

St. Luke's Formby

Parish Magazine

Price: £1.50 per issue

Cheaper by annual subscription

£12.00 for 10 issues a year

March

2025



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

Revelation 4:8





Shyira Trust

Registered Charity Number 1118979

Hon President: Prof Allan Hobson MBE

Serving the people of Rwanda, Africa



relieving poverty

advancing education

preserving and protecting good health

Kivu Diocese

Aim: To support Bishop Augustin's 5 point programme

- Palliative care in the community
- Church leadership courses
- Development of job creation (entrepreneurship) among youth and women
- Fighting malnutrition and stunting
- Supporting home and family life



Shyira District Hospital

Mothers' Union

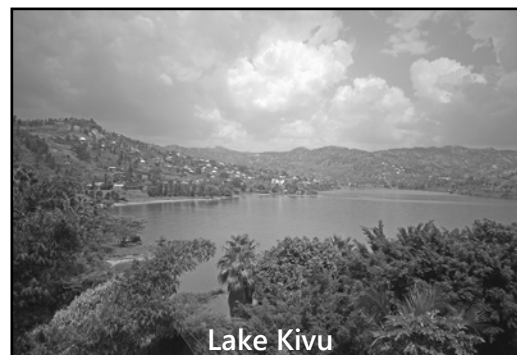
Aim: To support MU members in serving their communities

Achieved:

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

Challenges:

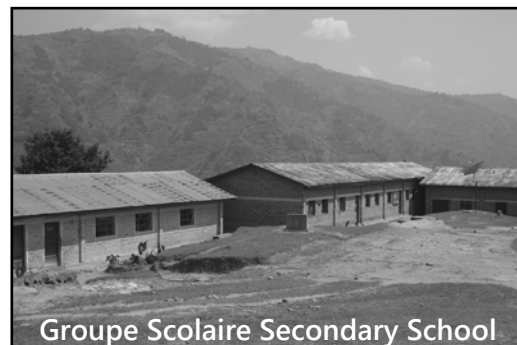
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



Lake Kivu

Primary Schools

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



Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

Aim: To support needy students in Shyira

How YOU can help

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

Email us for further information: shyira-06@shyiratrust.org.uk

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

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



“Contestants! Ready?! Gladiators! Ready?! Three, two, one ...” And with a whistle, so begins Sunday evening TV in the vicarage courtesy of BBC iPlayer. While the youngest Davises munch on sandwiches and delight in the action, the older Davises relive Saturday night memories from the early nineties.

For those not in the know, Gladiators is (very) loosely based on the idea of Roman gladiators, with quite a bit of artistic licence added in. Although there were probably duels and gauntlets in the original, I don’t think there were human sized hamster balls 2000 years ago. Thankfully there are no longer fights to the death, but we do have to endure comedy villains in the form of gladiators Viper and Legend (much to the amusement of our two sons).

In a series of challenges against the gladiators, contestants try to earn points which give them a half second advantage over their opponent in the final head-to-head race known as the Eliminator. The Eliminator is tiring to watch with hurdles, rope climb, overhead ladder, trapeze, cargo net, zip-line, balance beam, traveller and final rope swing. Contestants often get stuck near the end at the traveller, which is like trying to run up a down-going escalator while exhausted.

Life can sometimes feel a bit like an episode of Gladiators. Many of us spend our lives trying to build up “points” for later in life. That might be our bank balances, our reputation, our health, our families, our influence or any of a whole host of other things. With the many funerals I take each year, it’s always interesting to hear what people spent their lives aiming for and what their families most remember them for. Sometimes people realise too late that the effort they’ve put into one aspect of life undoes any benefit they would have gained elsewhere.

Thankfully life isn’t an episode of Gladiators, nor is it anything else weekend TV offers us. It could be so much better! In Luke 13:44, Jesus describes life with him like this:

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Imagine finding something worth hundreds of millions of pounds. And then imagine, that all you had to do was sell your car, house and jewellery, cash in your pension and savings and whatever else you owned. It would be a no-brainer! You could easily buy a better car and a better house—or even one for every day of the week!

Jesus was telling his hearers that joining his kingdom and following him is a no-brainer. It’s so much better than everything else! So, I want to finish with three very simple questions: Do you think that Jesus is better than everything you possess? If you don’t, could that mean that you don’t know how good Jesus really is? If that’s possible and you would like to know more about Jesus, why don’t you get in touch?

With every blessing, **Matt**

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

CHURCH REGISTER FOR FEBRUARY

Baptism – 9th February Louie Johnson

Funerals & Burials –

10th February – Pauline Hechle; 12th February John Heron; 26th February – John Williams

NOTICES

New Electoral Roll for 2025

Out with the old and in with the new! This year we have to do a completely new electoral roll.

