

St. Luke's Formby

October
2025

Parish Magazine

Price: £1.50 per issue

Cheaper by annual subscription

£12.00 for 10 issues a year



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

Revelation 4:8





Shyira Trust

Registered Charity Number 1118979

Hon President: Prof Allan Hobson MBE

Serving the people of Rwanda, Africa



relieving poverty

advancing education

preserving and protecting good health

Kivu Diocese

Aim: To support Bishop Augustin's 5 point programme

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



Shyira District Hospital

Mothers' Union

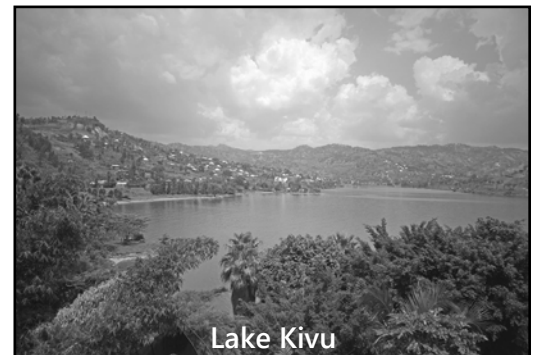
Aim: To support MU members in serving their communities

Achieved:

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

Challenges:

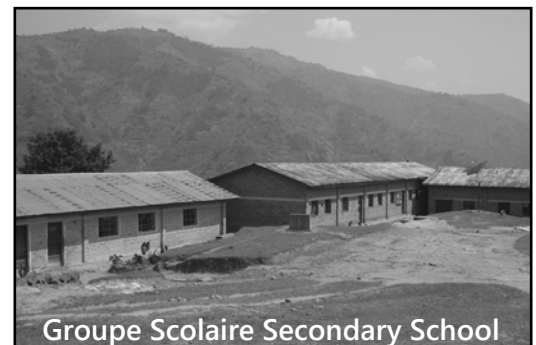
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



Lake Kivu

Primary Schools

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



Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

Groupe Scolaire Secondary School

Aim: To support needy students in Shyira

How YOU can help

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

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

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

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

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

Vicar – Revd. Dr. Matt Davis

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends

Beeping, drilling, scraping, sweeping. It’s noisy outside the vicarage today. Sefton Council have finally decided that the potholes on St. Luke’s Church Road are too deep and too numerous to be dealt with individually. Something drastic is needed.



The road has been closed all week. Yesterday, pneumatic drills broke down the upper layers of tarmac and diggers scraped it up into trucks. Today, pickaxes have been used by hand around the raised ironworks, massive street sweepers have gone up and down getting rid of the debris, trucks have filled up the asphalt pavers (the ones that look like tractors with large buckets on the front) which heat the tarmac and lay it on the ground, then rollers have gone back and forth to smooth the tarmac as it cools—and that’s just the lower layer on one side! The other side will be done this afternoon, the thinner upper layers tomorrow, then the road markings need to be painted the day after and hopefully the new road will be open for action by Sunday morning.

Lasting change, lasting improvement, needs more than just superficial extractions or additions. As I’ve listened to the machinery and looked at the transformation occurring just beyond the gate, my mind has wandered to a deeper transformation that occurs in people’s lives.

So many books, magazines and social media posts are focussed on change: dieting, time-management, life-hacks, self-help. Ways to improve our lives, our relationships and our enjoyment. Sadly, the vast majority of the advice we receive is only superficial: habits and behaviour. They’re the equivalent of filling a pothole with a blob of tarmac. We need a much deeper change, something drastic. More than just our behaviour, more even than just our thinking. A change deeper than our hands and our head.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Ezekiel shares this promise from God:
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (Ezekiel 36:26,27)

God says we don’t need new habits; we need surgery: heart surgery. And not just a few stitches, we need a full heart transplant. We have hearts of stone, and we are spiritually dead. We need hearts of flesh to be spiritually alive. In the New Testament Jesus explains that he is the one who has come to make us alive: he can give us new birth, he can give us life to the full. And once he has done that, all the other changes become small in comparison and suddenly possible. Have you been given this spiritual surgery? Has Jesus given you life?

With every blessing,

Matt

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

CHURCH REGISTER FOR SEPTEMBER

Funerals: 4th September – Jan Wardle & 22nd September – Sam Dudley

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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.

