

St. Luke's Formby

September

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:

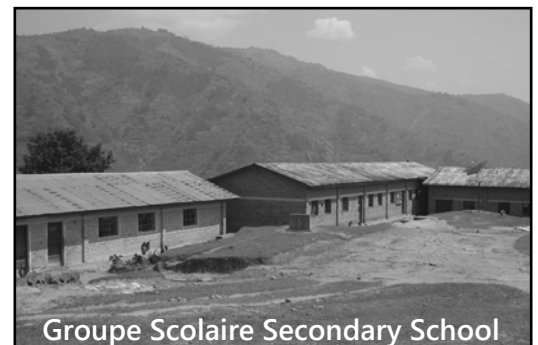
- To extend the MU support across Kivu Diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the Diocese



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

Summer has finished for another year. After the prolonged sunshine and heat, the rains have arrived as the tail end of Hurricane Erin has made its way across the Atlantic. It's quite a change after the August bank holiday was so hot and sunny. The beach resembled the south coast of Spain and Lifeboat Road looked like the main access route to a music festival. Bushby's Lane and St Luke's Church Road were less happy places: irate drivers bumper to bumper demanding somewhere to park or somehow to escape.

While many of us will welcome the peace and quiet that returns to our area with the onset of Autumn, it's easy to think it's all gloom and doom: darker nights, wetter weather, back to school (and homework). But at St. Luke's Church, we've got a lot of exciting things coming up over the next few months: a new church logo to unveil, two Primary School-aged girls getting baptised and two Sixth Form-aged boys getting baptised. There's a lot to celebrate and give thanks to God for. Across the country churches are seeing an increase in younger adults wanting to find out about Jesus and putting their trust in him. We're seeing the same at St. Luke's.

In the Old Testament, Isaiah 43:18–19 says these words:

*Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.*

God delights in doing new things. Isaiah 43 talks of God making a way for his people to come back to him, physically coming back from exile and captivity in Babylon. He talks about blotting out the people's failures to obey him. It is not just physical restoration, but spiritual restoration as well: a relationship with God being fixed by wrongs being dealt with.

God fulfilled these words when Jesus appeared: those who are wandering in spiritual wildernesses, thirsty for refreshment and sustenance, can find their longings satisfied only in Jesus. God appears to be doing something new in our country today, but actually it's the same "new thing" he has been doing for 2,000 years: causing people to turn to Jesus and trust him. It's wonderful to see it happening!

If you haven't been to St. Luke's in a while, why don't you come back this coming Sunday? If you've trouble with mobility or transport, get in touch and we'll see what we can do.

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 JULY & AUGUST

Burial of Ashes: 5th July - Wendy Richardson

Funerals: 7th July - Harold Miller:14th July - David Davies:13th August - Barry Devonside

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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, is delighted to announce the social visit of **Rev. Canon Emmanuel Ndimukaga** (CCT Project Officer, Diocese of Shyira) **from 15th Sept to 3rd Oct**. Emmanuel is currently writing a book on his life's ministry and is intending to include a chapter on the establishment of the Shyira Trust when he was Pastor 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 will be preaching at both Sunday services on 21st September.

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.

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.

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.

PCC Meeting – Wed 24th Sept, 7.30pm.

NOTICES CONTINUED

Tuesday Lunch - Soup/sandwiches/cake & company, 2nd and 16th Sept 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:-
September 13th & 27th; October 11th & 25th; November 8th & 22nd; December 6th.
Why not drop in and say "hello" – you will be made welcome!

STOP PRESS:

September 27th will be a Macmillan coffee morning.

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

THE BIGGEST STORY

Lots of us read the Bible as a pick and mix book where you can pick a verse at random, but what if it was so much more – a huge and exciting story of God’s love for people, and His amazing rescue plan?