To be eligible you have to be 16 or over, baptized and be either -

- a) a member of the Church of England and resident in the parish (if not living in the parish you need to have attended regularly for 6 months), or
- b) a member of another Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also declare yourself to be a member of the CofE and have attended St. Luke's regularly for 6 months.

The electoral roll shows how many people feel that St. Luke's is **their** church family. Everyone has to complete a new form this year so don't forget to pick one up in church, complete it and then hand it to me, or one of the church wardens.

It doesn't commit you to anything at all, but it does give you the right -

- to stand for the P.C.C.
- to be a sides-person
- to be a warden
- to vote at the Church Annual Meeting, which this year is on May 7th

Jean Cox - Electoral Roll Officer

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.

ST DAVID'S DAY – Sat 1st March.

ASH WED SERVICE FOR LOCAL ANGLICAN CHURCHES – 5th March 7.30pm at St. Luke's.

ST PATRICK'S DAY – Mon 17th March.

PCC MEETING – Wed 26th March 7.30pm.

MOTHERING SUNDAY – 30th March.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS – Sun 30th March (clocks forward 1 hour).

NOTICES CONTINUED

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

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

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

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

Together@StLuke's - For anyone in the local community who would like to join us. It is on the first Saturday of the month. The walk (of differing abilities) starts at 2.00pm from the Meeting Room by the main church building, followed by drinks and snacks and crafts for primary aged children from 3-4pm. Come for some or all of it! It's free but donations are welcome – Sat 1st March.

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

Saturday Open Door Coffee Mornings – On the 25th of January we hosted our Gifts-to-Funds stall. Thanks to our very generous supporters the stall took £161 and refreshments £64.40, a total of £225.40 towards church funds. Thank you to all who attended and donated items. **Open Door Saturday** coffee mornings this month are on the 8th and 22nd March. Come along for a warm drink and a piece of cake, or a toasted teacake – or bring along some craft to enjoy time with others. We will be there, from 10 till 12, on the 8th and 22nd March. **Jean**

Southport Soup Kitchen – Ongoing! **Maggie**

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

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

Lent Projects (from Ash Wed 5th March) – pages 8 & 9.

Services for March – p10.

FORMBY FAMILY SPACE

Formby Family Space is a new free after-school club for primary school aged children and their families on Thursdays at the Lighthouse Church. With fun, friendship, games, crafts and a hot meal it is run by volunteers from local churches in conjunction with Compassion Acts and everyone is welcome. Please pray for this mission to our families and, if you are able, consider volunteering for this uplifting and rewarding outreach. **Contact Dympna Edwards / Formby Family Space on 07722 014530 or have a word with Valerie Hogben on 07519 264553 to find out more.**

A woman with short grey hair and glasses is smiling on a boat. She is wearing a white hooded raincoat. The background shows a body of water and a distant shoreline under a blue sky with some clouds.

Maureen was born in Gt. Yarmouth. She was a grammar-school girl who loved history – partly encouraged by the suggested links of her mother's family, the Pastons, to Caister Castle and the famous letters from the time of the Wars of the Roses.

Her first job was in the office of Smith's Crisps in Gt. Yarmouth. It was through a later post that she met Trevor, an electrician. They married in 1959, and Trevor's job took him to Suffolk, then Formby and finally Broadstairs in Kent. She really enjoyed her time in Formby – where she made many friends and worked for Escombe Gwynn travel agency. She was delighted when Trevor agreed that they should retire back to Merseyside.

In the last 10 years of her life Maureen became a member of St. Luke's and reconnected with her faith. She very much valued the friendship of church members and the support of the pastoral team in her illness.

[illegible]

*Life is difficult, sometimes.
No matter how faithful,
no matter how trusting,
no matter how hard we try,
life is difficult, sometimes.*

Even for Jesus
life was difficult,
But He overcame the desert. He overcame death.

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JOSEPH BRYAN BRANKIN

4th January 1926 – 16th December 2024



Bryan was a Manc, born at Number 16, Barff Road, Salford. He was the 6th child to an Irish Catholic father and Yorkshire Protestant mother. His father was a bricklayer and worked away from home for long periods on large civil engineering projects and in fact died while working on Fishguard docks when Bryan was 6. At about this time his mother moved to Beach Lawn in Albert Road, Formby, and so began his nearly 100-year association with St. Luke's.

