

St. Luke's Formby

21st [i gh

Parish Magazine

2025

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

Mothers' Union

Aim: To support MU members in serving their communities

Achieved:

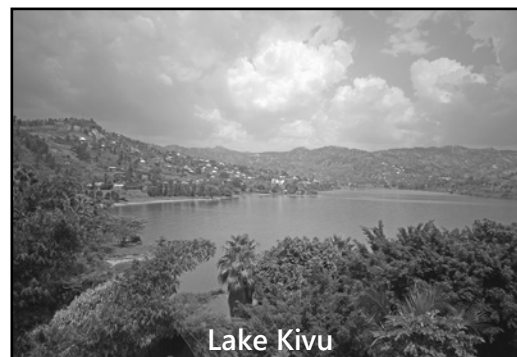
- Members supported with bedding and kitchen utensils
- Training of 25 MU trainers from all over the Diocese
- Successful Revolving Goat Loan project

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



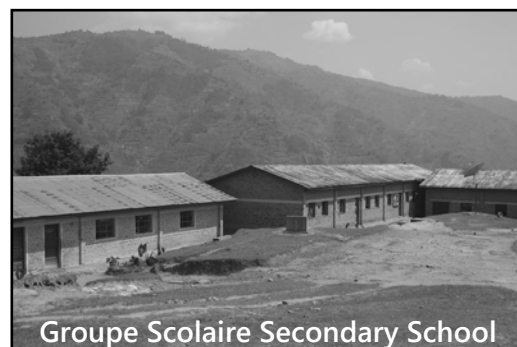
Lake Kivu

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

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>

From the Vicarage

The kits are a bit bigger now than when we first spotted them, but still just as cute. Their favourite location is the birdfeeder. We've giggled as they have slowly slid down the birdfeeder pole and attempted to scramble back up it, only to slide down again before eventually reaching the top. Their acrobatic skills are now improving as they leap from the fence and hang upside-down, filling their mouths and stomachs with nuts. Recently some crows have tried to move in and take over the birdfeeder. We let out a cheer from our side of the window as one little kit jumped along the fence towards them, arms outstretched and scared them off. Well done, little one!

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (Psalm 139:13–16)

With every blessing,

Matt

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

CHURCH REGISTER FOR JUNE

Funerals: 10th June Felicia Hornby and 19th June Peter Hornby.

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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.

CHANGE OF CHURCHWARDEN

A big thank you to **Steve Ginn** who stepped down as churchwarden at the APCM on May 7th after several years of excellent service to St. Luke's Church. His successor is PCC member **David Hogben**. We wish David well in his new role alongside existing co-churchwarden **Fiona Grieveson**. (See p6 & 7)

SHYIRA

There will be feedback on the Shyira Presentation (14th June) and the Concert in aid of Shyira (24th June) in our Sept magazine. The Presentation by Yvonne Yule, along with the sale of some banana leaf cards, raised £237 in donations for the Mothers' Union. Thank you to all who donated.

St. Luke's Church, with support from the Shyira Trust, is delighted to announce the social visit of **Rev. Canon Emmanuel Ndimukaga** (CCT Project Officer, Diocese of Shyira) **from 15th Sept to 3rd Oct**. Emmanuel is currently writing a book on his life's ministry and is intending to include a chapter on the establishment of the Shyira Trust when he was Pastor of St. Mark's Shyira in 2006/07. He has visited Formby in the past and his photo is on the front cover of Allan Hobson's recent book 'Linking Parishes, Harvesting Friendship'.

PCC MEETING – Wed 9th July 7.30pm.

SEA SUNDAY – 13th July.

ST. SWITHIN'S DAY – Tues 15TH July.

KIDS @ ST. LUKE'S END OF TERM BBQ – Sun 20th July.

SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY – Mon 25th Aug.

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 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 - 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 5th July & 2nd Aug.

Tuesday Lunch – Soup/sandwiches/cake & company, 1st & 15th July in the Meeting Room. Donations for lunch welcome. NONE in Aug. **Anne**

Open Door Saturdays – July already! We now know that the Plant Sale raised £240 and the guided church and churchyard tour £115. Thank you to all who supported these events, especially Hugh who looked after the plant stall, and Peter who led the walk.

There will be coffee monings on 12th and 26th July and then we will have a break until September.

