

June 2025



St Thomas' Church

High Lane
Parish Magazine

50p

St Thomas is a living church in the community of High Lane where everyone is welcome and our mission is to share the love of Christ with all.

Worship with us

Join us for worship in the Anglican tradition.

We are worshipping together in church but you can still be a part of our services by phone. Please see the calendar in the centre pages for details.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

Whilst we are without a Vicar, any enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can be answered by Robert Taylor on 01663 763478

Pastoral Care Team

Life can be challenging and we all need support. If you would like to talk or receive a visit, please contact Robert Taylor above who can put you in touch with someone from the Pastoral Care Team.

We are Silver Award Eco Church



Digital Donations

To make a donation to support our ongoing ministry and mission here please scan this QR code and you will be directed to the 'Give A Little' donation page. In these tough financial times, we are especially grateful for your support.



Rev'd Lynn writes...



Sunday 8th June is Pentecost – it was celebrated 50 days after the Feast of the Passover by the Jews. For Christians though, the events of the Pentecost following the death and resurrection of Christ have made it a once in history event when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and those gathered with them and the church of Christ was truly born. Indeed, Pentecost is often referred to as the 'Birthday' of the church.

God came to earth in the form of Jesus of Nazareth; born to a young girl and brought up as a carpenter's son. After only three years of teaching and preaching He allowed Himself to be tortured before being crucified at Calvary. But, as we know, this was by no means the end of the story – on the third day He rose again from the dead and appeared to over 500 people on 11 different occasions before ascending into Heaven. But even His dramatic Ascension wasn't to be the end because He instructed His followers to wait in Jerusalem for something more to happen. And so, on the day of Pentecost, as they were gathered together, the Holy Spirit descended upon them and filled each one present, inspiring them to go out and spread the news of the glory of God's Kingdom.

Pentecost is a sacred day in the calendar of the church where all Christians are called to bear witness, just as did those early followers, to the love of God and His love for His people and creation. It always saddens me that this most special and significant of days is overlooked by so many who call themselves Christian. I always think that churches throughout the world should be filled to capacity on the day of Pentecost with people bearing witness to Christ and this extraordinary event which formed who we are as a church. I am sure that many of you, like me, remember how we used to walk through the streets in an act of witness – this is what Pentecost is about – saying who we are, bearing witness to the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Jesus' purpose was to reveal God and the extent of His love for us, and the purpose of the church is to communicate that love in whatever way we can.

The Holy Spirit was God's gift, given in love to those who gathered at Pentecost and still remains His gift to us today. The Holy Spirit guides us and enables us to be who we are and leads us to do what we are capable of doing.

With the Holy Spirit within us we are able to 'shine as a light in the world' as we go about God's work to share and spread amazing love.

May the power of the Holy Spirit fill and inspire each one of us this Pentecost.

God Bless
Lynn



Parish ACTIVITIES

Come join us at St Thomas' Church Tree Tots Group
Mondays during term time, 9.30-11.30am

A group of bumps, babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents or carers. Tea, coffee, play, a chance to chat and make new friends
Suggested donation £2 per family



Messy Church

Saturday 14th June at 3.30pm
in the Church Hall

Lots of crafts, a story, and a **lovely** meal together at the end.

If you are planning to come along, please confirm your attendance by contacting
Carole Clulow 0798 436 2662

St Thomas' Church
Summer Concert with Hawk Green Band
Friday 6th June at 8.00pm

Last few tickets available now
Tickets £10
Please contact Jean on 01663 763478
Proceeds to the West End Appeal

Paws for Coffee



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People

Jessie invites you to join us on

Wednesday 11th June

10.30am — 12 noon

In St Thomas' Church Hall

- 'Pawfully good cakes' ▪ 'Pawsome Raffle' ▪ Hearing Dogs Sale Table ▪
- Meet Hearing Dogs ▪

Repair Shop and Coffee Morning

**Saturday 21st June
10am—12 noon**

Bring your broken or damaged items:

Metal, wood, machinery, furniture (or a photo),

Tools or knives that need sharpening, clothing

that needs adjustment or repair -

Or just join us for coffee and a chat!

*Make do and
MEND*

Parish NEWS

Ashes Burial

27th April Stuart Scoffins
4th May Janet Lindsay

Funerals

1st May Ronald 'Ron' Brindley
9th May Derek McWilliam

Anniversary of Baptism

2nd Grace Lily McCay
3rd Sophie Mia Conmee
Charlie Frances Andrew

Archdeacon's Visitation

Malcolm Bennet will be admitted to office as our Church Warden at St John's Church, Duckingfield at 7.00pm on 11th June. Sidespeople are also invited to go along to sign in and to support Malcolm.

Knit and Stitch Group

We have just finished our second lot of blankets made from the leaves of the knitted Christmas tree. We offered them to Inglewood in Disley.

One of our knitters Anne Stephenson's mum is a resident at Inglewood. We jokingly refer to Annie as the Yorkshire branch of the Knit and Stitch Group as she lives in Huddersfield. Anne delivered the blankets recently on a very hot day! This is what she said:

Well lovely ladies, the blankets have been delivered to Inglewood and I cannot tell you how ABSOLUTELY THRILLED they were to receive them. Both the staff and the residents loved them. They were astonished at the amount of work that had gone into them and they loved the colours (particularly the cheery red blanket stitching that works so well with the green). We did have a laugh about delivering so many blankets on such a hot day but let me tell you, the residents were keen to test them out! I put them in individual net bags: ownership is important to the residents and they will definitely be loved and used. Your halos are shining bright. What a fantastic end to a great project and I hope you all feel proud of your achievements. Love to all. The Huddersfield branch xxx



Ron Brindley

Over the many years Ron has been involved with St Thomas', he usually attended 8am Communion. He was in his element using his skills at organising Favour Auctions, Grand Raffles and manning stalls at the Christmas Fair .