SHYIRA VISIT

St. Luke's Church, with support from the Shyira Trust, were delighted to host the social visit of **Rev. Canon Emmanuel Ndimukaga** (CCT Project Officer, Diocese of Shyira) **from 16th Sept to 3rd Oct**. Emmanuel is currently writing a book on his life's ministry and is intending to include a chapter on the establishment of the Shyira Trust when he was Pastor at St. Mark's Shyira in 2006/07. He has visited Formby in the past and his photo is on the front cover of Allan Hobson's recent book 'Linking Parishes, Harvesting Friendship'. He preached during both Sunday services on 21st September.

There will be a full report of his visit in our November magazine.

Southport Soup Kitchen Appeal – ongoing!

Compassion Acts 2025 Pound Appeal – by donating as little as £1 a month you can help continue to provide free support to those experiencing poverty and hardship. Government funding has ceased this year, so they are relying more on public help. Go to: www.compassionactsuk/donate/ for more details. Compassion Acts is a local charity based in Southport and is one of the annual charities currently supported by St. Luke's.

St. Luke's Day – Sat 18th Oct.

BST ends – Sun 26th Oct (clocks back 1 hour).

Light Fair – Fri 31st Oct.

PCC Meeting – Wed 26th Nov 7.30pm.

Shyira Trust AGM – PROVISIONAL: Sun 2nd November, 12noon, in the Meeting Room.

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.

NOTICES CONTINUED

Tuesday Lunch - Soup/sandwiches/cake & company, 7th and 21st Oct in the Meeting Room. Donations for lunch welcome. **Anne**

Open Door Saturdays - From now until Christmas we will be opening our doors from 10 'till 12 for tea, coffee, cake and a chat once a fortnight on:-
October 11th & 25th; November 8th & 22nd; December 6th.
Why not drop in and say "hello" – you will be made welcome!

STOP PRESS:

On October 11th there will be a sale of patchwork quilts made by Barbara Weldrake, the proceeds from which will go to Malawi to help to provide seed and fertiliser to grow food. November 22nd will be our Christmas Crafts stall. **Jean**

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE AUDIT

Don't let the title scare you! Keep reading and see if you can help.

Our churchwardens and PCC have a very wide responsibility to keep the fabric of our church in good order and to ensure that we comply with all the various rules and responsibilities. Our churchwardens, in particular, give sacrificially of their time but personally only have certain skills and experiences to call upon.

We are blessed in our church family with members ranging in age from new to 'mature' and members who have professional and practical experience that would benefit the maintenance and good order of our church. What we do not have is a clear idea of where these skills and experiences lie within the general congregation.

Just looking at our church buildings, as one example. They have a wide age range and that means we can have old building problems and new building problems. As time passes things can go wrong and have to be repaired, renewed or changed. Occasionally our churchwardens would like to be able to have a chat with someone who perhaps has more experience in particular areas than they have.

There are other areas as well as our buildings where knowledge of your skill, experience or talent would be a great benefit.

Can you help?

We sit in our church as a congregation, but separately we are people with many different jobs, experiences and talents. Yours could be just the one that might make things clearer.

Please help us to build a database of where these talents, skills and experiences lie by filling out a very simple form that we can refer to as and when. Look out for the form at the back of church or speak to one of the churchwardens.

Jean Cox - Church Electoral Roll Officer

OCTOBER YKids BOOK APPEAL



One of the charities which St. Luke's supports is YKids, based in Bootle. Their bookshop, Kingsley & Co, sells good quality second hand books, fact or fiction, **for children or teenagers** at fixed prices and is now well established in its new location on Stanley Road. However, they do need a supply of donations in the busy run up to Christmas.

If you are able to donate any books for children or teenagers that your children may have grown out of but which are still in good condition, there will be a clearly marked container for these items in the Meeting Room from October 12th to October 24th. I will aim to deliver donations to YKids during the half-term holiday.

Hillary Griffin

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IT'S SHOEBOX TIME

The year is slipping away, and preparations are under way to collect and fill our shoebox contributions once again. The flat pack boxes and the leaflets and instructions are at the back of Church. The whole exercise is administered by Samaritan's Purse, under their Operation Christmas Child scheme.

In the past, our response from St. Luke's has been excellent, and so many children who have never received a Christmas present have benefitted from their Christmas gifts; and also, from learning about Our Lord Jesus. There is still much to do, for in so many countries Jesus is as yet unknown. I am hoping our response can help redress that state of affairs.

