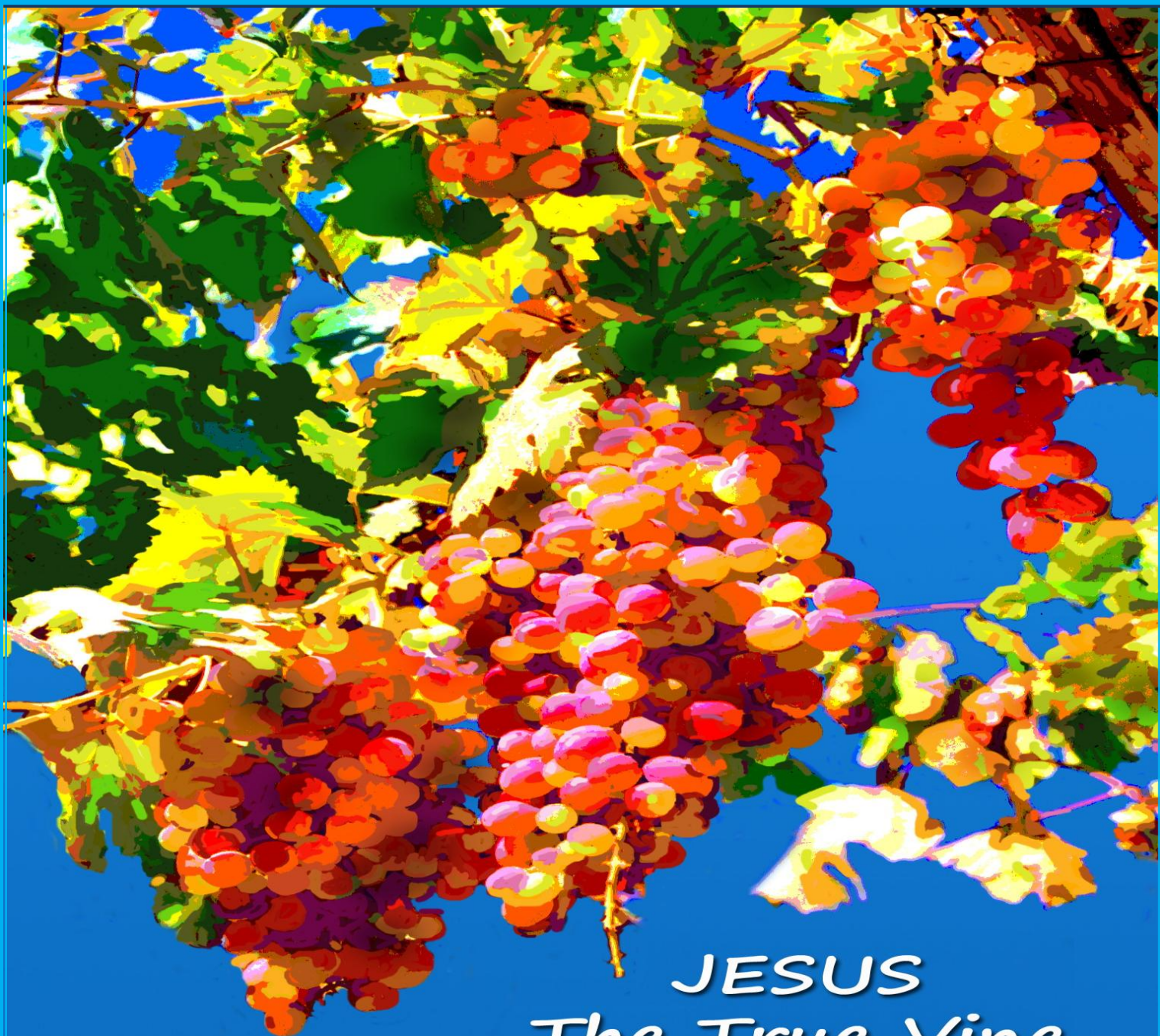


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Vicar's Letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope you're all keeping well, and following the government's advice to 'Stay alert'.

It's been more than two months since we were last able to meet together in St Thomas and, I for one, am missing you all. As much as we are trying to keep in touch through Facebook, phone calls and letters, they are no substitute for being together in church. Fellowship and friendship are so important, and have become even more important in the past weeks.

At the time of writing, I still have no idea when we'll be allowed back in church as a congregation for worship. I am waiting for more guidance from the Church of England. When we are allowed back worship is likely to be very different from how it was before 'lockdown'.

But I hope not being together doesn't mean not praying together and praying for each other. We are live streaming Sunday Holy Communion on Facebook and Midday Prayer at noon through the week. I know many of you have joined us for that, or are using the prayers we sent out at the beginning. I hope they are helping.

God is with us at all times as you know, and it is important for us to stay in touch with God. So, keep praying and continue reading the Bible when you can. God speaks to us if we listen.

I've heard the famous phrase 'The Church isn't the building, it's the people', quite a lot recently, and in a sense it's true. But worshipping together and in a building as beautiful as St Thomas is uplifting and sustaining, and I hope it will resume as soon as possible and as soon as we can make things safe for you all.

