

# St. Luke's Formby

## Parish Magazine

Price: £1.50 per issue

Cheaper by annual subscription

£12.00 for 10 issues a year

June

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

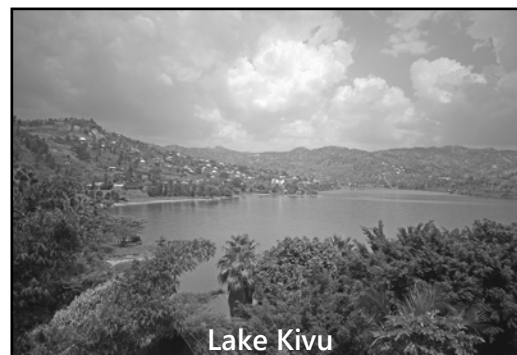
**Aim:** To support MU members in serving their communities

### Achieved:

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

### Challenges:

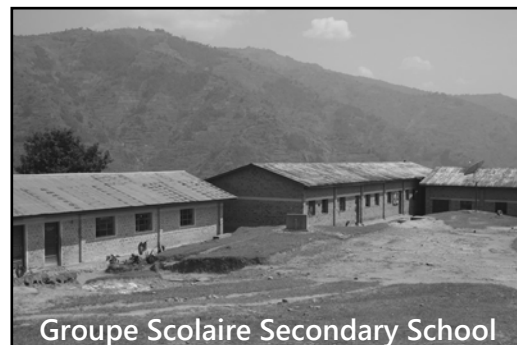
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



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](mailto:shyira-06@shyiratrust.org.uk)

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

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

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

## Vicar – Revd. Dr. Matt Davis

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends

As we reach the end of spring, it's not just the bluebells that are dying. If you stop at the lychgate leading into the churchyard and look around, you'll notice that the grass is dying too. Everywhere looks yellow and brown. The "lawn" behind the Meeting Room is turning to sand and dust in parts. While it's been lovely having the recent sunny weather, it's come at the price of rainfall. It's been the driest spring since 1961 and rivers across the country are exceptionally low. In April our area was classed as "Severely Dry" on the Standardised Precipitation Index. Hopefully we'll have some rain soon.



As I've been walking around Formby, I've been reminded of a phrase from the Bible: "*a dry and parched land where there is no water.*" Thankfully, our houses have pipes and taps and we don't (yet) have a hosepipe ban. But everywhere is looking dry and parched—and we haven't made it to summer yet!

To put that phrase in context, it's from Psalm 63 in the Old Testament. The original heading to the psalm describes it as: "*A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.*" David says this in the first three verses of Psalm 63:

*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.  
I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.  
Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*

When was the last time you were thirsty? Maybe it was while reading a book in the garden on a sunny day, or cutting the grass, or going for a walk—or even a run. Just think how desperate for a drink you were! How you knew water would satisfy your thirst and you couldn't wait for it. All you needed was some water. That's how David felt in the Desert of Judah: thirsty!

But David doesn't say he was desperate for water. In the desert he was indeed distant from water, but he was also distant from the Temple, where God's sanctuary was. David instead says he is desperate for God. Imagine that! Imagine being so desperate for God that even though you're in a desert, you're not concerned with how dry your mouth is, you're aching for God.

Has David gone slightly mad from dehydration?! No, David longs for God and seeks him more than anything else because his "*love is better than life*". David knows God. David knows what God is like. David knows God's love. That's why he seeks God, thirsts for God and longs for God. David knew that only God's love could satisfy his deepest longings. God's love is better than life because knowing and accepting God's love is what leads to eternal life. God's love is why Jesus came and why he describes himself as living water, that won't leave us. How refreshing is that?

