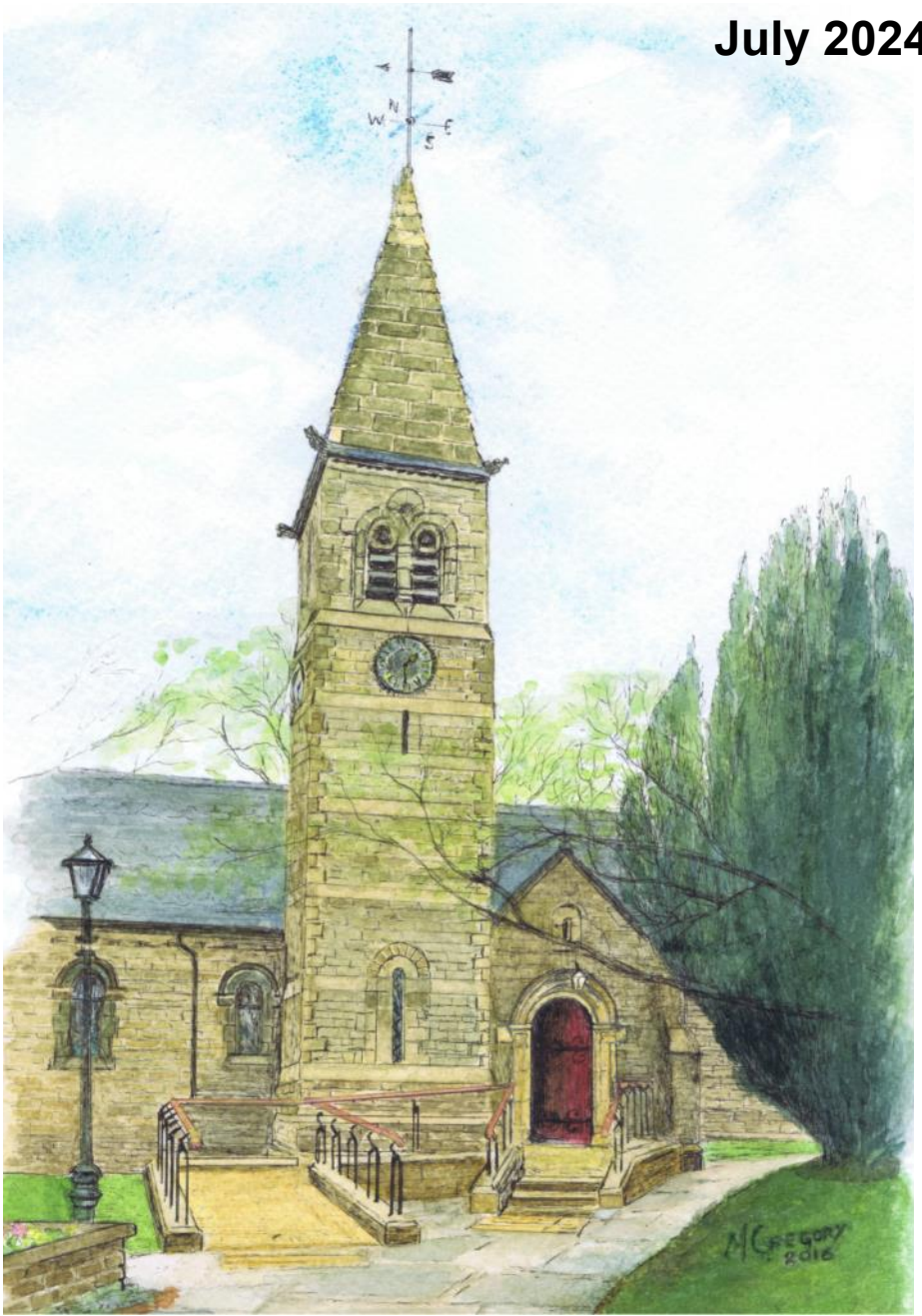


July 2024



St Thomas' Church

High Lane
Parish Magazine

50p

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

Worship with us

Join us for worship in the Anglican tradition.

We are worshipping together in church again but we also offer different ways that you can still be a part of our services by Zoom or phone. Please see the calendar in the centre pages for details.

Weddings and Baptisms

If you wish to arrange a Wedding or Baptism, please contact Rev'd Hannah.

Pastoral Care Team

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

We are Bronze Award Eco Church



Digital Donations

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



Contact the Vicar, Rev'd Hannah Hupfield

01663 766448

hannahhupfield@cantab.net

Vicar's LETTER



There are a few ongoing games and competitions in our family. None of us know quite when they started, or why, but they have become a constant part of family life. Upon spotting post in the vicarage post box there will be a short but enthusiastic race to be the first person to liberate the letters inside. Likewise, at the start of each month there is an unspoken competition to sneak into the kitchen and turn the page of the calendar to reveal the new picture for the month and discover the upcoming family birthdays and anniversaries.