Come along and join us. Bring your craft to do with friends, or just for a chat (and cake!).

Southport Soup Kitchen Appeal – ongoing!

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 – Further donations still welcome to top up the reserves. Many thanks to all who have donated so far.

Lent Project – Lima (Peru) & Shyira (Rwanda). See March magazine for details. Revised total before going to print was £3,044 (with some gift aid possibly to be added). Donations closed at the end of May. A great thank you on behalf of Lima and Shyira to all who donated.

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.

Keswick Christian Convention (across 3 weeks) – Week 1 Sat 12th-Fri 18th July; Week 2 Sat 19th-Fri 25th July; Week 3 Sat 26th July-Fri 1st Aug.



Creche@StLuke's and Kids@StLuke's are our creche and primary school-aged children's groups which run during the 10:30am service on Sundays in term time. Youth@StLuke's also runs during this service for children in year 6 to year 9.

Creche-aged children have a dedicated area with a parent or carer and toys to play with, though some join the older children for our interactive Bible story, thinking time, games and crafts. Our team of enthusiastic and DBS-checked volunteers run vibrant and engaging sessions where we seek to have fun, make friends, and learn more about Jesus.

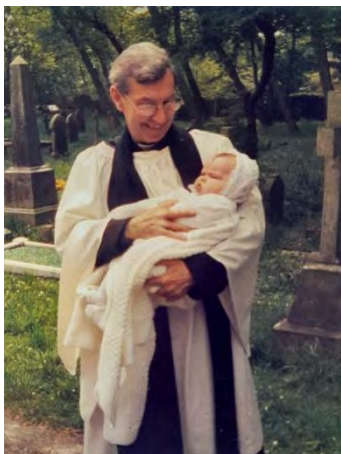
This term, we're in Nehemiah, looking at God's Big Build. So far, we've seen that God keeps his promises, so we can pray to Him for help; God is building the church so we can show how brilliant He is; and God loves us, so we love other people. We're looking forward to discovering how we can rely on God's strength, how God has forgiven us all, and how God has promised to build His church which will stand forever – and anyone can choose to be a part of it!

We're always happy to welcome new faces. If you'd like more information, please contact vicar@stlukesformby.org.uk or kids@stlukesformby.org.uk or message us via our Facebook page www.facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby.

Finally, **SAVE THE DATE!** If you're part of a family who comes to our groups regularly, or someone who dips in and out of our groups, keep an eye out for an email inviting you to our **end of term family BBQ on Sunday 20th July!**

GOD-INCIDENCES

Our younger daughter, Miriam, is Vicar of Machynlleth, Diocese of Bangor in the Church of Wales (nearest equivalent to C. of E.). On Sunday 25th May she broadcast to the nation on BBC Radio Wales in a series called "Celebration". She was asked to talk about baptism.



Her Mum then remembered that Miriam was baptised on Sunday 25th May 1986 by our Vicar, Arnold Moon. Is that a coincidence? Arnold used to talk about “God-incidences” when something which seemed to be accidental was in fact planned by God. It also happens that Arnold was born on 25th (December 1924). Next time you experience a happy coincidence, ask yourself was it just that, or is it something to thank God for.

Those who listened to Miriam on the radio said they were impressed with what she said. As Arnold Moon often did, she called on people to consider baptism. Are you thinking about baptism or confirmation – commitment to Jesus? Ask the Vicar about it.

Elizabeth and Philip Lowe

The Liverpool Education Department prayer is always that the pupils enjoy at least one thing that will with God, whether that be now or in the future.



I won't fear what
tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise
and sing
My God's love will lead me
through



))))))))))

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Revd Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806. "When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation."

CALLED: A CHURCHWARDEN



At our APCM Matt thanked Steve Ginn for his contribution to St. Luke's as a churchwarden. Steve served us for 5 years – a year longer than the usual tenure prescribed by the PCC.

So, we thought we'd catch up with Steve, to ask about his time as a churchwarden before he dropped his keys back through the letterbox and went home!

Why did you become a churchwarden?

Because God called me to become one. I certainly didn't have any ambition to be a churchwarden - in fact, the idea of taking on legal duties and relatively onerous responsibilities within St. Luke's had no appeal at all, especially as I was still working.