His involvement with the Parish magazines also goes back many years and he was an integral part of the team that used to assemble the magazines in the days before the photocopier collated, folded and stapled each issue.

In recent years he and Joyce had been unable to attend services due to sporadic bus services and illness but we remember Ron with affection and send our sympathy to Joyce.

Joyce has also asked us to convey this message: "We send our thanks for your attendance at Ron's funeral service, the cards and flowers we received and also the donations for the Alzheimer's Society"

Margaret Gregory

Margaret also has a long association with the magazine and has provided us with different cover designs reflecting the seasons. She and Gordon were also very regular attenders at church before old age and mobility prevented attendance.

We have written often of Margaret's artistic brilliance in previous issues of the magazine and also featured her at the exhibition in the Autumn. She was always willing to produce a new picture of church when asked and we are very grateful to her for gifting us her catalogue of artwork featuring this church.

Margaret was so keen to support St Thomas' in many ways and came to our rescue on more than one occasion. Again, she is someone who will be remembered with great affection and our sympathy goes to her daughters Helen and Jill.

Margaret will be cremated in Henley-on-Thames on Monday 2nd June at 3.45pm. If you knew Margaret, please say a prayer for her at this time. Helen has given Christine Wright an order of service and there will be a few copies in the church porch for those who would like to remotely pray here along with the family there.

There will be a Memorial Service at St Thomas' on Thursday 7th August, time to be confirmed. Helen and Jill invite everyone to come to this service.

Ordination season is underway

Every summer the C of E ordains its new deacons and priests. The services are traditionally held during Pentecost (29th June), a feast day that remembers the martyrdom of Saint Peter.

Although the ordinations this summer will be held in a variety of cathedrals across the country, those being ordained will have certain important things in common: They will have felt called by God to serve as a deacon or priest; They will have passed a rigorous selection process; They will have completed a two-to-three-year training course (diploma or degree) at one of the theological education institutes (TEIs) based around the country.

Called, accepted, trained and soon to be set apart for this specialised ministry. If you know a deacon or a priest, pray for them and their families this month, as they begin a lifetime of public service to God. Pray also that our own vacancy will be filled soon.

Spotlight on our youth—William Turner

Most of you who attend church will have, by now, met William. He has been volunteering with us for some months as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

William and his family are no strangers to St Thomas' as he and his siblings have joined us for messy church, Tree Tots Group and Christingle for many, many years. His dad has also done some good deeds for the church.

William began his Duke of Edinburgh award back in February and had to complete three specific objectives: volunteering, learning a new skill and sport. He has continued playing cricket with High Lane cricket club and enjoys being an all rounder with them. He also has started to assist the coach of his younger brother's football team – Hazel Grove United. His skill achievement was DJing. He has learnt how to beat match, changing tempo, amongst other technical parts of being a DJ. Maybe we need to have a disco at St Thomas' so he can showcase his talents!

It was the volunteering aspect that bought him to St Thomas' on a regular basis. He has helped with handing out and collecting the hymn books and service sheets setting up the chairs for Tree Tots group, and even washing up for us after 10 am Parish communion. William tells me he has greatly enjoyed being part of the congregation. He has found everyone to be welcoming and helping him to succeed at his tasks. Quietly and aside from church he has also done a few jobs for parishioners.

When we spoke about his time with us, he said he wanted to continue coming along to Church when his volunteering time is over and has even started talking about confirmation. It would be lovely to think that he could do this when we have a new Vicar. Some of his highlights from being with us have included the Palm Sunday procession with singing as we walk along the A6 and also meeting the Bishop.

We wish William all the very best for gaining his Duke of Edinburgh bronze. He would like to do the silver award too. It has been lovely to have him as part of our church. Thank you William for all that you have done as our volunteer, good luck with your silver award, and we very much hope you will continue to be part of our family and grow your own faith as you journey forward. CW



William taking part in his expedition at Teggs Nose



Reminder of the Churches Count on Nature

Churches Count on Nature, an annual scheme where people visit churchyards and record the plant and animal species they encounter takes place between **7-15 June 2025**.

Please contact Christine at st.thomas03@btinternet.com if you will help

Churches enjoyed bumper Easter attendances

Clergy have reported packed services over Easter, as increasing numbers of young people are coming to church. It follows the recent survey by the Bible Society, which found that the share of the population who attend a service a month has risen from eight% in 2018 to 12% last year. But surprisingly, the figures for those aged 18 to 24 have *quadrupled*, to 16%.

Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn, said that the numbers at services were up by as much as a half in some areas. He said that, despite so much recent bad publicity about the Church, “there is such a hunger for faith, especially among the young.” The rector at one church in London said: “The world is a much more frightening and chaotic place than when I was growing up. People in their 20s and 30s have had two major financial crashes, a pandemic, a land war in Europe, a housing crisis. The world is not a place for optimism right now. The stability and comfort that God can provide is something that appeals to young people.” Churches certainly provide a sense of community, a social network as well as a spiritual one, which can help young people who are struggling to connect with others.