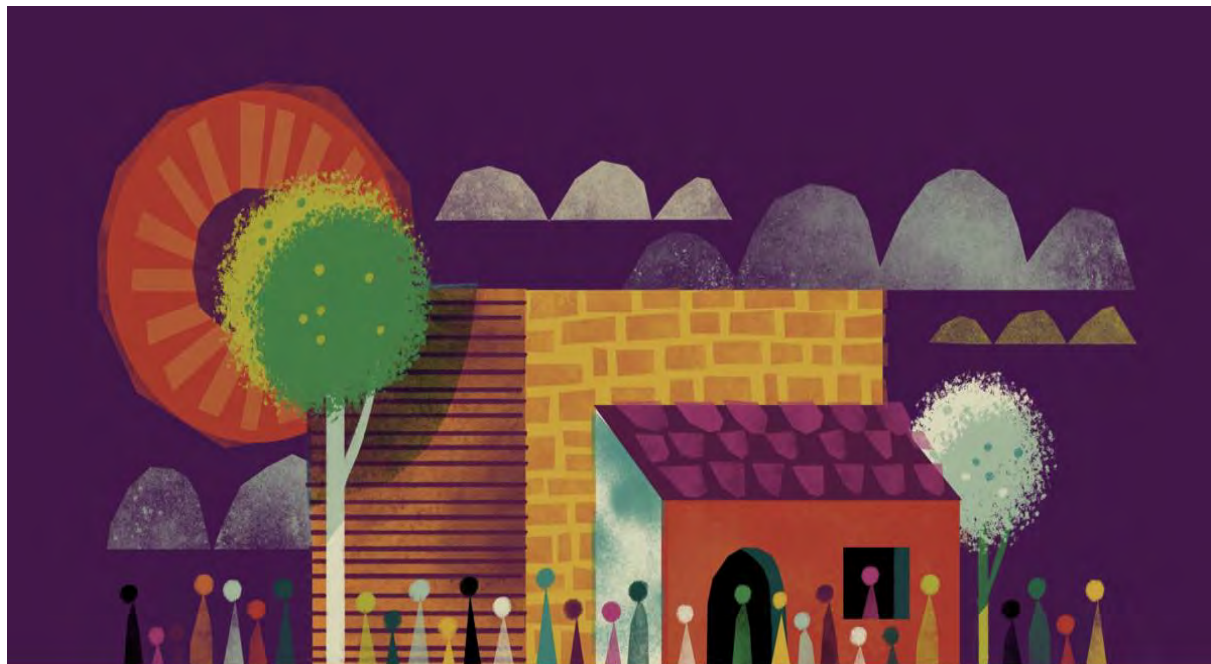
In our primary school-aged Sunday group (during the 10.30am service), Kids@StLuke’s (KSL) are embarking on an exciting new curriculum which looks at just that: The Biggest Story.

Join us as we work through 104 foundational Bible stories over the next 3 years. Each lesson includes teaching, crafts, memory verses, Gospel Connection summaries, activity sheets, colouring pages, and animated video retellings. The artwork is beautiful, and the exposition is faithful. If you’d like to sneak a peek, here is a link: <https://www.thebiggeststory.com/videos/>

If you’re in primary school, why not join us for it in September? We’ve already given out some beautiful verse cards as a summer gift to those children who were with us at the end of the summer term, but if you’ve not received yours, email us at kids@stlukesformby.org.uk and we’ll make sure we have some in for you at the start of term.

If you’re not in primary school, please do be praying for our leaders and children, that as we meet each week, we’d be captivated by our incredible God and His amazing plans to restore our world, starting with each of our hearts.

Liz Davis



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Quotes that biblical characters might have said: -

- ~ Adam: "You are what you eat."
- ~ Eve: "At least he doesn't compare me to his mother."
- ~ Moses: "From a basket case to the promised land."
- ~ Prodigal Son: "All roads lead to home."
- ~ At the Sinai desert: "Winding road for the next 40 years."
- ~ At the Red Sea: "Caution! Subject to sudden flooding."