In 1938 he was one of the first intake to the new Modern Secondary School, Formby High School as it now is. He left school at 14 and joined the GPO as a messenger boy and on recommendation and after passing an exam he transferred to the telecoms side of the business eventually becoming a telecoms engineer.

At 16 he volunteered to join the RAF bomber command but was soon transferred to the Royal Signals with him having telecoms experience in the GPO. He was sent to Germany with the second front at the end of 1945 to reinstall communications. In late 1946 the jeep he was in crashed and ended up in a ditch. He incurred serious head injuries and spent his 21st birthday in hospital.

He was demobbed in early 1948 and was married to the gamekeeper's daughter, Elsie Squires, on the 18th of December 1948 at St. Luke's Church. After demob, Bryan returned to work for the GPO and British Telecoms reaching the post of engineering inspector before being forced to retire due to a cost-cutting exercise at the age of 60. Bryan and Elsie spent the early years of their marriage in rooms at The Firs, her parents' home, before buying Number 10 where he lived until his death. Elsie died in 1993.

Bryan was sporty, mainly football and athletics, and the army gave him a great opportunity to perform - running and playing football for his division, the regiment and the Army representative team. On returning home he continued to play for Formby Dons for several years.

He was a lifelong socialist and was heavily involved in Union activity for the whole 47 years of his retirement, epitomised by the opening and closing music of his funeral at St. Luke's Church on the 15th of January - Rodrigo's Concerto De Aranjuez and Londonderry Air by Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

Bryan was a man of his time. He displayed the values and traits of his generation. He had a fierce sense of duty and loyalty, happy to volunteer for the services and a one firm man from age 13 until his retirement. He believed in hard work and supporting his family. He was fair minded, caring and well respected. He will be sadly missed, but he died knowing the life he lived was the life he would have wanted.

(Abridged/edited version of Bryan's Eulogy by son Mark)

CHRISTOPHER MULFORD

1940 - 2025



Christopher, or Chris as he was known to most people and to me, moved to Formby from Hampshire in 2003. We moved to be near our younger daughter and family in Crosby.

On our first visit to St. Luke's Church, we were immediately welcomed by Rev. Canon Alison Woodhouse and the church family. Christopher was a licensed reader, having been first licensed in Dundee Cathedral in 1977. Due to his work as a

manager for Marks & Spencer we moved quite a few times but each time Christopher received a new licence and continued his ministry in the new parish. Needless to say, Alison was happy to invite him to join the team here at St. Luke's and in no time we were settled in our new home, making new friends in the church and the village.

Christopher was also a member of Rotary and Probus Clubs and held the post of President in both over the years. However, his role or calling as a Reader within the church team of ministry was perhaps most dear to his heart. He spent many hours in his study preparing his sermons and yes, I think that I still have all of them.

Harvie Nicol followed Alison as Vicar at St. Luke's and he and Christopher had a good relationship and worked well together within the church team.

Sadly, Christopher was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2008 and, although this was not too much of a problem for some years, his balance and speech became more difficult. In 2023 Christopher moved into Formby Manor Care Home following my heart attack and the health problems following on from that. His very good friend, Rev. Roy Baker, regularly visited to give communion and the two of them would put the world to rights. Each Sunday St. Peter's zoom their Morning Service to the residents' lounge in the Care Home and Christopher was always in attendance. For all his problems and frustrations, he never lost his faith.

We met in March 1964 when we were both working for M&S in Guildford. We married in June 1965 and enjoyed every moment of our life together.

Christopher died on January 7th. He is now at peace.

I thank Matt for his support as Vicar and friend and I thank all who came to celebrate Christopher's life at the church service. Thank you also for the many cards and messages. St. Luke's really is a caring and loving family.

Pauline Mulford

ALLAN WORTHINGTON & CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE



Hi, folks! My 'green gym' time at St. Luke's is now sadly over; ill health and age have caught up with me.

Thankfully, I have been able to enjoy 30 years working in the church and churchyard; and together with many others, changed the churchyard into a beautiful place.

The biggest achievement (obsession) was getting rid of over one million nettles, and also numerous other weeds within and outside the church boundary. Don't question the number - I used to be a quantity surveyor!

The physical and mental benefits of working in such a place have been significant – the opposite of too many hours at a computer screen or watching TV, and closer to my roots as a farmer's son. I also enjoyed chatting to strangers, dog-walkers and parishioners; all of whom appreciated the environment.

There are now many people dedicated to maintaining the area and so we can all look forward to continuing to savour this special picturesque space.

Allan Worthington

We are grateful for all the current help around the churchyard that the Sefton Community Payback Team is now providing on a weekly basis: mowing the grass, clearing leaves and weeds, and maintaining paths and borders.