July brings a day of celebration for St Thomas' as we mark our Patronal Festival. St Thomas is a saint who can be specially celebrated on one of two dates. During the 9th century St Thomas' Day was added to the Roman Catholic calendar and was assigned to 21st December. But, we tend to celebrate St Thomas' Day on 3rd July (or on the nearest Sunday to 3rd July). By moving the celebration to July it is possible to avoid clashes between the saint's day and the events of the Advent season.

St Thomas is a popular Patron Saint in this area. Within our own deanery of churches (Chadkirk Deanery) we share this date with St Thomas' church in Mellor. If we cross the deanery border into Stockport deanery then the first church we encounter is St Thomas' in Norbury but there is also St Thomas' in Stockport, and St Thomas' in Heaton Chapel to name just a few. Churches that are dedicated to the same saint which are in close geographical location does not seem to be particularly uncommon. As a curate in Lincolnshire there was an abundance of churches dedicated to St Botolph, reflecting that land in Icanhoh (said to be modern day Boston) has been given to Botolph for the foundation of a monastery. And, wherever we are in the country, it is unlikely that we will be very far from a St Mary's church.

Patron saints have traditionally been associated with prayer for the community and people of the area – praying particularly for their welfare, health and happiness. As St Thomas' Day approaches and as we as a community and nation face a time of great change, I pray that High Lane will continue to grow together and support one another. St Thomas is perhaps most associated with doubt. He struggled and wrestled with the events of Jesus' resurrection but when he met the risen Jesus recognised him and proclaimed 'My Lord and my God!'

As a patron saint, St Thomas brings me great hope. When the world is confusing or complicated, St Thomas provides the guidance, hope and example that God's presence might just surprise us and bring an abundance of joy. Joy that we can share with one another in our faith and the life we share in the major life events, mundane moments and even the silly moments of our lives together.

Yours in Christ
Rev'd Hannah

Parish ACTIVITIES

Come join us at St Thomas Church Tree Tots Group

Our last session this term will be 29th July and then we will be reopening on the 9th September 9.30-11.30am

A group of bumps, babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents or carers.

Tea, coffee, play, a chance to chat and make new friends

Suggested donation £2 per family

Contact Rev'd Ashleigh Askwith 07726 937939



**Messy Church is taking a break
for July and August**

**We will be back again on
Saturday 7th September at 3.30pm**

Further details from Rev'd Hannah on 01663 766448

Do join us for a

Crafty Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 10th July at 10.00am

As well as our usual tea/coffee and scrumptious cakes there will be a raffle and hopefully some interesting items to buy.

Do you handmade craft items? Have you previously bought handmade items you no longer want? Would you be willing to donate some items for our July Crafty Coffee Morning to raise funds for our church?

What can you donate? Good quality handmade items that you are willing to give to us to sell at the coffee morning should not be too expensive (please give us a suggested charge of no more than £5), The items should be well made, in excellent condition, and can be created in any medium.

SUMMER BAND CONCERT WITH HAWK GREEN BAND

Friday 12th July

at 8.00pm in St Thomas' Church

**Come and enjoy a fun evening with
music and laughter**

Tickets £10 on sale now

Contact Jean on 01663 763478

Proceeds to Church West End Project

Do you have family members in St Thomas' Churchyard?

Volunteers are invited to come and help with some tidying up and gardening in the churchyard at St Thomas'.

Come along on

Saturday 13th July

anytime between 9am to 12 noon

- many hands make light work!

Refreshments will be provided
but you are encouraged to bring
gardening gloves and any tools
you might find helpful!



Parish NEWS

Anniversary of Baptisms

2nd	Jaxon Jagger
	Penelope Pollard
5th	Amelia-Rose Forrest

Funeral

7th June	Nicola Shelmerdine
----------	--------------------

Burial of Ashes

26th May	Rose Boardman
2nd June	Alan Gadd
9th June	Julie Wickenden



Ordination Celebrations

Thirteen new priests were ordained at Chester Cathedral on Saturday, 15th June.

Amongst them were Rev'd Amy Ruston (nee Stevenson) and Rev'd Tom Ruston.

Amy and Tom were married here at St Thomas' church last July and St Thomas' has been Amy's home church. It was also joyful to celebrate with Rev'd Andy Crook who joined us for a placement at St Thomas' during his ordination training.

We wish them all well as they begin this new chapter of ordained life together.

Parish Magazine

July is the start of our new advertising year and we welcome a new advert for **Maria Pontes**.

It is a good time to thank all our advertisers as without them we could not produce the magazine.

