

St. Luke's Formby

Parish Magazine

Price: £1.50 per issue

Cheaper by annual subscription

£12.00 for 10 issues a year

May
2025



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

Revelation 4:8





Shyira Trust

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Hon President: Prof Allan Hobson MBE

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relieving poverty

advancing education

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Kivu Diocese

Aim: To support Bishop Augustin's 5 point programme

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

Mothers' Union

Aim: To support MU members in serving their communities

Achieved:

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

Challenges:

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

Primary Schools

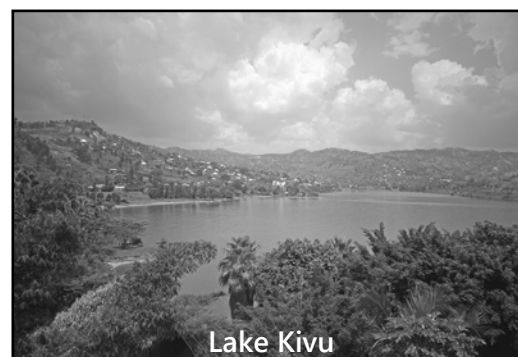
Aim: To support school ministry by providing equipment, school materials and evangelistic outreach

Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

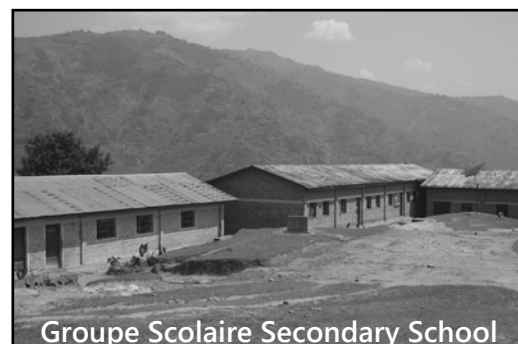
Aim: To support needy students in Shyira



Shyira District Hospital



Lake Kivu



Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

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Vicar – Revd. Dr. Matt Davis

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends



A few weeks ago, we did a spring clean at the vicarage. It was just one room, but it took almost the whole day. Like most people today, we don't store our car in the garage (can any car fit in a garage these days?). Instead, we store garden toys, a tent, two telescopes, some gardening tools, bits and pieces to take to the tip eventually, all-age service props, a parasol and lots of things that might just come in useful someday, so we better not throw them out. Sound a bit familiar?

Our reason for this particular spring clean was evidence of mice: a nibbled hole in a recently purchased box of wildflower seeds and some droppings. We knew a general tidy and reorganisation wouldn't be enough. We needed to take *everything* out of the garage, sweep the floor, wash everything down and then bring a reduced selection of it all back in — without any mice, of course. Nelly, the vicarage labrador, sat on duty during the latter stages keeping a careful watch. While emptying everything we found three mice behind one of the shelving units and boy, can they jump! They were last seen scurrying across the garden in the direction of church (sorry, churchwardens!). The garage doorframe now has extra wood to stop any unwanted lodgers getting back in through the cracks. All in all, it was a busy day's work, but so far seems to have paid off.

Jesus told a parable in Luke 11:24–26 that I was reminded about when trying to get rid of our mice:

'When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, "I will return to the house I left." When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.'

How often we have a bit of a tidy and reorganisation in life but then get frustrated when we go back to old patterns. We crave a quick-fix, self-help, management guide solution, but what we really need is more drastic. At the vicarage, we didn't just need to get rid of mice (as thorough as that process was), we needed something to protect the garage against mice coming back when the weather gets cold again.

In life, we don't just need to rid ourselves of bad thoughts and actions, we need someone who can deal with the root problem and keep us from them: someone who has conquered evil itself and promises to protect us from evil. Christians believe that someone is Jesus. We've just remembered his death and resurrection at Easter, when he proved that he is more powerful than all the evil in the world combined. I wonder, is he protecting you? You just need to ask.

With every blessing,

Matt

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

Illustrator: Joan MacDonald. Cover design: Philip Lowe.