Payback Team Supervisor, Colin, commented: "The team really appreciates working in the tranquillity of the church grounds. It's a far cry from many of the tasks the lads undertake in some of the urban areas we work in. It's amazing to think that Allan (Worthington) managed to maintain the churchyard and keep it looking so beautiful almost single-handedly. Wonderful dedication!"

All at St. Luke's echo Colin's comments about Allan. We have so much to thank AW for.

QUOTES FOR LENT (FROM PP)

Some people think reconciliation is a soft option, that it means papering over the cracks. But the biblical meaning means looking facts in the face, and it can be very costly; it cost God the death of His own Son. - *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

We change things by changing ourselves! - *Anon*

All true knowledge of God is born of obedience. - *John Calvin*

It's hard to remember that Jesus did not come to make us safe, but rather to make us disciples, citizens of God's new age, a kingdom of surprise. - *S Hauerwas*

Suffering is the true badge of discipleship. The disciple is not above his Master. - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Give me, good Lord, a humble, lowly, quiet, peaceable, patient, charitable, kind, tender and pitiful mind; with all my works and all my words and all my thoughts to have a taste of the holy blessed spirit. - *Sir Thomas More*

ST. LUKE'S LENT PROJECT 2025 - GIVING MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT TO LIMA (PERU) AND SHYIRA (RWANDA) - 50% OF ALL DONATIONS TO EACH

Lima (Peru)



On a hillside on the outskirts of Lima, Peru, is a shanty town which stretches as far as the eye can see. A picture that will never appear in the glossy tourism brochures. In fact, the Peruvians, a very proud race, who live there, do not like any photos to be taken showing the plight they are in. For the people living in the shanty town, each day is a struggle for survival. The lucky ones manage to earn a small amount by doing odd manual jobs to buy food for the day. Children try to earn a pittance by washing car windscreens in the town. Some do acrobatics in the street with a begging bowl. Life is really tough.

Several years ago, Isabel Montoya, daughter of the local vicar, realised that the children living in the shanty town would have no chance of climbing out of the poverty trap if they did not have any education. So, she started a school, finding a building that would just about do. Although she spends as little as possible on the building, which has never been great and often presents her with problems such as the ceiling falling down, her funds go mainly towards the education of the children. Isabel employs good teachers to work beside her. She does receive some funding from local government but there is always a shortfall. She often tops up the wage bill from her own purse. Our help is therefore really vital.

Very shortly after setting up the school, Isabel noticed that many of the children arrived at school hungry, because there was no food at home. She realised that hungry children cannot concentrate and produce their best work. So, she now gives the children a good meal, which is often the only food they will get that day. All this adds to the running costs but is worth it from the huge improvement in the children's achievements.

We have supported Isabel's school for several years now, and she is always very grateful for our help. Often, she's been at her wits end wondering, for example, if she can provide the children with a hot chocolate drink at Christmas - a rare treat - but our gift has been the answer to her prayers. If you have contributed in past years, thank you very much. If you can donate this year, she does appreciate all that is given.

Joyce Eddlestone

St. Mark's Shyira – Parish Link (Rwanda)

Monies raised from this year's Lent Project that go to Shyira will support the following projects in St. Mark's Church and Parish:

St. Mark's Church (Including: Boys' & Girls' Brigade and Mothers' Union)

The Mothers' Union would like to be able to buy mattresses for 35 families who sleep on leaves. They would also like to be able to buy goats for 20 single mothers.

St. Mark's Church would like to be able to pay for the health insurance of 185 poor people. They would also like to be able to support the Boys' & Girls' Brigade Band to buy them uniforms and musical instruments.



Groupe Scolaire (Shyira Secondary School)



Groupe Scolaire would like to be able to repair and resource the dining hall. 40 tables and 80 benches are required.

They would also like to be able to make repairs and buy resources for the computer room. 20 tables and 100 chairs are required.



Shyira Primary School

The primary school would like to be able to repair and resource the nursery classrooms. They would like to be able to buy a photocopier and also provide laptops for the teachers.