But it was 2020; we didn't have a vicar, and churchwarden Andrea Brown had moved away from Formby meaning Pete Griffin was left like a solitary bee in his role as churchwarden. It just felt right to offer him some support with some of the peripheral tasks a churchwarden is faced with. So, I sort of became Pete's apprentice, signing off any correspondence I was involved in as 'Assistant to The Churchwarden'.

During 2020, Covid lockdowns and restrictions became part of everyone's routine "of course" and the PCC was still searching for a new vicar. At this point, it became clear to me that God was asking me to get more involved and so I applied to be 'full' churchwarden alongside Pete and was admitted to office during a visitation in the autumn which had been re-scheduled owing to Covid restrictions.

What aspects of the churchwarden role did you most enjoy, and why?

Working alongside Matt, Pete and Fiona; learning from their skills, experience and ways of doing things. And seeing issues get resolved. Their sense of humour was great too!

Meeting and getting to know so many wonderful people within the congregation and visitors to the Church; I realised how blessed we are to have so many people bringing so much to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

Working in and around a Church with a fascinating history and beautiful grounds – it just gives that 'feelgood factor'

Gaining an insight as to how St. Luke's and the wider Church of England operates – although you have to be prepared for warts and all!

What skills or experience did you find most valuable in your role?

I didn't come into the role thinking I had certain skills that would be handy in certain situations (although I was an Insurer by background so could generally find my way around our insurance policies). In fact, it was the opposite – I felt I'd be quite inadequate and ill-equipped

for such a central role in St. Luke's Church Family. But I knew God would make whatever needed to happen, happen. And He did.

What were some of the most rewarding or memorable moments during your time as churchwarden?

The arrival of Matt as our new vicar with Liz, James and Timothy and seeing the Church start to grow.

Finding our way through Covid.

Preparing the Parish Hall for Habla to hire it.

Overcoming my fears to climb the scaffolding on the bellcote so I could tie a new bell rope to the bell with a round turn and two half hitches (and it hasn't come undone yet!).


What advice would you give to future churchwardens?

Remember, you are part of God's plan for St. Luke's Church - as are all the Church members - so there is no task or issue that should daunt you.

Steve Ginn (Churchwarden retired)

))))))

NEW CO-CHURCHWARDEN - DAVID HOGBEN

A portrait of David Hogben, a middle-aged man with short, light brown hair and glasses. He is wearing a dark blue jacket over a green shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Hello. My name is David Hogben, and I have recently been elected to serve as churchwarden with Fiona Grieveson at St. Luke's Church Formby. I am married to Valerie, and we have four children Tim, Mark, Rebecca and Jonathan, and recently blessed with the birth of our first grandchild, Jason. We have lived in Formby for 37 years and I have been retired for 3 years now, having previously worked as a microbiologist in a company in Bootle who manufacture and sell products to hospitals for the diagnosis of disease. My original role was in developing products for the company and latterly I was overseeing any regulations governing our company's activities and in charge of the quality management systems in place.

When I was asked by Rev. Matt Davis to take on the role of churchwarden as Steve Ginn was stepping down, my thoughts went first to Steve and Fiona and how could I possibly step into the role with the legacy that they have left. I really admire them both and thank them for all the work they do and have done behind the scenes, which often goes on unseen at the Church, Meeting Room and Hall; opening up for all the events at the Church and being the first to arrive and last to leave; facilitating the boiler replacement; sorting out the roof work and repairs; working with HABLA regarding issues in the Church Hall, to name but a few. Also, on top of all this Steve and Fiona were always there to greet people with a smile and if asked to do something they were always willing to help. So, when asked to take on the role of churchwarden in place of Steve, my thoughts were - how on earth could I follow in his footsteps! Well, I'm willing to give it a go and I start out with L-plates on my back and with a helping hand from Steve and Fiona. It will take time to get into the role alongside Fiona, but it will also be a real privilege with God's help to serve such a wonderful congregation of God's people at St. Luke's Church in Formby.

David Hogben

JOAN MACBENN'S 100TH-AN INSPIRATIONAL LADY!



Philip Lowe states, "St. Luke's most recent flower festival was in 2010. The Formby Flower Club did much of the arrangements along with church members. Joan was always involved. She did church flowers regularly and often decorated the font. This could have been her work". Was it Joan?

