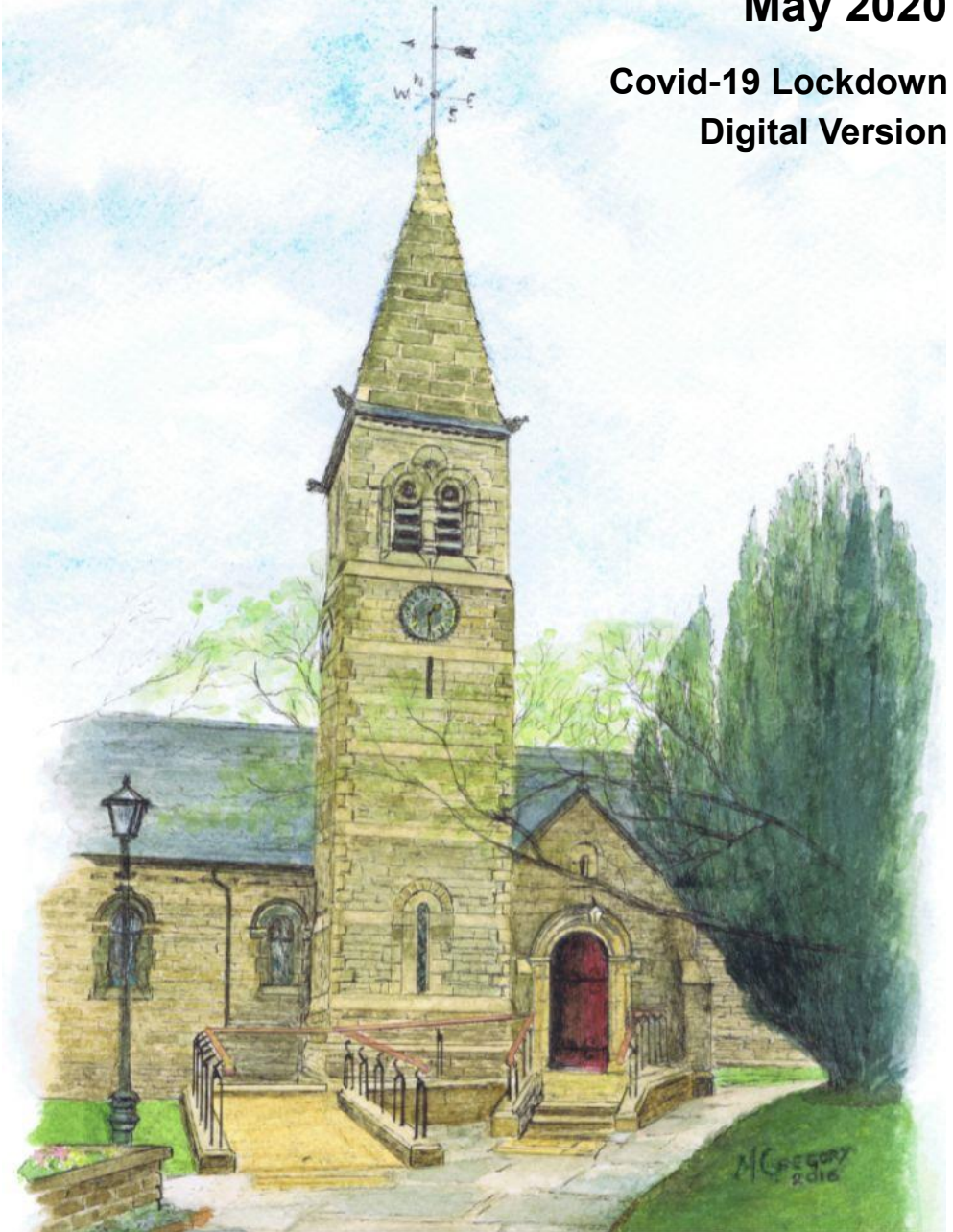


May 2020

**Covid-19 Lockdown
Digital Version**



St Thomas' Church
High Lane
Parish Magazine

From the Vicar



As many of you are aware after ten years as vicar of St Thomas I retire at the end of May and it seems very strange to be writing my last letter to you whilst we are all self-isolating and unable to meet together. It is so different from my arrival in March 2010 when after an Induction service attended by the bishop, archdeacon, parishioners past and present, friends and family we gathered for a time of socialising and refreshments at the school.