John Gelder

If you would like to donate, ways of making payments are as follows –

- **Cash or cheque payable to St. Luke's PCC Formby in an envelope clearly marked LENT PROJECT and left on the plate at any Sunday service. Gift Aid envelopes are available from the back of church for those eligible.**
- **Via Parish Giving Scheme to make a single payment, adding any Gift Aid. Contact Church Treasurer, Hugh Dixon, for details if uncertain how to process payment by PGS and of any payment made in aid of Lent Project.**
- **By BACS, with church bank details obtainable from Treasurer or Wardens, and again informing Treasurer of payment in aid of Lent Project.**

MARCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd March – 1 before Lent

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Acts 14:21-28 & Luke 9:28-36)

Ash Wednesday 5th March – 7.30pm

(Readings: Psalm 51 & Matt 6:1-6, 16-21)

Thursday 6th March

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Deut 30:15-20 & Luke 9:22-25)

Sunday 9th March – Lent 1

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Zephaniah 1 & Luke 4:1-13)

Sunday 16th March – Lent 2

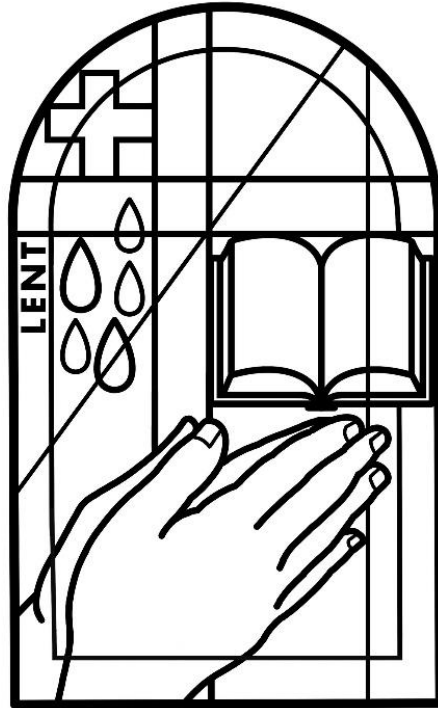
8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Readings: Zephaniah 2 & Luke 13:31-35)

Sunday 23rd March – Lent 3

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Zephaniah 3:1-8 & Luke 13:1-9)

Sunday 30th March – Lent 4 (Mother's Day)

8.30am Traditional Service (Reading: Colossians 3:12-17)
10.30am Parade (Reading: John 19: 25-27) (* 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 March 2025

Dear Lord, in this month when Lent begins, we remember the difficult journey Jesus made to the cross, to take upon Himself our sins and the sins of the whole world, to bring us the hope of eternal life by His resurrection.

Lord, we bring to You our own journeys through our daily lives.

We bring our disappointments, our bewilderment, our pain, as well as our happy times. We thank You that You are with us in and through all of it.

We thank you that the message of Christmas is the message of Lent and the message of every day – You, our God, are with us always, giving us hope and life, because of Jesus.

Thank You that He made that journey for us, and all we have to do is trust in Him. Help us to do that and to share His good news with others, especially those in distress. We pray in His name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching (PP)

WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Mrs Jean Watts Prof Allan Hobson
Reader Emeritus	
Churchwardens	Mr Steve Ginn Mrs Fiona Grieveson Mr John McGibbon
Deputy Churchwarden	
Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Mr Hugh Dixon Mrs Gwyneth Croft
PCC Secretary	Dr David Hogben
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Jean Cox
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mr Andrew Cox Mr John Gelder Mrs Hillary Griffin Dr David Hogben
Gift Aid Officer	Mrs Valerie Hogben
Legacy Officer	Mr John McGibbon
Parish Hall Secretary Meeting Room Secretary	Mr Steve Ginn Mrs Fiona Grieveson
Newsletter Editor	Mrs Irene Powell
Magazine Editors	Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr Ken Davies (Contributions by 10th of the month – preferably by email – see page 1)
Magazine Distribution Magazine Adverts Magazine Collation	Mrs Margaret Cooke Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr David Moore
Church and Churchyard Maintenance	Contact Wardens for information
Safeguarding Officer	Dr Peter Griffin
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Joyce Eddlestone
Pastoral Care Co-ordinators	Mrs Hillary Griffin Mrs Jean watts 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), Steve Ginn (Warden), Fiona Grieveson (Warden), Dr. David Hogben (Secretary).

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



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MRCGP
MA (Oxon), MBBS,
MSc (Distinction)

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

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Beware of these contagious diseases in church

Frontophobia: A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

Ear Frequency Destruction: Caused by sitting near the loudspeaker when the minister is singing full volume, off-key, etc., into the microphone.

Double Auricular Clearance: A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear-ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

Accelerated Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

Retarded Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN MARCH

St Luke's Church – Refer p2 & 3; p10 for Services; p12 What's On.

St Peter's Church and Parish Hall (Paradise Lane) – 01704 871171

- Bingo for the elderly every Sun 8.00-9.30pm and Mon 2.00-4.00pm.
- Bacon Barm & Banter – Mon 3rd March, 10.30-12noon (1st Monday of the month except Bank Holidays) in the Bier House on church site. Free admission.
- Singing Thursdays! (except for 1st Thurs of the month) in the parish hall – check with church for details in March.