Please use these companies' services and let them know that you saw their advert in St Thomas' Parish Magazine.

It is a good time, also, to give our sincere thanks to all our distributors who turn out whatever the weather to bring the magazine to our readers. Several of these distributors are in their 80s and even 90s!

Mary Berry works so hard liaising with our advertisers, reminding of renewal, chasing payment, etc. Robert and Jean Taylor put a great deal of time into subscriptions, ensuring distribution lists are correct and payments received. Robert also proof reads along with Alvin. You are all stars!

Finally, don't forget that we produce a large print edition of the magazine. It is the same price as the regular magazine, 50p. Excellent value! Contact Jean Taylor if you would like a copy delivered to you. **CW**

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Old Testament: 1 and 2 Samuel

1 and 2 Samuel was originally a single work, which focuses on Samuel, Saul and David, around 1,000 BC, mid-way between Abraham and Jesus. It was Samuel who established the monarchy in Israel after the period of the judges. He was commanded by God to give the people a king, although their request is seen as a rejection of God's rule over Israel (8:7). The people simply wanted to be like other nations, however their king was still subject to God's law and the word of the prophet. Although Samuel anointed Saul, he soon showed an unwillingness to submit to these requirements, leading to his rejection as king (15:23). God chose David as Saul's successor, and 1 Samuel depicts David's years of waiting until the right time arrived to claim the throne.

2 Samuel depicts David's rule, in which the nation prospers and its enemies are defeated. The promise of the perfect king is fulfilled in Jesus Himself, as David's descendant. The second half of the book depicts the darker side of David's reign, describing his weaknesses and failures, including his adultery with Bathsheba and the rebellion of his son Absalom.

Nevertheless, David remained a man after God's own heart: *'The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'* (1 Samuel 16:7). The characters in this book are not always great examples of faith, however, *'They do not show us how we should live but how in fact we do live, authenticating the reality of our daily experience as the stuff that God uses to work his purposes of salvation in us and in the world.'* (Eugene Peterson).

"I believe that there is no one lovelier, deeper, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus – not only is there no one else like Him, but there could never be anyone like Him. –*Feodor Dostoevsky*

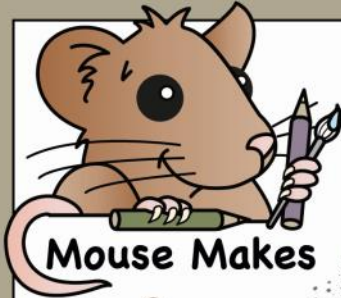
Foxhill Retreat House

Did you know that Chester Diocese has a retreat house? Foxhill House & grounds is located near Frodsham and offers a Christian space to learn, pray and relax—alone or as part of group.

Each month there is an 'Encounter Day' which explore an aspect of God's presence with us and provides space for calm and quietness.

If you feel like a retreat might be a helpful part of your spiritual journey, there is also a range of themed days that might be of interest. This year Rev'd Ashleigh (with her husband Rev'd Josh) is leading a day retreat for families on Saturday 20th July titled 'Telling God's Story'. Later in the year (1st—2nd August), Rev'd Hannah (with her husband Rev'd Timothy) will be leading a 24 hour retreat called 'Drawing Near' which will explore different ways to pray. Foxhill is also a great place to spend a day individually in peace and stillness.

For more details contact Foxhill on 01928 733 777 or online foxhillchester.co.uk



Mouse Makes

How many days did the Lord tell Joshua to march around the city of Jerico?

Joshua 6:3



What did the priests carry that were made from rams' horns?

Joshua 6:4

What was carried along behind the priests?

The -----
Joshua 6:4



On the seventh day how many times did they march around Jerico?

Joshua 6:6



Who was saved from Jerico along with her family?

Joshua 6:17

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

READ
the story
in *Joshua*
5:13-6:27

JERICO • LORD • JOSHUA • ISRAEL • KING • PRIESTS • GUARD
 CAMP • MARCH • AROUND • DAYS • WALK • ONCE • BLOW • HORN • SOUND
 DAWN • SHOUT • CITY • WALL • FELL • FLAT • FIRE • BURN • DESTRUCTION

Find the question answers in the word search too!

July24©deborah.noble • parishpump.co.uk

Eco NEWS

Although diseased trees need removing, the felling of a tree should be carefully considered. People consider a tree should be removed if it is to build a road or a house or because the leaves pollute the roof and block the drainage system but trees offer numerous benefits that should be considered:

CO2 absorption and oxygen production: One tree absorbs about 22 kg of CO₂ per year and produces enough oxygen for two people. This contributes significantly to improving air quality.

Soil stabilization: With its deep roots, a tree stabilizes the soil and prevents erosion. The roots improve the soil structure and increase the water retention capacity of the soil.