With every blessing,

**Matt**

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**Joint Editors: Margaret Cooke (email: [macooke29@gmail.com](mailto:macooke29@gmail.com)) and Ken Davies (email: [kendavies1989@gmail.com](mailto:kendavies1989@gmail.com)). Illustrator: Joan MacDonald. Cover design: Philip Lowe. St. Luke's Website: <https://www.stlukesformby.org.uk>  
St. Luke's Facebook Page: [facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby](https://facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby)**

## CHURCH REGISTER FOR MAY

**Register:** No Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals & Burials in May.

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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 7<sup>th</sup> 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**.

#### SHYIRA PRESENTATION

On Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Yule and Pam Thomas will give a 40 minute (approx.) illustrated presentation in the Meeting Room starting at 12.15pm on their latest visit to Shyira in October 2023. They will highlight the ongoing needs of the schools, hospital and other groups they visited. Refreshments included.

#### CONCERT IN AID OF SHYIRA

A concert organised by the Shyira Trust will take place in St. Luke's Church on Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup> commencing at 7.00pm. See p17 for further details, weekly newssheets, along with flyers and posters circulated prior to the concert.

**MONTHLY BREAKFAST** – Sun 1<sup>st</sup> June 9.30am.

**POST APCM PCC MEETING** – Wed 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**PENTECOST** – Sun 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**TRINITY SUNDAY** – 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**FATHERS' DAY** – Sun 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**SOLSTICE** – Sat 21st June (longest day).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**Tuesday Lunch** – Soup/sandwiches/cake & company, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June in the Meeting Room. Donations for lunch welcome. **Anne**

**Open Door Saturdays** – The Plant Sale on May 17<sup>th</sup> raised £188 for church funds. Thank you to all who donated plants and to those who bought them. Thank you also to Peter Griffin who led a guided walk around the churchyard on the same morning.

There will be coffee mornings (10-12noon) on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June, and 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> July.

Why not come along and join us. Bring your craft to do with friends, or just come for a chat – the toasted teacakes are quite good too! **Jean**

**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 Projects** – Lima (Peru) & Shyira (Rwanda). See March magazine for details. Please support generously. £1,404 donated up to 20<sup>th</sup> May – thank you!

**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 12<sup>th</sup>-Fri 18<sup>th</sup> July; Week 2 Sat 19<sup>th</sup>-Fri 25<sup>th</sup> July; Week 3 Sat 26<sup>th</sup> July-Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Aug.





5.30am on Easter Sunday saw a group of bleary-eyed members of our congregation meet at Formby Point to celebrate at the beginning of the day the resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead.

Thanks also to the generosity of staff from the BP garage on Liverpool Road who kindly provided us with bunches of flowers and strawberries to eat after our 10.30am service.



Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

[illegible]

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We send Joan our congratulations and we hope she had a really happy birthday.

PS Joan did have a lovely birthday and absolutely loved the choir singing. We hope to publish photos in our July/August issue.

## A close-up photograph of a red knitted heart. The heart is made of a thick, textured yarn and is positioned on a light-colored surface. The background is slightly blurred, showing a white wall and a white object.

Patterns are available by emailing: [kids@stlukesformby.org.uk](mailto:kids@stlukesformby.org.uk) - any scraps of wool can be used as long as the hearts match. Collecting began in May but will be ongoing. Hearts can be

**Liz Davis**



## GWENDOLINE ROSE CARTWRIGHT 1933 - 2025



Gwen was born on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1933, to Percy and Ethel Ranson in Chapel St. Leonard's on the Lincolnshire coast. She had one brother George and when she died in March this year, she had 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 5 greatgrandchildren.

Growing up through the years of the Depression and then World War 2 made her extremely resilient. Even as a child, she possessed a quiet strength and nurturing spirit — qualities that would blossom into her life's work.

At just 17, Gwen made the decision to leave her seaside home for Nottingham Hospital's nursing programme - a brave leap for a village girl who'd never been far from Chapel's familiar lanes.

Gwen's nursing career began in earnest on 1st September 1950 at Nottingham Hospital. For four years, she trained not just in medicine, but in the art of human connection. When she graduated on 8th September 1954, she carried with her a philosophy that would define her career: "To heal, you must first care".