Being at High Lane has been very much an opportunity for both Dennis and I to follow our own callings. When we left Munich and the Church of the Ascension to return to

England to undertake my training for the Priesthood at Durham, the Rector when laying hands on us both during our final service spoke about a joint ministry that as a couple we were embarking on. At the time we didn't fully understand what he was alluding to, but it proved to be so true as upon my arrival here at St Thomas I was informed that the church needed to raise £30,000 to repair the tower, a project that eventually cost over £180,000 and Dennis was able to utilise his skills as an engineer to project manage the whole venture. It has been a great joy being the Vicar of High Lane especially getting to know so many of you. In my time here I have conducted so many weddings, baptisms and funerals and I will take these memories with me.

I have benefitted from the support of the Ministry Team, the churchwardens and PCC in my ten years and I thank you all for being so open to my initiatives, especially when it came to re-ordering the church, although, without mentioning names, someone did give me the nickname *the Pickford Vicar* because I moved the furniture so often. (*Thanks Sue Goldsby*)

Together we have reached out to the families in the village, first with Tom's Kids, then when that had run its course Messy Church, with the Mums and Tots running for many years. The Christingle services have grown year on year filling the church to capacity whilst at the same time raising valuable funds for the Children's Society. Our choir under Marc continues to flourish and it is wonderful to see young choristers once again take part in our services.

The monthly coffee mornings run by the Pastoral Team proved to be a success both as a social gathering and fund raising for the church and other charities and like every fund raiser at church there was the raffle. There are so many good things happening at St Thomas and I am sure that they will continue.

On a personal front during my ten years here I have had some proud moments managing to finish my theology degree, marry my daughter, baptise my grandson and enjoy his presence at some of our Sunday service after which he knew he could always get a biscuit from Auntie Jean.

I was also privileged to act as the Rural Dean of Chadkirk and made a Canon of the Cathedral in Chester, both wonderful opportunities to serve the Church and God, but the main focus of my ministry was always in High Lane and at St Thomas'.

Vicars Letter continued

After spending an initial five years in Disley, moving into the new vicarage was an occasion for celebration and an opportunity for the Bishop of Chester to bless the house and join with the parish for a garden party in the vicarage garden and we have since had several garden parties and events in the garden. As a church community you excel at putting on social events and celebrating special occasions. The flower festivals, band concerts, Taste of Christmas, choir concerts, quizzes and coffee mornings, to name just a few, have all provided an opportunity to include the whole village in the life of the church as well as providing good entertainment and fun.

Our time here in High Lane has come to an end and I will be so sorry to leave after having made many good friends during my ministry in the village. When we are finally able to leave the vicarage we will be heading off to the North East to be closer to the family and able to take on more as a grandmother and where as a retired priest my ministry will enter a new stage. I don't yet know what this will look like, but I am sure God will find a role for me and Dennis to fulfil as we step out in faith into the future.

These times of lockdown will pass and hopefully there will be an opportunity to have a proper goodbye sometime in the future. Meanwhile St Thomas will begin a new stage in its life as you welcome a new vicar who will lead you on your continuing journey of faith.

May God bless you all and thank you for the last ten years.

Yours always in Christ,
Canon Janet



Many thanks to Katherine @Shesnaps Photography for this lovely picture .

Church Wardens' Letter

After 10 years we are saying farewell and thank you at the end of May to Rev. Canon Janet for her time as our Vicar here at St Thomas'. It doesn't seem 10 years ago since Julie Gaskell and I sat down to "interview" Revd Janet to fill the vacancy for a Vicar at St Thomas' Church, High Lane. It was to be an important meeting and one where we concluded almost immediately that Revd Janet was right for the position, and it was about time that we had a woman Vicar to lead our Church. She eventually became the first female Vicar at St Thomas' and it was just what we needed. Since the day she started Revd Janet has worked tenaciously and ceaselessly to grow the Ministry in High Lane through her hard work and commitment to "getting things done", ably assisted by her trusty Lieutenant, Dennis, her husband. What Revd Janet has done has been to mobilise us all to commit ourselves to the work of spreading the Good News throughout High Lane and holding up St Thomas' Church as a beacon in the Community.

Her first five years were a difficult period for her to settle in as she was living in Disley and "commuted" to High Lane while the Diocese deliberated on how to provide a new Vicarage for the Vicar of St Thomas'. It was to be five years before she finally moved into the new Vicarage and that proved to be tremendously helpful in providing visibility for her in carrying out her Ministry.