I am so grateful to those people who have contributed in the past, but if you haven't been involved before, please do give it a try. The collection centres will be open from 10th to 17th November, and I shall deliver our boxes in that week.

So that the church doesn't get cluttered please would you return boxes on Sunday 2nd November. If that is not convenient, please let me know, and I will arrange collection/delivery - my telephone number is 01704 875101.

Thank you all, and happy box filling!

David Moore

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Fauré – Requiem

Nunez – Garcia - Missa

Pastoril

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or phone 07706 017221

PAR-TEA AT THE VICARAGE SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST



Photos courtesy of Steve Ginn and John Gelder

THE HIVE YOUTH GROUP - A YEAR OF FUN, GROWTH AND COMMUNITY



It's been an exciting year at The Hive, and we're so pleased to share with you some of the highlights and successes we've seen together.

Each Friday night, our young people gather for games in the hall, plenty of laughter, and, of course, a very popular tuck shop. What started as a small group has been steadily growing, and we now have 36 young people on the books. It's been wonderful to see new faces joining almost every week, with friendships forming and confidence building along the way.

One of our goals this year has been to help our young people experience the world around them, and our trips have done just that. From train journeys to Southport and Liverpool, they've learned how to navigate public transport with independence. Once there, they've enjoyed activities like crazy golf, roller skating, and climbing – each one providing not just fun but also opportunities to face challenges, overcome fears, and celebrate achievements together. Watching someone conquer their nerves on the climbing wall or simply enjoy an evening out in a new city has been incredibly rewarding.

We've also had success in fundraising. The group pulled together for a week-long sugar fast to raise money for Shyira, showing that they're not only about having fun but also about caring for others and making a difference. Their commitment and effort were inspiring, and it gave them a real sense of achievement in supporting something bigger than themselves.

Perhaps what has been most encouraging this year is seeing the personal growth in each young person. Whether it's the shy ones coming out of their shell, friends encouraging each other to try new things, or the laughter that fills the hall every Friday, The Hive is doing exactly what it set out to do – providing a safe, fun space where young people can unwind, belong, and enjoy time together at the end of the week.

Looking ahead, we're excited to keep building on this momentum. Our hope is to continue growing, offering even more opportunities and experiences, while staying true to that original vision of being a place where every young person feels welcome and supported.

Thank you for your continued support – it really does make all the difference.

Paul Furlong

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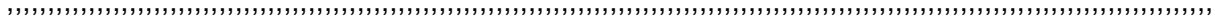
Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

NEW CHURCH LOGO



R^oN

*After his induction, Harry met the
leaders of the other denominations*

BARRY DEVONSIDE - 18 February 1947 - 23 July 2025



Most of us knew Barry or knew of him as the tireless campaigner for justice for the victims of the Hillsborough tragedy – spurred on by the death of his son Christopher. And those of us at St. Luke’s knew him as a helper in the Tearoom. But there was a lot more to Barry than that.

He was determined, courageous, a loyal friend and very much a family man.

He was born in Waterloo and brought up on the Wirral, where he lived with his parents, his brother Roger and his late sister Brenda. He was extremely close to his Mum whom he called ‘Squibs’, and his first best friend was his brother Roger – with whom he frequently went sea-fishing when they were younger; this included some adventures well before the concept of health and safety.

Both boys were keen footballers and Barry played for Bromborough Royal British Legion. In the year that the team won the Birkenhead Sunday League 3rd Division championship, Barry was the top scorer.

Barry and Jacqueline married in 1970, and Barry soon became a proud father – first to Christopher and then to Victoria. Fortunately, their love was strong enough for them to support each other through the loss of Christopher in 1989 and Barry then devoted himself to supporting his daughter, his son-in-law (another Christopher) and their children.

Towards the end of Barry’s life Christopher repaid this support by making sure that Barry was always able to get to Liverpool home games – either taking him himself or arranging for friends to fill the role.

Barry worked for Prudential Insurance for quite a few years. He was taken on as the result of a manager overhearing a conversation as a customer with a customer services team member. Barry was very much a “people person” and he was never happier than when doing his best to solve other people’s problems.

When he had to give up working in insurance, he became a magistrate or JP. He was supposed to do no more than 26 sittings in any 12-month period, but Barry’s maths skills were not the best and at one stage someone noticed that he had done approx. 6 times the number of permitted sittings and advised him to lie low for a while. But to Barry’s great relief, he very quickly received an email message telling him that his services were urgently required! And back he went.

