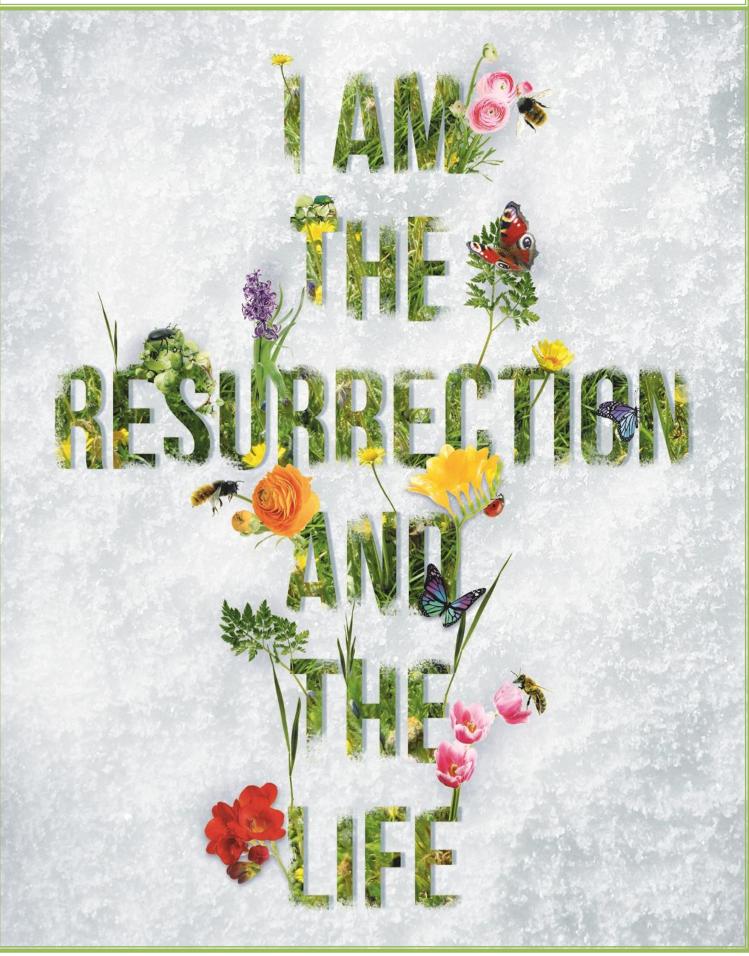
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Vicar's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As this magazine is published, we are nearing our greatest and most joyful festival. It is almost Easter. It is almost time to celebrate the most significant event in human history, the resurrection of Christ. However many times we may have celebrated Easter in the past, each new Easter should be full of joy, hope and a sense of the limitless glory of God.

The resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our faith and without it we have no unique story to tell, no hope of everlasting life and no life in God's Spirit here on earth.

It's such a familiar story that it can be hard to grasp the excitement and joy of the disciples when Jesus returns to them. They were utterly devastated when Jesus was arrested, convicted and executed. They didn't know what to do or where to go. They were frightened for their own safety, running away and hiding from the authorities and confused about why Jesus had died. For them life was empty and without purpose, all their hope had been in Jesus and now it all seemed to be over. Until that first Easter morning, that is, when once again in the roller coaster of life with Jesus, everything turned around again. Everything was suddenly even better than it had been before.... Jesus had returned from the dead. The disciples rejoiced at this wonderful news, as should we. It is astonishing, life-changing, life-enhancing, life affirming news.

Let's enjoy it again this year. Let's enter into the joy and wonderment of the disciples. Let's share the good news with others. Let's give thanks for all that God has done for us in Christ. Let's remember that the eternal life offered through Jesus begins for us here on earth and continues after death. This is only true because we share in the resurrection of Christ and it is the hope and joy of our faith.

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Denise

He is Risen



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DIARY Don't forget you can keep up to date with events on our Facebook page