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

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

CHURCH REGISTER FOR APRIL

Funerals & Burials

8th April – Pauline Hechle (burial of ashes)

9th April – Gwen Cartwright

15th April – Chris Mulford (burial of ashes)

16th April – Betty Owen (burial of ashes)

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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.

MONTHLY BREAKFAST – Sun 4th May.

APCM – Wed 7th May 7.30pm.

POST APCM PCC MEETING – Wed 4th June.

ASCENSION DAY – Thurs 29th May.

PENTECOST – Sun 8th June.

MENTAL AWARENESS MONTH – May.

VE CELEBRATION DAY – Thurs 8th May.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY – Mon 12th May.

EARLY SPRING BANK HOLIDAY – Mon 5th May.

LATE SPRING BANK HOLIDAY – Mon 26th May.

ASSOCIATION OF FORMBY ARTISTS – Spring Exhibition Sat 10th May (p16 for details).

NOTICES CONTINUED

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday Lunch – Soup/sandwiches/cake & company, 6th & 20th May in the Meeting Room. Donations for lunch welcome. **Anne**

Open Door Saturdays & Green Fingers! After a break for Easter, we are starting our fortnightly coffee mornings on Sat 3rd May. Dates at time of press are: - May 3rd, May 17th & May 31st, June 14th & 28th, July 12th & 26th.

On May 17th we will be holding a '**plant sale**' – bring along those baby plants you have too many of and we can raise funds for the church.

On May 31st Pete Griffin will be hosting a guided walk around the churchyard – keep your eyes open for further information!

We are open 10 'till 12 for a chat, tea, coffee, cake or a toasted teacake. Why not bring your crafting along (knit-and-natter), many of us do. Drop in and say hello – you will be made welcome. **Jean**

Southport Soup Kitchen Easter Egg Appeal – on behalf of the SSK a big thank you to all who donated Easter Eggs for needy families.

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.

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.

Compassion Acts Formby Family Space – p7.

REFLECTIONS AND NEW BEGINNINGS AT ST. LUKE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Over the past January to Easter term, we have focused with Year 6 pupils on reflection and new beginnings. This started with New Year's resolutions and has carried us through to the Easter break, where we have looked at Jesus' death and sacrifice; and how this offers Christians forgiveness and the opportunity of a new beginning at any time. The photo shows the Y6 pupils completing a transition booklet, focusing on the new beginning on offer at secondary school in September.



Year 6 pupils

The pupils were asked about how they've reflected, improved, represented their Christian value of 'respect' and had a new beginning over the term. **Lottie and Ollie** (class 6H) gave these suggestions:

- Showing improved behaviour
- Being open to making new friends in different year groups
- Working hard to embody our Christian values
- Raising money for school
- Growing our confidence when talking to strangers

Y6 Team



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PREPARING FOR EASTER AT LOCHARWOODS

On a beautifully sunny afternoon in early April, a small group from St. Luke's enjoyed sharing a short service with residents and staff at Locharwoods Residential Care Home. The theme was the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which we remember on Palm Sunday. The Gospel reading was vividly illustrated by Janice using her flannel board and we all enjoyed waving our palm crosses, remembering the crowds who had cut down palm branches to cover the road as Jesus approached. Anne and Hugh accompanied us as we sang together, and Jean finished our service with prayers.

Thank you to the staff and residents for giving us such a warm welcome, and we look forward to joining you again in the months ahead.

Hillary Griffin

NEW EVENTS LAST EASTER AT ST. LUKE'S

- Good Friday @ 7.00pm in the Meeting Room an outreach film titled 'Heaven, How I Got Here' – the story of the thief on the cross.
- Easter Saturday 3.30–5.30pm in the Meeting Room, 'Easter Explained' - family activities with a short interactive talk and a light tea.
- Easter Sunday – 'Sunrise Service' @ 5.45am to celebrate Christ's resurrection at the viewpoint near Lifeboat Road National Trust Car Park.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS AND PASSION PLAY BY CHURCHES TOGETHER

Despite the cold showery weather on Good Friday, Churches Together presented their annual Passion Play in partnership with Make Noise Choir in Formby Pool Gardens. Beryl Howard, current Chair of Churches Together, welcomed the fairly large audience and was followed by a reflection on the significance behind the Easter story by Revd. Lilly Nelson of St. Peter's Church. The production was written and directed by Dympna Edwards, with sound by Mark Edwards. The cast performed excellently, backed at intervals by the beautiful music and singing of the choir. Congratulations to all involved in the production. Well done!