Take care and God bless you and those you love and care for,

Revd Denise



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Isaiah 41:10

Psalm 26.8:

*O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.*

The History of St Thomas Church in One Hundred Objects

Some of you will have seen the daily post on our Facebook page in which you are asked to identify objects from St Thomas Church – where they are and what they depict.

For those of you who don't use Facebook, here are a few examples.





We at St Thomas would love to be in touch with you, especially at this time of self-isolation and lack of physical contact, but we need your permission. If you fill out this form and return it to the church or vicarage we will add you to our contact list. We won't pass your details to anyone else, and will only contact you with news about the church. The address of the vicarage is on the back of this magazine. Thank you

Please indicate in which ways you would like us to contact you below.

You	All Christian names, then surname	
	Full postal address	
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VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE HOGWARTS SCHOOL

Want some fun and help us to raise money for St. Thomas Church all from the comfort of your own home? Well, please take part in the School's Out virtual balloon race which sets off from Hogwarts School on **3rd July 2020**. You have the chance to win prizes of £500, an Apple iPad or book tokens as you watch your balloons travel the world for 7 days.

Balloons are just £3 each and proceeds from supporters' balloons will go directly to support the church. Using live weather data and a bit of computer magic you can track your balloons for 7 days to see how they could travel far and wide. There are some super overall race prizes with the winner receiving £500, second place winning an Apple iPad and 10 runners-up win a £10 book voucher. There may be a special prize too, for the St Thomas' balloon that travels the longest distance – the one that goes that extra mile 😊

A Beginner's Guide to a Virtual Balloon Race:

What is a Virtual Balloon Race?

It's an eco-friendly, simulated balloon race, where everything is real, except the balloons! By using real live weather data, coupled with clever mathematical and physics stuff, a computer simulates your balloon's flight.

When is launch day?

On July 3rd, from a virtual Hogwarts School. The balloon race will last for 7 days.

Can I personalise my balloon?

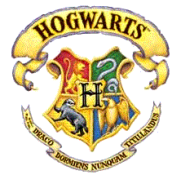
Yes, you will be able to change its colour, add text, change its shape and even decide on the thickness of the virtual latex and how much virtual helium you'd like it to contain - all important stuff when it comes to how far your balloon will fly and whether or not it may burst!

How will I know where my balloon is?

Computer wizardry enables you to track your balloon 24/7 using Google maps. So you can keep track of your progress at the same time as having a geography lesson.

To join the race and buy a balloon, visit our special web page: <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/191> **To track the balloons visit our special web page:** <https://ecoracing.co/race/index/10>

Also, very importantly, as this balloon race is 100% eco-friendly, it will not kill any wildlife.



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Wardens Letter



It is peculiar now knowing that as we wrote our last letter during mid-March, the world has gone from strange to stranger. The Church and her buildings have been closed to all, up until very recently, when clergy have been allowed in under very strict conditions.

At this time, we are still not sure as to when congregations can gather for services. What we do know is that they could be different to how they were. At the very least there will be a requirement to give the church a 'deep clean' and we anticipate the potential use of masks and changes to the services to comply with government guidelines, such as the 2 metres social distancing rule.

The Government's self-imposed deadline for the track and trace system of 1st June will happen whilst the magazine is out to print, and we should have faith that at the time of reading this, the situation continues to improve.

The APCM has been postponed and may be rescheduled for October and the PCC will have experienced their 1st zoom meeting at the end of May.

As we type this article, we celebrate Ascension Day. And so, it is a time to reflect on how Jesus Christ joined the Fathers right hand, both as Son of Man and Son of God.

Peace be with you and stay safe,

Sam & Simon



Our church warden is not letting people into the church just now

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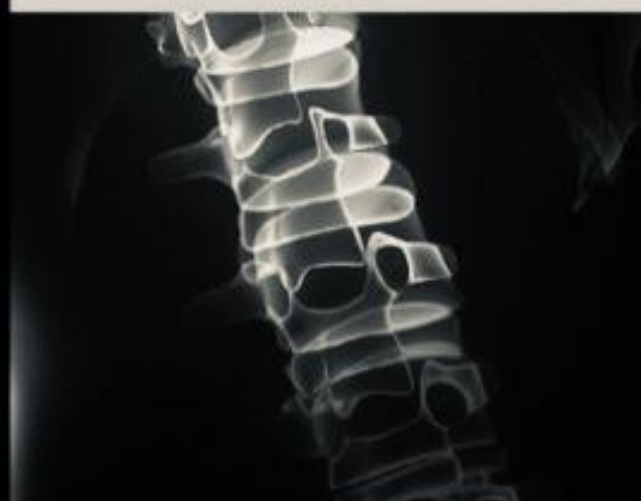
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***A message from Chief
Education Officer for the
Church of England***

***The Revd Nigel Genders,
writes:***

With almost two months having passed since most pupils attended their school building, it is clear that the risks surrounding Coronavirus cannot and will not be quickly resolved. It is of paramount importance that children's education and all that schools offer can continue as fully and as soon possible, while always balanced with the health risks that this may entail.