Tue 2 nd Apr	7-7.45pm	Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas'		
	7.30 pm	STYLE meeting in choir vestry		
Wed 3 rd Apr	7 pm	Said Communion		
Sun 7 th Apr	8.30 am	Said Communion		
	10.30 am	Parish Communion		
	11.45 am	Meeting of Parishioners to elect a new		
		Churchwarden in the Church Hall		
	Noon	APCM followed by a		
		light faith lunch in the Church Hall		
Tues 9 th Apr	7-7.45pm	Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas'		
Wed 10 th Apr	7 pm	Said Communion		
Thurs 11 th Apr	2 pm	Ladies Group		
Sun 14 th Apr	8.30 am	Palm Sunday Said Communion		
	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Parish Communion		
Mon 15th Apr	10.30am	Chrism Mass at Manchester Cathedral		
	7pm	Compline		
	7.30pm	Moorside & District Historical Society at		
		Moorside Cricket Club		
Tues 16th Apr	7pm	Churches Together in East Oldham		
		at St Barnabas, Clarksfield		
Wed 17 th Apr	7pm	Wednesday Eucharist		
Thurs 18 th Apr	7pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist with Foot		
		Washing and Stripping of the Altar at 7pm,		
		followed by the Watch until Midnight		
Fri 19 th Apr	10.30am	Good Friday Liturgy		
Sun 21 st Apr	8.30am	Easter Sunday Said Communion		
	10.30am	Easter Sunday Parish Communion		
	6.30pm	A Celebration of Easter		
Wed 24 th Apr	7pm	Said Communion		
Sat 27 th Apr	7pm for	Rock n Roll Bingo in Church Hall		
	7.30pm			
	start			
Sun 28 th Apr	8.30am	Said Communion		
	10.30am	Parish Communion		
Wed 1 st May	7pm	Said Communion		

Dates for your dairy:

Mon 20th May - Archdeacon's Visitation at Holy Trinity, Waterhead, time tbc **Sun 17th November -** Confirmation Service



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<u>Churchwarden's Note</u>



We are requesting donations of small chocolate eggs (variety of Galaxy, Oreo, Lindt, Caramel and Cadbury's Crème Eggs) for our STYLE Easter stall which will be at the back of Church in the run up to Easter. This will help us to raise funds for our Church. Please give your donations to Corinne, Sam or Cathy.

Thank you for your kind donations of unwanted gifts. Rest assured that these will be put to good use to raise funds for our Church. Remember, we always accept donations of chocolates, bottles, toiletries, toys and items for raffle/tombola prizes.



We recently received \pounds 41.85 from recycling unwanted inkjet cartridges. Please bring your used inkjet cartridges and place in the box on the back table to assist in our dual activity of fundraising and green recycling. Cartridges can't be recycled if they are

damaged, have previously been refilled or have been labelled for another brand like Tesco, PC World or Office Depot.

A meeting of parishioners will be held on **Sunday, 7th April at 11.45am** to elect a new Churchwarden. Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll can attend this meeting and vote. This will be followed by the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) to which everyone is invited. Please come along and listen to what's been happening in the last 12 months and what opportunities/challenges we face in 2019. A list will be placed on the back table to request donations of food for a light faith lunch to be shared after the meetings.



It's time for a change... I'm not standing for re-election of Churchwarden this year, given that I've been in the role for around 7 years and it's time to hand the baton over (or rather the warden's wand). I would_sincerely like to thank everybody who has supported me over the years; I couldn't

have done the role properly without such support. Don't worry, I'm not leaving St. Thomas'; you may see me in another role..... watch this space. Scorinne



Corínne and Símon



Corinne, thank you so much for all your hard work for the last 7 years. You have been a wonderful example of service and dedication, in particular during the period of interregnum when you shouldered many more responsibilities. We appreciate all the meetings you have attended, the reports you have put together, applying for grants, the liaising with clergy, supporting and arranging a great many social functions and just being an everpresent, dependable friend to all at St. Thomas'. May God Bless You.

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STYLE are now starting to get busy with our STYLE spring fair which we are hosting on 23rd March to raise money for Liam Martin's & Katie T-H's Jamboree adventure to the USA in the summer. At the time of writing the event has not been held. There will be many local businesses selling their products. We hope you managed to visit and enjoy some purchases and maybe even an afternoon tea served by the STYLE ladies.

Please come and visit our Easter Stall which will be at the back of church after Sunday service. We will be selling cards, gift bags, eggs and gifts in the run up to Easter. All proceeds go to Church funds.

On **Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm** we will be running another exciting family event - Rock 'n' Roll Bingo. This is open to all ages from 4 to 99 years old. It truly is a real fun family event with some great prizes for line or a house. Entry is FREE with bingo cards costing \pounds 1.50 per card or \pounds 5 for all 4 cards. There will be a licensed bar and raffle prizes. Please come along and bring your friends and family – the more the merrier!

