"I cannot praise this home enough. The care given and the commitment to the wellbeing of the residents is second to none. Thank you."*

For further information, or to make an appointment to view **Formby Manor** contact the team on 01704 339090 or email [enquiries@newcarehomes.com](mailto:enquiries@newcarehomes.com)

**Formby Manor Care Centre** 67 Liverpool Road, Formby L37 6BU  
[newcarehomes.com](http://newcarehomes.com)





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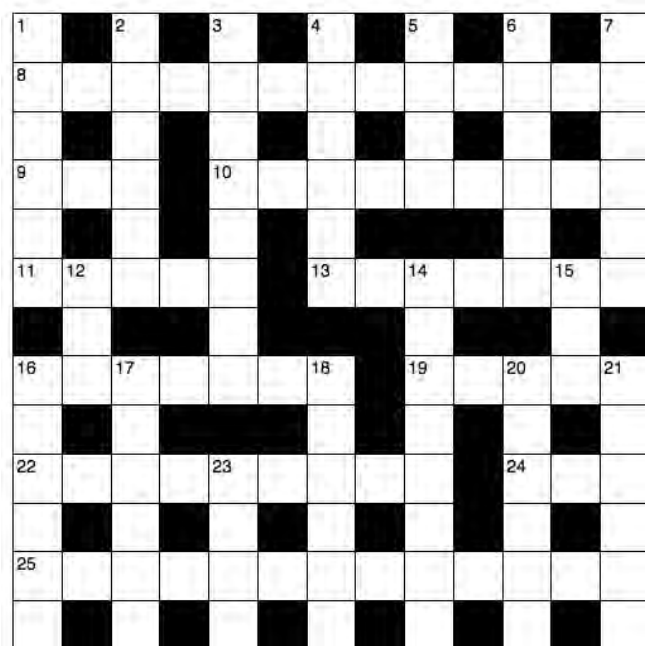
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# CROSSWORD



**ACROSS:** 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)

25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

**DOWN:** 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: '— salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

**(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)**

# SUDOKU

# EASY

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

## MEDIUM

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

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**(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)**

# WORDSEARCH

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

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between men and women: Valentine cards and wedding fayres abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

Naming  
Christ  
Candlemas  
Simeon  
Anna

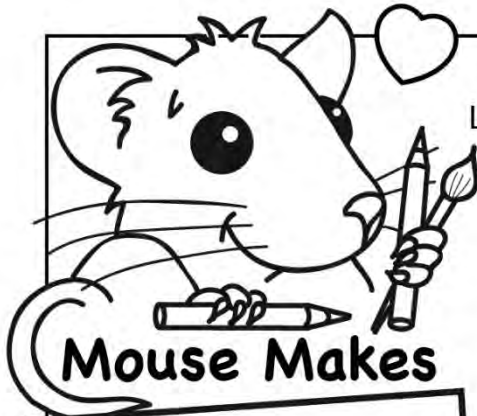
Temple  
Love  
Valentine  
Romance  
Matthias

Fairtrade  
Fortnight  
Coffee  
Bananas  
Chocolate

Justice  
Poverty  
Nest Box  
Marriage  
Wedding

Holocaust  
Leprosy  
Education  
Sunday





**"Love is**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**love is** \_\_\_\_\_  
 It does not, \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it is not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 others, it is not self - \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_  
 it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_  
**Love** delights in \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 it always \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never \_\_\_\_\_;  
 His \_\_\_\_\_  
 never come to an end;  
 they are new every \_\_\_\_\_  
*Lamentations 3:20-23*

*I pray... you will understand...  
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,  
 how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 that **love** is.  
 Ephesians 3:18-19*

God is **love**.  
 whoever \_\_\_\_\_  
 in **love** \_\_\_\_\_  
 in God, and God \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in them.  
*1 John 4:16*

Give \_\_\_\_\_  
 to the Lord, for He is \_\_\_\_\_  
 his steadfast **love**  
 endures \_\_\_\_\_  
*Psalms 136:1*

**HOW DOES  
 GOD LOVE ME?**  
**God sent me a saviour:**  
 He sent His one and only  
 Son into the world so  
 that we might have  
 eternal life through Him.  
*1 John 4:9*

**God gave me His spirit:**  
 He has given you the  
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts  
 with His **love**.  
*Romans 5:5*

**God called me His child:**  
 See what great **love** the  
 Father has for us that He  
 would call us His children.  
*1 John 1:3*

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 Jesus told us to:  
**LOVE** the Lord your God with  
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**  
 and with all your **mind**.  
*Matthew 22:37*  
**LOVE** your neighbour the  
 same as you **love** yourself.  
*Matthew 22:39*

GOD • LOVE  
 PATIENT • KIND  
 GRACIOUS • PEACE  
 JUST • TRUTHFUL  
 TRUSTING • LOYAL  
 HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERES  
 ENDURES  
 HUMBLE  
 SELFLESS  
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

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



## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

## CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

**ACROSS:** 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

**DOWN:** 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.



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respond to Jesus  
and grow in faith



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charity  
(Lev 27:30)