PETE THE BEE MAN VISITS THE GUIDES

Many readers will remember the excitement of opening up the “Daily Bulletin” compiled by Jean Cox during the lengthy lockdowns of 2020/21 which occasionally featured anecdotes from a novice beekeeper. Our beekeeper has gained in experience over the years and shared some of his knowledge with the Guides at one of their summer meetings.

Did you know that:

- The average size of a hive is 80,000 bees.
- A queen bee lays around 1,000 eggs a day.
- The lifespan of a bee in midsummer is six weeks.
- Most bees are workers who guard the hive, forage and look after the brood.

Here is our beekeeper demonstrating the use of a smoker to deter bees from flying around the entrance to the hive when he is about to inspect it:

The Guides asked why the bees tend to sting humans around their eyes and Pete explained that the bees’ main predator in the wild was bears. Following on from that, why does the beekeeper need to wear gloves? This is because there is a lot of sticky propolis gum inside the hive.

And here is Pete showing the Guides a frame of a brood:



The Guides were able to spot different types of egg in the frame and asked lots of questions about the life of the bees in the hive. The visit complemented the activities that the Guides have been doing

around the environment over the summer months.

Hillary Griffin

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Your choice -

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver".

ASSOCIATION OF FORMBY ARTISTS

Spring Exhibition Saturday 10th May 2025

Although it is some time since the May exhibition, perhaps those who did manage to pay a visit would like to know which paintings got the most votes. They were: -

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Elizabeth Harding-Huber's | 'Henry's Torchlit Bedtime' |
| Sandy Poole's | 'Green Fields' |
| Alan Hill's | 'Liverpool Town Hall' |



Each one was done using a different medium. The first one was an oil painting, the second one was a gouache (water based) and the third one was a pen and wash.

There were nearly 200 pictures on show to illustrate the great range of the artists in the group.

There were also crafts for sale including silk goods, embroidered boxes and handmade cards.

Our next exhibition is on Saturday 8th November. Put the date in your diaries now, so you don't miss it. I hope to see you there at Holy Trinity Church Hall, between 9am and 4.30pm.

Joan MacDonald.

.....
Hymns for people over 50: -

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car.
Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One.
Blessed Insurance.
It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt.

A WEDDING MADE IN HEAVEN

On 15th June 2025 June and John McGibbon celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary at St. Luke's Church, the church in which they were married. Celebrating their anniversary with their church family made it a very special and enjoyable day for them. Congratulations and best wishes to you both from all at St. Luke's!



(Photo by Liz Davis)

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THOUGHT FOR SEPTEMBER

We are constantly reminded of how fragile human life is. Lives can be unexpectedly lost in a matter of seconds. People tend to rally round in the aftermath of tragic events, and this is always heartwarming to see. People from all faiths or of no faith, different nationalities and backgrounds find a common purpose to aid and comfort their fellow human beings in distress. It is humanity at its finest.

Being a Liverpool FC fan, I have been personally affected by events like Hillsborough and the very recent sudden death of Liverpool player Diogo Jota and his brother Andre Silva. The LFC 'anthem' *You'll Never Walk Alone* (YNWA) has therefore special resonance for me.

If we could all harness a bit of YNWA and thereby show greater care, respect and love for one another then this surely would be the key to unlocking the door to a happy and more contented life. Need it be a catastrophic event with tragic loss of life before collective humanity shows off its best face? The poet John Donne (1572-1631) said, "No man is an island". He was right. We all need one another, not only at difficult times and moments, but in the good times too. Whether we like it or not, we are interdependent upon each other - from cradle to grave!

And if we regularly talk and listen to Jesus along the way we'll definitely never walk alone!

KD

WHAT IS CTiFAH (CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FORMBY, ALTCAR & HIGHTOWN) AND WHAT DOES IT ACTUALLY DO?

