# St. Thomas' Moorside

July & August 2021 £1



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### Romance, Realism and Renewal

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

These words are the words Archdeacon David, the Archdeacon of Rochdale, used at the Archdeacon's Visitation service that I attended recently as the theme for his sermon.

I thought 'Romance' was a strange word to be considering at the moment. He said a colleague of his always used these three words when preparing couples for marriage so 'Romance' clearly has relevance there. I did wonder given everything we have gone through in the last eighteen months, what 'Romance' might have to do with the situation in the church and our lives at the moment.

I suppose when we think of the word 'Romance' we inevitably associate it with St Valentine's Day, red roses and candlelit dinners, but Archdeacon David said it had as much to do with ongoing commitment and faithfulness, as it has with love hearts and chocolates. Those St Valentine's Day type romantic highlights are only really true if they come as part of a committed and loving relationship. In effect, he was asking us to consider our everyday engagement with each other, our faith and the church. This doesn't sound particularly romantic, but it is an important message for us as a church, as the people of God who worship at St Thomas.

The 'romantic highlights' of church attendance might perhaps be the 'big' occasions... Christmas Carol services, Easter, Services of Confirmation, social events and those other big events that can build us up and inspire us in our faith, but the ongoing commitment of regular worship and attendance are of equal importance and can be equally inspiring. It is through our faithful weekly (if possible) attendance at worship in church or online that our faith is grounded and from which our faith can grow.

'Romance' can involve finding new understanding and insights in what seems very familiar and routine. Church services are deliberately structured so that we get to know the words and sequence of events, and through that familiarity allow God to speak.

Services have been very different in some ways since last March, no singing, no standing up, very little moving around, and no tea, coffee and toast afterwards, but what has remained the same is God. Christ can still be found as we pray, worship and hear God's word together.

Perhaps it is time to rediscover the 'Romance' of the Church.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Denise



### The following services are subject to change.

8.30am (BCP) and 10.30am on Sundays and Wednesday Worship at 7pm Bible Study on Mondays at 7.30pm

**Sunday 4th July** - Patronal Festival - Holy Communion at 8.30am and 10.30am

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> July & Sun 11<sup>th</sup> July - Corinne's football card fundraiser

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September – STYLE meeting, choir vestry, 8pm

**Sunday 19 September** - Gift Day - an opportunity to make an extra donation to the mission of St Thomas Church

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September – 80s night with live music in Church Hall

**Sunday 10 October** - Harvest Festival - Donations of food for Oldham Foodbank and warm clothing for the Booth Centre

**Sunday 31 October** - All Souls: The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Remembrance Sunday followed by Exclusive Christmas Fair

**Sunday 21st November** - Confirmation Service with Mark, Bishop of Middleton

Saturday 4th December - Annual Church Christmas Fair

Moorside and District Historical Society hope to be able to start meeting again in September 2021.

Please contact Mike Smith if you would like more details (contact details on back page). Otherwise watch this space!

See also Mike's appeal on Page 15 - can you help?

Buzzzzz.....HOW MANY BUMBLE BEES CAN YOU FIND IN THE MAGAZINE?? Answer on page 27

### **Wardens letter July/August 2021**

The letter at this time of year is a double one and is usually one that takes time to compose, as we would normally be balancing between talking of how thankful we were for the weather during our Whit walks and informing you of all the things that your Church will be doing as we enter the traditional Summer holiday period. Although it may not seem like the shoots in Spring, there are signs that things are returning.

One such shoot of normality was in June when the pair of us along with Revd Denise attended the Archdeacons Visitation service so that we could both be installed as Wardens for the upcoming year. That in itself was a vast improvement from last years' Zoom service; however it was eerie to be in a Church as large as Oldham Parish Church looking around and not seeing a sea of faces from our own congregation wishing us well at this time. Our hopes are that for the next visitation the congregation will be able to show the support that we are blessed to receive as your wardens.