As has been the case for many schools, Church of England schools have remained open to the children of key workers and to vulnerable children, with teachers working extremely hard to provide as much support as they can for children who have come to school and those who have remained at home during the lockdown.

However, remaining at home for a prolonged period will affect the mental, spiritual, physical and social wellbeing of children. We are particularly concerned about the impact on children from the most disadvantaged families and the potential this has for a widening in the attainment gap.

As parents and staff are concerned about both the feasibility and the wisdom behind a [phased return from the 1st June](#), the [scientific evidence](#) behind these proposals has been set out in order to give confidence. The phased plan to bring back a limited number of year groups initially will rely on ongoing monitoring to keep track of the situation.

It is right that schools themselves will decide how this phased return works in practical terms. We will continue to work to support school leaders at a local level as they move towards a phased reopening at the pace dictated by local circumstances and the overarching science.

School staff are doing a wonderful job of continuing to provide educational and pastoral support to students at a time of unprecedented challenges, and we should continue to support and pray for them as they do so.



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St. Thomas' Young Ladies Enterprise

Well this is a strange time and all of us in STYLE hope you're all keeping safe and well, both physically and emotionally during this difficult time.



STYLE have had to adapt and we have recently started having our meetings online via the Zoom app which has been funny; we look like we are part of a gameshow – like Celebrity Squares just without the celebrities!

We are still trying to think of ways to raise money for the church, because, as you can imagine, the current situation has had a very negative financial impact, and we want to do everything we can to make sure that our church is ready for us when we all return. If anyone has any ideas to help please feel free to get in touch.

We have mentioned the virtual balloon race on Page 7 - please buy a balloon and join in the fun!! You've got to "be in it to win it" and there are some fabulous prizes up for grabs ☺

We are also hosting a **Virtual Summer Fair** during June, where local businesses "buy" a day for a small fee and then sell their products on Facebook. Please see our Facebook page as well as the church Facebook page to register as a seller or to look at what goods and services people are offering. There will be a different business hosting every day so keep checking in. STYLE will be running raffles and competitions alongside the market stalls and would greatly appreciate your support. Amongst our prizes are tickets for a visit to Tatton Park, Junkyard Golf Club, Little Owl Farm, Belle Vue Dogs, Mersey River Explorer, and a PLAY! session – something to look forward to when life returns to normal!

Even though we are not meeting physically we would still welcome new members so if you would like to join us just mention it on the church Facebook page and we will make sure we link you in to our zoom meetings.

We all wish you the very best - stay safe stay well and stay happy.



Treasurer's Letter



for all your financial giving, it is greatly appreciated.

I attended a meeting of the Oldham East Deanery Synod in March with Revd Denise. Attendees were informed that 5 out of 22 parishes did not paid their full parish share last year; St Thomas Moorside included. Somebody asked why parishes are not paying in full when they had agreed to do so during their financial review meeting with representatives of the Diocese of Manchester's Board of Finance. Although the churches had aspired to meet their financial share commitment, it was explained that 4 out of the 5 parishes have large building projects in place. A common theme mentioned was that not all congregants are giving realistically or generously. I thought it important to share this with you. **By not paying our full parish share, we are missing out being able to apply for Diocesan funding grants.**



DIOCESAN BUDGETS

The parish share receipts for 2017 and 2018 were significantly below expectations for the Diocese of Manchester. The final accounts for 2019 are expected to show that the parish share receipts will be considerably below the 2018 result. There has also been a further fall in income for parochial fees which mirrors the continuing decline in the numbers of weddings and funerals. Last year, the Diocese took action by initiating a review of operations in Church House. This led to a restructuring, unfortunately involving some job losses, to enable expenditure to be reduced by £250,000 from 2020. The Diocese is continuing to look at ways to generate additional income from their assets, and in 2020 will be looking at reducing the number of surplus vicarages and parsonages. The largest part of expenditure is spent on maintaining the cost of clergy. Unfortunately, the Diocese will now have to plan for the number of clergy that can be afforded rather than the number that might be available. This is a major change in thinking and it is a decision that has not been taken lightly. The total number of clergy (including stipendiary curates) will go from 201 at the end of this year to 175 by the end of 2022 and the Bishop of Middleton is now working on plans for how this reduction can be achieved. It cannot be understated the impact this will have on the future patterns of

ministry in our diocese. The expectation was that these plans would enable the Diocese to return to a break-even position by the end of 2022. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation with most, if not all, churches facing a significant shortfall in receipts of offerings and donations and all parishes have been asked to forecast how much parish share they think they will be able to pay this year. It will be a very difficult time for all of us, but it is believed that these changes are vital if we are to move forward in the next decade to be a Church for a Different World.