Photos supplied by family and friends

SERVICES FOR JULY

Thursday 3rd July

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Eph 2:19-22 & John 20:24-29)

Sunday 6th July – Trinity 3

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Acts 19:23-41 & Luke 10:1-11)

Sunday 13th July – Trinity 4

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Acts 20:1-12 & Luke 10:25-37)

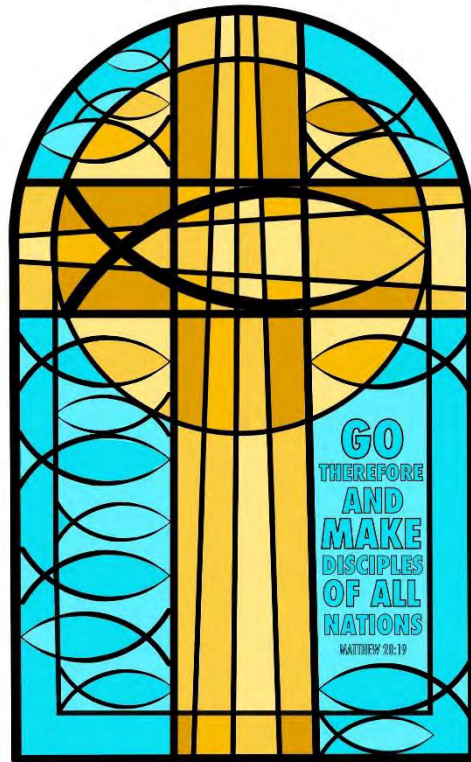
Sunday 20th July – Trinity 5

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Readings: Acts 20:13-38 & Luke 10:38-42)

Sunday 27th July – Trinity 6

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Col 2:6-15 & Luke 11:1-13)

(* 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 July

Lord, in this month, we, your church, remember Thomas.

Thomas, who asked questions and doubted when he didn't see You with his own eyes. And Lord, You walked through those locked doors of his questions and doubts specifically to meet his needs.

Help us to come to you, honestly, with our questions and doubts, knowing that You understand and will meet our needs too.

Help us to recognise You with eyes of faith - the only One who can help us.

May we declare, with Thomas, in humility, devotion and thankfulness, 'My Lord and my God!'.

We pray in your powerful name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching (PP)

SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday 3rd August – Trinity 7

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Col 3:1-11 & Luke 12:13-21)

Thursday 7th August

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Psalm 95 & Matt 16:13-23)

Sunday 10th August – Trinity 8

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Hebrews 11:1-3 & Luke 12:32-40)

Sunday 17th August – Trinity 9

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Readings: Hebrews 11:29-12:2 & Luke 12:49-56)

Sunday 24th August – Trinity 10

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Acts 5:12-16 & Luke 22:24-30)

Sunday 31st August – Trinity 11

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Hebrews 13:1-8 & Luke 14:7-14)

(*with Children's Church)



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

Lo, I am with you always

Wide fields of corn along the valleys spread;
The rain and dew mature the swelling vine;
I see the Lord in multiplying bread;
I see Him turning water into wine;
I see Him working all the works divine....

He wrought when Salem-ward His steps were led;
The self-same miracles around Him shine;
He feeds the famished; He revives the dead;
He pours the flood of light on darkened eyes;
He chases tears, diseases, fiends away;
His throne is raised upon these orient skies;
His footstool is the pave whereon we pray....

From a poem by John Charles Earle (1749 – 1818)

WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Mrs Jean Watts Prof Allan Hobson
Reader Emeritus	
Churchwardens	Mrs Fiona Grieveson Dr David Hogben Mr John McGibbon
Deputy Churchwarden	
Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Mr Hugh Dixon 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) Mrs Margaret Cooke Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr David Moore
Magazine Distribution Magazine Adverts Magazine Collation	
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 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 Sheet for further information on church activities and events.

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), 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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Vote carried - The vicar was ill in hospital and so the churchwarden went to visit. Trying to cheer him up, the churchwarden said: "We missed you at PCC last night. We even put forward a resolution to wish you a speedy recovery. It was passed by 14 votes to 12."

Church Notices that didn't quite 'make it'...

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

What exactly is 'a lie'? A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is. He wrote: "A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble."

Life choice - A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."

WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN JULY & AUGUST

St Luke's Church – Refer p2 & 3; p 9 & 10 for Services; p12 What's On; weekly news sheet.

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 – 1st Monday of the month except Bank Holidays, 10.30-12noon, 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 June.