On **Friday 17th May at 7.30pm** we will be hosting our famous clothes party in the hall. Tickets remain at the bargain price of £3 per person, with a licensed bar and nibbles as well as a raffle and the wonderful jewellery lady. This is always a really popular event and we get booked up every time, so round up your friends and see any STYLE member for your tickets.

Over the summer STYLE will be running stalls at the many fairs held around Oldham; the first being Failsworth Carnival the weekend of the **18th and 19th May** - more details to follow.

Last time, we announced that Julia was stepping down as secretary of STYLE but following a change in the meeting time to 7.30pm Julia can now attend and will remain as secretary.

Remember, STYLE are always looking for new members so if you would like to join, have fun with friends and raise money for church and other charities, please come along on the first Tuesday of every month to the choir vestry at the back of church for 7.30pm.

> Honest good humour is the oil and wine of a merry meeting, and there is no jovial companionship equal to that where the jokes are rather small and the laughter abundant. – Washington Irving

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Sunday School and Sunday Youth

Sunday school is busy preparing for Easter. The children have been making some beautiful pieces of art work which will be displayed in church over Easter.

As well as all the artwork the children have also been learning about the importance of being kind. It is evident from the behaviour of our children how kind they already are and they have enjoyed telling Sunday School about the kind things they have been doing on a daily basis, from helping family to reuniting a friend with a lost phone.

Each week we have more children joining and often have over 15 children. It is important that each child is registered with Sunday school when they first join. A registration form can be collected from Sunday school staff and given back to staff once completed.

It is also important that all parents/carers sign the attendance sheet at the back of church to record your child's attendance at church. The Sunday School leaders also take a register which is shared with the wardens and Revd. Denise.

If you have any questions please do speak with a member of Sunday School.





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<u>Cricket</u>: First XI. Second XI and Juniors team (boys and girls welcome aged 8-14)

Bowls: Gents & Ladies, all-age and veterans' teams in various local Crown Green Bowls Leagues

Fancy joining the Club?

Moorside CBC is a members' sports & social club and every member is a Sporting member (playing or nonplaying). Want to join? Simply call in any evening after 6.00pm (or 4.00pm Saturdays & Sundays) and ask the bar staff for a membership form.

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Stewardship Campaign

Dear All,

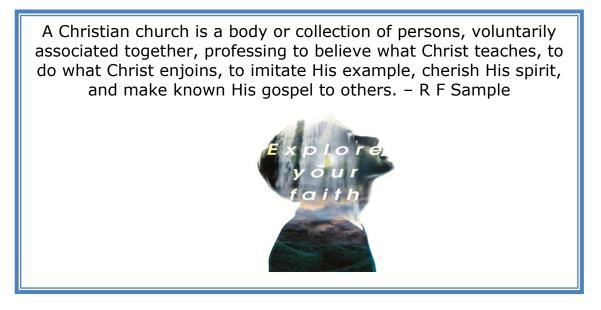
I hope you've taken time during our stewardship campaign to think and pray about your life with God, and your life in St Thomas Church. I also hope you have found the chance to reflect on these things fruitful. Life as a follower of Christ does involve self-reflection and self-knowledge, although we always do our reflecting in the presence of God.

The stewardship campaign was and is about celebrating the work that already goes on at St Thomas, and considering how it could grow and develop with your help. Yes, it involved and continues to involve money; your financial contribution to the church, but it has been about how you could flourish and use your God-given gifts. I hope this is something you have been able to do, and that you will continue to do. God is always calling us to grow: in closeness to God, in engagement with the world and in our prayer lives, not only individually but also as a church.

To live as a follower of Christ means to live a life of love and service and I hope St Thomas is a church where you feel able to fulfil this vocation. Vocation isn't too strong a word, and it isn't a word we use only for those who, like me, are called to ordination or the religious life, vocation is for all Christians. The stewardship campaign has been and should continue to be an opportunity for you to consider your vocation and to feel able to explore it.

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Denise



<u>St .Thomas' Tímes</u>



Three of our scout group leaders were recently presented with awards at the District Scout Group awards ceremony. Our very own Jay Wilson, Judith McLintock and Zel Martin were all given a well- deserved "Commendation for Good Service".

Many of our children start their scouting journey with Zelda in Beavers and will have been on the receiving end of her never-ending patience and kindness. Jay has served as cub leader Baloo. Jay is really popular with the kids for his sense of humour, fairness and for always mucking in, and

Judith is one of our long-serving Scout leaders who plays "mum" to many scouts (and even some leaders!), patching them up after a tumble and always making sure everyone is happy, looked after and fed.