The truth is **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU.**

Our church is facing financial difficulties with reserves falling low and, with the current closure of the church hall, little receipt of income from rental and offerings. We fully understand that this is a very difficult time and very challenging for some people. However, many people in the parish or those who have links with the parish have used the church facilities to share their many family occasions and we get lots of comments to this effect. St Thomas Church is close to the hearts of many, many people. We ask those that are able to consider if they can make some donations either directly into the bank account, by cheque, by setting up a regular or one-off standing order/direct debit or via a PayPal account which has been set up to try to make things as easy as possible for people to give. Those who give by weekly envelopes are asked to keep saving your offerings and bring them to church once we re-open or set up a standing order if possible.

Our 2 Lent charities are Oldham Mountain Rescue and SEEDS, Kerala (change to one reported in last month's magazine). Please keep your jars of change and bring them back to church once we re-open. 😊

Just for fun... The answer to last month's question- Which musical/film features the song "You Got To Pick a Pocket or Two" and which character is it sung by? is Oliver! and it was sung by Fagin, played by Ron Moody. ... Do you know how much it cost to "Feed the Birds" in Mary Poppins and which actress sang the song?



Corinne

Letter from Fr. Richard
Dear All,

As I write this we are in the middle of the period between Ascension and Pentecost, two of the great feasts of the church. This means that we should be in celebration mode but of course it hardly feels that way. I am conscious that more than two months have passed since we have been together in church and I'm sure that I am not alone in feeling bereft. Since I arrived at St Thomas' I have grown to love the church, the community and the people a very great deal. Hannah and I felt right at home from the start. I am proud to serve this parish and am more sorry than I can say that we are dispersed at the present time. I look forward to seeing you again and to spending another year or so with you as curate.

I realise too that my frustration is as nothing to the anguish and suffering that so many people have endured and continue to have endure at this time. Some of us have loved ones who have died, some have experienced ill-health and many are having to keep themselves in strict quarantine. All this is immensely trying and it is not over yet. Please be assured that I keep all of you in my prayers.

It would be perfectly understandable if you find your faith being tested at this time. I offer you the assurance, given in the Bible and encountered by us in many and varied ways that God is truly present and active even in the midst of our troubles. Christianity has never claimed that everything will always be rosy and no one will suffer. It is realistic about the fact that loss and suffering are part of the world in which we live. The most famous symbol of our faith, the cross, is a symbol of pain and death. Or, more accurately, it is a symbol of death transformed into a symbol of life by the grace of God. Jesus knew anxiety in his life and suffered more grievously than most of us will ever have to. But God, in his great wisdom raised him to new life. Christianity's great hope is that this gift of new life will be offered to each one of us. In simple terms we may know dark times in this life but God will bring his light to bear. He has done it before and he will do it again.

In the meantime God abides with us and makes more of a difference than we sometimes realise. Many have died but a great many more have recovered. We have heard of stories of people who, on regaining their strength have a greater sense of gratitude than they ever had before and the resolve to live life to the full. Our society has known

many divisions in recent years yet we have been united in appreciation for the NHS staff whose God-given talents have been put to great life-saving effect. We have learned just how many men and women among us in key professions have not just the talent but the courage and sense of duty to keep serving. And this crisis has done the environment a massive favour. Friends who live in north India tell me that the far off Himalayas have been seen much more clearly this year because the air is so much cleaner. A number of policymakers are talking about how we can make this refreshing change a lasting one. It may just be that when this crisis is over, we emerge as a kinder, fairer, more generous society, one more inclined to serve others and work for justice. I may be proved wrong but..... I may well be proved right.

Our mission now as Christians is to do our utmost to make this vision of a better world come true. We do not have to sit passively and see what sort of world emerges. We are active participants in the story. On Ascension Day I preached a sermon on top of the tower in which I said that the message of the Ascension is that Jesus has completed his earthly work and now entrusts it to us. Jesus has been reunited with God the father. He is with us in prayer, in service and most especially in Holy Communion. The Holy Spirit is sent on us at Pentecost to inspire and strengthen us for doing the work of the Kingdom.

This doesn't just mean grand gestures. It also includes all the simple acts of goodness that make life better for all. Having no patience when family members annoy us – it has after all been a long quarantine. It means having a kind word for the people serving us in shops. They are working hard and many of them are scared. It means trying to keep ourselves and our loved ones healthy and well. If it is within our means (and I understand fully that for some it isn't at the moment) then be generous with your money. Charities, indeed the whole voluntary sector, both here and overseas are doing work that has never been more necessary. Supporting them has also never been more necessary. Let us try to live our lives in this generous spirit and it may be that the Christian community can be a sign of the new creation in our society today. What a fine thing that would be.

Allow me to give you three examples of how this can be. Firstly the remarkable ladies who belong to STYLE are putting on a month-long virtual summer market. Go to their Facebook page and you will see a great variety of things that are being sold. There are arts and crafts items, homemade gifts, delicious looking things to eat and competitions. Many people have clearly been creative and their efforts will result in

funds being raised for good causes, not least our own church and also our partner charities in India.

Secondly, those same partner charities in India, SEEDS (Socio-economic and educational development service) in Kerala www.seedsindia.net and the Delhi Brotherhood www.delhibrotherhood.org continue to do God's work in many wonderful ways. Look them up and see for yourselves. The mission of God is actively being pursued in our midst.