She met her husband Harry – he was a Civil Engineer – in Chapel St. Leonards and after they married in 1956 they lived in various places depending on where his work took him. They moved to Formby in 1965, living first in the east side of the town but then moving to our parish in 1972.

Once her children were attending school, Gwen was determined to resume the career about which she felt so passionately, and she spent 17 years on the acute orthopaedic wards at the Promenade Hospital in Southport. She rose through the ranks to become the Senior Nursing Sister, and her wards were run with warmth, precision, and a dedication to patient care — a rare combination. She was offered the post of Chief Nursing Officer but declined because she didn't want to leave her patients. When the Promenade Hospital prepared to close in 1990 and relocate to the new hospital site, she was offered a post there but decided that it was time to finish her work on the wards.

As a devoted mother, she navigated the delicate balance of a demanding nursing career while raising her children, often holding the fort alone when Harry's work took him away from home. Her days began before dawn and stretched late into the night, yet she never let fatigue dim the warmth of her love.

Gwen's devotion to her own parents, Elsie and Percy, never wavered. She relocated them to Formby to care for them, visiting twice daily — not out of obligation, but out of pure love. She brought them meals, shared stories, and ensured their later years were filled with dignity and comfort.

Gwen joined the family of St. Luke's when her husband died over 11 years ago. She was a much-valued member of the congregation and her family said that she drew much comfort from the support of church members during her illness.

### **Margaret Cooke – with details from Gwen's family**

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#### **From PP –**

The last ten years of life are the best, because we are freest from illusions and fullest of experience. - *Benjamin Jowett*

The evening of a well-spent life brings its lamps with it. - *Joseph Joubert*



As part of this ongoing journey, a Truth Telling Conference will be held this June to explore the Anglican Church's involvement in African chattel enslavement and the lasting impact of colonialism. The

The conference will promote understanding, healing, and collaborative action grounded in justice and accountability.

The anticipated results of this conference are for a greater awareness of the Church's historical role, sharing of knowledge and best practice and progress towards healing and transformation.

**(From the Diocesan Bulletin Friday April 18<sup>th</sup>)**

## A black and white silhouette illustration of a man and a child riding bicycles. The man, on the left, is wearing a helmet and is riding a standard bicycle with a child seat attached to the back. A young child, also wearing a helmet, is seated in the child seat, holding onto the man. To the right, a smaller silhouette of a child wearing a helmet is riding a smaller bicycle. Both figures are positioned above a dark, textured horizontal line representing the ground.

# **EXTRACTS FROM ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024 AT THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

## **Our Statement of Public Benefit is:**

1. Regular public worship open to all.
2. The provision of a space for personal prayer and contemplation.
3. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved.
4. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
5. Taking of religious assemblies in schools.
6. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature.
7. Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers, young people and other special needs groups.
8. Supporting other Christian charities in the UK and overseas.

## **Review of activities during 2024:**

We have had another year with much to thank God for in the life of St. Luke's Church. Sunday services continue to gather people of all ages and stages to worship the Lord Jesus Christ together. We began the new year working through Paul's letter to Titus, then spent Lent learning from God's reluctant prophet, Jonah. After Easter we began a series in Acts, which continued through the rest of the year. Members of the congregation were involved in all aspects of Sunday services, and we encouraged more of the children to help out during services, for example with the AV tech and Bible readings. Kids@St.Luke's continued on Sunday mornings during the 10.30am service. The Sunday evening Youth Group finished in July, now that the regular youth have become adults. In its place we started a Youth Group during the 10.30 Service, to have fun while discussing that Sunday's Bible reading.