THOUGHT FOR MAY

May is often the month for celebrations in the UK – early and late Spring Bank Holidays and also this year we have a special celebration on Thursday 8th May for VE (Victory in Europe) Day 80. I read that there will also be celebrated on Friday 15th August the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan – VJ Day.

I hope VJ Day is given the same celebratory recognition in the UK as VE Day, for this has not always been the case. In 1945 it was more a day for celebration by the Americans with an end to the war in the Pacific. When British troops returned home from Burma (now Myanmar) and the far east there was hardly a flicker of recognition to celebrate what they had achieved – the 14th Army soon became known as the 'Forgotten Army'. It was a good example of worthily celebrating one (VE Day) and almost completely forgetting about the other (VJ Day), which should have been equally celebrated – something we are all prone to do at times in lesser circumstances. Don't forget, Jesus can always remind you to set the right balance!

KD

COMPASSION ACTS FORMBY FAMILY SPACE

(An after-school club held every Thursday afternoon, 3.30-5.30pm at The Lighthouse Church, 93 Church Road)

Having been launched in January, the club has grown steadily, with now at least ten families attending regularly, the children ranging in age from 6 months to around 14 years (accompanying younger siblings).



Thanks to The Lighthouse's brilliant resources, we have a baby corner with a selection of colourful toys, various table and board games, a large box of Lego and a bounteous array of craft materials. We also have a homework corner for the more studious.

While the children happily play and the Mums drink tea and get to

know one another, the kitchen is busy preparing a simple hot meal, which is then served up at around 4.30pm.



After the meal the children are gathered together and a story read aloud, while the helpers start the clearing up process.

When the families are ready to leave, they are offered leftovers

from the Pantry session held that morning. These include a selection of bakery products, along with fruit and vegetables that have been donated by Formby supermarkets. We usually have a couple of cratesful that the families can help themselves to.



The two hours fly by incredibly quickly - and happily! Many of the Mums tell us that they love coming and appreciate the support.



In the future we hope to have the occasional guest to come and give a short talk or demonstration. A community liaison lady from the National Trust approached us in March with a view to potentially organising a nature craft activity for the children. In a summer month we may even plan a trip to the beach or pinewoods for them.

The Family Space is open to all families, so if this sounds inviting, please do come along and join us. You will be made very welcome.

Valerie Hogben

WITH ASCENSION DAY IN MIND (29TH MAY) - FROM PP

What? Do we place Christ midway among the spheres? Or do we build a cottage for Him among planets? Heaven we regard as the magnificent palace of God, far outstripping all this world's fabric. - *John Calvin*

When Jesus came to earth, He did not cease to be God; when He returned to heaven, He did not cease to be man. - *Anon*

Triumphant, Christ ascends on high,
The glorious work complete;
Sin, death and hell low vanquished lie
Beneath His awful feet.
Anne Steele

Our Lord is risen from the dead!
Our Jesus is gone up on high!
The powers of hell are captive led,
Dragged to the portals of the sky.
Charles Wesley

Astronauts sink into insignificance beside this ascension! - *Vance Havner*

MUSINGS ON OUR CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE - FROM PP

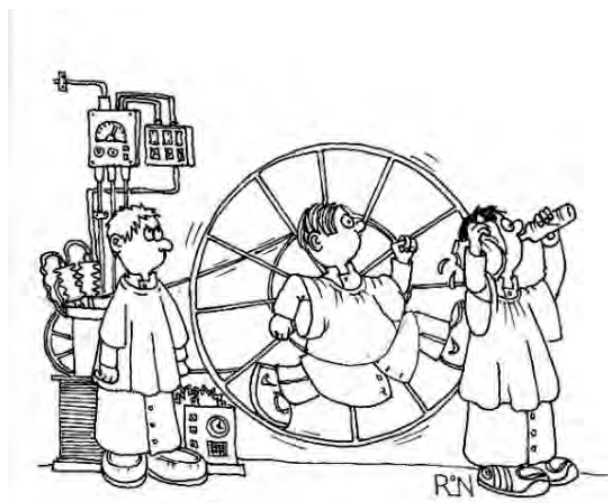
The more you think about Christ, the more you think of Him. - *H C Trumbell*