Other than when sitting in court, “quiet” was not a word you would associate with Barry. You always knew when he was sitting - if the first floor retiring room window was open you heard the laughter when parking your car - if closed you heard it from the stairwell. Barry would be in full flow telling one of his many humorous anecdotes. The laughter was one of the gifts Barry bestowed on South Sefton Court.

Another gift was his humanity, his great understanding of people and how their lives can be turned upside down in a moment. He believed strongly in the law he was to administer, and he upheld all the courts’ rulings. But stronger still was his belief that all laws should be administered fairly.

Barry absolutely loved his 20 years as a Magistrate. He started in 1997 and became a Chair in 2004. An appointment in 2001 to serve on the Youth Court Panel exposed yet another facet of Barry's personality. He engaged with young people on levels never thought possible before. He was determined to do all he could, within the law, to give them a chance in life and so successful were his efforts that he was made Chair of the Youth Bench from 2007 to 2012. Barry totally immersed himself in the judiciary serving on the licensing, betting and gaming committees and on Sefton Family court panels from 2000-2007. He also served on appeals in the Crown Court gaining the respect of the judges he served with.

There are many "retiring room tales" that cannot be mentioned but one occasion can be retold as it shows his unshakeable determination to uphold the respect of the court. He was chairing a Saturday morning court; the accused was brought up from the cells and a female member of the public stood up and shouted the accused's name. Barry called for silence in court and requested the lady to sit down and remain quiet. The woman's indignant reply was in uncourtly language. Again, Barry requested the lady to sit down and remain silent, reminding her she was in a court of law. However, the lady told Barry what she thought of his court of law in the most colourful unrepeatable language. All Barry's resilience came to the fore - addressing the lady he asked, "are those pyjamas you are wearing?" "Yes, so what" came the reply - whereby Barry became the first (and possibly) last magistrate at South Sefton to send a member of the public to the cells for her contempt of court!

He was very much a larger-than-life character, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him – but especially by his family to whom we extend our heartfelt condolences.

Margaret Cooke - based on the eulogy read out at Barry's funeral on August 13th in St. Luke's Church

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Autumn Glades

We stroll through leafy autumn glades,
An amber carpet 'neath our shoes.
As Nature's summer beauty fades
She clothes herself in golden hues.

The stillness of October days,
The chillness of a frosty dawn,
Yet autumn sunshine's slanting rays
Caress us with their glowing warmth.

They also warm the southern breeze,
Which comes upon us, as it may,
Releasing crispy, ochre leaves
To gently patter on our way.

Soon, soon comes winter's icy grip,
Of freezing wind and driving snow,
But, just for now, we'll gladly slip
Through gentle autumn's golden glow.

By Nigel Beeton (PP)

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Thursday 2nd October

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Neh 8:1-12 & Luke 10:1-12)

Sunday 5th October – Harvest

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Parade
(Readings: Phil 4:4-9 & John 6:1-15)

Sunday 12th October – Trinity 17

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Readings: 1 Cor 2:6-16 & Luke 17:11-19)

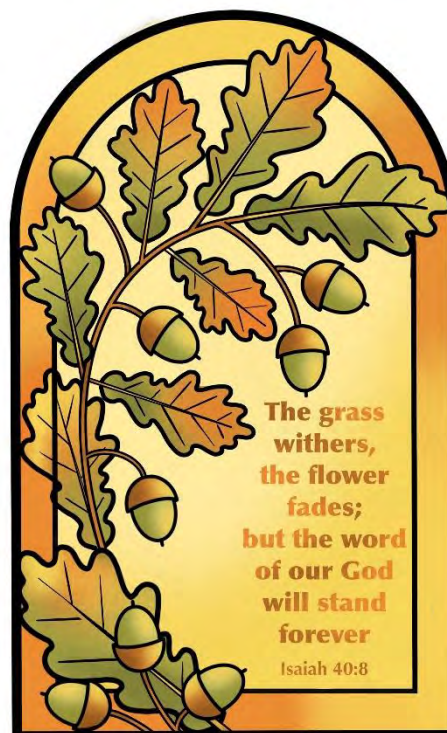
Sunday 19th October – Trinity 18

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Baptism
(Readings: 1 Cor 3 & Luke 18:1-8)

Sunday 26th October – Trinity 19

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: 1 Cor 4 & Luke 18:9-14)

(*with Children's Church)



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

Prayer for October

Dear Lord,

In this autumn season, when the harvest is gathered, we thank You for Your provision for us. We have so much, and yet we see terrible images of starving children on our televisions and smartphones and in our newspapers.