Looking back, it's amazing how much she has been able to do, and how much we didn't know needed to be done. In 2015 at the APCM she set out her "2020 vision" (was there a hidden message here?), and underlying this were phrases that she followed for the Church:-

Make the Church a welcoming place for ALL people

A Church that doesn't change, doesn't grow;

Churches have to be multiple use spaces.

The Church that refuses to change dies.

So she looked at our Church, and us, and set out to grow the Church for our community. The Church itself was improved initially through internal redecoration, incorporating an office into the vestry and moving the Choir stalls out of the Chancel. We had a new piano (Clavinova) and new hymn books. The Service booklets were rewritten, a weekly notice sheet developed, leaflets and posters were introduced, and the magazine was re-styled.

It was important for her to reach out to the young families and children in the Parish and to this extent she developed more links to the schools and uniformed organisations, and invited them to be more involved in services and to hold their Christmas services in Church. Pre-school children were welcome each week at Parents and Tots and Tom's kids, and an After-School club and Holiday club were introduced. The elderly and infirm were not forgotten with the introduction of a Pastoral care team who ensured they were visited and Communion provided if necessary. Visits were also made to the Care Homes of Abbeyfield and Bowerfield too.

In conjunction with Dennis, Chair of the Fabric Committee, she championed the repair to the Church Tower and the introduction of an access ramp for people with mobility issues. The North Aisle was cleared of pews to make an open space for

flexible use and new chairs installed. A turning circle was added to the Churchyard making it much safer for weddings and funerals, and lately the fallow area of the churchyard has been landscaped to enable space for more burials and burial of ashes.

The services themselves were updated and “volunteers” assisted as readers, crucifer, sacristan and Communion assistants. A Musical Director was employed who developed the adult choir and started a children’s choir with choristers, then updated the Gloria and Agnus Dei. Meanwhile she was made Rural Dean of Chadkirk Deanery and went on to be a Canon of Chester Cathedral. Finally, she became a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee making decisions on plans (faculties) for structural change to Churches.

One person who has been with her all the way has been husband Dennis who has been instrumental in turning Revd Janet’s ideas into reality, especially the hard work required to getting Lottery funding for the Tower repair, the Turning Circle, drainage upgrade in the churchyard and latterly the churchyard landscaping. He is still currently working on a project to repair the West Wall and develop a ramp at the rear entrance to the church; something we will need to ensure is completed once he and Revd Janet move on.

Revd Janet and Dennis should be very proud of themselves for what they’ve achieved while they have been with us in High Lane, as we all are. They have been welcomed into the heart of High Lane and they will be missed, although there will be more chance of someone winning in the meat draw at the Horse Shoe once they move. Their hospitality has been excellent and the supply of food and drink was never lacking – any excuse for a gin and tonic.

Revd Janet and Dennis will be sadly missed, and the current situation makes it difficult for us to give them the send off they deserve, but we will find a way. Revd Janet is still officiating at a digital Sunday Service from her home on Zoom at 10am which is proving very popular but we hope that we will be able to meet in person before she departs. The search now goes on for a new Vicar and they will need to aspire to what Revd Janet has achieved here and set their sights on clearing the high bar that Revd Janet has set.

We wish both Revd Janet and Dennis well in their retirement as they move to the North East to be with family.

Alvin West
Church Warden

Thank you!

A look back at Canon Janet's time with us at St Thomas' Church







A 40-day journey through the prayer Jesus taught his followers - one which continues to shape the lives of Christians across the world.

Each day provides you with a short Bible reflection, an invitation to pray and a suggestion for responding to the vision of the Lord's Prayer itself.

We are inviting the whole Church to take 40 days this Easter season to explore this prayer in still deeper ways. Take time each day to be still, to offer to God the pain and suffering around us and within us, to reflect on each line of the prayer and to pray with others across the world the words our risen Lord has taught us.

This will be an Easter season like no other as the world endures the coronavirus pandemic. Each day we will pray the familiar words: Our Father, give us this day our daily bread, forgive us, deliver us from evil. We will pray them with a new and ever deeper understanding.

Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop John Sentamu

Our Facebook page, StThomas Church High Lane, is posting the Church of England's Easter Pilgrim series of reflections.

If you don't use Facebook, the Easter Pilgrim App is available for Apple and Android devices, or search using Alexa or Google Home devices. You can also sign up to receive the reflections via email. More details on the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/easterpilgrim-lords-prayer

St Thomas' Virtual Services on Zoom

Shan Alexander is helping Parishioners take part in Sunday Morning Prayer with Canon Janet via Zoom.