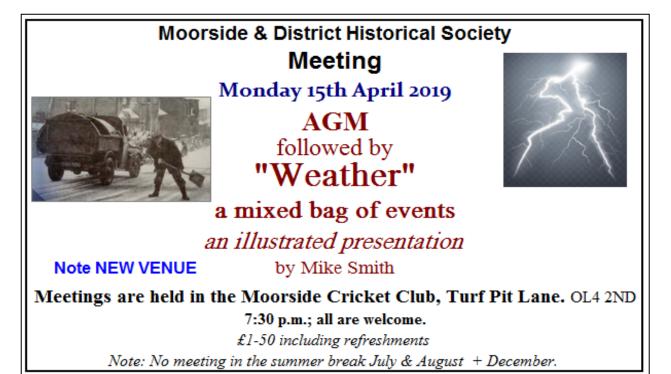
Well done to you all! We are all very proud of your hard work and dedication and thank you for the time and energy you volunteer.

Pictured are Jay and Judith with their certificates. Zel could not attend the awards night due to illness, but has now been presented with her award.

The Scouts Group are always looking for help. In particular, the Scout section for children age 11-14, could really do with another leader or parent helper. The Scout section runs from 8pm – 9.30pm every Tuesday and if you could help in any way, or just want an informal chat, then please speak with Matt Seville or John Tonge – contact details are on the back page.

We need someone to take over the administration of baptisms from Sam Atherton. This involves keeping a spreadsheet of details to pass on to Revd. Denise and the Churchwardens; liaising with enquirers; preparing baptism cards; and sending out anniversary cards. Please speak with one of the wardens, Revd. Denise or Sam if you would like any more information.

Moorside & District Historical Society have now moved their meeting venue to Moorside Cricket and Bowling Club on Turf Pit Lane. The meetings are still at 7.30pm and new members are very welcome.



Easter Quiz

Just a reminder that the Easter Quiz will soon be available at the back of Church. It is just ± 1.00 .

Bedding Plants

After bumper sales last year we will be selling bedding plants as usual. The forms will be available from the end of March. Please remember that the man who supplies us won't deliver until towards the end of May. The profit is shared between the Guiding and Scouting groups and the Church.

The Dogs Trust charity are running 5 week training classes from April at Sholver Community Centre on Wednesday evenings. All places must be booked in advance and the classes are suitable for puppies, adolescent dogs (18 weeks to 18 months) and adult dogs (over 18 months).

For more information or to book a place email manchesterwestdogshool@dogstrust.org.uk or call 07423 686207.

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Where did the Easter Bunny and Easter eggs come from?

The Easter bunny is a gentle figure of folklore, who seems to have first come from the German Lutherans. They depicted him as a rabbit who brought coloured Easter eggs to children. The idea of an egg-giving hare went over to the US in the 18th century, when Protestant German immigrants in the Pennsylvania Dutch area told their children about the 'Osterhase'. Hase means hare, and according to the legend, only good children found the hare's gifts of coloured eggs, placed in the nests that they had made in their caps and bonnets before Easter.

The Easter bunny became a prominent symbol of Easter. Rabbits, prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of new life. Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

Decorating Easter eggs dates back to at least the 13th century. One possible reason for the custom was that in those days eggs were forbidden during the Lenten season. So people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, and then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

Easter trivia quiz



What was the largest ever Easter egg hunt? The most-ever entrants for an egg hunt competition was 12,773. It was The Fabergé Big Egg Hunt, as part of World Record London, in London, UK in April 2012.

What was the largest-ever decorated Easter egg? This was built in March 2008, by Freeport in Alcochete, Portugal. It measured 14.79m (48ft 6in) long and 8.40m (27ft 6in) in diameter.

What was the largest ever chocolate Easter egg? It was made in Tosca and weighed 7,200kg (15,873lbs 4.48oz). It had a circumference of 19.6m (64ft 3.65in) at its widest point. It was exhibited in a shopping centre in Italy, in 2011.

What was the largest ever Easter egg tree? This was set by Zoo Rostock GmbH, Rostock, Germany, who decorated a tree with 76,596 painted hens' eggs in April 2007.

What was the biggest-ever Easter bunny? So far, the longest rabbit was Darius, a Flemish giant rabbit owned by Annette Edwards (UK), who was found to be 4 ft 3 in (129 cm) long when measured for an article in the UK's Daily Mail newspaper in April 2010.