We all know that the past 15 months have been the likes that we never really want to see again, and we have all dealt with it in our own ways. The one thing that has been constant through it is that the Church has been there, whether that is physically or virtually, there are even times when we may have doubted our faith.

Our hope is that we are soon in a position to welcome all who want to come into the Church to worship with us without any limit on numbers.

Have a good Summer, we look forward to seeing you soon.

sam & Símon.







# ST. THOMAS' PARISH HALL CHURCH HALL HIRE





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### **Confirmation**



Our confirmation service is planned to take place on **Sunday 21 November** with Bishop Mark Middleton. The service last year had to be cancelled because of lockdown, although the candidates were prepared in the usual way.

Confirmation is an important step in our lives as Christians as it is at this service that we confirm our willingness to follow Christ publicly in front of family, friends and the wider Church. We reaffirm the promises that were made on our behalf by our Godparents at baptism if we were very young when we were christened.

I hope that the candidates who were prepared last year will be confirmed this year. I also hope that anyone who has been thinking about taking this step will come forward this year.

Please speak to me if you have been attending church for some time and are thinking about being confirmed. The preparation sessions offer a chance to learn more about the faith and to ask any questions that you may have about what being a Christian means. I hope they're informative, relaxed and perhaps even fun.

Blessings,

Revd Denise





In 2022 St Thomas Church is celebrating 150 years since it first opened.

Could you help in organising special events to mark this very significant year?

Big ideas and little ideas are all valuable.

Please contact Revd Denise if you're interested in joining an organising group.



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### **Register for School Admission**

Dear All,

We haven't been asking parents/carers to sign the attendance register as proof of attendance at a church service. since the first lockdown in March of 2020 Parents/carers need not be concerned that this will affect my completion of the supplementary form for admission to local Church of England secondary schools.

However, I intend to **reintroduce the signing in system** for the new school term beginning in September. Schools have re-opened, shops and cafes are also open again and life is beginning to return to some semblance of normality, so it seems right to reintroduce the signing-in register at this time.

If parents/carers are unable to attend worship because of the pandemic from September onwards then please do get in contact with me, Revd Denise, so I can make a note of your intention to attend.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Revd Denise

### 127 St Thomas, Moorside



Beavers 127 St. Thomas is a great Scouting Group for Boys & Girls. We have fun through playing various games, completing badge work, and more importantly learning how to make new friends and enjoy learning new life skills.

If you are 6 years old to 8 years old and want to find out more, please contact Karena on 07958102062.

Thank you

Karena & Leaders

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### **Treasurer's Letter**



Remember, the truth is..... YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU.

# THANK YOU - We really do appreciate all your financial support.

Payments have been sent off to our Lent charities as follows: Oldham Mountain Rescue £20, North West Air Ambulance £172.37 and WaterAid £185.27. Thank you to all those who donated during Lent.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP US TO RAISE FUNDS?**



Please participate in the STYLE Euro Football fundraiser - see the STYLE article on page 13.

easyfundraising feel good Shopping We have received payment of £15.30 from registered shoppers in March. **Thank you** to everyone raising donations for St Thomas Moorside with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up and share today.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomasmoorside/?inv ite=1UC8CV%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\_campaign=admintrigger%26utm\_content=srt

#### **GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK**

I'm not sue when Fr Richard and Hannah will be leaving us but I want to take this opportunity to wish them every success in their new parish. Thank you for coming to St Thomas Church and sharing your gifts with us. God bless you both.

**Money related questions, just for fun...** Who scored the winning goal for England against Croatia in The UEFA European Football Championship match on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021?

**Answer to the May question**: Which organisation produces all the coins of the United Kingdom? The Royal Mint.

Corinne

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Sarah Edwards ran a personal raffle to win make-up products to the value of £69 through her 'Sarah Jane Scents' Facebook page. These were won by Revd Denise who very kindly donated them to STYLE to raffle off in aid of church funds. Sarah was quick off the mark to run another raffle which raised £64 for the coffers – many thanks Sarah and Denise and congratulations to the winner.