A good question! CTiFAH in its present form mainly arose out of the August 2005 Merseyfest, when the churches came together for a week to carry out community projects throughout Merseyside and rounded the week off with a free Family Fun-Day in Duke St Park. The buzz from all of the Christians working together was tremendous, and the following year June McGibbon and Bruni Jones (the then chair) decided to organise the first joint, open-air Nativity Play on the main street of Formby Village, which was a huge success and drew out half the population.

We are now a group of 25, comprising representatives from most of the local churches*. We meet bi-monthly to get to know one another, to report what our churches are involved in, to discuss issues that affect us all and to plan initiatives for working together in the future. Notably these initiatives of course still include the Nativity and Passion Plays, staged in the village at Christmas and Easter, but that's not all:

- ◆ We also do joint carol singing in supermarkets each Christmas, raising money for hospices and the homeless.
- ◆ We set up the 'Christmas Windows' in the village shops – reminders to every shopper what the real focus of Christmas is.
- ◆ Through the 'Hub' a free Christmas lunch is offered at the Luncheon Club each year.
- ◆ Three years ago, we organised a joint response to the influx of refugees from Ukraine and helped set up a welcome centre, with some of our members actually providing homes for four families.
- ◆ A team from CTiFAH's membership holds a monthly morning assembly in five of the local primary schools, using 'Open the Book' materials, bringing Bible stories alive through drama and song.
- ◆ Most recently this summer we have been organising events for 2025's Holiday at Home.
- ◆ The churches also provide valuable support to the Foodbank, and CTiFAH helped to fund the new 'family space', set up in January by Compassion Acts, manned by a team from various churches and hosted by the Lighthouse Church.

Each July CTiFAH holds its AGM and hands over the chair to a different church, in rotation. July '24 to July '25 was expertly chaired by Beryl Howard of St. Stephen's, Hightown. Then this July saw the baton passed on to Andrea Dell of Our Lady of Compassion. The chairing church then hosts the meetings for that year. We have a secretary to take minutes, which may be inspected on request, and a treasurer to handle the accounts (ditto). Each church pays an annual subscription towards the work for the year. We have a Facebook page, kept up to date by Rev. Anne Taylor of St. Peter's. Try googling it sometime!

It is noticeable, to me at least, that this cooperation between the churches has substantially raised the profile of the Gospel in Formby over the past few years. People take more notice of Jesus if His churches are not distrustful of one another! Geraldine Foster, who heads up the Open the Book assemblies, was recently asked by the OTB head office to write an article for their newsletter. The top people were intrigued and wanted others to take note, as Geraldine's team was at that time the only one countrywide not operated from just one church! This is how the Church should be, we feel, not focussing on our differences, but far more on the important fundamentals that unite us – one body with Jesus Christ as our head!

(* Unfortunately, with the exception currently of Our Lady of Victories in Hightown, although they too share a few events annually with St. Stephen's, and The Village Church in Formby (although Tim Lister, pastor of the latter, attended our last meeting, so we are most encouraged!).

Valerie Hogben

PS All at St. Luke's thank retiring chair Beryl Howard of St. Stephen's, Hightown for her year in office and send our very best wishes to the new chair Andrea Dell of Our Lady of Compassion for her forthcoming year's tenure!

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HOLIDAY AT HOME

St. Luke's Church thank the Formby Befriending Scheme for all their hard work in organising this year's successful Holiday at Home programme in August for older people in Formby, Hightown and Ince Blundell.

Worthy of special mention are: - Winnie Pickering and Irene Watts of Formby Methodist, Valerie Hogben (St. Luke's) and Sheila Kirk (Secretary of the Formby Division for Brownies and Rainbows), along with Formby Benevolent Trust for most of the funding.

Also, Churches Together agreed to make a £500 reserve fund available for Holiday at Home if needed.

Well done to all!