Formby Methodist

- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (1st July & 5th Aug) 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

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

- The '**Loved and Lost**' programme started in April and is a space to explore poetry and prose together to help make sense of thoughts and feelings about bereavement and grief. Texts will be selected by leaders and shared by reading aloud on the day. There is no pressure to speak, however. Sessions each month are on Weds from 11.30-1.00pm and the date for July is the 16th. NONE in August (resumes Sept). Readings will be from books like 'Stone Trees' by Jane Gardam, 'Strong Enough to Help' by David Constantine, 'Grief' by Matthew Dickman and 'Starlings in Winter' by Mary Oliver (not an exhaustive list). No booking required. Free tea/coffee.
- FL is hosting Hugh Baird College on Tues 15th July as they provide an introduction to a British Sign Language course. If interested, you can register by visiting www.hughbaird.ac.uk
- BT Digital Voice information sessions on Thurs 24th & Fri 25th July 10-4pm in FL Car Park. These drop-in sessions are regarding landlines going digital by end of Jan 2027.
- Talk in July – 'Meet the Author Alan Williams' on Wed 30th July at 2.00pm. Booking required, contact Library in advance. NO talk in Aug (resumes Sept).
- Knit and Natter continues to be well attended but would welcome new members who wish to bring along their projects in crochet, knitting or embroidery. Sessions are weekly on Mondays at 12.30-2.00pm (except Bank Holidays) and no booking is required. Free tea and coffee.
- Ukulele lessons have been very popular. Contact Library for expressions of interest.
- All the usual events are happening in June including –
 - Shared readings – fortnightly on Weds 11.30-1.00pm. Check Library for dates in July. NONE in August (resumes Sept).
 - Police Help Desk – check with Library when being held.
 - Coffee Mornings continue every Thursday throughout July & Aug, 10.30-12noon.
 - IT one to one help sessions - call Library to book a session with our volunteer.
 - Gardening Club sessions continue throughout July & Aug. Contact Library for enquiries.
 - Creative writing group. Check with Library for details.

Formby Pantry Welcome Space

It's 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.

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

Holiday at Home 11th – 22nd August – see p17 for information.

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD TOUR



On the final Saturday of May, a group of thirty people gathered outside the church for a tour of the church and churchyard conducted by Peter Griffin. We started in the church; the present building dates from the 1850s, when the Formby family decided to build a new church. At that time, the site was in the middle of a rural area, with sand dunes to the west, and only two buildings in the immediate vicinity, the "Old Vicarage" and "Shorrocks Hill". Why would they wish to build in such an isolated spot? The answer lies in the arrival of the railway line from Liverpool to Southport a few years earlier and plans by the Formby Land Company to develop a resort similar to the new resort being built in Southport at this time. Richard Formby donated the land, and his sister Mary funded most of the building costs.

Peter drew our attention to one of the unique features of the interior of the building, the beautiful Rose Window at the rear, which includes images of local flowers such as sea holly, evening primrose and marsh marigold. The inscriptions relate to healing; Richard Formby was a doctor and did pioneering work in anaesthetics.

In the porch, there is the first of several items which are much older than the church itself. This is the gravestone of Richard Formby, armour bearer to Henry IV, who died in 1407. The later Richard Formby obtained permission to move the stone from its original location in York Minster.



Moving outside, a few metres south of the main entrance door, is the gravestone of Percy French, "songwriter, poet, painter, author and entertainer". An Irishman from Roscommon, Percy often visited his cousin, then Vicar of Holy Trinity, and helped to raise funds for various building projects in Formby through his musical shows. He came to Formby to recuperate from illness in 1920 but died of pneumonia during the visit.



We walked past the old village stocks, donated by a resident of Liverpool Road and progressed to the Godstone, an isolated stone beyond the gravestones near the southern boundary fence. Peter explained that this stone may date back to Viking times. There is an image of steps, surmounted by a cross, topped with a circle. This diagram could have been used to explain Christianity to Viking settlers: God, the creator of the world is above (represented by the circle) whilst we humans strive to climb the steps down below. However, the only way by which we can come to know God is through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. The essence of the Christian Gospel remains the same today.