At the time of writing, Kathy has started selling tickets for our Father's Day raffle. The winning tickets will be drawn outside the church hall after Sunday service. Thank you to those who donated prizes and to everyone who jolined in.

To celebrate the Euro football tournament, Corinne is running a football name card fundraiser over the weekend of **10**<sup>th</sup>/**11**<sup>th</sup> **July.** The winner will be revealed live on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July on the "STYLE Fundraising Group" Facebook page. There are 90 teams at £1 a go. The winner receives one third of the takings (maximum £30).



All the ladies want to say a **BIG**"THANK YOU" to Hannah for being part of the group and for all the baking/making she did for our fundraising efforts. We will miss you but our loss is St Michael Kirkham's gain. Keep following our STYLE Facebook pages!

We wish you all a happy summer and anticipate that we can hold our first face to face meeting in September if Covid restrictions allow. If anyone would like to join us, the meeting will be held on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September** at 8pm in the choir vestry – all welcome.



Fancy some live 80's music in the church hall? Yeah, it's time to enjoy ourselves (fingers crossed that restrictions allow). We have booked Ricky Stone from Decades to perform for us on **Friday 24**<sup>th</sup> **September 2021**. Dust off your dancing shoes and your leg warmers and keep your eye out for more information.



# Way -

### **News from the Tower**

Do you live within the sound of St Thomas Church bells? Maybe it depends in which direction the wind is blowing. Perhaps you heard the church bells ringing recently?

On 17<sup>th</sup> April, the day of the funeral of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, one of our bells was rung half-muffled ninety-nine times at 12 noon. This also happened at many other churches all around the country.

During the two world wars, church bells were not allowed to be rung but ringers rang in jubilation when the wars were over. The pandemic has been a similar experience for our church bell ringers when, for more than a year, we haven't been able to ring at all. The ringing room at St Thomas is not large and even with some easing of the restrictions it has been a problem to observe correct distancing. However, on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May we finally rang four bells – numbers 1, 3, 5 and 7. That is only half the number of bells we have but it was a joy to ring again.

We are hoping to ring before each Sunday 10.30 service from now on. When restrictions are eased again, we should be able to ring more bells and for longer periods of time.

So, calling all lapsed Moorside ringers – it would be really good to see you again.

Have a think about it – and start toning those muscles......

**Plant sales** 



We want to say thank you once again to all the people who bought bedding plants, gave donations or helped in any way. Special thanks also to John and Mary Tonge who delivered some of the orders for us.

We raised £460 and this year all the profit has been given to Church. We hope your plants are flourishing.

**100 CLUB** - Millicent would just like to remind those people who paid for four or six months that another payment is due.



Many congratulations to the 4 voluntary organisations from Oldham that have won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service: Networking in East Oldham Neighbourhoods (NEON), Oldham Street Angels, Oldham Boxing & Personal Development Centre

(OBPDC) and Saddleworth & Oldham Area Whit Friday Brass Bands Contest Committees. This is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK and it is awarded for life.

Mayor Ginny Alexander's extended term of office, due to Covid-19, has now ended and she has handed over the chains of office to Councillor Jenny Harrison. Congratulations Ginny on all your hard work in raising funds for lots of different charities and groups; for supporting charities, groups and individuals; and for representing and promoting Oldham. You have done Oldham proud. We wish the new Mayor every success in her year of office.

WANTED for the 150th St Thomas' Church anniversary next year.

## A photograph of Rev. David Lawrance [1926 ~ 1999].

Vicar of Moorside church from 1962 to 1974 when he retired to Harrogate.

It might seem strange but for the past five years we have been unable to locate a photograph from the many possible sources like: the Parish Magazine, Newspapers, Whit Sunday parade, Marriages, holding a baby etc.