Thursday Communion met at the start of each month at 11.00am. For those not able to make services in person, the Pastoral Visiting Team provided much needed support and spiritual encouragement. The team started a monthly Communion Service at Formby Manor along with members of Holy Trinity Church and occasional services at Locharwoods Care Home. The six Home Groups met to discuss God's Word and pray with each other. This year they studied the topic of Church and passages from the prophet Isaiah. Once a month, they came together for the Monthly Prayer Meeting when we prayed for ministry at St Luke's and our mission partners. Our Magazine team worked hard editing, printing and delivering magazines. Through it we have celebrated what has been happening across the parish community and advertised upcoming events.

Tuesday Lunch and Open Doors continued to welcome people and build relationships with the local area. At Easter we arranged a walk in the woods, followed by a cuppa & cake with crafts for children. This proved successful bringing congregation members together along with people from the local area, so we started a monthly Together@St.Luke's event following the same format. In September the Hive youth club started for those in school Years 6, 7 & 8. This has grown and over a dozen youth come each Friday night to the Parish Hall for fun and games. Alongside these activities, the Light Fair and Christmas services continued to draw people in from the local area. Two What If? courses gave people the opportunity to find out more about Christianity and ask questions. A number of people have started following Jesus as a result.

Links with St. Luke's CE Primary School have grown stronger. The vicar and foundation governors were involved in both recruiting a new Head Teacher for September and a successful Ofsted Inspection. The children and teachers enjoyed visits to church, termly

services, RE classes, interactive assemblies and got involved with St. Luke's Lent Project, raising money for projects in Lima and Shyira. New Testaments were given to both Year 6 leavers as well as Year 7 students at Range High School. The uniformed organisations met each week at the Meeting Room. Members of the Cubs and Beavers regularly took part in the three parade services.

The Woodland Workshop kept the grounds looking beautiful each month and they were joined by the Community Payback Team each week doing jobs around the graveyard. The grave of Percy French had a visit by the Roscommon Solstice Choir who also performed a concert of his songs in his memory. Work was started in September on replacing the defunct church boiler to a newer, more efficient boiler, along with new convection heaters. The audiovisual equipment was updated in church with a new screen on the front pew for service leaders and preachers, a new church laptop and improved Wi-Fi access points. The Meeting Room had a projector, speakers and permanent Wi-Fi connection installed, along with acoustic panels to reduce noise when it is busy. Plans to extend the Meeting Room have progressed with refinements on the plans and feedback from the pre-planning application to Sefton Council.

As well as serving on PCC, congregation members have been involved with Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council. Our deanery has begun to engage with Liverpool Diocese's Fit for Mission initiative, which would involve joining with other parishes to create a larger parish.

### **Future Plans**

Next year, we will need to engage with the Fit for Mission initiative and the PCC will vote on whether they think it is beneficial for St. Luke's Church. We hope that before the end of next year we will have received planning permission for the Meeting Room extension. We will then be in a position to start fundraising.

In the midst of all of these plans, we know that unless the Lord builds his church, we labour in vain. It is our hope and prayer that we would remain committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel, reaching out to others and being built up by his Holy Spirit.

### **Membership:**

The Electoral Roll on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 stood at 144.

### **Weekly Sunday Worship Attendance for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024:**

8.30 service – 20 adults.

10.30 service – 65 adults and 11 children.

### **Finances:**

The accounts for the year to 31 December 2024 and the Independent Examiner's report are set out in the Appendix.

Voluntary Giving: £111,491.

Reserve Policy: The reserves policy is to maintain unrestricted cash balances sufficient to cover three months' expenditure. Cash balances for unrestricted funds total – £94,695.

### **Custodianship:**

In addition to our Church Meeting Room and Church Hall in Formby, we are responsible for the upkeep of graves at Barnet and Bournemouth Cemeteries.