Lord, prompt us to do what we can to change things, whether that is by writing a letter or email to someone with influence, or by contributing in some way to aid agencies.

Lord, we ask You to touch the hearts of those leaders of nations whose decisions cause such hunger and suffering. Soften those hard hearts, Lord. Fill them with Your compassion. May there be a new harvest of love - and a kinder world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching (PP)

WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Dr Matt Davis
Readers	Mrs Anne Dixon Mrs Jean Watts
Reader Emeritus	Prof Allan Hobson
Churchwardens	Mrs Fiona Grieveson Dr David Hogben
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr John McGibbon
Treasurer	Mr Hugh Dixon
Deputy Treasurer	Mrs Gwyneth Croft
PCC Secretary	Mrs Allyson Jump
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Jean Cox
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mr Andrew Cox Mr John Gelder Mrs Hillary Griffin Dr David Hogben
Gift Aid Officer	Mrs Valerie Hogben
Legacy Officer	Mr John McGibbon
Parish Hall Secretary Meeting Room Secretary	Churchwarden/s Mrs Fiona Grieveson
Newsletter Editor	Mrs Irene Powell
Magazine Editors	Mrs Margaret Cooke Mr Ken Davies (Contributions by 10th of the month – preferably by email – see page 1)
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
Vulnerable Adults Officer	Mrs Jean Watts
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

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

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

Children @ St. Luke's – Pre-Schoolers, Primary and Secondary – catered for every Sunday at 10.30am service. Refer Weekly News Sheet for details.

(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 Lead Volunteer			Ben Kennedy	07534 653822

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

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

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

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

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BOSCH

All Angels? The slightly harassed minister stood on the railway station platform with a number of lively Sunday School children, while the two Sunday School teachers went off to buy tickets. A porter came up to him and asked: "Excuse me, are you St. Michael and all the Angels?"

Where two or three are gathered - A lady was describing the small attendance at her local church. "We were so few last Sunday that when the vicar began 'Dearly beloved,' I blushed."

Oddest - The parish magazine was reporting on a recent parish away-day at the seaside. It said: 'The results of our competition for the oddest item found on the beach were: First prize: Mrs. Wainwright; second prize: The Vicar; and third prize, Mr. Simpson.'

Cheap at the price - A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church and announced: 'Children: free'.

Truths about children - A young child is a noise with dirt on it.
An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
Having children is like having a bowling alley installed in your brain.

WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN OCTOBER

St. Luke's Church – refer p2, 3 & 4; p10 Services; p12 What's On; weekly news sheet.

Formby Pantry Welcome Space - 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

Formby Library (01704 874177) – Mon to Fri 10.00-4.30pm and Sat 10.00-1.30pm – activities and events as usual throughout Oct but check Library for details. **Wed Oct 22nd @ 11.30am is the date for 'Loved and Lost'. Monthly talk (subject TBC) Wed Oct 29th @ 2.00pm.**



OPEN MINDS



A series of five, weekly Open Minds sessions starts at Formby Library from Friday 19th September 2025. Since January 2023, Open Minds groups have been meeting in venues across Merseyside, over tea and coffee, to discuss 'big' questions ranging from 'what does it mean to be truly free', 'how should I make moral decisions?' to 'the pitfalls of dodgy thinking' and 'what is the ideal community'? We also explore important issues relating to health and wellbeing, with the goal of forming good beliefs and making good choices, for ourselves and for others.

All of this happens in a friendly and collaborative environment – as well as exercising and developing thinking skills, there is a core ethos of working together to develop understanding, even when there are differing views.

If this sounds like it might be your thing, please come along! No background knowledge or experience is required, and there is no pressure to make contributions. You may prefer to listen, which is perfectly fine.
Sessions are free to attend.

Time: Fridays 12-2pm (from 19th Sep)

Location: Formby Library

Visit www.thethinkerhub.com or
call in to the library to
book a place.

Funded by:
**Cheshire and
Merseyside**
Cancer Alliance



LOOKING AT GOD (PP)

The Friend at Midnight

As we remember St. Luke this month, let's note that one of the major themes in his gospel is prayer. Jesus tells the *Parable of the Friend at Midnight* (Luke 11:5-8) in the context of teaching His disciples to pray (1).