It is a very simple programme to use, and Sian will send any interested participants an email giving the meeting ID number and a password. Canon Janet sends out the Order of Service beforehand, this can be printed out although the order of service is on the screen for you to read throughout the service. There is also music from Marc and Laura.

It is a lovely way to take part in worship, and also provides the chance to see friends from morning service. Why not give it a try? Contact Canon Janet or Shan by email to be included.

Parish NEWS

Baptism Anniversaries:

1st	Edmund Newton
2nd	John Thomas Broad Fletcher & Edmund McLaren-Ball Sophia Marshall Melody-Rae & Scarlett-Rose Sadler West
3rd	Logan William Walkinshaw Samuel Harrison Jones Violet Amelia Sleater Ruby Grace Mason
5th	Jenson Cooper Brown, Isabella Amy Finley Isabelle Rose Huddart

Parish Deaths

Brian Percival
Alan Crowther
Doreen Duckworth

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen

A message from Amy



As our world has changed so much, so has my ministry to St Andrew's, Kettering.

I now hold a youth group, a mums and toddlers group and our Fresh Expression (family service) online through Zoom. This has many challenges as we all learn to adapt. The need for people to feel connected is greater than ever as lots of people are struggling with loneliness and worries about the future.

St Andrew's is also worried about its future, we are now in vacancy (without a vicar) and the process of appointing a new vicar has been significantly delayed by the lockdown.

In my own vocational journey, I have been to my selection conference and I have been recommended for training. This means that in September I should (providing that we are allowed out) be starting training at Westcott college, Cambridge.

Thank you for all your prayers and please continue to pray for St Andrew's during its vacancy. Amy Stevenson

Deadline for next magazine: 12th May

Would all contributors please send copy to the Editors at
st.thomas03@btinternet.com

by the above date, **otherwise we cannot guarantee inclusion.**

Thanks



Books in the Bible Quiz

We are indebted to Sheila Stafford who has devised a quiz on the books of the Bible.

All the answers are the names of books in the Bible, in no particular order.

There are cryptic clues for those who are used to doing cryptic crosswords and anyone else who fancies a challenge.

Sheila has also devised more straightforward clues.

It might even inspire you to read from some of the books!

Cryptic Clues

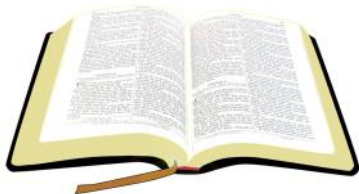
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Old partner took too many drugs
along with you and me. | 29. Hi! He has name to conjure with. |
| 2. Thousand sheep returning. | 30. Greek character took fruit. |
| 3. Join and substitute independence
with open house. | 31. Partly freeze Kiel Canal. |
| 4. Merrymaking country – not new. | 32. Clinch Rose awkwardly. |
| 5. Germans said yes last month
about no going back. | 33. Elites have access to dance. |
| 6. Referee – no good! | 34. I had boa specially made. |
| 7. Sounds like Lancastrian can see. | 35. I'd lean over. |
| 8. Relative chases hereditary
determinant. | 36. Human suffering. |
| 9. Pity this girl. | 37. Scottish dish not quite finished,
holding article. |
| 10. Lame us badly. | 38. Social with sons involved. |
| 11. Leader ever zealous regarding
articles. | 39. Cats are playful. |
| 12. Investment one has with a starter
home. | 40. I'm taking the Hebrew Scriptures
first hand into outskirts of Torbay. |
| 13. Nominate last broadcast. | 41. Pansies he arranged. |
| 14. Juliet and Oscar? Sh! U3A have
lost a small number. | 42. The speed of sound takes the
French in. |
| 15. Unusual Tudor yeomen. | 43. Irish cannot sort themselves out. |
| 16. Anaesthetists? | 44. Norma's gone crazy. |
| 17. Hears referees. | 45. A shoe needs building up. |
| 18. She hides in nest her clutch of
chicks. | 46. Exercise in nostalgia, but replace
love with middleman. |
| 19. Monsoon, so golf is off. | 47. Boy has nasty pains. |
| 20. Here I am by arrangement after
June the first. | 48. Broadcast seasonal hints. |
| 21. Initially unsteady, captivated by
birds. | 49. and 50. " King David and King
Solomon
Led merry merry lives
With many many lady friends
And many many wives.
But when old age crept over them
With many many qualms
King Solomon wrote the _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _
And King David wrote the
_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ |
| 22. Preserve the last shilling. | |
| 23. Join our band leaders. | |
| 24. Dull cut. | |
| 25. This man will dwindle to nothing. | |
| 26. Arrange to visit with clue. | |