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"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Thursday 4th September

11.00am Holy Communion
(Readings: Col 1:9-14 & Luke 5:1-11)

Sunday 7th September – Trinity 12

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am All-age Holy Communion
(Readings: Rom 14:7-12 & Luke 14:25-33)

Sunday 14th September – Trinity 13

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Baptism tbc at print)
(Readings: 1 Cor 1:1-9 & Luke 15:1-10)

Sunday 21st September – Trinity 14

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service
with Holy Communion*
(Canon Emmanuel from
Rwanda to preach at both
services)
(Readings: 1 Cor 1:10-17 & Luke 16:1-13)

Sunday 28th September – Trinity 15

8.30am Traditional Service
10.30am Contemporary Service*
(Readings: 1 Cor 1:18-2:5 & Luke 16:19-31)

(*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 September

Heavenly Father,

September is the month of new starts for so many. New starts can be exciting, but they can also be daunting. We don't always know what to expect and sometimes we feel as if we are on our own in a strange new place, or situation.

Help us to know that, as your people, we are never alone. You promised, through Jesus, to be with us always and You gave us Your Holy Spirit to empower us.

In some ways every day is a new start – a new gift from You. As we unwrap the gift of each new day, this September, en-courage us to receive it confidently and expectantly.

Help us to know that we can do all things, through Christ Jesus, who strengthens us. We can! 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 Scout Leader | | | Gordon Hilbert | 874167 |

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

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

FORMBY GP

Private, ethical General Practice



Dr Heather Ryan
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

Fresh ideas for doing church - The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "you had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. They are filled every week".

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "and you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony".

"Thank you, Father", answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth".

"All these ideas have been well and good", said the elderly priest, "but I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional".

"But Father", protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes", replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"

WHAT'S ON FOR THE 'ELDERLY' IN SEPTEMBER

St. Luke's Church – refer p2 & 3; p10 for 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 Sept but check Library for details. Sept 24th is the date for 'Loved and Lost'.



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**



YVONNE'S SHYIRA DIARY FROM OCTOBER 2023 VISIT CONT.

On the Sunday we all attended St. Mark's Church with Rev. Jacques and Zilpa his wife, who is, as is the custom, the Head of the Mothers' Union (MU), the members of which can be seen in their distinctive white and blue uniforms.



Fiona and Matt contributed to the service. Fiona read the lesson and Matt preached. They both paused periodically for translation to the congregation.



At one point we all took to the stage to introduce ourselves and give an account of our impressions since arriving in Shyira.

At one point we all took to the stage to introduce ourselves and give an account of our impressions since arriving in Shyira.



We all agreed that the joy in their worship while they sang and danced was a pleasure to experience.

Yet another great day in Shyira!

Yvonne Yule

NB Yvonne's presentation in the church Meeting Room on Saturday 14th June raised £300 for the MU. In addition, £500 was raised through donations at the Concert for Shyira by Formby High School G:FORCE Gospel Choir in church on Tuesday 24th June and organised by Pam Thomas; £90 was raised for Shyira Primary School by The Hive Youth Club; and £1,500 raised for St. Mark's parish from our Lent Project. On behalf of the people of Shyira a big thank you to everyone who donated.

(See p17 re an appeal for more sponsors of pupils at Groupe Scolaire Secondary School).

Diary Dates –

(i) Rev. Canon Emmanuel Ndimukaga (CCT Project Officer, Diocese of Shyira) will be visiting us from Mon 15th Sept to Fri 3rd Oct.

(ii) Shyira Trust AGM – Sun 2nd Nov in the Meeting Room 12/12.15pm.

KD – Shyira Trust Secretary

SECONDARY SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP IN SHYIRA, RWANDA

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO THE LIFE OF A TEENAGER IN SHYIRA?