Finally, very many of you are joining us for services on the church Facebook page. There is daily prayer at noon, our Wednesday evening service at 7pm and our Sunday services and special services for feast days. A number of you have been sending us prayer requests which is wonderful and I encourage you to continue with this. In this way, in spite of lockdown we have been coming together as a community, praying for each other and keeping the life of the church going.

For all that you have been doing and will continue to do I pray God's rich blessings upon you. If you need our help then please do be in contact. Please don't be afraid or shy to ask if there is something practical we can do for you. We must all support one another.

I look forward to seeing you again. There will no doubt be events and activities for us to enjoy together.

God Bless!

Fr Richard



What kind of stress do you have? These are stressful days. The towering storm clouds of coronavirus and financial trouble are casting a long shadow over all of us.

Many of us deal with our stress by expressing it. Loudly! We lose our temper, swear, shout and even throw things at our loved ones. We over-react to various personal setbacks because we can't retaliate against the virus or the stock market. But some of us do the opposite: we under-react. We display 'quiet stress'.

"We quietly hold our stress within: we don't speak up about how we feel. And crucially, we become inert. We don't act on situations that require action." So warns Jillian Lavender of the London Meditation Centre. "We stay in unhappy relationships and unfulfilling jobs. We feel overwhelmed, yet we ignore important admin tasks. We procrastinate. Quiet stress creates an emotional paralysis that keeps us 'stuck' in unhappy situations. Inaction is just as much of an inappropriate response to stress as over-reaction is."

A further danger of 'quiet stress' is that instead of taking positive action, people can withdraw into themselves, and turn to comfort eating or drinking too much. This further

In danger from domestic abuse? Domestic abuse is soaring just now. Even as far back as early April, it was up by 30 per cent.

No wonder, then, that charities are urging us to keep an eye out for anyone in danger. The warning signs include bruising, repeated shouting and all types of controlling behaviour.

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police. If you dare not even speak, then use the silent solutions service by dialling 999 and press 55.

If there is no immediate danger, you can still contact the 24-hour confidential National Domestic Abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247.

Refuge, the national domestic abuse charity, estimates about 1.6 million women already experienced domestic abuse last year, and that "self-isolation has the potential to aggravate pre-existing abusive behaviours."

Terry Waite – on coping with lockdown

Terry Waite spent four years in solitary confinement in Beirut. He says: "In isolation, it is easy to become introspective and depressed. All of us, when we are honest and examine ourselves critically, will discover things about ourselves of which we are not especially proud. I had to learn how to grow a greater acceptance of myself and work towards a deeper inner harmony.

".... Today in lockdown, it's important to keep yourself well. Don't slob around all day in pyjamas and a dressing gown. Dress properly and develop a routine. It's important to have a structure – get up at a certain time, eat regular meals and so on.

"If you have faith, then that will give you resources to draw on", especially if you know some hymns, psalms and prayers by heart. "When I was captured, they were there to call on."

Gardening Many people have been gardening more during lockdown. If you have, you may have a story or some advice to share. In that case, the Conservation Foundation would love to hear from you. It has recently launched a virtual *Gardening Against the Odds* network on Facebook @gardeningagainsttheodds and on our website at



<https://conservationfoundation.co.uk/projects/gardening-against-the-odds/>

As David Shreeve of the Conservation Foundation explains: "Over the years running our GATO Awards we have made many friends and now we are making more virtually every day. If you or anyone you know would be interested in sending news and information to us especially if it doesn't involve an actual garden or somehow it's against the odds. We hope to be adding news every day and giving details of plant availability, tricks of the trade and offer the odd prize."

We can claim the gift of sleep Many of us have had our sleep patterns disturbed in recent weeks. After all, a pandemic, lockdown and growing financial crisis are hardly conducive to relaxation. But the fact is that, whatever is happening, we desperately need our sleep. It is vital for the proper functioning of our brain and heart. Anyone who has ever been deprived of sleep will remember their ever-diminishing ability to perform complicated tasks.

Sleep can also help us solve problems. We go to bed struggling with a problem and wake to find a solution presenting itself. The old advice to 'sleep on it' is true: we see things more clearly after sleep.

The Bible considers our sleep as a blessing from God. As Christians, we can calmly commit ourselves to His loving care, secure that He who watches over us "will neither slumber nor sleep" (Ps 121:4). Knowing that God is with us, we can let ourselves go.

If you are having trouble sleeping, why not memorise one of the verses below, and repeat it to yourself as you lie in bed tonight?