More straightforward clues

1. Departure (6)
2. Blemish (4)
3. He was from the ministry of funny walks (4)
4. Disclosure (10)
5. He encountered a big sea mammal (5)
6. Hey Beatles song (4)
7. Longest book in the New Testament (4)
8. Beginning (7)
9. This book only has 4 chapters (4)
10. Jewellers (6)
11. Pound, poet (4)
12. "For unto us a child is born" Ch.9 v.6 (6)
13. Expressions of sorrow (12)
14. Moses' assistant, said to have lived to 110 (6)
15. "Be strong and courageous" Ch. 31 v. 6 (11)
16. Digits (7)
17. Magistrates (6)
18. Jewish Queen, noted for her beauty (6)
19. Series of love poems (4,2,7)
20. Pessimist (8)
21. Salt, philanthropist (5)
22. First King of Scotland and England (5)
23. Very patient man (3)
24. Gospel writer who wrote the Beatitudes (7)
25. This name means "stone" (5)
26. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" Ch. 19 v. 18 (9)
27. Letter sent from Paul before James (7)
28. Monarchs (5)
29. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" Ch. 8 v. 10 (8)
30. Short epistle dealing with forgiveness and reconciliation (8)
31. Hebrew prophet whose vision was painted by Raphael (7)
32. Historical records (10)
33. "There is nothing new under the Sun" Ch. 1 v. 9 (12)
34. This book has only one chapter (7)
35. Daring with lions (6)
36. Minor prophet coming between Micah and Habakkuk (5) (6)
37. "And in this place I will grant peace" Ch. 2 v.9 (10)
38. Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" Ch.4 v.2 (10)
39. Deeds (4)
40. West, actor (7)
41. "Make every effort to keep unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" Ch.4 v.3 (9)
42. Last book before the New Testament (7)
43. "Love is patient, Love is Kind" Ch.13 v.4 (13)
44. "Friends, _ _ _ _ _ , Countrymen. Lend me your ears." (6)
45. "He will refresh us like rain" Ch. 6 v.3 (5)
46. Epistle from Paul, just before 43 (9)
47. "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" Ch. 3 v.13 (11)
48. "May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love" Ch.3 v.5 (13)
49. Sayings. (8)
50. Longest book in the bible. (6)

Answers on last page

Congratulations to Linda Morton who took part in the Facebook version of this quiz, and whose correct entry was first out of the hat





A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

**Please pass this
information on to
any family, friends
or neighbours
who may not use
the internet.**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind

Within 48 hours of its launch, the line had received more than 6,000 calls from across the country, with many being referred by friends, family or members. Calls have so far spanned more than 50,000 minutes, with some of those accessing the service listening to the music, prayers and reflections for up to 50 minutes at a time.

The Revd Canon Dave Male, the Church of England's Director of Evangelism and Discipleship, said: "The volume of calls shows that Daily Hope is meeting a need. "We have a duty in these strange and difficult times to find new ways of bringing prayer and worship to people wherever they are, and this is one more way of helping people to connect with God from their own homes.

"This is such a simple idea – planned and launched all within a few short weeks by a small dedicated team – but I pray it will bring real comfort, hope and inspiration to people at this time."

Callers to the line hear a short greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

Options available include materials also made available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.

Children's PAGE



"The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness
gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also
behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read
Galatians
5:13-26



How many
other words can you find
using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT?**



Which
symbol goes
with which fruit?



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



LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

Holy Days in May

1st May – Philip, the apostle with common sense

Philip came from Bethsaida and was a disciple of Jesus from early on. He knew how to lead others to Jesus; he brought Nathanael (or Bartholomew) to Him in a calm, kindly way. He knew how to do some financial forecasting: at the feeding of the 5,000 it was he who pointed out that without divine help, even 200 pennyworth of bread wasn't going to feed that crowd. He was the one whom the Greeks approached when they wanted to ask Jesus to show them the Father, but didn't quite have the nerve to approach Jesus directly. People had confidence in Philip's spirituality, common sense and kindness.