Walking back towards the boundary with St. Luke's Church Road, we reached the Millennium Cross made by long-standing church member Bob Wagstaff. The stone steps at the base of the cross were brought to the churchyard by the Formby family in 1879, having originally been located at Cross Green. We do not know how old the steps are, but Peter drew our attention to the "plague holes". In times of plague (1300s, 1500s, 1600s) the holes were filled with vinegar and local people could leave money there in payment for food; the vinegar killed any infection on the surface of the coins. The current cross was installed as a Millennium Project.



In front of the cross are the Formby family graves, which date from the 1700s. One grave is set apart from the others. What crime or heresy was this Richard Formby guilty of? None. He was a Whig in a family of Tories.

Peter told us that there are three official war graves in the churchyard, one from World War One and two from World War Two. In addition there are a number of memorial stones to those who lost their lives further afield; of particular note are James Brankin, a civilian marine engineer who was working in Singapore when the Japanese invaded and Gunner Whitely who was serving on the Andorra Star when it was torpedoed by a German U-Boat whilst crossing the Atlantic carrying German prisoners of war and German and Italian nationals living here in 1939 and subsequently interned. If you walk around the graveyard, you will see other memorials, mainly in the area to the west of the church.

We are very grateful to Peter for such a well-researched and entertaining talk.

An appreciative audience member!

HOLIDAY AT HOME 11TH - 22ND AUGUST 2025

(FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN FORMBY, HIGHTOWN and INCE BLUNDELL)

Formby Befriending Scheme, with the support of Churches Together and other community groups and individuals, is once again offering a 'Holiday at Home' for older people in the Formby, Hightown and Ince Blundell areas during the middle 2 weeks of August. The main aim of this fortnight, as always, is to give folk who are no longer able to get away on holiday the opportunity to have a 'holiday experience' in their own community and to make new friendships.

In past years these have been wonderful times, with many people taking the opportunity to try out new things and enjoy varied social activities, some events having 100+ people attending and others on a much smaller scale. This year too we are offering a packed programme – musical afternoons, art sessions, exercise and pampering - including a few brand-new events such as a visit to Formby Heritage Centre to learn some local history (who knew that we had a heritage centre here in Formby?!), or the opportunity to try your hand at making a clay pot.

Please do sign up for any events you fancy, even if you have never been involved before. It will be fun, and you will be made most welcome.

The printed programmes are available now and can be picked up here at church or from other locations in Formby, Hightown and Ince Blundell. The booking form was to have been submitted by Monday 30th June and passed to Valerie Hogben or posted in at Formby Methodist Church, and there will then be a special afternoon at Formby Methodist Church, with refreshments, on Tuesday 22nd July, where you can collect your list of confirmed bookings plus make any advance payments, as required for some events. Telephone lines will then open on Wednesday 23rd, so there will be further opportunities at that stage to book any other events that still have vacancies. All of this is fully detailed in the programme.

Free transport will be available for anyone who needs assistance in order to attend. Please take the time to read the guidelines on transport and booking options which are in the programme.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who are hosting a special event for Holiday at Home 2025 and all who will be helping. We look forward to another great holiday experience!

**The Holiday at Home Team,
Winnie, Sheila, Irene and Valerie.**

WHAT THE NATIONAL TRUST IS DOING AT VICTORIA RD.

This project is scheduled to continue until Spring 2026. The work being undertaken is obviously not in our parish, but it affects us – particularly on sunny Sundays – because the visitors who would have gone to Victoria Road will now be coming to Lifeboat Road instead – and also trying to park in the roads surrounding St. Luke's Church.

This is what the National Trust say on their website: -

The Victoria Road car park will be closed from 1 May 2025 to spring 2026, with no access to toilets or beach in the work site area. Visitors are advised not to travel to us by car on sunny days.

This conservation project is part of our long-term commitment to look after this very special part of the Sefton Coast and promises significant benefits for both people and wildlife. The project involves removing the existing beach car park and tonnes of associated construction rubble. Most of the unsightly rubble is being processed on-site and repurposed to create the sub-base for a replacement, similar sized and more sustainable car park further inland.

To keep everyone safe large metal fencing will be going up around the work site area, which starts at the junction of Victoria Road and Badgers Rake, continuing along the car park out on to the beach. Some noise is expected from the heavy machinery working on site. There will be no parking, toilets, bins or visitor access to the beach through the work site area at Victoria Road from 1 May 2025 until spring 2026.