Secondary school education is theoretically free BUT there are charges which, in a poor area like this part of remote rural Rwanda, present a real stumbling block for some families. The pupils have to pay for health insurance, national exams and some equipment. If you qualify for Gift Aid, a standing order of just £5.25 a month could make all the difference to one of these families. St. Luke's Church has had a link with St. Mark's Church in Shyira for 25 years now and we have been supporting pupils at Groupe Scolaire Secondary School for almost as long.

The pupils do a 3-year course up to the equivalent of GCSE and then almost all of them continue with a 3-year course to the equivalent of A. Levels. They specialise in either Maths, Biology and Chemistry or History, Geography and Literature in English. All lessons are taught in English. The pupils work extremely hard and most pass the national exams.



Progress to higher education is a big challenge as there are government loans only for the very brightest or orphans – and we certainly don't try to help with that - but at least we give them a good chance to progress towards some form of worthwhile career.

Please speak to **Margaret Cooke** if you are interested in joining the sponsorship scheme. Her tel. no. is: 01704 876325 and her email address is: macooke29@gmail.com

We ideally like a commitment for 3 years but, if necessary, an arrangement to stop a standing order can be made at the end of a school year.

(Picture shows some of the pupils recently sponsored).

Margaret Cooke

.....

Observations on our Christian pilgrimage...

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point. – *Billy Graham*

Because of God's grace, failure is never final. - *Anon*

It is only with gratitude towards God that life becomes rich. - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Christ promises to save His people from their sins, not in their sins. - *C H Spurgeon*

Hope is the foundation of patience. - *John Calvin*

TRIANGLE OF HOPE YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

This summer, young people from the Diocese of Liverpool undertook a powerful and deeply moving journey as part of the Triangle of Hope Youth Pilgrimage – a long-standing partnership between the dioceses of Liverpool, Virginia (United States), and Kumasi (Ghana). The programme invites young people to explore the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade through prayer, education, and the shared work of reconciliation.

The Liverpool pilgrims arrived in Washington D.C. on Sunday 29th June and were warmly welcomed by their Virginian companions. Sadly, due to last-minute visa issues, the Ghanaian pilgrims were unable to travel. Though absent in person, they were present in every gathering, prayer, and reflection, their absence deeply felt but spiritually honoured.

The pilgrimage began in Washington D.C. with a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture – an experience described as both sobering and inspiring. Pilgrims later travelled to the Hite plantation in Virginia, once owned by an Anglican family involved in slavery, where the harsh realities of enslaved life were brought into focus.

At Shrine Mont, a rural retreat centre in the Blue Ridge Mountains, pilgrims engaged in prayerful activities – from labyrinth walks and Eucharist in an outdoor cathedral to quiet contemplation overlooking the valley. These moments of spiritual grounding helped prepare the group for the emotional and historical weight of the days ahead.

In Colonial Williamsburg, the group visited The Bray School – an Anglican-run institution that educated children of African heritage while preparing them for servitude. At Bruton Parish Church, pilgrims heard from clergy about the church's active role in the transatlantic slave trade and held thoughtful conversations about historical complicity and present-day healing.

In Richmond, they met Bishop Mark Stevenson of the Diocese of Virginia, explored the city's Freedom Monument and Mantle garden honouring Indigenous communities, and visited St. Paul's Church – once known as the "Cathedral of the Confederacy". There, young members of the congregation shared how their church is reconciling with its past. Pilgrims also spent time at the Black History Museum and St. Mark's Richmond, a church with a strong commitment to social justice.

The final days saw the group walk the Richmond Slave Trail, stand at the site where enslaved Africans were sold, and visit the home of U.S. President and slaveowner James Madison. At the University of Virginia, they paid tribute to enslaved workers whose contributions are only now being properly recognised. At the Reconciliation Statue in Richmond – one of three across the world, with others in Liverpool and Benin – the pilgrims reflected on the global story of slavery, solidarity and healing.