1st May – James the Less, quiet son of Alphaeus

Many a church historian has wished that the apostles had left us just a few more personal details about themselves in the New Testament. James the Less is an excellent example. This is the name we give to James the son of Alphaeus, but beyond that, who was he? Sometimes he is identified as the James whose mother stood by Christ on the cross. Sometimes he is thought to be the James who was 'brother of the Lord'. Sometimes he is thought to be the James who saw the risen Christ. He has also been called the first bishop of Jerusalem. Sometimes he has been thought of as the author of the Epistle of James. But, who really knows? So perhaps on this day we can simply recall 'all' of the James' above, and thank God for the mother who stood by the cross, the brother that supported Jesus, the apostle who saw his risen Lord and gave his life to proclaiming the truth, the first bishop of Jerusalem, and the author of the marvellous Epistle of James. Whether it was one James or several, they were all faithful to Jesus, and proclaimed Him as the Messiah.

8th May – Julian of Norwich

Julian of Norwich was writing at the end of the 14th century. She was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practise. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room. Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

15th May – Matthias the Apostle, called by lots

In Acts 1 (15 – 26) the apostles had a task to do: Judas had betrayed Jesus and died, and so a new apostle needed to be chosen. He had to have been a follower of Christ from the Baptism to the Ascension, and also a witness of the Resurrection in order to qualify. In the event, the choice fell to one of two: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. Lots were drawn, and Matthias was chosen. How confident he must have felt in his calling: what encouragement that would be when the going got rough in later years! Matthias is thought to have ministered in Cappadocia and even Ethiopia.

21st May – Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days.

Jesus was seen by his disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day.

Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a very close bond: they had just lived through three years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3)

31st May – Day of Pentecost: Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help. And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus.

The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Community NEWS

HIGH LANE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

First of all we need to thank everyone who is helping in our community either through organisations or simply by looking out for older or vulnerable neighbours. We know High Lane is renowned for its community spirit and that reputation is proving well deserved.

Although, like every other group, we have not met in person we are still responding when contacted about concerns. We do not know when our next meeting will be but until then you can contact us through contact@hlra.org.uk or look at our website.



Much useful information on council services can be found on stockport.gov.uk. In the midst of all the challenges we can highlight some good things. More people getting out on foot to appreciate the lack of traffic and the increase in bird activity in our gardens. If you are not in total isolation and are taking regular walks, we know people are appreciating some truly wonderful gardens, giving pleasure to passers by as well as their owners, the plants that community spirited volunteers are maintaining in our planters and wayside paths and the new growth in every hedgerow. On a human level it is great to see new people volunteering to help where they can.

Less traffic pollution, more audible sounds of nature and more volunteering are all things we campaign for year in and year out. We should try to keep more of this when the crisis is over! Meanwhile stay safe. When meetings resume we will meet as ever on the first Thursday of the month at 8 pm at High Lane Library Community Room. *HS*

DISLEY & LYME HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

I sincerely hope you're all keeping well and following the advice on staying safe. We were disappointed not to be able to hold our coffee morning in March, and we're now aware that we will not be able to run our Tomato Extravaganza coffee morning at the beginning of May – Mary Milburn is making contact with various groups to arrange the best way to get the plants out to them, if you have any enquiries, please contact Mary via email mary.milburn@ntlworld.com for more information regarding availability.

We have indeed had a beautiful start to Spring, but remain mindful to keep a watch of the weather reports as a quick sharp frost can wipe out all your hard work in one night - so watch out for Jack Frost, he's still about!

The Committee, especially our Chairman, is continually assessing the current Government advice regarding social events. Our next planned coffee morning is due to take place July 25th at Disley Community Centre – further update to follow.

Stay Safe – Enjoy your growing, crafting and baking. *JL*

What is Rogation Sunday?

This year, Rogation Sunday falls on 17th May. Rogation means an asking of God – for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. In about 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic, so the Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish. At certain points along the route – at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest.

Easter Egg donations break records

This Spring a record breaking 3,000 Real Easter Eggs were bought and donated to food banks through a usually 'quiet' online scheme. The 'Donate an egg to a food bank scheme' is run by the Meaningful Chocolate Company which, for the past ten years, has been making The Real Easter Egg.

David Marshall CEO said: "What is moving is that people were donating their purchase to someone they will never meet or hear from, but they trust that the Easter story, which come with each egg, will make a difference and the chocolate egg give a treat. One customer told us she had a legacy from her father and wanted to use some of it to send a pallet of eggs to those in need.