Our Lifeboat Road car park and toilets will remain open, but parking is extremely limited. To avoid being turned away, people are advised against driving to Formby on busy, sunny days this summer. Visitors should consider travelling by train to Formby station or choosing alternative beaches and car parks along the Sefton and Wirral Coast.

***PS SAND WHEELCHAIRS** – there are now 4 of these which can be pre-booked. Send an email to formby@nationaltrust.org.uk giving preferred time and date. We assume that a special sand wheelchair would then be made available at Lifeboat Rd. But we aren't sure how they would perform in deep sand – though we believe that they have very wide wheels. We think you would certainly need to use the boardwalk.*

Of course, we welcome visitors to our parish but let's be pleased when the Victoria Road site is accessible again.

MC

.....

THOUGHT FOR SUMMER

Long, bright, warm, slow and quiet days in Formby with nature's surrounding world inviting us to take life easy in order to recharge for the inevitable challenges that will lie ahead is perhaps the idyllic way of processing our summer thoughts throughout the months of July and August. And it can work. We are indeed blessed to live in a part of the world which offers so much. Summer holidays can also provide us with brief respite from the pressures of daily life.

By contrast, national and global news bombards us daily with a very different world where tragedy, distress, turmoil and considerable loss of innocent life seem to be the regular thing. All that most of us living comfortable lives can do is to thank God that we aren't the ones suffering to such an extent and pray for those who are. And to keep praying - and praying - for those in greater need, for the power of collective prayer can never be underestimated. And don't forget either that God works in His time and with His purpose, and not in ours.

Have a peaceful and enjoyable summer!

KD



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If you would like some more information or some guidance, please feel free to have a chat with me on **07926 587776**, or alternatively please email me at cspeakmanestateplanning@gmail.com
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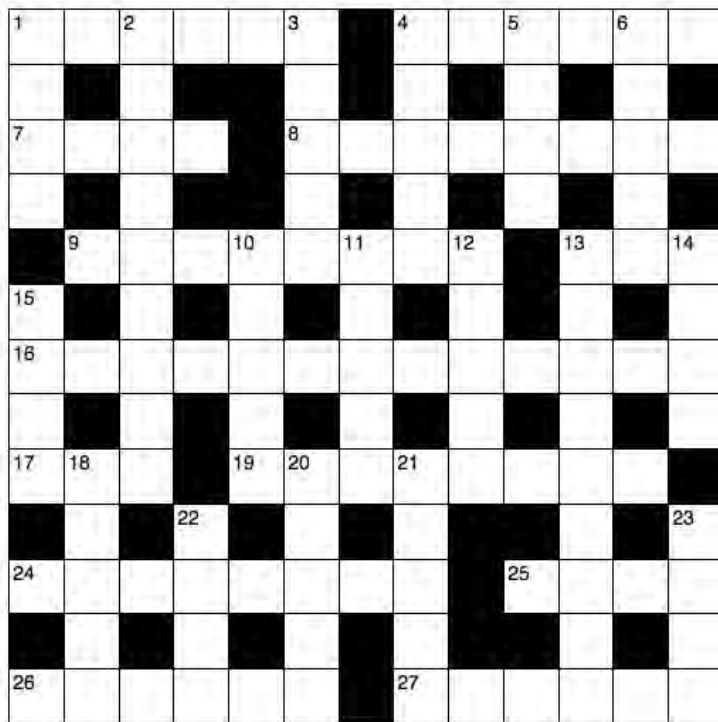
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Phone No: 07926 587776



CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
 7 'Praise the Lord, O my —' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
 8 See 5 Down
 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
 24 'If this city is built and its — —

restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)

- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

DOWN:

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards —' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

SUDOKU

EASY

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

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MEDIUM

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

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

WORDSEARCH FOR JULY

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

If you ever struggle with doubt, take heart: so did one of the apostles, whose Feast Day is this month. St Thomas just could NOT believe that the Jesus he had seen crucified and dead on the cross could ever come back to life. But Thomas was an honest sceptic, because he really wanted to know the truth. Jesus could help such a man. And so, He appeared to him and the other disciples. Instead of scolding him, Jesus simply showed him the wounds. Thomas's response was immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras.