## SERVICES FOR JUNE

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Easter 7

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am All-age Holy Communion  
(Readings: Acts 17:1-15 & John 17:20-26)

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

11.00am Holy Communion  
(Readings: Psalm 16 & John 17:20-26)

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Pentecost

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service\*  
(Readings: Acts 17:16-34 & John 14:8-17)

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity & Fathers' Day

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service  
with Holy Communion\*  
(Readings: Acts 18:1-17 & John 16:12-15)

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Trinity 1

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service\*  
(Readings: Acts: 18:18-28 & Luke 8:26-39)

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity 2

8.30am Traditional Service  
10.30am Contemporary Service\*  
(Readings: Acts: 19:1-22 & Luke 9:51-62)

(\* 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 June

Dear Lord,

June is the loveliest month, with long days and the beauty of summer all around us. Thank you that, in the church's year this month, we remember one of the loveliest of your followers – Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement. He encouraged the believers in Antioch to *remain true to the Lord* with all their hearts. Through his ministry of encouragement, a great number of people were brought to know you.

Lord, we all thrive when we are encouraged. And we, your people, so need to be encouraged today in this world which can seem so confusing and discouraging. So, thank you to those who have encouraged us in the past, and to those who encourage us now.

Help us to read your living unchanging Word and to remain true to you with all our hearts. Help us to be a *Barnabas* to those we know who might be struggling. May we bear fruit in our discipleship.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Daphne Kitching (PP)**



## WHO'S WHO

|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vicar                                                           | Rev Dr Matt Davis                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Readers                                                         | Mrs Anne Dixon<br>Mrs Jean Watts<br>Prof Allan Hobson                                                                                                                               |
| Reader Emeritus                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Churchwardens                                                   | Mrs Fiona Grieveson<br>Dr David Hogben<br>Mr John McGibbon                                                                                                                          |
| Deputy Churchwarden                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Treasurer<br>Deputy Treasurer                                   | Mr Hugh Dixon<br>Mrs Gwyneth Croft                                                                                                                                                  |
| PCC Secretary                                                   | To be appointed                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Electoral Roll Officer                                          | Mrs Jean Cox                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Deanery Synod Representatives                                   | Mr Andrew Cox<br>Mr John Gelder<br>Mrs Hillary Griffin<br>Dr David Hogben                                                                                                           |
| Gift Aid Officer                                                | Mrs Valerie Hogben                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Legacy Officer                                                  | Mr John McGibbon                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Parish Hall Secretary<br>Meeting Room Secretary                 | To be appointed<br>Mrs Fiona Grieveson                                                                                                                                              |
| Newsletter Editor                                               | Mrs Irene Powell                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Magazine Editors                                                | Mrs Margaret Cooke<br>Mr Ken Davies<br>(Contributions by <b>10th</b> of the month – preferably by email – see page 1)<br>Mrs Margaret Cooke<br>Mrs Margaret Cooke<br>Mr David Moore |
| Magazine Distribution<br>Magazine Adverts<br>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<br>Mrs Jean watts<br>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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat am of the month.

**Confirmation classes** for juniors and adults are held annually.

**Home Communion** – The Wardens welcome the names and addresses of the sick and elderly who would like Holy Communion at home.

**Baptisms & Weddings** – Contact the Wardens after the 10.30 service.

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

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

**PCC** – if you would like to communicate a concern to the PCC, the **Standing Committee Members** are Rev. Dr. Matt Davis (Vicar), Hugh Dixon (Treasurer), Fiona Grieveson (Warden), Dr. David Hogben (Warden), Secretary to be appointed.

**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.



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**Dr Heather Ryan**  
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**Dr John Cosgrove**  
**FRCGP**  
MBBS Lon, DRCOG,  
DFFP, Cert. Med. Ed.

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### Notices in a church newssheet:

- Organist required: to work with small but trying priest and congregation.
- The Low Self Esteem Support Group meets Thursday. Please use the back door.
- Weight Watchers to meet at 7pm in the church hall. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- There will be a shared supper at church this Sunday – with prayer and medication to follow.
- The minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- The students will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.



## WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN JUNE

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

### **Formby Methodist**

- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (3<sup>rd</sup> June) 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](mailto: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 June is the 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- 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 June.
  - Police Help Desk – check with Library when being held.
  - Coffee Mornings continue every Thursday throughout June, 10.30-12noon.
  - Thursday IT helpdesk 11am-1pm.
  - Gardening Club sessions throughout June. Dates to be notified nearer the time. Contact Library to go on the mailing list.
  - 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](mailto:jan.campbell@seftoncvcs.org.uk)

**Life in the Circus** - A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability, but the couple produced photos of their large motorhome, which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny, but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he or she fits in the cannon."

## THE DEVIL'S HOLE

I think everyone is aware of this interesting phenomenon in our parish – and it is generally considered to be the largest blow-out in Britain. Many children have taken sledges or toboggans there and descended the slope at the inland end at breakneck speed. But do you know how it came to be there?

During World War 2 there was a mock-up of the Liverpool Docks – called the Starfish Decoy – at the western end of Range Lane. This was done to persuade German bomber pilots to drop their bombs well away from the real docks and close to the seaward end of our parish. And it is believed that one of these bombs caused the irregularly shaped crater in the dunes.



Over the years it has grown in size – moving slightly inland through the shelterbelt of Corsican pines (believe it or not, a few of those pine-trees are now buried in sand almost to their tops but still appear to be alive) but also expanding to the north and the south.

Until the early 1990s there was virtually no vegetation in the crater and filmmakers were able to use it as a substitute for things like the surface of the moon. Goodness knows how they got their equipment up there! But, in 1992 the constant scouring of the sand by the wind off the sea meant that the water-table was reached and from that point on there was often flooding in wet winters and eventually in 2003 various forms of vegetation began to take hold.

Only 16 different plants were identified in 2004, increasing to 129 in 2017, about 20% of these being regionally or nationally notable. Overall, 172 higher plants have been recorded in the two dune slacks since 2004.

From the spring of 1993 onwards, the presence of standing water attracted Natterjack Toads to spawn but, due to the rapid drying out of the shallow pools, successful breeding was recorded only in 2006, 2008, 2013 and 2016. Another “flagship” species for the Sefton Coast, the Northern Dune Tiger Beetle, can be found on the bare sand slopes of the Devil's Hole in sunny weather during the spring and summer.

Studies based on aerial photographs and field surveys by Nick O'Keeffe and others show that, by 2012, the northern basin was about 320m long and had a maximum width of 90m, while the southern blowout measured about 125 x 50m. The annual rate of growth in the area has declined since 1960, due in part to landward expansion being slowed by the conifer plantation.

Also significant is the fact that, despite being over 70 years old, the blowout remains active, with new slack habitat continuing to develop. The site has attracted international research interest and has great educational potential. No doubt it will continue to provide a visual treat for visitors and a fascinating place for the wildlife enthusiast for many years to come.

**Margaret Cooke – with material from Phil Smith’s articles on the Formby Civic Society website**



## A CONCERT IN AID OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH & PARISH SHYIRA, RWANDA

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## QUOTES FROM PARISH PUMP

***With Trinity Sunday in mind:***

If asked to define the Trinity, we can only say that it is not this or that. - *Augustine*

No wonder that the doctrine of the Trinity is inexplicable, seeing that the nature of God is incomprehensible. Our faith must assent to what our reason cannot comprehend, otherwise we can never be Christians. - *Francis Burkitt*

Thousands of the ablest minds of the centuries have pondered this problem and no one has been able to explain it; who then invented it? What man can invent, man can explain: what man cannot explain, man cannot have invented. It must be a revelation. - *G H Lang*

The Trinity is the basis of the gospel, and the gospel is a declaration of the Trinity in action. - *J I Packer*

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. - *John Wesley*

***And with Pentecost in mind:***

To be filled with the Spirit is to have the Spirit fulfilling in us all that God intended him to do when he placed him there. - *Lewis S Chafer*

[illegible]