"Ten years ago, churches and schools helped us create The Real Easter Egg, with its copy of the Easter story in the box, and its support of Fairtrade chocolate and charitable causes. There can be no more fitting a tribute than for us to continue to support, share and give to those in need."



Hopeful isolation by Ana Gobleale

Broken
Spreading
Infecting
Darkness descends
How did it come to this?
God groans
The world whimpers.
We cower
Fearfully crying out, 'Now what?'
What about our old age?
What about our grandchildren?

Be not afraid.
Follow the light.
Follow peace.
Where?
Into the brokenness.
Into this new reality.
Fear not.
Into the unimaginable.
Cling to faith.
I tremble.
I falter.
God, shine your light down a different
path.
I'm afraid of the cracks.
I'm afraid of falling,
afraid of breathing in death,
of touching death.
I want to say the way is unclear,
But, in truth, the path is clearly lit,
as it always is when illuminated by
faith.
The path leads into today,
Into the brokenness,
Into the unknowing
With you.



A Coronavirus Prayer

Loving God, your desire is for our wholeness and well being.
We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.
We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.
We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.
We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.
Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.
Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.
Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,
You, the God who does not abandon.

Christian Aid Week is moving online!

We are building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week so you can take part as an online community.

Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. Now is the time to reach out to our neighbours near and far.

Your gifts will save lives

Poor communities are hit hardest by coronavirus. It's affecting families living in overcrowded refugee camps, and many vulnerable people who have no water to clean their hands.
With your support, we can limit the impact of the virus, with life-saving soap and water.

Send an e-Envelope today and save lives.
www.christianaid.org.uk

2020 - The World Health Organisation's Year of the Nurse

When the WHO (World Health Organisation) decided to make 2020 the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, they based it on the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth on 12th May 1820.

But with the arrival of the coronavirus, it is a remarkably apt year to celebrate all that nurses do for us.

As the ICN (International Council of Nurses) says: "All around the world, nurses are working tirelessly to provide the care and attention people need, whenever and wherever they need it. Nurses are central to the delivery of health care; nurses are making an invaluable contribution to the health of people globally."

Nursing as a vocation goes back to the Early Church. When plague struck the Roman world in the third century, it was Christians who tended the sick and dying, often at great personal cost. Their self-sacrifice made a huge impression on Roman society.

Centuries later, in medieval Europe, it was the monastic orders that provided health care.

Still centuries later, during the Crimean War (1853-56) Florence Nightingale saved thousands of lives when she transformed the field hospitals, hugely improving the standards of care for wounded and dying soldiers.

In fact, Florence Nightingale deserves the credit for establishing the modern profession of nursing and its structures of training. Although of course medical science has advanced since her time, the basic ethos of nursing care remains today close to Nightingale's vision. Nursing is frequently described as a vocation, and it is one to which many

Christians are called. Nightingale wrote of being 'called' by God, after having had a vivid religious conversion as a teenager. Writing in February 1837, she stated: "God has spoken to me and called me to His Service."

Four years before going to Crimea, she studied at a Lutheran religious community in Germany which trained deaconesses in medical skills, nursing, and theology. Many of the ideas that Nightingale adopted for her nurses came from that religious community. Thus, Nightingale's training programme was not solely devoted to secular medical sciences. Her student nurses were required to attend chapel, and her nurses read prayers on the wards. Nightingale wrote many letters of spiritual encouragement to her students. To one, she wrote that Christ considered it an "honour to serve the poorest and the meanest... He will not give His crown except to those who have borne His cross... Enduring hardship is what He encourages and rewards."

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally trained and worked as a nurse before being appointed to senior positions in the Health Service. She was Chief Nursing Officer for England between 1999 to 2004.

She says: "I became a Christian as a teenager and wanted to follow Christ with my whole life. Rather than having two careers, I have had one vocation: to follow Jesus Christ, to know Him, and to make Him known."

Certainly, of all the professions, nursing has one of the strongest claims to being rooted in the Gospel. Christian nurses implicitly witness to Christ in caring for others.

VE Day—The end of World War 2 in Europe.

VE Day (Victory in Europe) – was celebrated 75 years ago this month, on 8th May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe. It was marked with a public holiday.

The previous day the formal act of military surrender had been signed by Germany, and celebrations broke out when the news was released. Big crowds gathered in London, impromptu parties were held throughout the country, and people danced and sang in the streets. King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and Churchill made a speech to huge applause. The two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret mingled with the crowds outside.