Formby Methodist

- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (4th March) 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
- G Force Choir Concert on Tues 4th March @ 7.30pm.

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

- Shared Reading Sessions is on Wed 5th March and 19th March, 11.30am to 1.00pm. We use stories and poems to help people connect and share experiences. There is no pressure to talk or read aloud. Free tea/coffee. New members welcome. No booking required.
- New 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 12.30pm and no booking is required. Free tea and coffee.
- Talk in March is by Bernard Nevin and is on Captain Johnnie Walker, the most successful Anti-Submarine Commander of the Second World War. It is being held at the Library on Wed 26th March at 2.00pm. It is free but places must be booked either on the Sefton Libraries Catalogue website Events Calendar or by phone on 01704 874177.
- Ukulele lessons have been very popular. Contact Library for expressions of interest.
- All the usual events are happening in March including –
 - Police Help Desk – every 3rd Mon of the month, Mon 17th March.
 - Warm Hub Coffee Mornings every Thursday, 10.30-12noon, with free hot drinks & biscuits available until 3.30pm throughout the winter months.
 - Thursday IT helpdesk 11am-1pm.
 - Gardening Club sessions throughout March. Dates to be notified nearer the time. Contact Library to go on the mailing list.
 - Creative writing group. Check with Library for details.

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

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY ST. LUKE'S PCC 2025

Following on from those reported on in our February issue – namely YKids, TWAM, EMBRACE and a little on tearfund, we now have more information on tearfund and highlight also the work of 2 more of the charities we support – Mercy Ships and Bible Society. The information can be found on pages 16 and 17.

18 December 2024

Supporter No: 1002822/czb

St. Luke's Church Formby
St. Luke's Vicarage
St. Luke's Church Road
LIVERPOOL
L37 2DF

Dear Friends

Thank you for your gift of £1325. Your church's generosity is providing hope for people like Justina in Zambia.

Zambia remains one of the least developed countries in Africa, with 54 percent of the population living on less than £1.50 a day. Many, particularly rural farming communities, have struggled to escape the seemingly ingrained legacy of poverty.

For Justina, now aged 24, her childhood and the start of her adult life in Kagoro had always been a struggle. While primary school education is free in Zambia, very low-income families face many barriers to accessing it. Parents can't always afford books, stationery, uniforms and shoes. But it's not just education that is unaffordable - healthcare is expensive too.

Four years ago, an opportunity opened up for her. Tearfund's partner, Jesus Cares Ministries, identified the church and community in Kagoro as in need of support to break the cycle of poverty. They started a Transforming Communities programme, which envisions and equips the church in practical ways to work with the local community.

Justina undertook training in tailoring skills and now has a sewing machine to make and mend clothes. She sews school uniforms and the profits from her business are funding her niece's education.

Justina has further plans to become a qualified teacher and she's saving money to pay for the training. Thank you for your support as we work together with communities to bring lasting hope and transformation to people like Justina in Zambia.

Yours in Christ



Cathy Winmill
Head of Supporter Services
Teddington



Carly Robb-Watson (Director of Supporter Development), as well as thanking with many blessings St. Luke's PCC for our £1325 kind donation which *"will help people access safe surgery - and transform their lives"*, also wrote:

"When we first met Fudia she rarely smiled. Born with a disease that made her legs bow outwards, she had suffered a

lifetime of pain. She always hoped that, one day, she would find help. Thanks to your ongoing support, she was given free orthopaedic surgery on our hospital ship, The Global Mercy, in Sierra Leone. Now she can walk to school, free from pain. Her smile shines with hope and happiness.

I'm so touched to see how your kindness is changing the lives of so many people by bringing them safe surgery onboard our hospital ships. Thank you."

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Elaine Dony (Head of Supporter Services) similarly thanked St. Luke's PCC with many blessings for our kind gift of £1325 and wrote:

"The impact your donation can have –

- The Bible is distributed free of charge or at affordable prices to those in need*
- Scriptures are translated to reach more people in language they can fully understand*
- Resources are provided in England and Wales that change the conversation about the Bible in wider culture and encourage Bible-inspired change in society*

The story of fruit grower Han Xiaoling is an amazing example of how access to the Bible is transforming lives worldwide. Xiaoling could barely read when she attended Bible based literacy classes supported by Bible Society in rural China. Within six months she could read Bible verses. She's now filled with passion to share God's word. 'I want people to know that all we have comes from God and that they should trust him', she said. Already Xiaoling's family, her husband's family and three of their friends have come to faith.