The Bible Society survey also found that Catholics may become the largest denomination in Britain, for the first time in 500 years. Anglicanism, on the other hand, could fall behind Pentecostalism, and become the UK’s third largest denomination. The Anglican share of regular churchgoers of all ages fell from 41% in 2018 to 34% in 2024, while at the same time the Catholic share rose from 23% to 31%.

The Bible Society survey also found that, whereas in 2018 just 4% of 18 to 24 year-olds attended church once a month, now 16% of the same age group are doing so. Although British people are still more likely to be non-believers, those who *are* Christian are practising their faith with greater zeal.

Meanwhile, the Church of England has seen a boom in visits to its church-finding website, with views on AChurchNearYou.com soaring. Visits last year hit 198.6 million – up from 128.1 million in 2023 and a rise of more than three quarters on the previous year. The figure does not include the 9.7-million-page impressions from the site’s army of local editors, who maintain and update parish pages, adding and tagging worship services, events and community action projects such as food banks.

Repair Shop

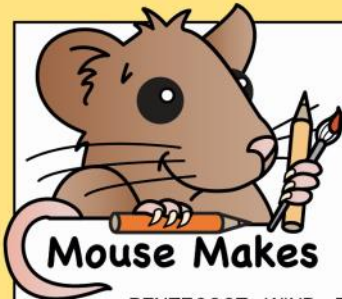


Jeff and Dave have just finished repairing this small rocking chair which belonged to the Mother of their client Anne. They have said It has probably been the most challenging project that they have completed, but complete it they did, and it has now been delivered to a satisfied customer.



A reminder that the next
Repair Shop Coffee Morning will take place on
Saturday 21st June.

Mary, Dave and Jeff will be ready to help!



PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
ROME • CRETANS
ARABIANS • GOD



READ
Acts
2:1-41

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It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them. The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Eco NEWS

Next steps to a Climate and Nature Bill

Scientists, economists, business leaders, church leaders and others, who read the late Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* (Praise be for our common home), along with millions of ordinary people, realise this: our best chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change and a total wipe out of nature is to deal with these crises together. As importantly, it must be done in *ways that are fair* to the poorest and most vulnerable in all countries – and to avoid a backlash against planet-saving measures.

That is where the Climate and Nature (CAN) bill comes in (previously called the Climate and Ecology Bill). First conceived by the Zero Hour campaign six years ago, with the early backing of A Rocha UK, there are now more than 180 organisations, as well as faith leaders, scientists and politicians, supporting the bill. After the government failed to back the bill at its second reading in January, but made some relevant promises, the campaign is stepping up.

The next step is for citizens of all constituents in the UK to write to Prime Minister , Sir Keir Starmer, calling on him and the government to face the stark reality on climate and biodiversity loss, and get behind the practical and fair actions to address the twin crises. You can swiftly sign (and amend if you wish) an email to the PM at Zero Hour – Join the campaign for the Climate and Nature Bill (www.action.zerohour.uk). As the UK heads for what looks like another unusually hot and dry summer, now is the time to remind our government of the urgency of joined up action for climate and nature.

The first ever silver Eco Diocese award goes to...

A Rocha UK's Denominational awards are for regional areas of the church, such as the Church of England and Church in Wales dioceses, Methodist districts and circuits and URC synods. All 42 Church of England dioceses are registered for Eco Diocese, and 33 of the 42 have already received bronze Eco Diocese awards. So we've been on tenterhooks to see which diocese would be first to meet the challenging standards of the silver Eco Diocese award! We are delighted to announce that Church of England Birmingham is the first to have achieved this prestigious accolade.

To achieve a silver Eco Diocese award, there needs to be evidence that care for God's earth is foundational to the mission of the diocese and, as such, is woven throughout the day to day functions of the diocese – in its structure, policies and practices. The diocese also needs to encourage and promote local church participation in the Eco Church scheme. Church of England Birmingham has demonstrated fantastic progress in this area, with 71% of their local churches registered and 45% of their local churches awarded.

Polly Eaton, A Rocha UK's Eco Diocese Officer, commented, "Our huge congratulations to Church of England Birmingham on their well-deserved silver Eco Diocese award. This achievement has been brought about by an appreciation that God's earth is facing a crisis, and we need to act. The diocese has made the connection between the climate crisis and global justice, between Christian faith and local action. Church of England Birmingham has a commitment to care for *all* of creation and the resources God has provided on our planet."

The Nicene Creed: Who is God?

'We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.'

2025 sees the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. We use it at Communion services, but how much notice do we take of the words? In this new series we are looking at what it means to believe in God as Trinity.

We believe: In Greek, the Creed begins '*we believe*' (in Latin, '*I believe*'). It was formulated at the time of Arius, who declared that Jesus was the first and greatest of God's creatures, but not the same as God the Father. His teaching proved so damaging that the Emperor Constantine called an ecumenical council in Nicaea (AD 325) to clarify the core beliefs for all Christians.

in one God: We believe in a God who is both one and Trinity: '*Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one*' (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the Old Testament God, who we know through the life and work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are to worship Him alone and not people or things.

the Father, the Almighty: God is both the almighty Creator and loving Father: '*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name*' (Matt 6:9). Although the Father of all that exists, He is specifically Father to those who His children through their faith in Jesus.

maker of heaven and earth: God comes before anything that was created, and Creation is His alone: '*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty*' (Genesis 1:1,2). The implication is that He created '*ex nihilo*' ie out of nothing. He is one God who is unchangeable, lacking in nothing and the source of all that exists.

of all that is, seen and unseen: God did not just create the physical universe, but also the spiritual powers: '*For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.*' (Colossians 1:16). Reality is more than what we can see, smell, taste, touch or measure.