Many went into churches to give thanks – and to pray for those still involved in the war in the Far East, because the real end of the war, Victory over Japan, would not happen until 15th August. At St Paul's Cathedral there were ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each attended by thousands of people. The celebrations masked the fact that so many had lost family and friends, as well as possessions and homes. But for the moment normal social conventions broke down, strangers embraced, and love was in the air.



Funerals during the Corona Restrictions

Funerals have changed almost beyond recognition under the strict new rules to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Church of England funerals may now take place only at crematoria or at gravesides. Only immediate family may attend, and they must keep their two-metre distance.

To help those who are grieving-at-a-distance at this difficult time, the Church of England has published a simple guide. It provides both prayers and also suggestions of how people can pay their own tribute at home to the person who has died.

These include finding a photograph of the person who has died, writing down memories of them, and lighting a virtual candle in memory of their loved ones. The Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Welcome and Life Events for the Church of England, said: "It's so difficult when you can't go to a funeral... to say your last goodbye and know that your special person's life has been honoured, prayers offered, and God's love experienced."

More details at: <https://www.churchofengland.org> / Life Events.



Time to Pray presents everything you need for Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year.

The app is compatible with smartphones and tablets (iPhone/iPad iOS 9.0+ and Android 5.1.1+).

You can use Prayer During the Day on its own, as your sole act of prayer and praise, or you can use it alongside Night Prayer – also provided here – in a pattern of prayer at the beginning and end of the day.

Access Prayer During the Day, together with full text of psalms and short readings from *Common Worship: Time to Pray*.

- Follow a simple pattern of daily prayer that varies according to the season and day of the week.
- Access Night Prayer, together with guidance on sustaining a pattern of regular prayer.!
- **Time to Pray - now a podcast!** Daily audio for Common Worship Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer services to accompany the Time to Pray app.

As of March 2020, Time to Pray is now completely free to use.
Download the App, use Alexa or Google Home

Answers to Books of the Bible Quiz

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Exodus | 16. Numbers | 33. Ecclesiastes |
| 2. Mark | 17. Judges | 34. Obadiah |
| 3. John | 18. Esther | 35. Daniel |
| 4. Revelation | 19. Song of Solomon | 36. Nahum |
| 5. Jonah | 20. Jeremiah | 37. Haggai |
| 6. Jude | 21. Titus | 38. Colossians |
| 7. Luke | 22. James | 39. Acts |
| 8. Genesis | 23. Job | 40. Timothy |
| 9. Ruth | 24. Matthew | 41. Ephesians |
| 10. Samuel | 25. Peter | 42. Malachi |
| 11. Ezra | 26. Leviticus | 43. Corinthians |
| 12. Isaiah | 27. Hebrews | 44. Romans |
| 13. Lamentations | 28. Kings | 45. Hosea |
| 14. Joshua | 29. Nehemiah | 46. Galations |
| 15. Deuteronomy | 30. Philemon | 47. Philipppians |
| | 31. Ezekiel | 48. Thessalonians |
| | 32. Chronicles | 49. Proverbs |
| | | 50. Psalms |

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.

All our services are currently suspended.

Contact the Vicar, Canon Janet Parker for all enquiries.

Vicar	Revd Canon Janet E Parker revjanetparker@btinternet.com	01663 764519
Readers Emeritus	Prof. Tony Berry Mrs Jackie Jonas Mr John Wilson	01663 762393 01663 742068 01663 762151
Churchwardens	Mrs Shan Alexander Mr Alvin West	0161 427 4419 01663 763242
Hon Secretary	Mr Andrew Garety	ajgarety@waitrose.com
Hon Treasurer	Mr Geoff Gaskell	01663 763796
Finance Manager	Mr Alvin West	01663 763242
Gift Aid	Mr Alvin West	01663 763242
Verger	Mr Robert Taylor	01663 763478
Sacristan	Mrs Ann Lambert	01663 764521
Caretaker	Mr Steve Billinge	0785 5053404
Musical Director	Mr Marc Hall	marc.hall@me.com
Child Protection	Ms Janet Bailey	01663 810102

Website:	www.st-thomas-high-lane.org.uk Facebook page: St Thomas Church High Lane	
Magazine Editors	Dennis Parker bennas@btinternet.com Ron Baker Christine Wright	01663 764519 0161 4277123 st.thomas03@btinternet.com
Advertising	Mrs Mary Berry	01663 762393
Press dates	material to the editors by 12th May	