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Holy Matrimony

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Funerals

Jack Gartside Maria Jones Susan Stanway

We pray for the repose of the souls who have died and for all who mourn for them.

Easter prayer of thanks

Gracious, loving Father,

Thank you for the wonderful reality of Jesus' resurrection on that first Easter Day.

Thank you that, because Jesus is alive, life has meaning and purpose. When we don't understand why some things happen, when life is difficult, when we are struggling through pain and loss, help us to know your risen presence and love in our lives.

Help us to choose to trust you.

Help us always to be thankful for your amazing Easter gift of life and hope.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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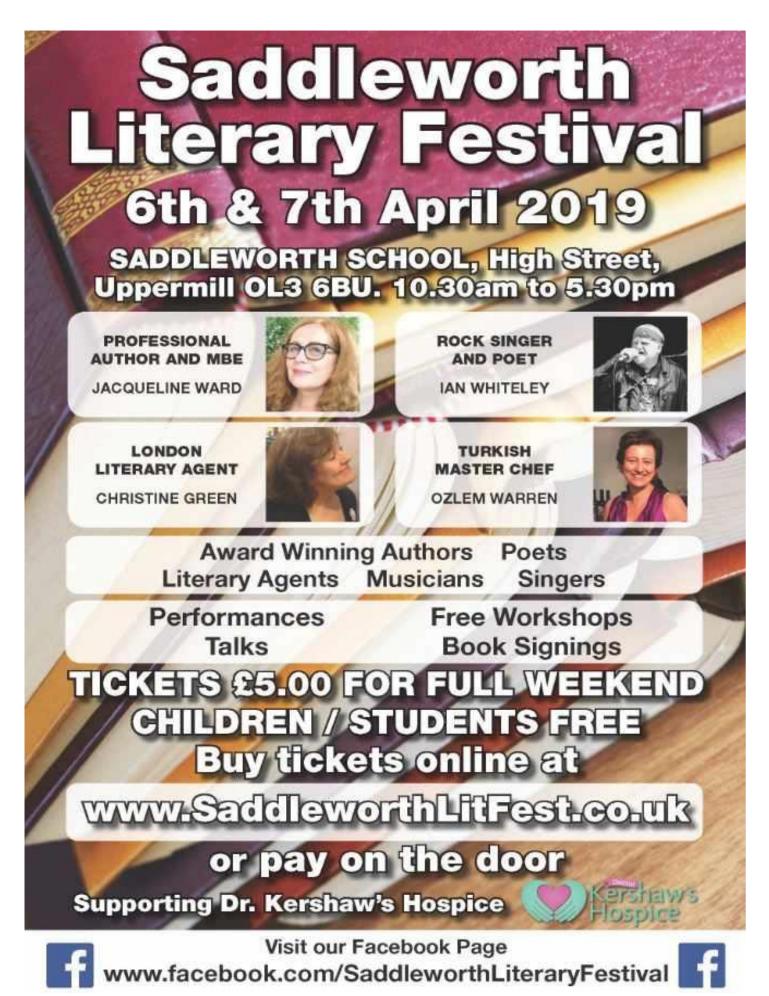
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100 Club Winners

January

1st prize	No. 30	Eunice Sarsfield.
2nd prize	No. 65	Kathy Salt.
3rd. prize	No.39	Angela Bilbruck.

February

1st. prize	No. 91	Margaret Mulhall.
2nd prize	No. 13	Lyndsey Keech.
3rd. prize	No. 7	Colin Tomlinson.

There are quite a few numbers still available in our 100 Club. If you would like a number and a chance to win one of our monthly prizes, please see me at the back of Church or in the coffee lounge. People pay 50p per week, usually once a month or so. *Millicent*

FLOWER ROTA

February 17th – Elaine, in memory of Mum and Dad and brothers George and Geoff

March 10th to April 21st – No flowers during Lent apart from March 31st – Roses for Mothering Sunday

Please contact Debra to dedicate flowers for a particular week or occasion. Contact details are on the back page.

Egg Church notice: This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Cusworth to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The bishop's visit A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese for Easter. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long, flowing robes and carried his crook. "Now," beamed the bishop, "do you know who I am?"

After a moment's silence, one child ventured "Little Bo Peep?"

<u>Higher power?</u> A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?'

One child blurted out, 'Aces!'