Pray Shamelessly:

In the parable a man approaches his friend at midnight asking: '*Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him*' (5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality mean that this is not an unreasonable request. Jesus says, '*though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs*' (8). Jesus is telling us to approach our heavenly Father in '*shameless boldness*' with our needs. As adopted children we should have no hesitancy in coming to talk with our Father. It is not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

Pray Persistently:

Like children we should be persistent in our requests: '*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*' (9). All three verbs indicate a continual habit: '*Keep on asking...seeking...knocking*'. We will not be content simply to ask once and then to move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

Pray Expectantly:

'For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.' (10). Are we expectant in our prayers, believing that God delights in meeting our requests? Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!

By Canon Paul Hardingham (PP)

.....

OBSERVATIONS ON OUR CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE (PP)

The fruit of the Spirit is not push, drive, climb, grasp or trample.... Life is more than a climb to the top of the heap. - *Richard J Foster*

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. - *Martin Luther King*

Your Rock is Christ, and it is not the Rock which ebbs and flows, but your sea. - *Samuel Rutherford*

Beauty is God's handwriting. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

There is a living God. He has spoken in the Bible. He means what He says and will do all He has promised. - *J Hudson Taylor*

Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good. The bricks must be cemented together. - *Corrie ten Boom*

The church is a workshop, not a dormitory. - *Alexander MacLaren*

CARING FOR OUR LOCAL WOODLANDS

At the end of the Summer, members of our local National Trust team led a series of conservation walks through the area south of Lifeboat Road to explain their plans for managing the woodlands over the winter months.

We learned about four species of trees in particular:

- **Pine plantations:** the pine plantations south of Wicks Lane were mainly created by the Formby family, beginning over a hundred years ago. The pines are planted in straight avenues with a view to commercial exploitation; two species can be seen, Corsican Pines, which are not native to this country and have mid-green, straight needles and Scots Pine, native to northern areas of Britain, with bluish green, slightly curled needles. Over the years, as ownership of the land has changed, the plantations have not always been actively managed. It is necessary to thin the trees regularly to allow light through the upper canopy and encourage stronger growth in the remaining trees. Ideally, we should be able to see three distinct layers of vegetation: the upper canopy, an understorey with smaller trees such as Hawthorn and Holly and then the forest floor. This would increase the biodiversity of the area; on a more positive note, we did see a well chewed pinecone, evidence that there are red squirrels in the tree canopy. Selected trees will be cut down over the winter months.
- **Grey Poplars:** these scrubland trees are particularly invasive in the area to the south of the caravan park. If left unchecked, the small areas of trees would eventually merge and important areas of dune grassland, with its characteristic wildflowers and population of rare natterjack toads and sand lizards, would be lost. Outside contractors will be removing some of the Grey Poplars in the Winter. The rabbits and small number of roe deer play an important part in grazing the grassland.
- **Black Poplars:** there is a beautiful avenue of Black Poplars close to the Lost Resort Trail, near Alexandra Road. Black Poplars are a native species, but their numbers have fallen to around 7,000. The trees are often propagated from cuttings; it is harder to propagate distinct individual trees due to the low number of female Black Poplars in the country. The distinctive fissured bark provides an important habitat for wildlife, including moth caterpillars.
- **Sycamores:** the presence of Sycamores in the UK dates back around five hundred years, although they are not a native species. They grow strongly and quickly from the keys which are scattered each Autumn, and if left unmanaged, will crowd out other trees and plants. There are examples of this in the areas close to Alexandra and Albert Road. The trees can be managed by coppicing; a more radical solution is to clear an area of Sycamores and replant with Scots Pine, Hawthorn, Holly and Hazel. We saw an example of such an area, with a boundary formed from “deadwood fencing”, where the older trees were particularly spindly, but the new trees were becoming established.

We would like to thank Chris, Area Ranger, and Laura, Community Engagement Manager, for such an informative and enjoyable walk.

Hillary and Peter Griffin

(Photos on p18 illustrate this article)

ILLUSTRATIONS CARING FOR OUR LOCAL WOODLANDS



I Corsican & Scots Pine



II Area cleared of Sycamores with deadwood fencing



III Avenue of Black Poplars

Hillary and Peter Griffin

.....

THOUGHT FOR OCTOBER

October is the month when nature begins to shut down, ready to take a well-earned rest for a few months. Its floral colour is often breathtaking. Nature has done its work for another year – time to ‘have a nap’ before doing it all over again. Life goes on through its seasonal guises and stretches through eternity for anyone who follows the risen Christ.