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

“To heal, you must first care” - I have extracted from the late church member Gwen Cartwright’s abridged eulogy in this issue on page 6 by co-editor Margaret Cooke. This struck a chord with me. We as human beings are creatures of habit with self-interests often being prioritised in determining how we think and behave. It is hard for our animal instincts to get away from that. We go into survival mode and what’s best for us! But our lives can be considerably enhanced by caring more for others, and if we factor Jesus and prayer into our thinking then we can immediately transcend our caring thoughts onto a higher plane. Such attitudes can only serve to help in any healing process, not only for the person or persons we are wanting to care passionately about but also for the healing of our own selfish and self-indulgent thoughts and behaviours which we are all guilty of harbouring from time to time. Gwen’s ‘philosophy’ of caring more for others leading to improved chances of healing, not only applies to her career in the nursing profession but could, and indeed should, also apply to all of us more generally. Thank you for the reminder, Gwen!

[illegible]

**From PP –**

The editor of a small country newspaper, furious over several government bills that had recently been passed, printed a scathing editorial with an enormous headline: 'HALF THE LEGISLATORS ARE CROOKS.'

Many local politicians were outraged and exerted tremendous pressure on him to print a retraction. He finally gave in to the pressure and ran his apology with the headline: **HALF OF OUR LEGISLATORS ARE NOT CROOKS.'**





## Outstanding care centre in Formby

Are you or a loved one finding it increasingly difficult to manage independently and looking for a warm, cosy and safe new community to call home?

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*"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  
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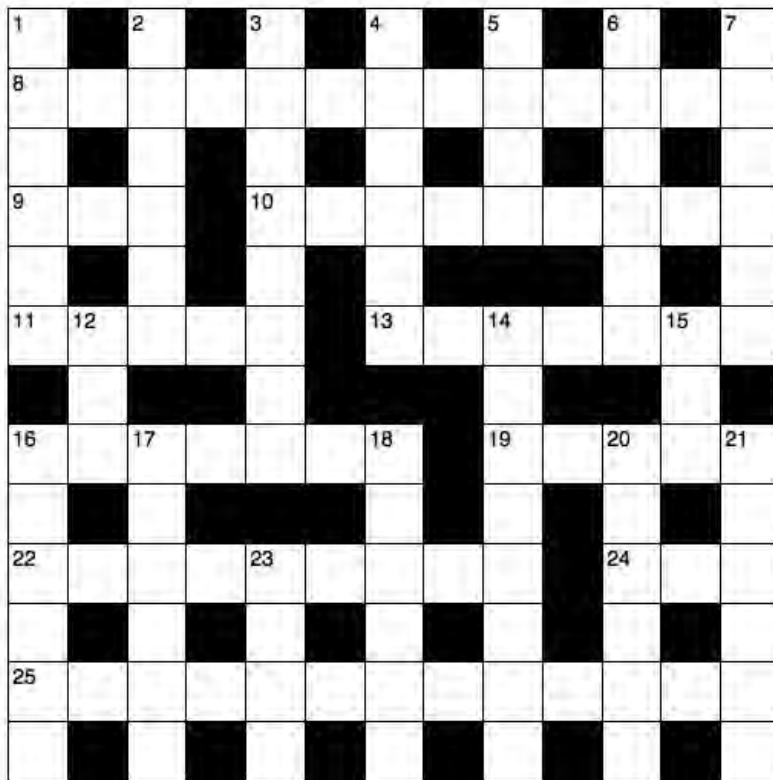
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Phone No: 07926 587776



## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS:

8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)

9 In favour of (3)

10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)

22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua

18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

### DOWN:

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)

3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)

4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)

5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)

6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)

7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set \_\_' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)

12 Ate (anag.) (3)

14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)

16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)

17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)

18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all —. — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)

20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)

21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)

23 Diva (anag.) (4)

**(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)**

# SUDOKU

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

## WORDSEARCH

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### Pentecost

The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples had obeyed His command to stay in Jerusalem and to 'wait for the promise from the Father'. Jesus said this would be the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', but the disciples had no idea what that meant. They soon found out! Acts tells us that at about 9 o'clock one morning, a sound like a rushing wind from heaven suddenly filled the house, and divided tongues as if of fire rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit had come down and filled them with His divine power! Praise, preaching and witnessing followed that morning – and the Church was born.