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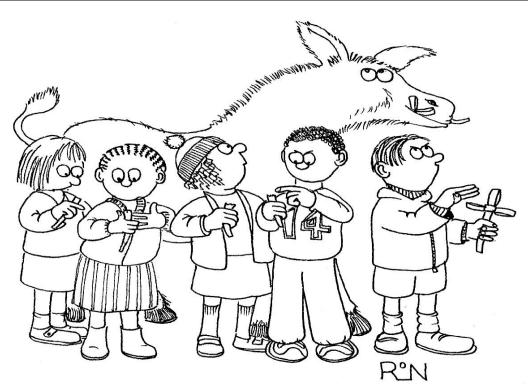
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DATE		1 st	1 st Reading 2 nd Re		2 nd Rea	ading Go		spel	
Sunday 7 Fifth Sund	7th April day of Lent	Isaiah 43. 16-21			Philippians 3. 4b-14		John 12. 1-8		
Sunday 1 Palm Sun	L4th April day	Isaiah 50. 4-9a			Philippians 2. 5-11			The Passion Reading	
-	Sunday 21st AprilActs 10.Easter Day34-43				1 Corinthians15.			John 20. 1-18	
-	day 28th AprilActs 5.Revelationond Sunday of Easter27-324-8		on 1. John 20. 19-31		-				
-	unday 5th MayActs 9.Revelationhird Sunday of Easter1-611-14		on 5. John 21. 1-19						
Date	Sides	Reader	S	Prayers	Cle	aners	ALTAR		EUCHARIST
7th April	Susan & Debra	Julie & Elaine		Angela	Lynn & Elaine		Cameron Ben R	&	Adam & Lynn
14 th April	Joan T & Sam	Lisa P & Maddiso		Julie	Luc	/	Cameron Emily	&	John & Lindsey
19 th April	GOOD FRIDAY			Lynn	Kathy, Karen & Chris				
21 st April	Chris & Ken	Susan & Wai		Sam	& D	an, Bev Jiane	Cameron George W	/	Cathy & Debra
28 th April	Zelda & Bev	Millicent Iona		Gail	Eur		Cameron Ben R	_	Elaine & John
5 th May	Joanne & Adam	Lindsey Samuel	&	Iona	Lyn Elai	n & ne	Cameron Emily	&	Millicent & Angela



They could have either a procession of crosses, or a donkey. But not both.

CONTACTS : www.stthomasmoorside.org

	1		
VICAR Revd Denise Owen		1 Glebe Lane, Moorside	0161 652 0292
		Therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk	07741 269102
WARDENS Corinne Ogden		286 Ripponden Road	0161 626 7537
	Simon Cane	2 Rossendale Close, Shaw	07775 571305
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GROUP SCOUT LEADER	John Tonge	johnrtonge@hotmail.com	0161 624 4236
RAINBOWS	Gillian Smith		01706 880116
BROWNIES	Kathryn Heptonstall	kathrynhep@live.co.uk	
GUIDES	Aimee Burns	aburns45@hotmail.co.uk	07980 962884
BEAVERS	Zelda Martin	127beavers@gmail.com	0161 633 7037
CUBS	Kathy Temple-Heald	Kathy.th@ntlworld.com	01706 663817
SCOUTS	Matt Seville	Matthew.seville01@hotmail.co.	07972 310342
		uk	
EXPLORERS	Ian Temple-Heald	sales@unitedflags.co.uk	07910 416303
BELLRINGERS	Peter Randall	peterrandall@care4free.net	0161 620 5421
CHOIR	Gail Randall	gailrandall55@gmail.com	0161 620 5421
MOORSIDE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Mike Smith	mesmith99_1@btinternet.com	0161 652 5827

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday	Handbell Group	10.30am – 12pm	Choir Vestry	
	Rainbows	6.30pm -7.30pm		
	Brownies	6.45pm - 8pm	Church Hall	
	Bell Ringers	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Bell Tower	
	Guides	7.30pm – 9pm	Church Hall	
Tuesday	Beavers	6.30pm -7.30pm	Church Hall	
	Cubs	7.00pm - 8.30pm		
	Scouts	8.00pm - 9.30pm	Church Hair	
	Explorers	8.30pm-9.30/10pm		
Wednesday	Youth Group for 3 rd Age	1.30 – 3pm	Church Hall Lounge	
Thursday	Choir	6.30pm – 8pm	Choir Vestry	
Sunday	Parish Communion	8.30am and 10.30am	Church	
	Sunday School & Sunday Youth	10.25am	Church Hall	