We can’t get too far ahead, however. We have to live each day in the present. With Autumn being the season of the year for harvest, one of my favourite Bible verses is: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22). This ‘fruit’ is free to us all and if we endeavour to harvest it daily, and with Jesus by our side, we can’t go far wrong in the way we conduct our lives. But please take a rest sometime; nature does, and the benefits are there for all to see.

KD



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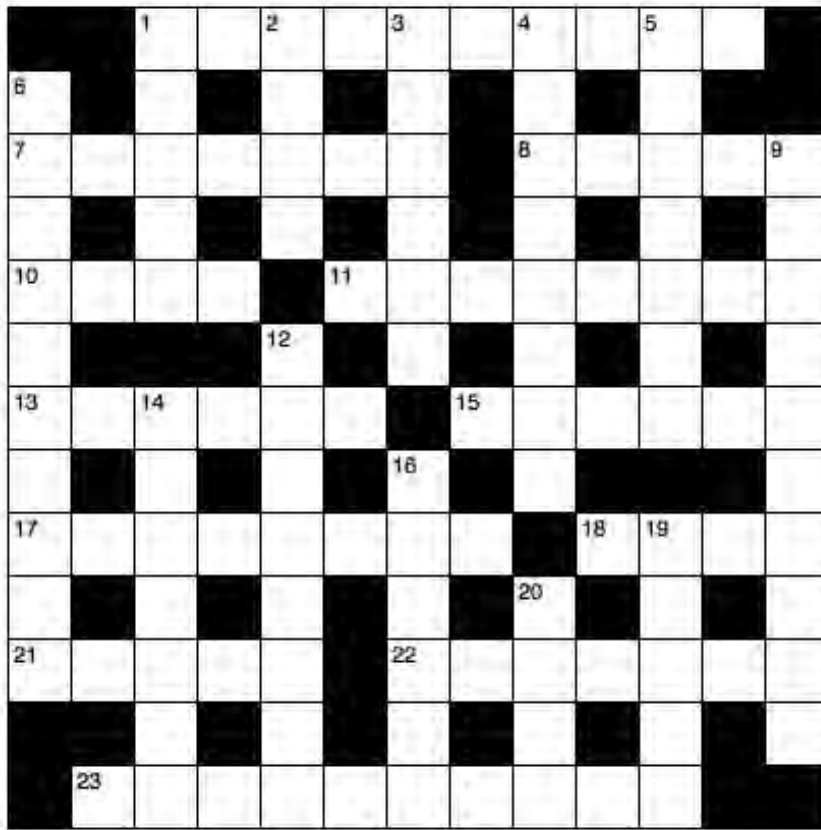
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her —' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an —, — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

DOWN:

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

SUDOKU

EASY

MEDIUM

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

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

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

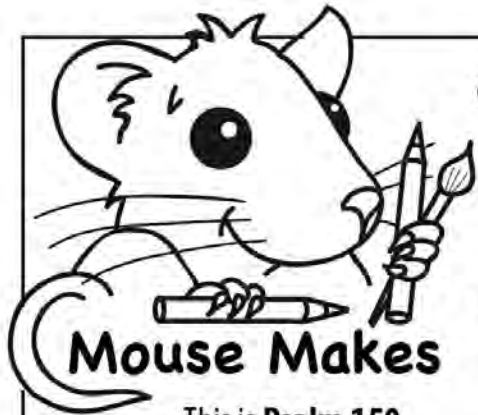
WORDSEARCH FOR OCTOBER

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

To St. Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St. Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more

lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Luke | Acts | Paul | Good | Sinners |
| Feast | Greek | Compassion | Samaritan | Jerusalem |
| Day | Physician | Parables | Women | Pagan |
| Written | Travelling | Prodigal | Poor | Rome |
| Gospel | Faithful | So | Lepers | Early |
| Christians | | | | |

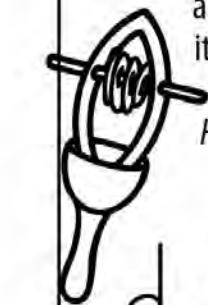


Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
 a song of praise to God,
 it tells us why and how
 to worship God.
*How do you praise and
 worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
 with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
 with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
 with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
 with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
 with the resounding cymbals.
 Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!



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

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
 TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
 TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.



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