'I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.' (Ps 3:5)

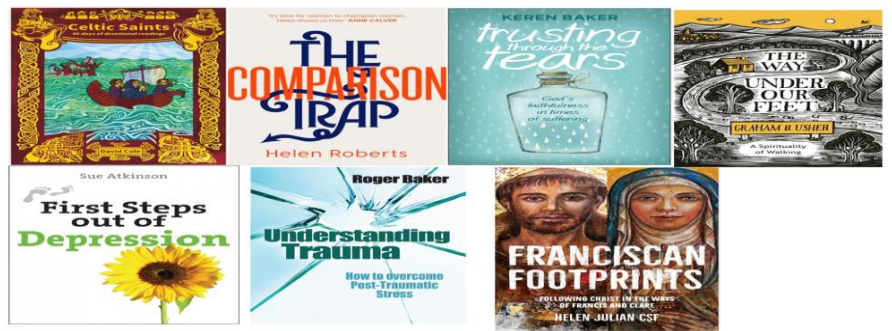
'In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.' (Ps 4:8)

'In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for He grants sleep to those He loves.' (Ps 127:2)

'When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.' (Prov. 3:24)

Upset? Chill out... A recent survey carried out by YouGov, on behalf of the Mental Health Foundation, found that more than one in five adults in the UK had felt panicked by the coronavirus, three in 10 had felt afraid, and more than six in 10 had felt anxious. One therapist suggests that if you are suffering high anxiety, then turn off the news and social media for a while. Dig out those old films you've always loved, cook a favourite recipe, and get some exercise, to help you relieve the tension in your body.

**BOOK
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lockdown
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Franciscan Footprints: following Christ in the ways of Francis and Clare
By Helen Julian, BRF, £8.99

There are many ways of following Christ – each footprint is unique. One of these, the Franciscan spiritual journey, has been tried and tested over the centuries, and the experiences of St Francis and St Clare and all those who have been inspired by their lives still resonate with us. Helen Julian CSF explores the distinctive features of their spirituality and shows how these practices can be applied to, and become part of, our daily lives. Discover your own pathway today.

Celtic Saints: 40 days of devotional reading
By David Cole, BRF, £8.99

The life stories of the Celtic saints are inspirational. They demonstrate great and unassuming faith, often in the face of insurmountable difficulties. In Celtic Saints David Cole draws us to relate our own life journey and developing relationship with God into the life story of the Celtic saint of the day. A corresponding biblical text and blessing encourages and motivates us to transform our lives for today's world in the light of such historic faith.

The Way Under our Feet – a spirituality of walking
By Graham B Usher, SPCK, £9.99

Walking is one of the simplest things we do as humans. It's how most of us experience life. In *The Way Under Our Feet*, Graham Usher conveys how exhilarating it is to walk into the depths of our humanity. We become more ready to recognise the needs as well as the joys of others; we sift our thoughts; we seek to heal our battered world, even as we glory in the beauty of nature; we find ourselves companying with our three mile an hour God.

First Steps Out of Depression By Sue Atkinson, LionHudson, £4.99

Depression is wide-spread in today's world, with statistics suggesting that 1 in 5 of us will experience it at some stage in life. In *First Steps out of Depression*, successful author Sue Atkinson draws on her experiences as someone who has suffered - and recovered - from depression, to guide sufferers through the first stages of recovery themselves.

The Comparison Trap

By Helen Roberts, SPCK, £9.99

Too often, women hold each other back, bad mouthing and making unflattering comparisons. Social media give extra opportunities for negative comment.

Are we trapped in our own battles, or entertained by the wars of other women, to the detriment of our own freedom and well-being? Helen helps us recognise our own destructive tendencies and establish healthy habits which will enable women and their relationships to thrive. This will help us live more confidently as the daughters the Father intends us to be, free from envy or comparison.

Trusting Through the Tears – God’s faithfulness in times of suffering

By Keren Baker, 10ofthose, £5.99

Living a faithful Christian life will always hold the possibility of trouble and difficulty, but how do you cope when the troubles come one after another? A chronic long-term illness, miscarriage, a difficult pregnancy and premature baby, the unexpected death of a little girl, a child suffering with mental illness, all against a background of struggles with finances and so many other things that ‘dark times’ seems a fearfully inadequate description. It is one thing to read of such things in the life of perhaps a missionary or some great saint, but how does an ordinary family in an ordinary city in the UK cope?

Understanding Trauma – how to overcome post-traumatic stress

By Roger Baker, LionHudson, £8.99

What is post-traumatic stress disorder? What does it feel like? And how can it be overcome? Trauma is a term that many of us find alienating and clinical. But in fact trauma is something most people encounter at some point in life, and post-traumatic stress - far from being a mental disorder - is a normal reaction to abnormal events: even breaking a bone or witnessing a car crash. Drawing on 20 years of research and clinical practice, Roger Baker explains the many symptoms of post-traumatic stress and lays out a self-help programme - emotional processing therapy - which can defuse the distressing memories of trauma and reduce the occurrence of flashbacks, nightmares and tensions.