Even visited the records office at Lambeth House, London. Lots of documents relating Rev. David Lawrence's life but no photograph.

The Society would be grateful if you could help, your master copy would not need to leave your possession and could be scanned or photographed without any damage. (Or forwarded to Mike via email.)

The other local gentleman that has avoided all our efforts to locate a photograph of is Mr Wilfred Collier, [1894~1982]. Veteran of WW1 & WW2, St Thomas Church Warden and Auditor of the Moorside Cricket Club.

A local man all his life and laid to rest in the churchyard. Last address 652 Ripponden Road.

If you can help, please contact Mike Smith, 0161-652-5827. Email mesmith99 1 @btinternet.com.

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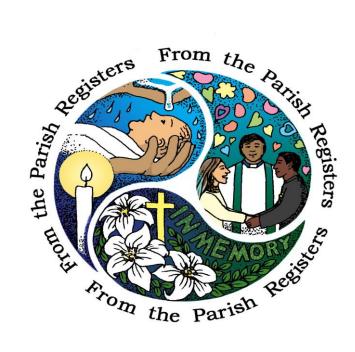


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### **Holy Baptism**

We pray for families coming for baptism in the coming weeks.

### **Holy Matrimony**

We pray for couples who will be married here in the coming weeks

### **Funerals**

We pray for the repose of the souls of Julie Standeven, Jennifer Winterbottom and Evelyn Findlow-Wild



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### **Prioritising**

Martha cooked
But Mary looked
And sat at the Master's feet,
It's a story of old
But we are told
It's where man and God can meet.

So much to do
But think it through
There's a place for you and me,
To spend time with the Lord
And be found in His word
It's where we are meant to be.

So find a place To seek His face Where the Lord Himself is found With a God who cares Hears all our prayers The place where grace abounds.

By Megan Carter

### When we feel shaken

(Lk 10:42)

Faithful Father,
When we feel shaken by the
events of the past; when we don't
know quite how to go forward;
when our confidence in what we
thought we could control is
undermined; remind us that one
thing is needed – to sit at your
feet and listen to You.

You are our security. You will never fail those who belong to You through faith in Your Son, Jesus.

As we take time to listen to You, Lord, and to meditate on Your Holy Spirit-inspired Word, may we know Your peace – and Your good plans for us. In Jesus' name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

### Reaching Out

Dear Lord Jesus, we remember the work of your disciples who served You faithfully during the early days of the Church. They went out among the people, who were often hostile, and spoke of their faith. They also encouraged others by their written testimonies. Together, they spread the word of Your teaching and of the joy of serving You, regardless of their own fate and well-being.

We ask You to help us today to continue Your work by witness and example. May we continue to draw comfort and inspiration from Your teaching, and so acknowledge and confess our faith wherever we go and to those we meet.

By Terence Trimmer



### SAINT THOMAS - Patronal Festival 4th July

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe – unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears – but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event – the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

Join us at 10.30am to celebrate





### **LETTER FROM PAUL MONK**

As I write, the sunshine outside is brilliant and warm. Its intense light enhances everything: the colours and shapes before me look sharper and distinct. The strong shadows help distinguish between the objects on my desk. Then, a moment later, the sun hides behind a cloud and everything looks drab. The colours and shapes merge together and collapse in on themselves. If we lost even more light (for example at an eclipse) then we could see even less clearly. We all need light.

In Scripture, Jesus describes himself as 'the light of the world.' In effect, he's saying that he irradiates the world with his supernatural presence and thereby helps us see when using our 'eyes of faith'. We see spiritual truths more clearly when we allow Jesus into our lives. We learn to see things the way He does, which is why our spiritual decisions are more likely to please God.

But God often feels far away, sometime completely absent, which inhibits our spiritual sight. We can make mistakes when God feels faraway, which can be painful or even catastrophic. As Proverbs says, 'Without vision the people perish' (Pr 29:18).