Your kindness and generosity is making a huge difference to so many people's lives. On behalf of all those who will benefit from your gift - thank you."

(One in four Bibles provided by Bible Society is funded by gifts in wills. Visit biblesociety.org.uk/legacy for details.)

THOUGHT FOR MARCH

March traditionally is the month during which the bulk of the church season of Lent falls. This year it starts on the 5th of March (Ash Wednesday) and ends on Thursday April 17th (Maundy Thursday). It stretches to 40-days - the time when Jesus suffered in the wilderness. It is about resisting temptation and repentance. What can we give up and not be tempted by for those 40 days? Chocolate is often the top of many people's list. If that is your preference, then why not store it up for needy families visiting the Southport Soup Kitchen at Eastertime?



I make no apology for repeating a Lenten prayer by Martin Luther which I published in our March magazine 12 months ago. It read: *Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I feel my sins. They bite, chase and frighten me. Where shall I go? I look to You, Lord Jesus Christ, and despite my weakness, I believe in You. I hold fast to You, and I am certain that you said, "Whoever believes in me will have eternal life".*

Mothering Sunday also falls in Lent (the 4th Sunday of Lent) – on the 30th of March this year.

Both Lent and Mothering Sunday are also about relationships – one with Jesus and one with our birth mother. Unquestionably, both bring comfort and have great value, but our relationship with Jesus always trumps any loving relationship we have, or have had, with our own earthly mother. We may love our mums dearly and they likewise us, but Jesus is the shining example of true love in the caring and compassionate sense. Atheists would no doubt argue that reciprocal love and affection between parents and their children has nothing to do with any kind of God. I would argue that they don't fully grasp where the complete meaning of love stems from: "...God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." (1 John 4:16)

KD

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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

Formby Manor Care Centre 67 Liverpool Road, Formby L37 6BU
newcarehomes.com



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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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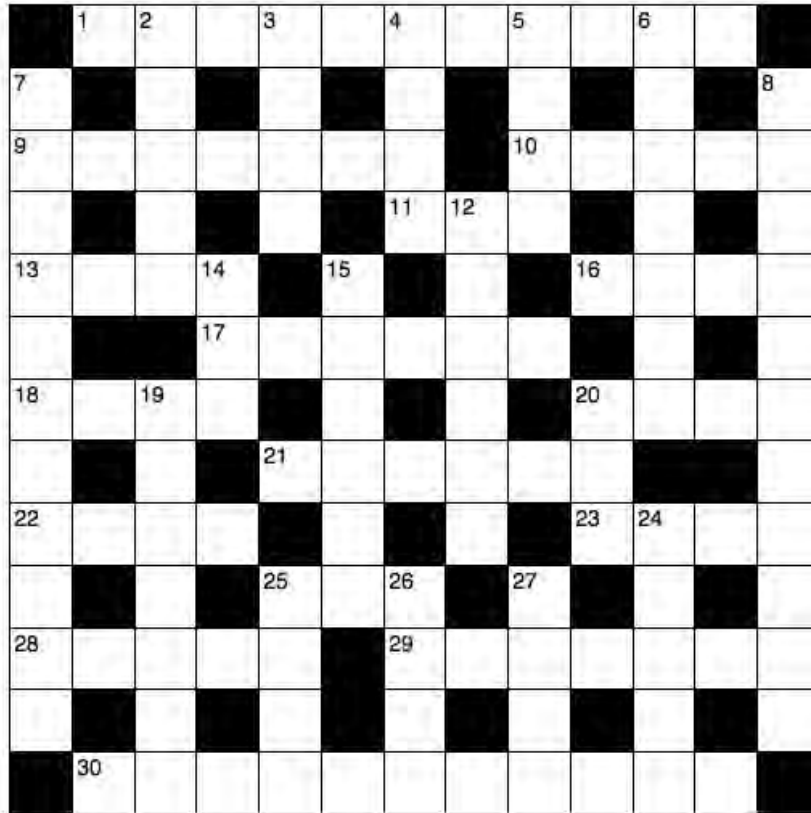
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
 21 'He has received from

- the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been —, he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

DOWN:

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
 6 Do we, then, _the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — —' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