Climate regulation: Trees reflect and absorb some solar radiation, which helps to cool the environment. A single tree can have the cooling effect of ten air conditioners.

Cloud formation and precipitation: Through evaporation, trees contribute to cloud formation and thus have a positive influence on the local microclimate and precipitation.

Soil fertility: Leaves that fall to the ground decompose and serve as food for the soil. This promotes soil fertility and supports the growth of other plants.

Nutrient cycling: Trees provide sugars to the mycelium in exchange for nutrients, which promotes soil life and supports ecosystem health.

Air purification: Trees absorb dust and pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide, which significantly improves air quality.

Habitat: Trees provide habitat and food for a variety of animals, including birds, insects and rodents, thus promoting biodiversity.

Sound and visual protection: Trees can act as a natural sound and visual barrier, which is particularly beneficial in urban areas.

Shade and protection: Trees provide shade and protection from UV radiation, which pleasantly cools the local microclimate.

Additionally:

Economic benefits: Urban trees can increase property values and reduce energy costs by providing natural cooling.

Health benefits: Spending time near trees and green spaces reduces stress, improves mental health and promotes physical activity.

Conclusion: In addition to CO₂ reduction, a tree provides freshness, water and oxygen. Trees are an indispensable technology that can save us! Plant trees, plant hedges.

Ecologically, always consider pruning and pollarding instead of removal.

Remembering the faith of Eric Liddell – 100 years ago at the Paris Olympics

The 2024 Paris Olympics (26 July – 11 August) will soon be here. It was 100 years ago this summer, also at the Paris Olympics, that a young science student at Edinburgh University, Eric Liddell, ran an astonishing race that caught the imagination of millions worldwide.

Liddell had been born in China in 1902, to Scottish missionaries there. Early on, he had made a deep commitment to Jesus Christ, and sensed he was being called to spend his life in serving others. But Liddell was also an outstanding sportsman, playing rugby for Scotland before settling on athletics.

When he was chosen for the Paris Olympics, he expected to run his preferred 100m. But then came the news that the race would be run on a Sunday, and Liddell refused. Quickly, he trained for the 200m and 400m. He took bronze at the 200m, but no one expected much from him at the 400m. Instead, he won, and even broke the world record in the process.

After the Olympics, Liddell felt God calling him to his life's work. He went back to China, to teach in a Christian college. As the Second World War loomed, he sent his wife and children home, but stayed on himself. By 1943 Liddell was confined to a brutal prison camp, where he shone among the fellow prisoners – encouraging them, teaching Bible classes, and praying for both his fellow inmates and the prison wardens. Deeply malnourished, and with an undiagnosed brain tumor, his health failed. In 1945, just months before the war ended and the camp liberated, he died, aged only 43.

In 1981 his story was made into the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*.

Quotes from Eric Liddell

“Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out His wonderful plan of love.”

“I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast! And when I run I feel his pleasure.”

“The secret of my success over the 400m is that I run the first 200m as fast as I can. Then, for the second 200m, with God's help I run faster.”

“We are all missionaries. Wherever we go we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ.”

“If, in the quiet of your heart, you feel something should be done, stop and consider whether it is in line with the character and teaching of Jesus. If so, obey that impulse to do it, and in doing so you will find it was God guiding you.”



Sea Sunday – 14th July

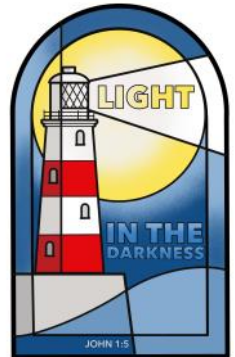
Look around your home. How much of the contents of your bedroom, kitchen, living room and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships? What would your home be like without them?

Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you? It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We depend on them to bring us more than 90% of the world's goods and fuels, yet we rarely even remember their existence. It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem a very good idea: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the 1.89 million seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for up to nine months on end. It is also one of the world's most dangerous occupations, with physically demanding work as well as the threat of piracy, shipwreck and even abandonment.

So this Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.

One such is The Mission to Seafarers, which has Seafarers Centres in 50 countries, and offers not only practical support such as access to Wi-Fi and a place to relax, but also emotional and spiritual aid through its ordained Port Chaplains, who are constantly visiting the ships.

There are also several Christian organisations who work with seafarers, including Mission to Seafarers, www.missiontoseafarers.org and Sailors' Society, www.sailors-society.org



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Sunday 28th July 12 - 4pm
Drop in any time
FREE EVENT

Connect with others Nature walk Free food Rewilding Stockport talk Games Expert talks Kids activities

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Wives Group

F
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P

We enjoyed our traditional day out in Llandudno, always a happy occasion. Here's hoping for some warmer weather as our summer break approaches.