The Creed establishes the 'big picture' of who God is and challenges our commitment to Him. *How do these opening words of the Nicene Creed speak to us today?*

Monday Coffee Morning

Don't forget the lovely weekly coffee mornings held each Monday in the Village Hall, next to High Lane Park. There is always someone to chat to, tea and coffee and biscuits and friendly team behind the event.
10am to noon.
You will be made most welcome!

CAMEOS

Wednesday 4th June

At Windlehurst Church. Doors open at 1.45pm for prompt start at 2pm.

A warm welcome to all, a good sing and homemade refreshments.

Saint of the Month

24th June – John the Baptist Preparing the way for the Messiah

John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman. He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request. When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.

Wives Group

Our 'We'll Meet Again' Coffee Morning was a happy celebration for VE80, raising £538. Our plant sale also raised an amazing £114 - both for the West Wall Appeal.

Well done and a huge thank you to everyone who supported our events.

2nd June	Service & Fellowship
9th June	The Leprosy Mission with Sam Stockill
16th June	Home Brew - Play Your Cards Right
23rd June	No meeting
24th June	Annual Visit to Llandudno
30th June	Seasonality & Food as medicine with Barbara Wilkinson

Our meetings start at 2pm in the Church Hall - Come and join us!

With best wishes
Karen & Lesley

▪ TALKS ▪ QUIZZES ▪ MEALS OUT ▪ ANNUAL DAY OUT ▪



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Calendar for June 2025

Services will be held in St Thomas' Church unless otherwise indicated.
Please do not attend if you have any Covid-19 symptoms.

St Thomas' Church is trying hard to reach all our parishioners using a variety of methods. Do join in our worship in person or by telephone
Church is open each day for Private Prayer.

Sunday 1st June

Seventh Sunday of Easter

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
2.00pm Wives Group Service
9.30am Holy Communion
9.00pm Telephone Compline
8.00pm Hawk Green Band Concert

Wednesday 4th

Thursday 5th

Friday 6th

Sunday 8th June

The Feast of Pentecost

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
9.30am Tree Tots Group
2.00pm Wives Group
9.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Paws for Coffee in aid of Hearing Dogs
9.00pm Telephone Compline
7.00pm Coast Group
3.30pm Messy Church

Monday 9th

Wednesday 11th

Thursday 12th

Friday 13th

Saturday 14th

Sunday 15th June

Trinity Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
9.30am Tree Tots Group
2.00pm Wives Group
9.30am Holy Communion
9.00pm Telephone Compline

Monday 16th

Wednesday 18th

Thursday 19th

Sunday 22nd June

First Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
6.00pm Evensong
9.30am Tree Tots Group
9.30am Holy Communion
9.00pm Telephone Compline

Monday 23rd

Wednesday 25th

Thursday 26th

Sunday 29th June

Second Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
9.30am Tree Tots Group
2.00pm Wives Group

Monday 30th

And they all understood

Pentecost reflection by Ana Gobledale from worshipwords.co.uk

And they all understood
No missed messages
No mixed messages
Confusion moves to clarity
Discord moves to harmony
Cacophony moves to melody
Agitation transformed by peace
Individualism transformed by community
Nationalism transformed by neighbour-sighting
Flags waving to declare identity move to tabletops holding
a common cup
Strangers move into relationship
And they all understand
Message received.



© Together in Prayer by Melani Pyke

Community NEWS

High Lane Residents Association

Due to the ongoing warm weather the meeting in May was a short meeting.

Spring flowers in the planters are beginning finish and soon will be replaced by the summer planting. All the planters have continued to look good as the 'gardening team' have watered regularly.

During the next few months we intend to tidy up High Lane Station (and yes we do know we don't have a rail line in High Lane) which has started to get a little overgrown. We will advertise the date on the HLRA website, any help gratefully received.

Work on funding for the 'Outdoor Gym' continues, but in these austere financial times we are struggling with this.

As Hartley Wood is now looking more accessible we are hoping to plant 1000 English Bluebells over the next few months. We are still waiting for extra bird and bat boxes to be added by the contractors.

Our next meeting is **5th June 2025** at 8pm in the Village Hall and open to all residents of High Lane.

Email: contact@hlra.org.uk

Caroline Smith

Vice chair – High Lane Residents Association



HIGH LANE VILLAGE WI

Our Women's Institute group meets at High Lane Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

- Wednesday 4th June:** A talk by 'Marple Men in Sheds', a voluntary group which aims to tackle social isolation in the community
- Wednesday 2nd July:** A talk on Cybersecurity by Andrew Kevan from Cheshire Police

We are a friendly and informal WI and are always happy to welcome any ladies who may wish to join us, so come along and give us a try without any obligation. Your first visit is free. We have a special speaker at most of our meetings or some in-house entertainment, followed by tea/coffee and cake.