Pentecost  
Trinity  
Jerusalem  
Disciples  
Praying

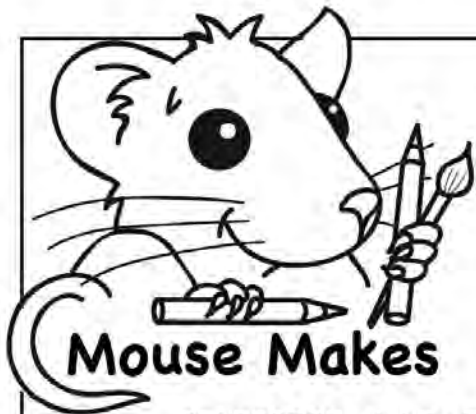
Tongues  
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Holy  
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PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE  
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED  
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS  
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK  
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES  
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA  
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS  
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 ARABIANS • GOD



READ  
 Acts  
 2:1-41

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It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

*How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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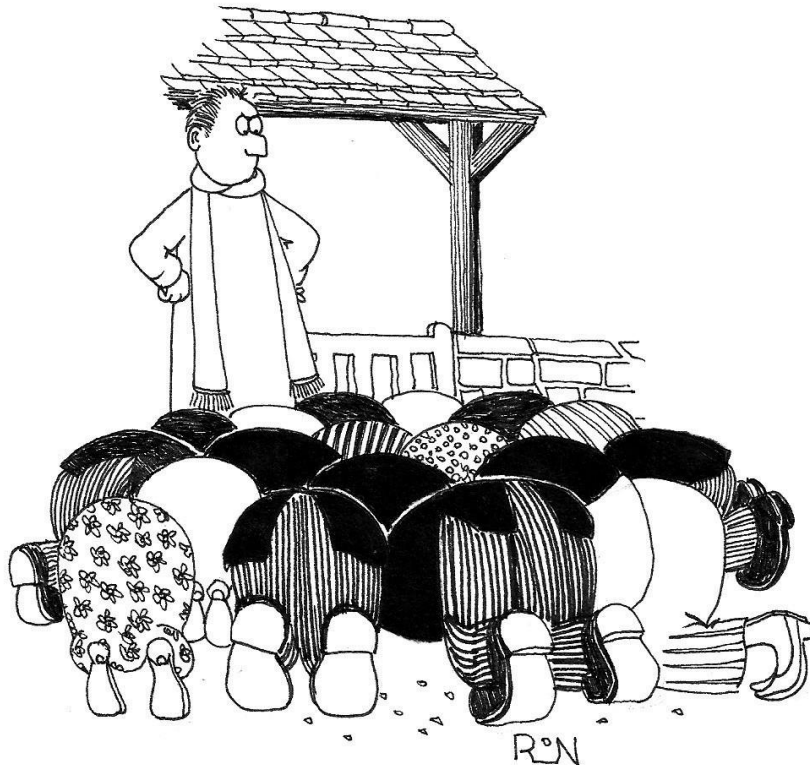
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## CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

**ACROSS:** 8, Grandchildren. 9, Pro. 10, Marvelled. 11, Strut. 13, Startle. 16, Babysit. 19, Orate. 22, Eucharist. 24, Map. 25, Commissioners.

**DOWN:** 1, Egypt's. 2, Favour. 3, Edomites. 4, Thorns. 5, Blue. 6, Armlet. 7, On edge. 12, Tea. 14, Adoption. 15, Lot. 16, Breach. 17, Become. 18, This So. 20, Armies. 21, Expose. 23, Avid.



*Keith was very strict about confetti in the churchyard*



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respond to Jesus  
and grow in faith



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IN THE POOREST NATIONS



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