- 1st July Service & Fellowship
- 8th July *Salvation Army* with Maisie Veacock
- 15th July Summer Meal at the Red Lion

SUMMER BREAK

Our next meeting will be on Sept 2nd - Service & Fellowship

Best wishes
Betty



- TALKS ▪ QUIZES ▪ MEALS OUT ▪ ANNUAL DAY OUT ▪

Classic books to read in your lifetime

Pan Macmillan have compiled various lists of books to read in your lifetime. They cover Literary books, Science Fiction, Non Fiction, etc.

The *Classic Books* list cites the following:

- Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte;
- Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen;
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle,
- Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes;
- David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens;
- Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte;
- The Great Gatsby* by Scott Fitzgerald;
- Middlemarch* by George Eliot and
- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass

How many of these books have you read? Would you add other classic books to the list? Should the Bible be on this list...?

The full lists can be found online at www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/general/must-read-books-of-all-time

Miscellaneous observations:

- ~ I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.
- ~ A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station...
- ~ To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- ~ Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- ~ In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify ..." I answered, "a doctor."

Reflecting Faith: Commissioner Churches

The Revd Dr Jo White

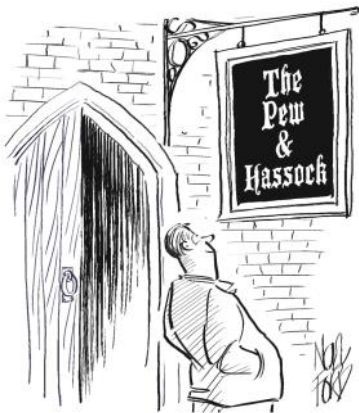
When you look carefully at churches in towns, you may notice there are many similarities in their designs. That's because Parliament in 1818 and later in 1824 brought about an Act to enable new churches to be built particularly in towns where the population had grown exponentially due to the industrial revolution and general movement away from the countryside and into town-based work and homes.

These are known as Commissioners, Waterloo or even Million Act churches. The body overseeing the work was the Church Building Commission; the Act followed the end of the Battle of Waterloo and guess how much money was voted to be used by the first Act? The second amount in 1824 was only half a million. All the money was to be used for the Church of England as the 'established' church in Great Britain.

In some cases the Commissioners provided the full cost of the new church; in other cases they provided a partial grant and the balance was raised locally. In total 612 new churches were provided.

One can imagine the significance in those days for country folk to find a local church when they moved away from everything they had known. Not only would it have been spiritually uplifting but they would have been social hubs where connections and friendships were made as well as points of support and practical help; especially for those away from their extended families.

This month: Have a look at your own church and consider what it stands for in your community. What is it that those attending most seek and appreciate? Perhaps ask someone who does not regularly attend church services what they think. How would it affect the village if our church was not there?



Changing the name from "St Mark's Parish Church" resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services...

Those memorable school reports *(from letters to the Daily Telegraph)*

- ~ After my first grammar school year: 'A happy soul and quite unconcerned at his ignorance.'
I never did improve. *J Swindell, Cheshire*
- ~ He has a small red box, which he drops.
R Harrison, East Sussex
- ~ For religious studies, my report in 1973 read: 'Not very interested'.
Revd Roger Hagon Surrey
- ~ I have kept none of my school reports. My mother's maternity records judged me best: 'Feeble at birth with considerable moulding.' – *T Duffy, Middlesex*



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Calendar for July 2024

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

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

Church is open each day for Private Prayer.



Wednesday 3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 4th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Friday 5th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Sunday 7th **St Thomas (transferred) Patronal Festival**

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 10th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Crafty Coffee Morning
Thursday 11th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Friday 12th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	8.00pm	Band Concert

Sunday 14h **Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 17th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 18th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Friday 19th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Sunday 21st **Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 24th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 25th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Friday 26th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