R.M.A NEWS

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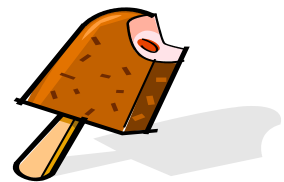
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Opening Times

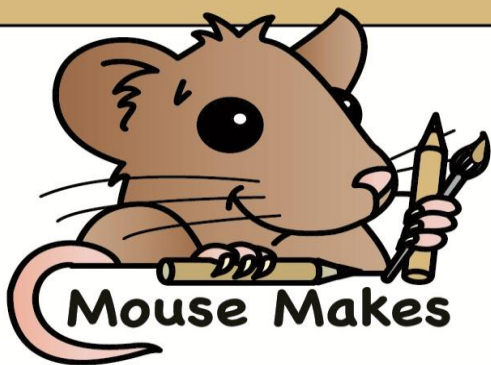
Mon – Sat.....6am – 7pm

Sunday.....6am – 3pm



Sunday School - Just a quick report from us. Obviously we are not currently running but we are keeping in contact through the Sunday School Facebook page. Details can also be found on the church Facebook page. As soon as we know when Sunday school is open we will let you all know.

Stay safe and well, from all the Sunday School team



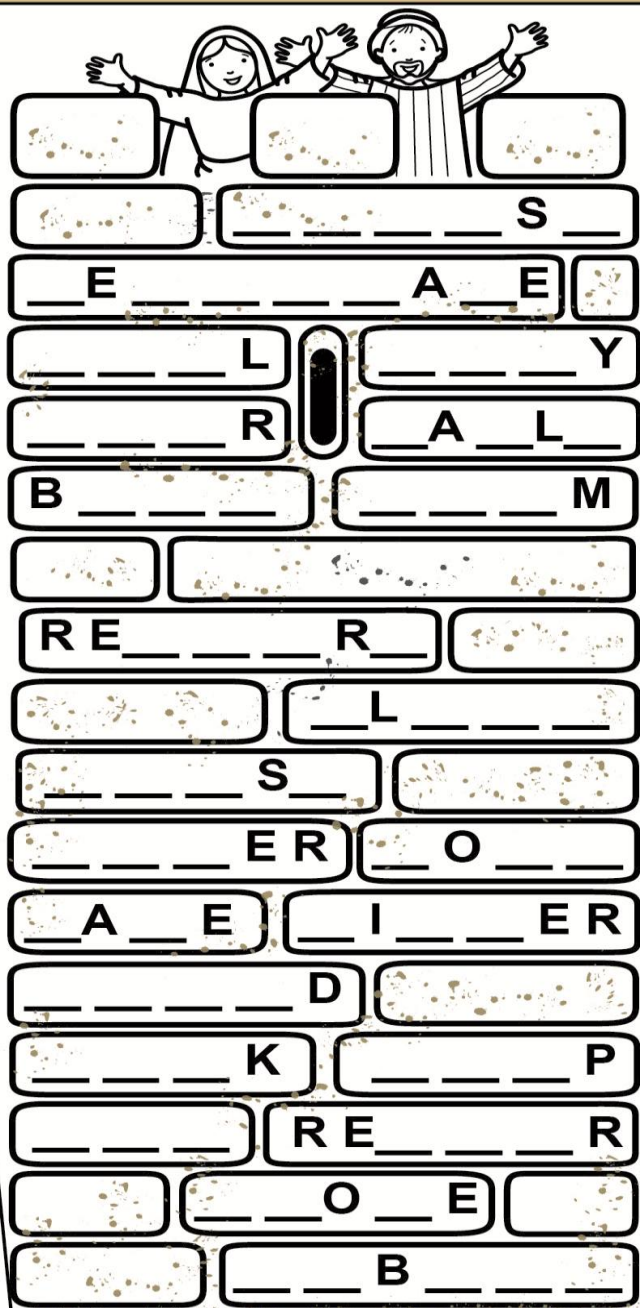
When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jeruaslem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jesusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| ○ PRAY | ○ GATE |
| ○ RUBBLE | ○ BEAM |
| ○ REPAIR | ○ BOLT |
| ○ RESTORE | ○ BAR |
| ○ BUILD | ○ STEP |
| ○ WORK | ○ TOWER |
| ○ STONE | ○ HOUSE |
| ○ TIMBER | ○ POOL |
| ○ WALLS | ○ FINISH |
| ○ FLOOR | ○ DEDICATE |
| ○ ROOF | ○ DOOR |
| ○ CELEBRATE | |



How many gates were repaired?
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?



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Fancy joining a team?

Cricket: Men's and Juniors (Boys and Girls) aged 6-14. We have also started a Women's Cricket Section aged 14+

Bowls: Mens & 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 non-playing). Want to join? Simply walk in any evening after 6.00pm (or 4.00pm Saturdays & Sundays) and ask the bar staff for a membership form.

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Let us pray....



The Church of England has recently launched **#FaithAtHome**, a new programme which it is hoped will “make prayer a household habit once again.”

#FaithAtHome will feature weekly video content to help families to talk about faith and pray together. The videos will be led by children, young people, staff and school leaders from across the country.

The #FaithAtHome programme will run until the end of July, and can be accessed at churchofengland.org/faithathome. It will explore themes including courage, patience, generosity, resilience, love and hope.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: “The aim of these resources is to offer simple ways for families and households to approach complex and difficult topics, such as illness, fear and bereavement. The coronavirus pandemic has forced people to confront difficult and painful questions that none of us can explore on our own.