You can follow us on our Facebook page: **High Lane Village WI**, where you will find a month by month list of our future activities!

If you should require any further details please contact Jean Pye on: (01663) 635595 or contact us at hlvwi1@gmail.com

Disley & Lyme Horticultural Society

Disley & Lyme Horticultural Society enjoyed a very interesting talk at the start of May on 'Foraging and fungi', and despite some technical issues, the subject matter and content had the audience thoroughly engaged.

Our next event is a tour around the rose garden at Lyme park by their gardeners Hugh and Stefan. This is a members only event, though is free to attend. Wednesday 25th June, 11am - noon. Visit www.disleylymehs.com for more details or how to become a member.

The weeks are passing quickly and the countdown is well underway to our annual summer show. This year we have over 35 stalls exhibiting at the show. Stalls range from upcycled leather goods, to Henna hand painting, art, skincare products, and a host of new entertainment for the children. There will also be extra food and drink options, as well as the Sports Club's bars. Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date - 'Disley and Lyme Horticultural Society'.

On another note, Drake Carr Cottage are opening their garden once again this year as part of the National Garden Scheme, last year raising over £2,000 for charity. The garden contains a wide variety of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, surrounding a C17 stone cottage, with wildlife pond and bog garden. Refreshments and tasty cakes available. Open Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June, 11.00am to 5.00pm. Entry £5 per adult, children under 12 free. Drake Carr Cottage, Off Mudhurst Lane, Higher Disley, SK12 2AN

Faith of the northern saints explored in short film

The power of the Lord's Prayer is celebrated in a new short film that is part of the Archbishop of York's current 'Faith in the North' initiative. *Then as Now* is available to watch from the Archbishop of York's YouTube channel.

Set in the magnificent landscape of the north-east, the film interweaves the faith of the old northern saints from the 7th century (including St Cuthbert and St Hild) to the faith of Christians today. *Then as Now* was created by an ordinand at St Hild College, Oliver Murray. He explains: "This film is about rediscovering the power of the Lord's Prayer alongside the men and women who first shared it, spreading the light of faith in the north. It's incredible to see how this ancient prayer still speaks to our hearts, offering guidance and comfort in every season of life."

'Faith in the North' is a prayer, storytelling and church-planting movement led by Archbishop Cottrell. His aim is to encourage people across the Northern Province to explore the Lord's Prayer afresh during 2025. Archbishop Cottrell says: "The Lord's Prayer has been spoken through the centuries by countless people seeking strength, direction, and peace...If you've never prayed before, this is the best place to start and if you've been praying this for some time, it's a great opportunity to engage anew with each line of the prayer. Join me in rediscovering Christ's story in our hearts and communities today."

Praying with the Prayers of the Bible – Praying with Penitential Tears

*by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, a former Senior Lecturer in Historical
Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.*

Psalm 51:2; 'Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.'

Psalm 51 is the most personal, the most passionate and the most profound prayer for forgiveness found anywhere in the Bible. Without any introduction, explanation or excuse, the Psalmist cries out, 'Have mercy on me, O God.' Jewish and Christian scholars have almost been unanimous in seeing this Psalm as David's personal prayer for pardon, following his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and then scheming to have her husband Uriah killed (2 Samuel 11).

As we go through the Psalm, its various stages take us from deep contrition to joyful testimony. First, the confession; vv.1-4. As David bares his soul to God, there is no blaming other people, no excuses made, no pleading special circumstances. 'Have mercy on *me*, O God.' Notice the personal pronouns. 'My transgressions,' twice (vv.1 and 3); '*my* iniquity,' '*mysin*,' twice (vv.2 and 3). And David knows that while he has sinned against his own family and against the murdered Uriah, all sin is ultimately against God. 'Against Thee, thee only, have I sinned' (v.4).

Second, the condition; vv.5-6. While David alone is responsible for the sins he has committed, he recognises that he is part of fallen, sinful humanity. Both Judaism and Christianity have a doctrine of original sin. So deep and all pervasive is the condition of fallen humanity that he speaks of being 'conceived' in sin and 'brought forth' in iniquity (v.5). Although some commentators have tried to dismiss this teaching here by saying that David was conceived out of wedlock, its implications are far more profound. In v.6 he speaks about 'the inward being' and 'my secret heart.' David knows only too well that behind the sins he has committed lies a human heart prone to sin, attracted by sin and enticed to sin.

Third, the cleansing; vv. 7-12. With this deep, penitential confession of his transgressions, his iniquity and his sin, David now cries out for the only remedy – God's power to conquer human sin. The prayer began with a plea for mercy (v.1) and then followed the repeated petitions for the 'blotting out,' the 'washing' and the 'cleansing' from sin. Now the plea is for something deeper still; 'Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.' (v.7). But David wants still more, and so we have the prayer in v.10; 'Create in me a clean heart.' And still David prays, 'Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.' Resulting from this sincere confession and heart-felt prayer for forgiveness and cleansing, comes the assurance of God's gracious answer. When David is spiritually restored, he will teach others the way of God's salvation (v.13) and praise God for his own deliverance (v.14).

So Psalm 51 promises forgiveness, cleansing, restoration and a place to serve God *when* we, in true penitence, make the same unqualified confessions of our sins.

Jet lag is worse when you travel east

Do your holiday plans involve travelling from west to east this year? Then prepare yourself for some sleep disruption, while your body adjusts.