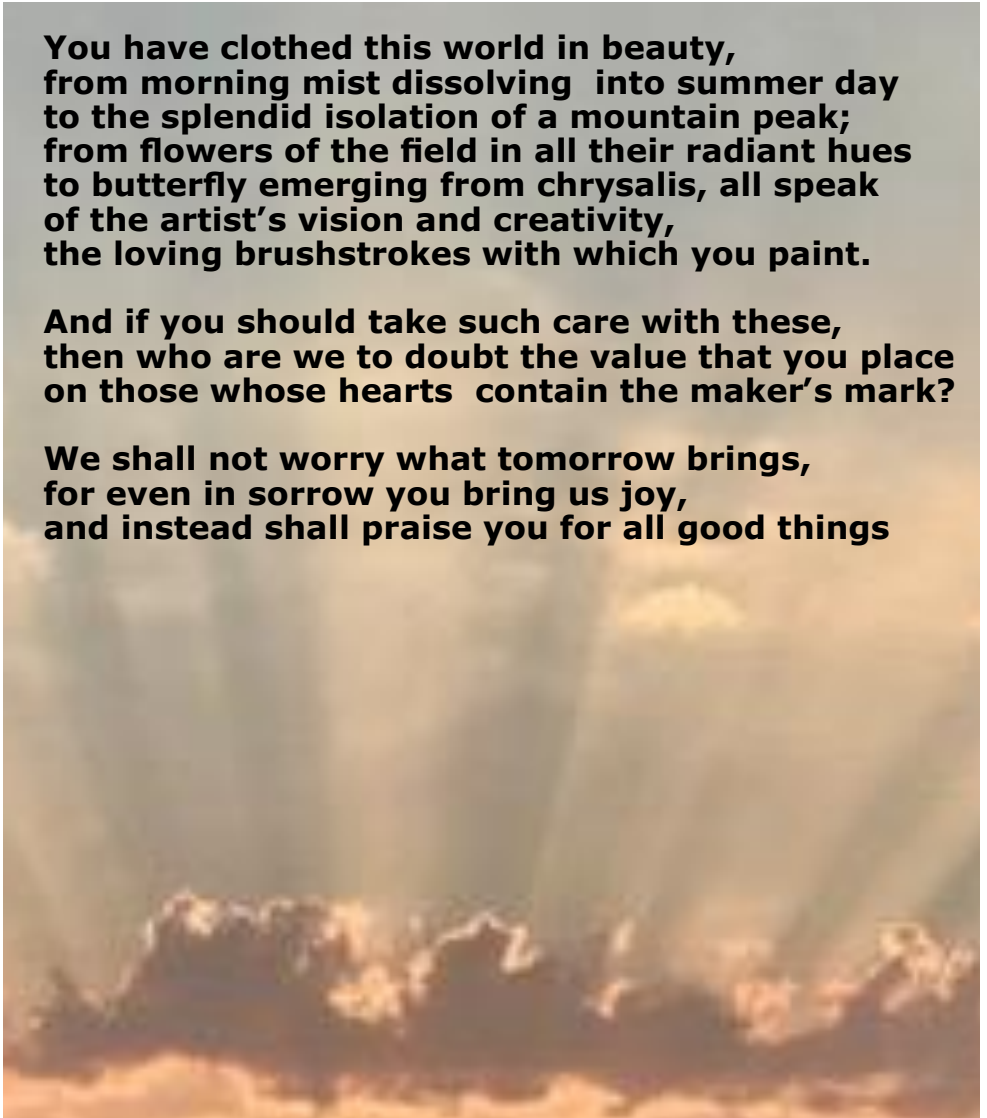
Sunday 28th	Ninth Sunday after Trinity	
	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong

For inclusion in telephone services please contact Rev'd Hannah 01663 766 448

**You have clothed this world in beauty,
from morning mist dissolving into summer day
to the splendid isolation of a mountain peak;
from flowers of the field in all their radiant hues
to butterfly emerging from chrysalis, all speak
of the artist's vision and creativity,
the loving brushstrokes with which you paint.**

**And if you should take such care with these,
then who are we to doubt the value that you place
on those whose hearts contain the maker's mark?**

**We shall not worry what tomorrow brings,
for even in sorrow you bring us joy,
and instead shall praise you for all good things**



Community NEWS

High Lane Residents Association

The past months have been very interesting for those of us involved in the Residents' Association, we have met some amazing people.

Earlier in the year we realized that our defibrillator at the pharmacy would soon need a new battery and a full-service costing around £650.00. It was decided we should apply for a grant to assist with the costs. We are delighted that the Macnair Trust based in Marple have provided a generous grant to cover this expense, a big thank you to them.

Early in May we were contacted by Stockport Talking Newspaper. They produce interesting articles in audio format keeping blind or visually impaired people in touch with local news and events. They wanted to include something about High Lane. Two of our ladies have recently started a project on sharing memories of High Lane so were able to provide an article. This week, we visited the studio where the clever work is done and met the people running the enterprise who give all their time for free providing a wonderful facility. If you would like to contribute to this project, please email - contact@hlra.org.uk

Through the Sunflower project for the Old High Lane Station on Middlewood Way, we became involved with a group of young people called Good-Gym. They provide a free service, helping with all types of physical projects. We asked for help clearing the ground of weeds particularly elder. What an amazing group, they ran from the park and ride in Hazel Grove, did almost 2 hours of hard physical work, then ran back to park and ride still with smiles on their faces! They have done this on two occasions now, another thank you to a wonderful local group.

Our next monthly meeting has been rearranged due to National Elections, and will be on **Tuesday 9 July at 8pm.**

website www.hlra.org.uk or contact us at contact@hlra.org.uk .