Reflecting back on the pilgrimage, we spoke with some of those who attended and here is what they had to say:

Canon Debra Walker, Chair of the House of Laity, described one particularly moving moment:

"It was the 4th of July, and our guide read aloud from Frederick Douglass's speech: *'What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?'* It was a powerful contrast – a reminder of the deep injustices once masked by celebrations of freedom. It prompted me to consider how my own life and choices impact people beyond my immediate circle – including those I may otherwise overlook."

from the Diocesan Newsletter of July 25th



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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."

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Member of the Society of Willwriters

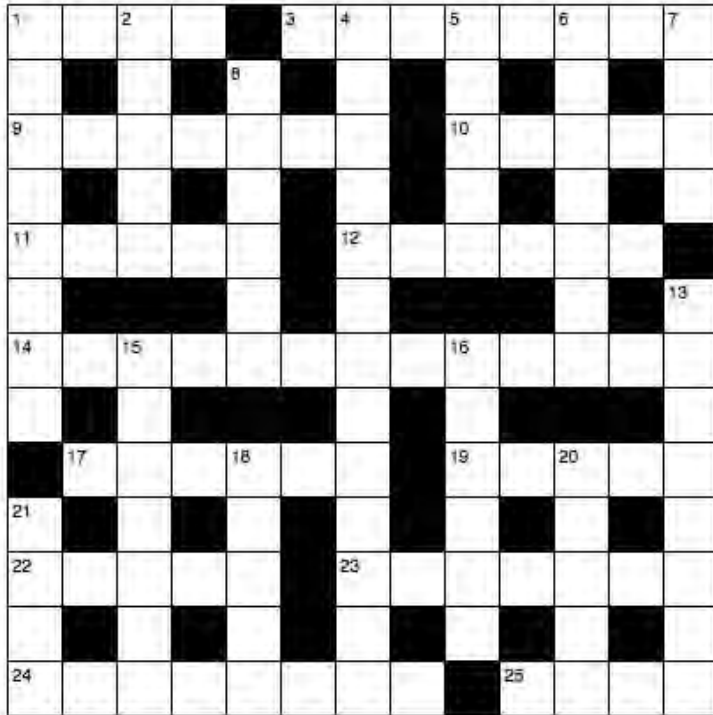
Find me on Facebook & Twitter

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Phone No: 07926 587776



CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

- 1 'A little later someone else saw *Peter* and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the —' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — —, O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — —, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)

- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — —' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

DOWN:

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all —, but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

.....

Get something out of it –

Coming out of church, the wife asked her husband, "Do you think that Johnson girl is tinting her hair?" Her husband looked vague. "And that dress Mrs Hansen was wearing", she continued, "Really, don't tell me you think that's the proper costume for a mother of two". Her husband looked blank. "Oh, for heaven's sake", snapped his wife. "A lot of good it does you to go to church!"

SUDOKU

EASY

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MEDIUM

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(SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 24)

WORDSEARCH FOR SEPTEMBER

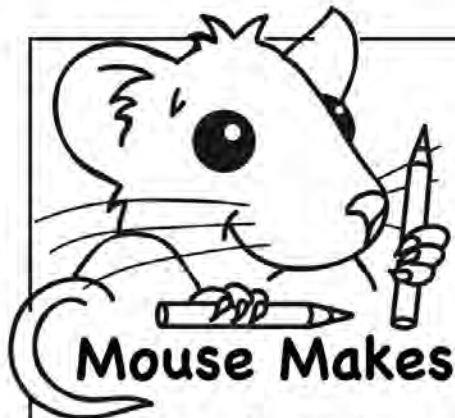
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On 3rd September, the Church remembers St. Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles". Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to

England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

- | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Gregory | Senator | Monasteries | English | Plague |
| History | Converted | Generous | Slaves | Pope |
| Son | Young | Poor | Angles | Apostle |
| Roman | Estates | Monk | Angles | Elected |



"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."
- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."
- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."
- Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only GOD is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

EASY

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MEDIUM

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.



*As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had
disturbed nothing in the vestry*



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