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. - *J A Francis*

Joy is the serious business of heaven. - C S Lewis

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope. - *Aneel Aranha*

To be almost saved is to be totally lost. – *Anon*



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SERVICES FOR MAY

Thursday 1st May

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Ephesians 1:3-10 & John 14:1-14)

Sunday 4th May – Easter 3

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Acts 15:22-35 & John 21:1-19)

Sunday 11th May – Easter 4

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Acts 15:36-41 & John 10:22-30)

Sunday 18th May – Easter 5

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Readings: Acts 16:1-15 & John 13:31-35)

Sunday 25th May – Easter 6

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: Acts 16:16-40 & John 14:23-29)

(* 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 Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father.

Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.

Lord, in these strange, topsy-turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus every knee shall ultimately bow - and we pray, thankfully 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) Mrs Margaret Cooke Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr David Moore
Magazine Distribution Magazine Adverts Magazine Collation	
Church and Churchyard Maintenance	Contact Wardens for information
Safeguarding Officer	Dr Peter Griffin
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Joyce Eddlestone
Pastoral Care Co-ordinators	Mrs Hillary Griffin Mrs Jean watts Mrs Jean Watts
Vulnerable Adults Officer	
Health & Safety Officer	Dr David Hogben
Woodland Workshop Co-ordinator	Dr Peter Griffin
Cathedral Representative	Mrs Elizabeth Lowe
Church & Mid-African Mission	Mrs June McGibbon
Church Administrator	Mrs Valerie Hogben

WHAT'S ON

Refer also to p2, p3 and Weekly News Sheet for further information on church activities and events.

Monthly Prayer Meetings – See Weekly News Sheet for details. Monday or Tuesday evenings likely days, 7.30/7.45pm in MEETING ROOM.

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

Creche - A creche is available at all 10.30am services.

(Toilet facilities available in the Meeting Room throughout all services).

Parish Breakfast – Most first Sundays of the month 9.30am between services.

Woodland Workshop – Contact Peter Griffin (871846) for details – 2nd Sat am of the month.

Confirmation classes for juniors and adults are held annually.

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

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

Uniformed Organisations in the Church Hall unless otherwise stated –

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

PCC – if you would like to communicate a concern to the PCC, the **Standing Committee Members** are Rev. Dr. Matt Davis (Vicar), Hugh Dixon (Treasurer), 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)

SAND-WINNING IN OUR PARISH

The following explains why a lot of the land west of St. Luke's Church Rd. and Edenhurst Drive is quite flat once you get beyond the first line of low hills as you walk towards the beach. This extract is from a piece on the Formby Civic Society website.



There had been "sand-winning", or sand extraction, on a small scale for the best part of the previous 100 years but by 1955, in the area south of Lifeboat Rd., now Ravenmeols Local Nature Reserve, rectangular areas were marked on the map for potential sand extraction. The area closest to Lifeboat Road was,

soon after sand excavation, leased to become the Formby Point Caravan Site. Further south Mr Harry Jones, (West Coast Sand and Lime Co), obtained permission to take sand from the end of Range Lane. Very large amounts of sand were extracted from this area over a period of 3-4 years at the western end of Range Lane including the area used as a 'Starfish' decoy during WW2. This sand is said to have gone to Pilkington's and also for building. Mr Sherstone then came into the business and six men were employed full time. Further extraction took place at the southern limit of the Formby boundary at Cabin Hill.