Disley and Lyme Horticultural Society

We are well on the way with organising our annual show on the 10th August, the marquee will be a wonderful spectacle of flowers, fruit and vegetables and the Badminton Hall will be bursting with baking, art, embroidery, photography and beer, surrounded by the show field full of good things to buy, eat and drink with entertainment for the children, and not forgetting the pets.

We are looking forward to receiving all of your wonderful entries to be exhibited. You can find our schedule on our website www.dlhs.weeebly.com and keep your eye out for paper copies in many outlets in High Lane very soon.

Thanks go to our all of our members and volunteers who work throughout the year to help us organise and host the Show, we look forward to seeing you all on Show Day.

We have a coffee morning booked in for 20th July at Disley Community Centre 10-12 for one last push to raise the funds to put on our show and we hope to see many of you there.

DLHS

Press

For the benefit of those who doubt the power of the press, here is a clip from a newspaper:

‘Owing to the overcrowded conditions of our columns, a number of births and deaths are unavoidably postponed this week.’



HIGH LANE VILLAGE WI

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

Wed 3rd July: **Mark Llewelyn: My life on the Cobbles of Coronation St**
Wed 7th August: **Free and easy, lots of chat, quizzes and refreshments**
Wed 4th September: **Phil Catling: Witches and Beer**

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

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

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

Stornoway's Shed Project has celebrated a decade of making a difference to its island community.

In those 10 years, the Shed has expanded the services it offers to people of all ages on the Isle of Lewis. These include drop-in facilities for local youngsters, a safe space for adults recovering from drug or alcohol addiction, as well as mentoring and support for primary and secondary pupils.

Prayers before the election from Renew Stockport

The outcome of a General Election can bring about a period of change, a time when old challenges are met with new ideas, optimism, new challenges, unforeseen risks and opportunities.

It is never not the time for God's people to pray for the peace and prosperity of their communities, towns, cities and nation. A General Election brings to sharp focus this Biblical mandate and many church congregations across Stockport are responding with heightened prayer activity during this election period. In addition, there is an opportunity; on the day before the general election, to take some time out to join with others to pray for our town and nation.

Thanks to Revd Chris Blunt and the team at St Mary's in the Marketplace, the church building will be open from 8.00am for 12 hours until 8.00pm, and you are welcome to come and pray at anytime and to stay for as long as you are able. The Renew Stockport core team will ensure that there will always be someone present to support and guide in prayer as required. For further information please email info@renew-stockport.org



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Demand for foodbanks increases

The demand for emergency food parcels distributed by the Trussel Trust's foodbank network has nearly doubled in five years, with a record amount being handed out over the past 12 months alone. Between April 2023 and March 2024, 3.1 million food parcels were given out; 65 per cent of which went to families with children. Now the chief executive of the Trussell Trust, Emma Revie, has called on political leaders to set out policies that ensure that foodbank use will become obsolete in the UK. She urges: "We must not let foodbanks become the new norm. A supportive social-security system is the bedrock on which we end hunger for good. Building on this, we need much more effective employment and financial support for parents, carers and disabled people. And action to ensure everyone can have the security we all need to access opportunities and have hope for the future." Families with children and working-age adults are among the most frequent users of foodbanks, but there has been a 27-per cent increase in the number of pensioners needing emergency food in the past year.

Be careful of the sun this summer – melanoma is on the rise

Skin cancer cases are expected to top 20,000 for the first time this year, according to a recent study by Cancer Research UK. While the increase in skin cancers has occurred across all the ages, it is highest in the elderly, who enjoyed cheap package holidays to sunny countries during the 60s and 70s. They were exposed to higher ultraviolet radiation without realising the dangers. The numbers of people aged 80 and over who develop skin cancers has soared by 57 per cent in 10 years. And while younger people are more likely to take precautions against the sun, those aged 25 to 49 are still predicted to see a seven per cent rise in skin cancers this year. Cancer Research UK has partnered with Nivea Sun to advise the public to stay in the shade between 11am to 3pm, cover up with clothes, a hat and UV-protected sunglasses, and use sunscreen with protection levels of at least factor 30. Anyone who notices any unusual changes to their skin should contact their GP.

King Charles accepts the patronages

Queen Elizabeth II was the patron of both National Churches Trust and Bible Society charities, but following her passing, her patronages underwent review. Now King Charles has agreed to continue with his mother's legacy, saying he would be "delighted" to accept them both. King Charles said his faith is "deeply rooted" in the Church of England. On his accession to the throne, he told faith leaders that he was "a committed Anglican Christian" and promised at his Coronation to "maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the gospel."