“My hope and prayer is that #FaithAtHome will not only equip children and young people to engage with difficult questions, but also inspire them.”

The Church of England’s Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders said: “Home is the new normal, and faith at home is a habit we need to rediscover. #FaithAtHome will offer people of all ages and faith backgrounds a chance to pause, think and reflect, and to rebuild lost habits of prayer and faithful reflection in the home.”

.....

Shield me

O may God shield me, and may God fill,
O may God watch me, and may God hold;
O may God bring me where peace is still,
To the King’s land, eternity’s fold.
Praise to the Father, praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.

From The Creed Prayer, poems of the Western Highlanders



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Buffalo uPVC doesn’t use sales commission agents. Either Mark or Marcus will come out and see you personally and the cost....A cup of tea (and probably a biscuit if it’s Marcus).

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Message of thanks from Millicent



Last week I was part of a zoom meeting with other Trefoil leaders from Rochdale, Bury and Heywood. Apparently Oldham Hospital were in need of comfort bags, bags of toiletries for people who have to go into Hospital in an emergency. Someone in Rochdale had some and so Lynn volunteered to collect them. Not only that but she also delivered them to the hospital where they were gratefully received. Thanks to co-operation between retired Guide leaders and St. Thomas' Ladies Group.

Take care.

Millicent.

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

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Answer grid on page 33

*'My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me
according to Your word.'
Psalm 119:28*

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Footstools/Pouffe	£10	£5
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3 Seater Sofa & 2 Seater Sofa	£70	£45
2 Piece Suite (2 seater & 1 chair)	£70	£40
Single Chair	--	£15
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3 Seater & 2 Seater	£50	
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Parish Registers



Baptisms

We pray for those whose plans to be baptised have been cancelled at this time.

Holy Matrimony

We pray for couples who have had to cancel their plans and postpone the date of their wedding.

Funerals

We pray for those who have died recently:
Freda, Jean, Baby Arlo

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



Well done to our friend Ginny Alexander, the Mayor of Oldham. Ginny is to continue as Mayor for another 12 months as the coronavirus pandemic has caused havoc with her charity fundraising plans, as well as ill-health along the way.

Ginny has been a great supporter of our events at St Thomas' – indeed, she came along to Style's fundraising Coffee Morning in Church in March, the last event before we were confined to barracks. We raised £200 for the mayor's charities as well as £200 for Dementia UK.

We wish Ginny well for the future. You can follow her mayoral adventures on her Facebook page.

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https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomasmooreside/?utm_campaign=raise-more%26utm_content=w5

HAPPY FATHERS DAY to the men in our lives, our role models and maybe even heroes, be they Dads, uncles, brothers, family friends, or neighbours.

We hope you know you are loved and appreciated.

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



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PROBATE

If a Will has been left, a grant of probate is commonly required, which allows the executor to take the authority to deal with the deceased persons assets to distribute them as set out in the will.

For further information please call on 0161 393 2299 or call into our office.

FIND US AT: 74 Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6QJ

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READINGS

DATE	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday 31st May Pentecost	Acts 2. 1-21	1 Corinthians 12. 3b-13	John 20. 19-23
Sunday 7th June Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 40. 12-17,27-31	2 Corinthians 13. 11-13	Matthew 28. 16-20
Sunday 14th June First Sunday after Trinity	Exodus 19. 2-8a	Romans 5. 1-8	Matthew 9. 35 -10.8
Sunday 21st June Second Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 20. 7-13	Romans 6. 1b-11	Matthew 10. 24-39
Sunday 28th June Third Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 28. 5-9	Romans 6. 12-end	Matthew 10. 40-end
Sunday 5th July Patronal Festival St Thomas the Apostle	Habakkuk 2. 1-4	Ephesians 2. 19-end	John 20. 24-29
Sunday 12th July	Isaiah 55. 10-23	Romans 8. 1-11	Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23

Excruciating one liners – prepare to groan

What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Catholic?
Because they all have mass.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?
He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
No — just an apple.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?
He just knew there was something fishy about it

CONTACTS & EVENTS



Find us on:
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Monday	Handbell Group	10.30am – 12pm	Choir Vestry
	Rainbows	6.30pm -7.30pm	Church Hall
	Brownies	6.45pm - 8pm	
	Bell Ringers	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Bell Tower
	Bible Study	7.30pm	Choir Vestry
	Guides	7.30pm – 9pm	Church Hall
Tuesday	Beavers	6.30pm -7.30pm	Church Hall
	Cubs	7.00pm - 8.30pm	
	Scouts	8.00pm - 9.30pm	
	Explorers	8.30pm–9.30/10pm	
Wednesday	Youth Group for 3 rd Age	1.30 – 3pm	Church Hall Lounge
	Wednesday Worship	7pm	Church
Last Weds of month	Junior Bible Study	6pm	Choir Vestry
Thursday	Choir	6.30pm – 8pm	Choir Vestry
Sunday	Parish Communion	8.30am/10.30am	Church
	Sunday School/Sunday Youth	10.25am	Church Hall