The removal of Cabin Hill became a 'cause celebre' as it was considered that the dune flood barrier had been reduced so much that the danger of flooding from the sea had been significantly increased. An artificial sand-ridge was then created to replace the natural sea defence. Much of this sand was removed via a light railway running along the Hoggs Hill Track created by Mr Sherstone and removed by Stephen and Hooks, went to Liverpool and Manchester for house building. The 2ft wide light railway connected to a siding off the main Liverpool – Southport railway line near the Railway Power-Station. Sand then went via the railway to the Midlands where it was used for foundry castings. This was particularly important during WW2 and in effect was an important contribution to the war effort.

The last Sand Extraction Application was submitted by Woodward's in 1965, for the area where the Wicks Lane "man-made lake" is today. Another area was to the west of Atherton Cottage near Shorrocks Hill. This was for "high quality sand for specialised industries – without it many important industries could be seriously affected". This application was opposed by many local people and Formby UDC, so went to public enquiry, held in the Formby Council Offices. The appeal was finally successful but even so Woodward's were unhappy with the conditions imposed by the Minister and appealed again in July 1966. They wanted to remove 150,000 tons of sand over a 2 year 3 months period. This would mean over 15,000 10-ton lorry loads passing through Formby. This occurred but was probably the last significant industrial extraction here.

Those of you who have lived in Formby for 40 years or more will remember Woodward's as the car dealership on the site where the Tesco store now stands.

Margaret Cooke

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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 MAY

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 – NOT 5th May (Bank Holiday), 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 April.

Formby Methodist

- Coffee Club 1st Tues of each month (6th May) 2-4pm.
- The Carers' Support Group meets every Fri afternoon 2.00-4.00pm at the Methodist Church in Elbow Lane. Contact Irene for further information: tel 876219 or by emailing the Formby Befriending Scheme – info@formbybefriendingscheme.org.uk

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

- As part of the '**Loved and Lost**' programme the Library will also be holding a Grief Gathering on Tues 6th May at 2-3.30pm in the Library Garden. This involves coming together in a non-judgemental, informal setting to discuss the role grief plays in our lives and gives an opportunity to talk about the people who have meant a lot to us and whom we have lost. There will be food, drink and a craft as part of the session.
- 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 the group leader/s and shared by reading aloud on the day. There is no pressure to speak if you just want to listen. Sessions each month are on Weds from 11.30-1.00pm and the date in May is 21st. Free tea/coffee. No booking required. 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).
- Neither of these sessions are intended to be therapeutic in nature, although we hope they will have positive effects on those who attend. For this reason, they are not necessarily suitable for anyone very recently bereaved, although that being said we welcome all who wish to attend, provided they are aged 18 years and above.
- 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 (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 May including –
 - Police Help Desk – check with Library when being held.
 - Coffee Mornings continue every Thursday throughout May, 10.30 to 12.30pm.
 - Thursday IT helpdesk 11am-1pm.
 - Gardening Club sessions throughout May. 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

**MEMORIES OF SHYIRA FROM CHURCH VISIT IN EARLY
OCTOBER 2023 - by Yvonne Yule**



On the Saturday we all walked up the plateau at the top of the hill to watch a friendly game of football. The St. Mark's team wore the kits we took over and donated by ex-church member Marg Prentice. They all looked very smart. Because the match was played on the top of the hill, whenever the ball went out of play and rolled off the flat pitch, it took an age to recover as it went rolling down the side of the hill.

Revd. Jacques took us to meet one of his parishioners. She remembers when the Belgians were in charge of the country, so they thought her to be over 100! She lived in a mud hut. She lay on a mat on the floor for her bed and sat on a very low bench which I could not get down to sit on.

On the way to her house, we followed a very narrow, steep and mossy path. At one point Revd. Jacques noticed that a piece of metal used as a gutter to divert the water running down the mountainside had become dislodged causing the path to become flooded. He therefore moved it to reroute the runoff as we used the path.

When we returned, the match was still in progress and church member John (Gelder) was on top of a building with the D.J. dancing to the music.

Just another great day in Shyira!



WELCOME TO WOODLAND WORKSHOP 2025

The woodland consists of the areas not covered by graves. I admit it's a rough definition but, generally speaking, if the plants around you are above head height, you're in the woodland. We are a volunteer group who answer to the PCC, the charity trustees with legal responsibility for the church.