SUDOKU

EASY

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

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MEDIUM

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

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

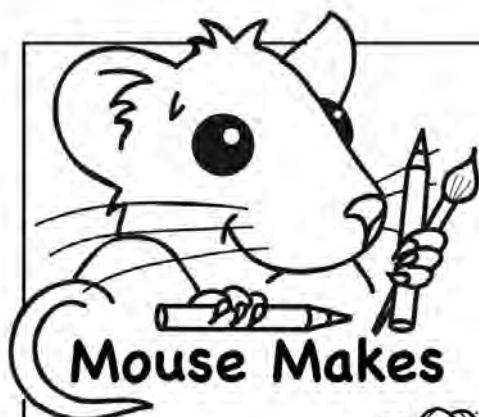
WORDSEARCH

e	e	f	e	p	d	n	t	l	y	r	l	g	p	i
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a	a	n	e	e	i	a	g	i	e	t	e	n	u	h
c	g	u	a	d	s	h	y	n	n	e	i	i	r	e
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t	i	i	p	t	r	e	e	v	l	m	g	d	u	r
p	i	l	d	e	t	r	e	s	e	d	m	f	n	s

Lent and Mothering Sunday

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

Lent	Prayer	Finding	Nurture	Flowers	Fasting
Spiritual	Desert	Growing	Learning	Thank you	Seeking
Easter	Self-denial	Mothers	Teaching	Nursing	Care
Preparation	Repentance	Love	Disciples	Family	Worldwide



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Luke 4:2

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



READ
the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

Luke 4:12



What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus? see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED
WILDERNESS
DESERT
TEMPTATIONS
DAYS • DEVIL
HUNGRY • SON
STONE • ROCK
KINGDOMS
WORLD • GLORY
WRITTEN
SCRIPTURE
WORSHIP • ONLY
SERVE • LORD
JERUSALEM
HIGH • TEMPLE
THROW • DOWN
JUMP • ANGELS
HANDS • HOLD
LIFT • FOOT

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



Find the words from the questions too!

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

MEDIUM

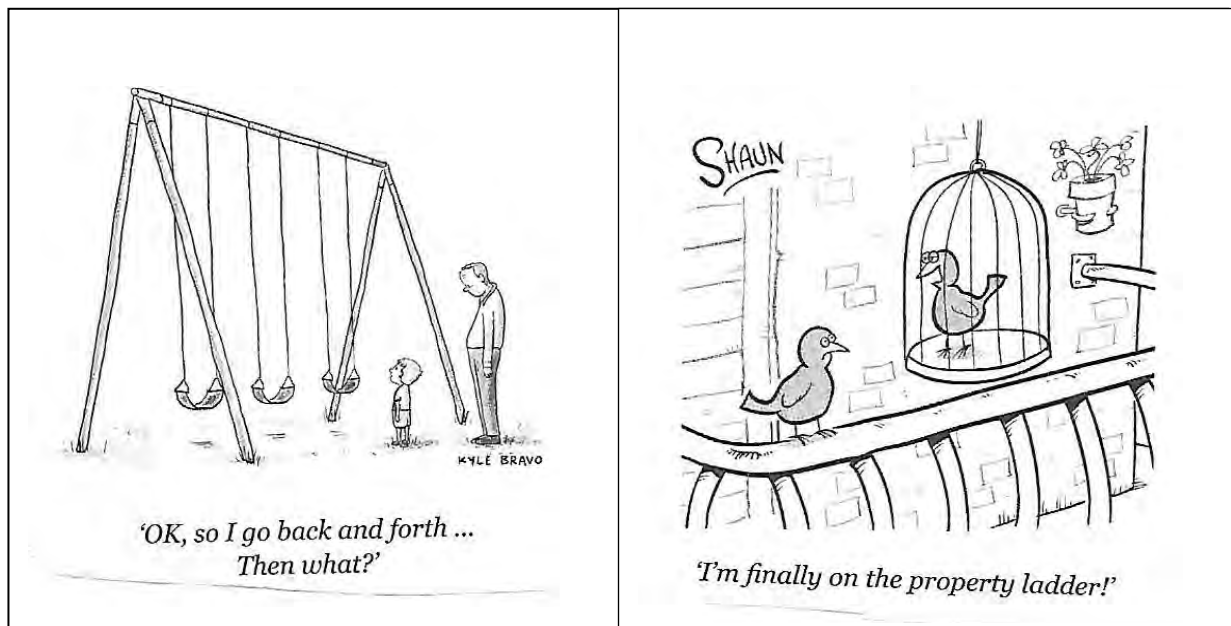
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3	6	5	1	2	9	4	8	7
1	9	8	4	3	7	6	5	2
4	2	9	3	7	1	5	6	8
7	3	6	5	9	8	2	4	1
5	8	1	2	6	4	3	7	9

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

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with acknowledgment to the Oldie magazine

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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)