A recent study at the Centre of Sleep and Cognition at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine in Singapore has found that travelling east can really impede your body's natural 'sleep timing'. This is because you are in effect 'losing time'.. and that runs in opposition to your body's natural circadian rhythm, or body clock.

In plain speak, this means you may find it hard to fall asleep in conformity with your new local time zone. It can take more than a week to adjust, if you have travelled east across multiple time zones. Men and women are affected the same, though the old are slightly less affected than the young.

A NEW SPACE IN STOCKPORT FOR ANYBODY & EVERYBODY!

Stockroom is an exciting new creative and cultural centre in Stockport, designed for getting together, getting involved or just popping by for a brew. It has been developed with and for local people and the creative community to build an exceptional communal resource for entertainment and learning. There's room for everyone: to make noise, meet friends or find some peace, play, take part, think or do new things.

At Stockroom, visitors will find a town centre library, a children's creative learning space, a café bar and Stockport's historical archives. Young people can learn new skills and benefit from cutting-edge learning and IT facilities. It's a spot to work, research or just relax with a good book.

Our creative events space, Stockroom Studios will host a year-round programme of events, from yoga, toddler play, literature, music and even stand-up comedy. It's a programme that's ever changing and always enjoyable. Stockroom's creative programme will feature many unique collaborations, delivered with a range of partners, from local community groups to major international arts organisations.

Stockroom is located in the middle of Merseyway Shopping area. Find out what's on and what will be coming to the space by going to www.stockrm.org/events

Saturday 07 June 2025 - From 12:00pm

This summer Stock Party returns to the streets of Stockport for another unforgettable celebration of the town's thriving independent scene. Taking place on Saturday 7th June 2025, the free, all-day street festival supported by Totally Stockport will bring together some of the North West's most exciting food, drink, music, and creative talent across Stockport.

The street party takes place across Stockport's Underbank, Robinsons Brewery Yard, the iconic Stockport Market Place and this year - Stockroom!

A fun-packed, free entry block party in the heart of Stockport this summer. Expect beer, food and a stellar soundtrack. Stockroom hosts a day of PLAY with break out activities for all the family.

No tickets. No barriers. Just Stockport at its very best.

Mini is named the best-ever British car

What is your favourite British car? Think of the Land Rover, Aston Martin, McLaren, Bentley and Rolls Royce. Then think of the Mini. That is what a group of judges for the Auto Express did recently, and they chose the Mini.

Their verdict? "Put simply, we reckon no other British- built vehicle better represents the relevant, innovative and pioneering UK automotive industry quite like the world's original small car." Phil McNamara, editor at large, Auto Express, adds: "there was only ever going to be one winner of our Top 50 Brit cars rundown. The Mini was crowned undisputed champion."



It was in the late 1950s that the British Motor Corporation (BMC) asked car designer Alec Issigonis to come up with a sub-three-metre compact car that could accommodate a family of four. The result was the Mini, soon beloved of the public, celebrities and even (in a modified version) racing drivers. The modern version of a Mini Cooper is nearly 90cm longer than the original, and prices starts at about £25,000.

People who can't see should not drive

So says a coroner, following a spate of four deaths caused by drivers who, in one case, could barely see his own steering wheel.

Dr James Adeley, the senior coroner for Lancashire, has said that letting motorists self-certify their fitness to drive is the 'laxest system in Europe', and is highly ineffective. And, until it is changed, road deaths will continue to be caused by drivers with failing eyesight. Dr Adeley has sent a report to Heidi Alexander, the Transport Secretary, calling for action. He points out that the UK is one of only a handful of countries to use 'self-reporting' of any visual conditions that affect one's ability to drive. Dr Adeley said: "The current system for 'ensuring drivers meet the visual legal standards is ineffective, unsafe and unfit to meet the needs of society."

The Department for Transport has responded: "The NHS recommends adults should have their eyes tested every two years and drivers are legally required to inform the DVLA if they have a condition which affects their eyesight."

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Specifically, each and every Christian across the globe is asked to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people they know who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

TKC has grown into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions. Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. This year's theme is the Lords Prayer.

More info and excellent resources available at www.thykingdomcome.global

Poetic Healing From the Poetry Pharmacy

Greater Manchester is a getting a dose of poetic healing thanks to The Poetry Pharmacy. The Poetry Pharmacy Live is sending printed posters to every secondary school, GP practice and A&E department in Greater Manchester. With a quick QR scan, people have the opportunity to provide feedback and find out more information as to why the condition is relevant to the poem.

Who are the Poetry Pharmacy?

"We have been dispensing poetry since 2011 from the back of our vintage ambulance as the *Emergency Poet at festivals, conferences, hospitals and care settings, libraries and schools, with a poetry pharmacy of poems-in-pills under the attached awning.*

The whole impetus for that project was to be a vehicle (pun intended) for poetry to be delivered to people who don't usually encounter it; to be inviting and not intimidating, to counter the widely held perception that poetry is "difficult, obscure and not for the likes of me"

We believe that poetry can do so much to match or alter a mood, to assist in so many ways with good mental health. The Poetry Pharmacy was a way for us to park up the ambulance and bring the therapeutic effects of poetry under one roof, with an emphasis on well-being and inclusivity.

So the theatre of the ambulance was the way in. At the heart of it there has always been good quality, intelligent poetry. The Poetry Pharmacy continues this element of theatre, this light-hearted approach, and there is something here for everyone."