You probably see us, loitering on the second Saturday of each month, at 11 am, drinking coffee and, like labradors with verbal skills, begging teacakes from the coffee morning volunteers. However, at other times on those particular weekend days, we will be less obvious as we are locked in a never-ending life and death struggle with invasive ivy, fashioning sycamore poles to replace paling fences or standing heads bowed in tribute to the latest batch of wildflower seeds that have failed to germinate.

If you look out of the southerly window of the Meeting Room, you will notice that you no longer face an ivy monoculture. A closer look will reveal a variety of broad-leaved plants that are taking up residence and, perhaps more importantly, the leaf litter from the white poplars, horse chestnuts and wych elms that are coating the sandy soil, all right, sand, providing nutrients for the bulbs which will give us a spring and early summer display of flowers. This succession of woodland plants is a slow process but will eventually give us a vibrant and diverse ecosystem, worthy of our silver eco church award.



We are clearing the area to the west of the entrance track from Lifeboat Road. This has enabled volunteers from the National Trust to install a new fence. We are grateful for their hard work and provision of material because it enables the church land to be crossed by a permissive, not a public, footpath.



We have also been helped by a community payback team who have been, amongst other activities, clearing the fence to the rear of the graveyard.

However, a picture paints a thousand words, so here are four thousand words.



CLOCKWISE from top left:

Snowdrops & hazel bushes

Our brand-new sparkly fence

All that ivy has to go somewhere

A newly seeded Remembrance Garden

Peter Griffin

BIBLE SALES RISE



An article written by Euan O'Byrne Mulligan appeared in the Saturday i newspaper on March 15th. The opening paragraph read: "Sales of the Bible have risen in Britain despite the continued decline of interest in organised religion, with experts pointing to a rise in spirituality among Generation Z as one potential driving factor". Generation Z (Gen Z) are also known as 'zoomers' and refers to the demographic cohort succeeding Millennials – Gen Z generally being those born between the mid-to-late 1990s and the early 2010s and whose current ages range approximately between 13 and 28. They can be roughly classified as the 'young people' of today. They have grown up during an age of the internet, smart phones and social media. They have also witnessed or experienced political and financial global turmoil, conflicts within and between nations, Covid and climate change.

The article goes on to record sets of figures to support this apparent shift from organised church and Christianity towards spirituality. From the article we read further: "There was an 87% increase in sales between 2019 and 2024 – according to figures compiled by SPCK Group, a Christian publishing company"; "The number of people in Britain who say that they have 'no religion' has risen over recent decades, from 15% in the 2001 Census to 37.5% in 2021"; "In a poll in January, 62% of 18-to 24-year-olds said they were 'very' or 'fairly' spiritual, compared with 35% of those over 65"; "The January survey found that 25% of Generation X, people born between 1965 and 1980, identified as atheist, making it the least religious generation. Atheism falls to 20% among millennials, born between 1981 and 1996, dropping to just 13% among Generation Z born between 1997 and 20012"; "The Bible Society* said that its 2018 volume *Good News Bible – The Youth Edition*, was 'by far our most popular', with sales having almost doubled since 2021".

My mind goes back to a good friend and teaching colleague of mine in the late 1960s who told me on more than one occasion that his father was a staunch advocate of the Bible and would readily recommend that everyone had a copy for it was the greatest book for life that was ever compiled. His father apparently also added that he had no alliance with religion and organised church. Does his thinking perhaps still ring true with young people today?

What do we mean by 'spirituality' and how does it equate with 'religion'? Doing a quick scan on the internet, the best comparison I could come up with was: "While often used interchangeably, 'spirituality' refers to a personal, often individual, search for meaning and connection with something larger than oneself, while 'religion' typically denotes a structured system of beliefs and practices, often involving a community and established institutions".

The past 25 years has undoubtedly seen a cultural diversion into a new High-Tech age which consequently has influenced the ways in which young people think and conduct their lives. Could such a shift, highlighted by the almost instant obsession to share news and information be a causal factor towards the tenet of Euan O'Byrne Mulligan's article - especially how they regard Christianity and regular church-going vis-a-vis spirituality? Does traditional church have to evolve more rapidly its methods of delivery in order to satisfy Gen Z?