When a person starts losing their sight, they must learn how to feel their way forward. They must learn how to use other senses differently. They will learn to live and move in different ways.

Living in a time of Covid can feel pretty dark. God can feel very far away; our spiritual vision seems feeble. We may feel unsafe and maybe even experience a feeling almost like bereavement. But we don't need to worry. All Christians from all ages experience this sense of God being absent. The reasons can vary. Sometimes there is no real reason. But just as the sun will surely shine on my desk again, so our vision of God will return when we pray, if we watch and wait.

Wishing everyone the blessings of living in Jesus PAUL

### **Eco Church**



I've recently been following Angela's example and tried to make some changes to reduce our consumption of plastic and nonrecyclable materials in the home, as well as cut down on food waste and to recycle more.

It's really difficult to completely eliminate anything non-recyclable and trying to avoid plastic is practically impossible; which got me thinking that it's really about trying to cut down, making small swaps and just doing what you can. I've replaced the kitchen sponge with a recyclable bamboo cloth and a little wooden brush scrubber and made a menu plan to use food which is already in the cupboard, fridge and freezer rather than keep buying more every week. And when I do need to shop I'm just buying what we need. It's not only cut down the amount of food we waste but has also saved money. Win win!

I've recently come across a website <a href="https://earthbits.com">https://earthbits.com</a> where I purchased my eco-friendly items and they have kindly given me permission to reproduce this article about making your own beeswax wraps to replace cling-film, which will be my next project! All the ingredients can be purchased online and this would be a good activity to do with children or if you don't want the hassle or don't have time you can always purchase the finished product from their website.

# **MAKE YOUR OWN BEESWAX WRAP**

Wax wraps are an amazing way to stop using cling film in your kitchen. Cling film, why is it so bad? This seemingly innocuous food wrap, so good at keeping our food fresh and our leftovers protected in the fridge, is actually a very big contributor to the plastic pollution crisis we are facing today.

This is because **cling film is extremely difficult to recycle** (most councils in the UK do not offer recycling facilities for it, and this is true for most countries in the world), and on top of it it's manufactured from potentially harmful chemical elements, especially as they break down in the environment.

So why not try and **make your own <u>eco-friendly</u> beeswax wraps**?



#### You will need:

- Beeswax that is locally and organically made in the UK
- Jojoba oil
- Pine resin, either grated or in pellets

### How to make beeswax wraps at home:



- 1. **Sprinkle all ingredients on a piece of cotton cloth**, making sure to distribute them evenly.
- 2. **Put your cotton cloth in the oven** until the wax is completely melted and absorbed by the cotton.
- 3. **Leave to dry** by hanging it on a drying line, just make sure there is no excess wax dripping on furniture or the floor. It's a good idea to put some used newspapers sheets on the floor for precaution.
- **4. When it's cold, it's ready to be used** to cover bowls of food, wrapped around vegetables and fruit, as sandwich or snack bags or to protect your fresh bread.

Article courtesy of earthbits.com

### Church notices that didn't quite come out right....

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

The minister is going on holiday next Saturday. Could all missionary boxes be handed into the vicarage by Friday evening, at the latest.

Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot, please stand upside down in the sink.