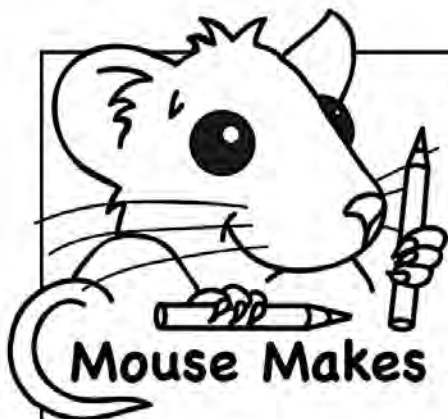
46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

Thomas
Doubt
Apostle
Cross
Dead

Truth
Sceptic
Wounds
Lord
Go

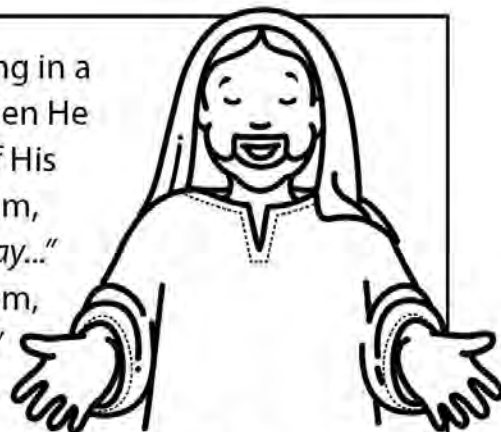
Appeared
India
Patron
Martyred
Spear

Mylapore
Missionary
Showed
Saint
Madras



Mouse Makes

"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' And He said to them, 'When you pray, say...'"



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen

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



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:

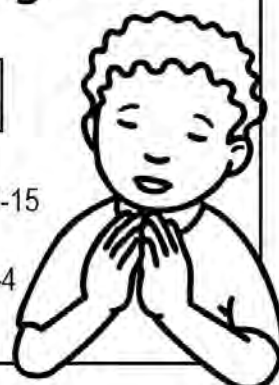
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

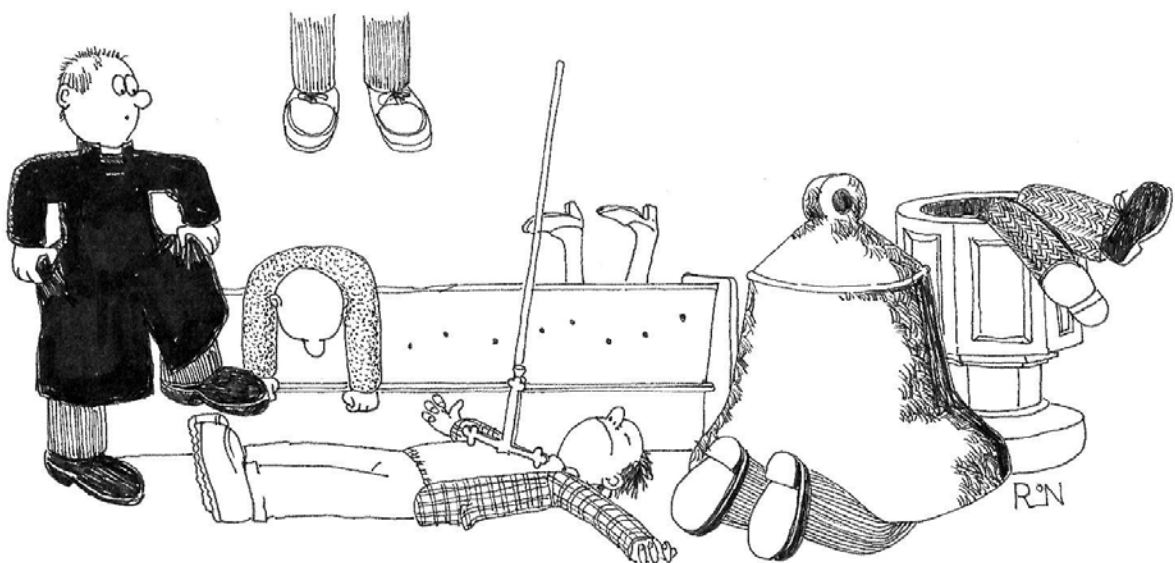
MEDIUM

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thief.

DOWN: 1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.



It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church

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respond to Jesus
and grow in faith



MEDICAL CARE AND FREE SURGERY
IN THE POOREST NATIONS



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(Lev 27:30)