Lifestyles and family mores inevitably change over the decades. Gen Z's thirst for immediate information is readily and amply supplied by an ever-increasing technological world. However, their leaning towards spirituality still appears to rely on the Bible as *the* text to follow. Their Bible is The Bible! I wonder why? I will leave that thought with you. **KD**

(*The Bible Society is one of 8 charities St. Luke's Church is currently supporting)



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?

Offering residential, nursing and dementia care services, **Formby Manor** is fast becoming the care home of choice in Formby and the surrounding area and the residents and permanent staff members at the facility have created a warm, safe and vibrant community.

Outstanding residential, nursing, respite and dementia care in a luxurious and safe environment.



"To say I am impressed is an understatement. The management and staff show nothing but care and affection to both residents and their families."

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

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

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

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

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

LOOKING WESTWARDS



In recent months, we have heard a lot about our parish boundaries: Wicks Lane to the north, the railway line on the eastern side, Altcar Firing Range to the south and the sea to the west. In between the developments which extended across the parish towards St. Luke's Church in the later years of the twentieth century and the sea, lies a considerable area of land which we may not think has changed very much in the last

hundred years. Apart from Lifeboat Road which runs westwards through the dunes to the Lifeboat Station, the only other roads are Albert Road and Alexandra Road, the result of Victorian plans to establish the resort of Formby on Sea. This project was eclipsed by the development of Southport, but some older properties with interesting histories remain.

However, if you walk through the pinewoods or the dunes, you will see signs of both natural and man-made changes that have taken place during the last hundred years. The Formby foreshore was used as a decoy during World War II; one of the bunkers can still be seen, as well as evidence of "false docklands" in the contours of the land. The plans to develop Formby on Sea failed, but Formby Point Caravan Park and the National Trust Car Park are indicative of the area's popularity with visitors. Climate change has brought significant alterations to the dunescape and this in turn has affected the flora and fauna.

So, why am I writing about this? At the end of March, I attended a talk at Formby Library about a new three-year project called "Coasts in Mind" which is being undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). In summary the project aims to "map one hundred years of coastal change through community heritage". Four coastal areas in England have been selected, and the only one in the north is the Sefton Coast, which extends from the Ribble estuary to the mouth of the Mersey. A local team will gather evidence of coastal change over the last one hundred years from local communities, in the form of photos and oral memories. This information will be used to create a community archive, supplementing scientific data on coastal change provided by other agencies in order to help planning for the next hundred years. The project is funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, Lloyds Register Foundation, and in this area, Historic England Northwest.

The project team will be running events and workshops throughout the Sefton Coast area from now until 2027 and at the end of the project there will be permanent digital and physical archives.

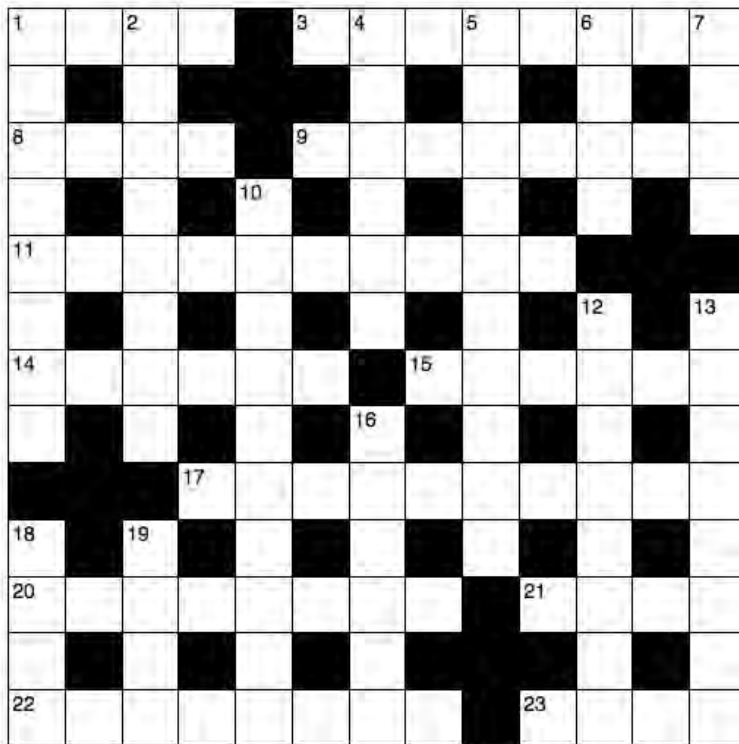
Further information will be available from Formby Library or Formby Civic Society. A more detailed overview of the project can be found on the dedicated website, cim.mola.org.uk. If you have memories or photos relating to this particular area of our parish, the project team would love to hear from you.