They have two walk in Pharmacies—one in London, the other in Shropshire and both offer all sorts of books, papers, cards and rather wonderful workshops.

www.poetrypharmacy.co.uk

Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: "I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression."

Good quote

A certain bishop had a fondness for using Bible quotations whenever he visited a function. When he arrived to open a new Maternity Home the organisers thought: "Now we have him stumped." However, after a few well-chosen words, the bishop smiled and said: "I know you are waiting for a quotation, so here it is: 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed!'"

Get a grip

It was said that Archbishop Tench of Dublin, in his later years, had a fear of sudden crippling paralysis. One night at a formal dinner he sat looking more and more forlorn. Finally, he confided to the guests around him: "Well, it's come at last – total lack of feeling in my right leg." Whereupon the lady sitting next to him said soothingly: "Not at all, your Grace. It will comfort you to know that during the whole of this meal it has been *my* leg that you have been pinching!"

He gave us eyes to see them: El Greco's 'The Tears of St Peter'

In the 19th century John Bowes, the 10th Earl of Strathmore, built a museum in the French style, with landscaped gardens, at Barnard Castle in Teesdale. He bequeathed it 800 paintings, including a previously unknown Van Dyck.

But visitors to the Bowes Museum often make a beeline for its amazing 18th century silver swan automaton. As the music plays, there is the illusion of flowing water: the swan preens itself, bends down and catches a fish in the water. It is a thrill and a joy to watch. At the other extreme and striking a different mood and emotion is El Greco's painting of 1580: 'The Tears of St Peter.' It was reluctantly purchased in 1869 for a price less than that paid for the monkey puzzle tree in the grounds outside.

The gospels tell us that St Peter wept bitterly when he heard the cock crow, as he had denied knowing Jesus three times. El Greco shows the saint, his eyes welling with those tears of betrayal, kneeling and turning to heaven for forgiveness. The sky is overcast, reflecting the sad scene below, and we can see ivy growing as a sign of the constancy so lacking in Peter's life.

At the Last Supper he had been the opposite: ready to follow, brave and generous with his words. But Peter leaves Jesus to drink the cup of sorrow alone in Gethsemane. In the courtyard of the high priest, warming himself by the fire, he utters that threefold denial. This was the lowest moment in his life, when instead of being solid rock, he showed that he was merely shifting sand.

And then the wonder and glory of Easter. We glimpse it in the background of the painting with the angel and Mary Magdalene at the tomb. And we know that everything changes for Peter by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Like the silver swan in the Bowes Museum looking for fish, the disciples have returned to their old way of life.

But it is the risen Lord who directs them to a marvellous catch, and the charcoal fire of betrayal in the courtyard is now the charcoal fire of breakfast, a new day, and a new way of life for Peter. No denial now – he answers the three questions of our Lord positively and realises that he is loved by Jesus in his failure and weakness. It might have seemed the end for Peter in the courtyard, but the risen Lord comes to tell him 'I make all things new' and that includes you.

Peter is often known as the stumbling saint. Here, in El Greco's painting, he has stumbled and fallen to his knees in prayer. We celebrate St Peter at the end of this month. As we look at him, we know ourselves to be as weak and fearful. But the Lord comes to us as He comes to Peter. He lifts us up and puts us back on our feet again.



What is Healthwatch?

Healthwatch Stockport is one of the 152 Healthwatch that works in each local authority area in England, that has statutory powers under the health and social care act 2012. We are an independent health care champion for the Stockport community. You come first - especially if you find it hard to be heard elsewhere.

Healthwatch will help you and your family get the best out of your local health & social care to create better services for all of us.

Whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow, the best health & social care services are based on respect, compassion, excellence, and driven by you.

This is an opportunity for us all to create a health & care system that really meets our needs. Every voice counts when it comes to shaping the future of health & social care.

Healthwatch Survey

Take five minutes to share your experiences

NHS and social care staff are doing everything they can to keep us well during these challenging times, but there might be things that can be improved for you and your loved ones. Please take five minutes to share your story with us.

www.healthwatchstockport.co.uk/share-your-views

Men's Health Call for Evidence

The Government launched a call for evidence to inform the development of a men's health strategy for England and want to hear from anyone aged 16 and over and who lives in England.

The information provided will inform the development of a Men's Health Strategy for England. It seeks the views of the public, health and social care professionals, academics, employers, and stakeholder organisations. The Government will use your ideas and evidence to help inform the strategy.

Men face unique challenges throughout their lives:

- Men are disproportionately affected by a number of health conditions, including cancer, cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.
- Life expectancy data also shows that men live on average four years fewer than women (79.1 versus 83.0 years in England, respectively).

Please go to consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/mens-health-strategy

Share your views by 17 July 2025.

Medium Sudoku

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St Peter—The Rock

On 29th June, the church celebrates the feasts of SS Peter & Paul, the two most famous apostles and who share the same Feast Day. This month we will look at St Peter, originally called Simon. He was a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He met Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Jesus gave him the name of Cephas (Peter) which means rock. Peter is always named first in the list of apostles. He was one of the three apostles who were privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.