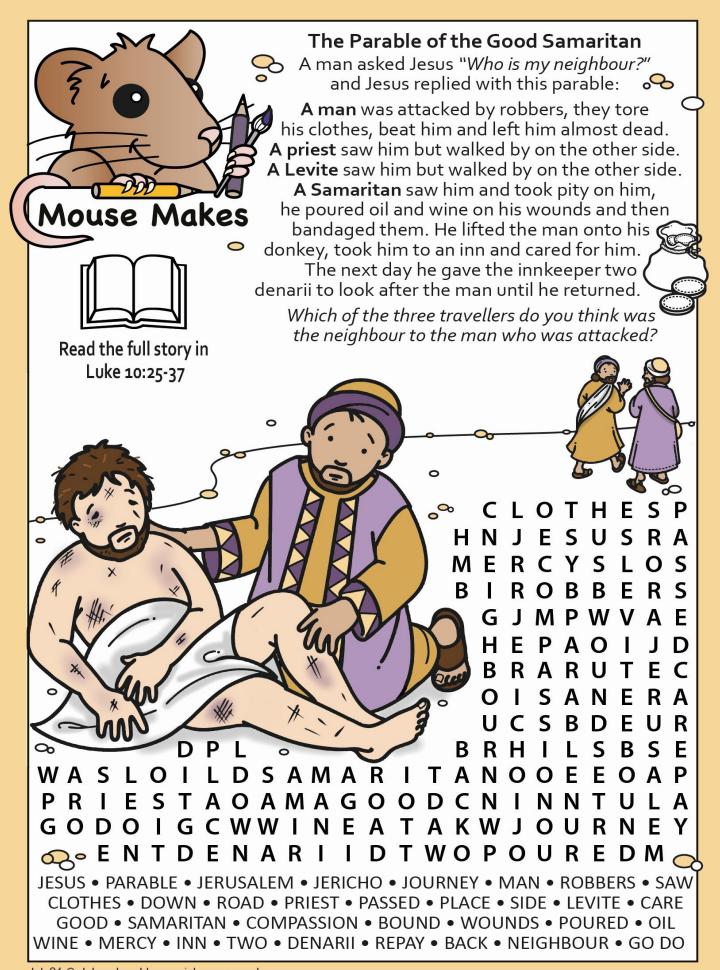
There will be a procession in the grounds of the monastery next Sunday afternoon. If it rains in the afternoon, the procession will take place in the morning.

The sacristan was in a hurry to inform the congregation that their minister had recovered from an illness, so he put the following notice outside the church: *God is good. The vicar is better.* 

Once asked how many people worked in the Vatican, the Pope replied, 'Oh, about half."



"Due to our failure to secure a holidayrelief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."



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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In fond memory of Kenn's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Miss and love you forever.

Mum and family.

JULY/AUG READINGS	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel
<b>Sunday 4 July</b> Patronal Festival - St Thomas	Habakkuk 2.	Ephesians 2.	John 20.
	1-4	19-end	24-29
<b>Sunday 11 July</b> Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Amos 7.	Ephesians 1.	Mark 6.
	7-15	3-14	14-29
Sunday 18 July Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 23.	Ephesians 2.	Mark 6.
	1-6	11-end	30-34, 53-end
<b>Sunday 25 July</b> Eighth Sunday after Trinity	2 Kings 4.	Ephesians 3.	John 6.
	42-end	14-end	1-21
Sunday 1 August Ninth Sunday after Trinity	Exodus 16.	Ephesians 4.	John 6.
	2-4, 9-15	1-16	24-35
<b>Sunday 8 August</b> Tenth Sunday after trinity	1 Kings 19.	Ephesians 4.	John 6.
	4-8	25-5.2	35, 41-45
Sunday 15 August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	Proverbs 9.	Ephesians 5.	John 6.
	1-6	15-20	51-58
Sunday 22 August Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Joshua 24.	Ephesians 6.	John 6.
	1-2a, 14-18	10-20	58-69
Sunday 29 August Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	Deuteronomy 4. 1-2, 6-9	James 1. 17-end	Mark 7. 1-8, 14-15, 21-23
<b>Sunday 5 September</b> Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 35.	James 2.	Mark 7.
	4-7a	1-17	24-37

### **100 CLUB**

Winners for May/June are;



1st prize. £20. No.3. Mr and Mrs Buckley 2nd prize. £15. No. 60. Kathy Salt

3rd prize. £10. No.40. Andrew Feber

You should have found 12 bumble bees buzzing around. Did you find them all??

# CONTACTS AND EVENTS

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Please check with group leaders for start dates or keep an eye on our Facebook pages for more information

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 – 9pm	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 <sup>rd</sup> 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	