Hillary Griffin

Don't look back

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt. One youngster nodded in a knowing fashion. "My mummy/daddy looked back once while s/he was driving," he confided, "and s/he turned into a lamp post."

CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
 8 What Jesus called the devil
 (John 8:44) (4)
 9 'My God, my God, why have you
 — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
 11 Anglican form of church
 government (10)
 14 'Those who hope in the Lord
 will renew their strength. They will
 soar on wings like —' (Isaiah
 40:31) (6)
 15 Ministers of religion (6)
 17 Make stronger (1
 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22)
 (4)
 22 Pool where Jesus healed a
 man who had been an invalid for
 38 years (John 5:2) (8)

23 “[Jesus] said to them, “— here and keep watch” (Mark 14:34) (4)

DOWN:

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are —?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

Genesis and politicians

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos first!"

SUDOKU

EASY

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

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MEDIUM

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

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

WORDSEARCH - The Nicene Creed

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

This year is the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Athanasius is the theologian behind that creed, and his feast day falls on 2nd May.

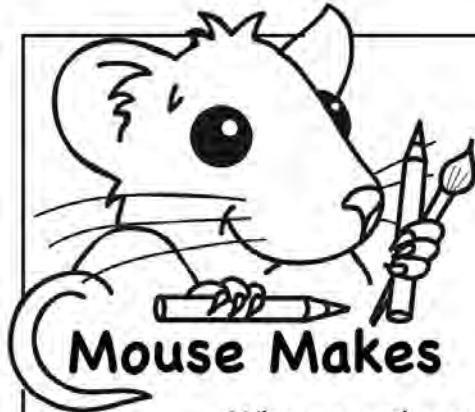
Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt and entered the ministry. He was 29 years old when he accompanied Alexander, the Bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first great ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325. There he saw the Council debate the Person of Christ. How was He the Son of God and also Man? Did He really exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

When the heresy of Arius, which taught that Christ was not divine, and not eternal, later threatened the church, Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father'.

For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding.

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism (lessening of the Person of Christ).

Athanasius	Council	Worship	From	Scholarship	Hiding
Nicene	Bishop	Divine	Light	Church	Triumph
Creed	Debate	Eternal	True	State	Christology
Theologian	Christ	Begotten	One	Exiled	Alexandria
Egypt	Person	God	Substance	Flight	Devotion



MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11



People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the

Acts 9:36-42



"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

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

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.
**See the book
of ACTS**

PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE



Find the words from the questions too!

May25© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Baby. 3, Stimulus. 8, Liar. 9, Forsaken. 11, Episcopacy. 14, Eagles. 15, Clergy. 17, Strengthen. 20, Holiness. 21, Obed. 22, Bethesda. 23, Stay.

DOWN: 1, Believer. 2, Beatings. 4, Troops. 5, Musicology. 6, Like. 7, Sent. 10, Acceptance. 12, Prohibit. 13, Dying day. 16, Sensed. 18, Ahab. 19, Blot.



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Scripture Union

Helping under-18s
explore the Bible,
respond to Jesus
and grow in faith



MEDICAL CARE AND FREE SURGERY
IN THE POOREST NATIONS



St. Luke's supports
these 8 charities

tearfund

10% of our unrestricted
income is given to
charity
(Lev 27:30)