When Peter made his famous confession of faith (Matthew 16:13–19), that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus recognised it as being the result of a revelation from the Father. He in turn told Peter that he would be the rock on which His Church would be built, that the 'gates of hell' would never prevail against it. Peter and the apostles would have the power of 'binding and loosing', but Peter would be personally given 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. Jesus also forewarned Peter of his betrayal and subsequent strengthening of the other apostles. After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter before the other apostles, and later entrusted him with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ's flock.

Peter played a big part in the early Church, and he is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts, where he organised the choice of Judas' successor, preached with stirring authority at Pentecost; and was the very first apostle to work a miracle. Peter went on to defend the apostles' right to teach at the Sanhedrin, and to condemn Ananias and Sapphira. It was Peter who first realised that Christianity was also for the Gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius. Later he took a prominent part in the council at Jerusalem and went on to clash with St Paul at Antioch for hesitating about eating with Gentiles.

Early tradition links Peter with an apostolate and martyrdom at Rome. The New Testament does not tell us this, but Peter being in Rome would make sense, especially as Peter's first epistle refers to 'Babylon', which was usually identified with Rome. Peter's presence in Rome is mentioned by early church fathers such as Clement of Rome and Irenaeus. Tradition also tells us that Peter suffered under Nero and was crucified head-downwards. It is said that he chose this position as he did not feel worthy of dying in the same way as Jesus.

Peter was a major influence on Mark when writing his gospel, and the First Epistle of Peter was very probably his. (Many scholars believe that the Second Epistle was written at a later date.) From very early times Peter was invoked by Christians as a universal saint. He was the heavenly doorkeeper, the patron of the Church and the papacy, a saint both powerful and accessible.

In England there were important dedications to Peter from early times: monasteries such as Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster. Cathedrals were named after him, too: York, Lichfield, Worcester and Selsey. In all, it has been calculated that 1,129 pre-Reformation churches were dedicated to St Peter, and another 283 to SS Peter and Paul together. Images of Peter are innumerable, but his portraiture remains curiously the same: a man with a square face, a bald or tonsured head, and a short square, curly beard. Not surprisingly, his chief emblem is a set of keys, sometimes along with a ship or fish.

All in the month of June

It was

250 years ago, on 14th June 1775, that the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Army. Later it became the United States Army. On 15th June, George Washington, who would become first President of the USA, became the Army's Commander-in-Chief. This army would defeat the British army, and America would declare independence the following year, on 4th July 1776.

Also 250 years ago, on 23rd June 1775, that the first Thames Regatta was held in London.

175 years ago, on 24th June 1850, that Herbert Kitchener, the 1st Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer and politician became Secretary of War during WW1, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army. He was killed in 1916 when his ship was hit by a German mine.

150 years ago, on 3rd June 1875, that George Bizet, French Romantic composer, died of a heart attack at 36. Best known for his opera *Carmen*.

90 years ago, on 1st June 1935, that driving tests became compulsory for all new drivers in Britain.

75 years ago, on 3rd June 1950, that the first successful ascent of Annapurna in the Himalayas was made. It was a French expedition and the first successful ascent of a mountain over 8,000 metres. Annapurna is the tenth highest mountain in the world.

70 years ago, on 11th June 1955 that the Le Mans disaster took place. A car spun off the track during the Le Mans 24 Hour race in France, and the driver, Pierre Levegh, and 83 spectators were killed, with 100 more injured. It was the greatest loss of life in the history of motorsport, but bizarrely, the race was not stopped. The survivors carried on for the full 24 hours, while the dead and the injured were removed from the site.

50 years ago, on 7th June 1975, that the first Cricket World Cup to be held in England began.

Also 50 years ago, on 18th June 1975, that the first North Sea oil was pumped ashore to Britain.

30 years ago, on 25th June 1995 that Ernest Walton, Irish physicist died. He was the first person to split an atom.

25 years ago, on 10th June 2000, that the Millenium Bridge opened in London. It closed for a while two days later, when it was found to sway uncomfortably when people walked in step.

15 yeas ago, on 28th June 2010, that the US Supreme Court ruled that American citizens have the right to own a gun, regardless of which state they live in. There are an estimated 393 million privately owned guns in the USA, and about 340 million people.



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During this time of Interregnum, please contact the Church Warden on 07818112731 with any queries . Please be patient with us as messages may take a day or so to be answered.

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Churchwarden	Malcolm Bennett	07818112731
Hon Secretary	Les Coop	01663 830077
Hon Treasurer	Geoff Gaskell	01663 763796
Finance Manager	Alvin West	07709 034470
Gift Aid	Alvin West	07709 034470
Verger	Robert Taylor	01663 763478
Sacristan	Ann Lambert	01663 764521
Caretaker	Steve Billinge	0785 5053404
Safeguarding	Janet Bailey stthomassafeguard@gmail.com	07767 228135
Wives Group	Karen Ganly 01663 762698 & Lesley Longworth	01663 810288
Eco Group	Shan Alexander	07766 664611
Luncheon Club	Helen Richardson	01663 764723
Website:	www.st-thomas-high-lane.org.uk	
Website Contact	Peter Jonas	peterjonas@yahoo.co.uk
Facebook page:	St Thomas Church High Lane	
Facebook Contact	Christine Wright	st.thomas03@btinternet.com
Magazine Editor	Christine Wright	st.thomas03@btinternet.com
Proof Readers	Robert Taylor	01663 763478
	Alvin West	07709034470
Advertising	Mary Berry	01663 762393
Distribution	Jean and Robert Taylor	01663 763478

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