Chief executive of the National Churches Trust, Claire Walker, said: "We are honoured to welcome King Charles III as Patron. This highlights the significance of UK churches and the important role of the National Church in keeping these wonderful buildings open and in good repair." Bible Society's chief executive, Paul Williams, said: "We're absolutely delighted with this news, and very thankful. This is an affirmation of the value of Bible Society's work in sharing God's Word at home and abroad."

Can you help to 'dry out' Marygate House?

Knowing that many readers will have been to Holy Island, we share this message for help

Marygate House on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne is in big trouble. It is very wet! After years of winter wind, gales, and endless rain, the property is suffering extensive damp.

Many thousands of people will know Marygate House, which has served visitors to the island since 1970. It is now run by a small Christian trust who wants to repair the building for future visitors, but it needs a final £20,000 to do so.

A crowdfunder has been set up for donations for the repair work. If you love Lindisfarne and would like to help, please visit:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Marygate-House.

Special Service at Windlehurst Methodist Church

On Sunday 28th July at 10.30am, Windlehurst Methodist Church commemorates 50 years of the Ordination of women as Presbyters within the Methodist Church with a special celebration service led by Rev'd David Peach.

Throughout history women have often been and in many cases still are among the voiceless and the unnamed, not just within the secular world, but also within Christendom. God made humans in the image of God. Each and every one of us worthy of equal value and dignity. Even now in 2024, some find it easy to overlook the important place that Jesus gave to women throughout his ministry. The Christian church as a whole has in the past struggled with the ordination of women as priests and still today there is some opposition whether it be on a gender issue or a theological issue.

The auspicious moment in the history of the church happened on the 2nd of July 1974 when seventeen women prepared themselves to break through the "glass ceiling" and were ordained as Presbyters at the Methodist Conference in Bristol that year – an event truly worth celebrating!

A Good Role Model

Marlene Engelhorn, a Millennial member of one of the richest families in Austria, has given away her inheritance to charity. The heiress, whose forebearers founded the BSAF pharmaceutical company, allowed 50 members of the Austrian public to determine how her money would be divided and donated—to various charitable and non-profit organizations. Her €25 million share of the family's \$4.2 billion fortune was portioned out to 77 such groups by 50 randomly chosen citizens of Salzburg, who formed a working group that met over the course of 6 weeks to make the determination. Designated the Good Council for Redistribution, the members were selected at random from a pool of 10,000 people. Once the committee was formed, Engelhorn withdrew entirely from the process.

Saint of the Month

15th July – St Swithun (or Swithin), saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962.

There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England

United Nations World Population Day - 11th July

The world population is around 8.1 Billion people. This day aims to raise awareness about global population issues. It emphasises the importance of empowering women and girls to make informed choices about their reproductive health and rights.

Some facts:

More than 40 per cent of women around the world cannot make decisions on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

A woman dies every two minutes due to pregnancy or childbirth (and in conflict settings, the number of deaths is twice as high).

Nearly one third of women have experienced intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both.

Just six countries have 50 per cent or more women in parliament.

More than two thirds of the 800 million people globally who cannot read are women.

www.unfpa.org/swop-2014

When the police will come after your dog

Knowing that local farmers and their livestock have suffered due to dog attacks, please ensure all dog owners know about this:

Keep your dogs on a lead around livestock, or it could be seized by the police. Under laws being drawn up, police will be given more powers to seize and detain dogs who they believe have 'terrorised livestock' on farms.

The move follows increasing tensions in rural communities since Covid produced many unsocialised 'lockdown puppies.' Farm animals worth an estimated £2.4 million were severely injured or killed by dogs in 2023 alone. That was up nearly 30 per cent from 2022, according to figures from the insurer NFU mutual.

Under current laws, only the owner can be prosecuted when dogs worry livestock. Police have not been able to deal with dogs who attack farm animals while out roaming on their own. But under the new law, they can be seized.

Former environment secretary Therese Coffey says, "No longer will victims of this crime feel helpless after suffering devastating attacks. Those who carelessly let dogs attack livestock will no longer get off scot-free."

David Barton, the NFU's livestock board chair, said livestock worrying can have a significant financial impact on farmers, as well as causing them "stress and anguish" to see their animals suffer.

Is someone in your family pregnant?

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) are looking for pregnant women to take part in their new RELAX research. RELAX is short for 'REDucing Levels of AnXxiety' in pregnancy and after birth and is a study to find ways to reduce worry and anxiety in pregnant women and new mothers.

About RELAX

The RELAX study is testing a new online training for pregnant women who worry. The training aims to reduce worry and anxiety before and after birth. We already know that this type of training reduces worry and anxiety in non-pregnant people. The study will find out whether the RELAX training helps to reduce anxiety in pregnant women and new mothers.

What the RELAX sessions involve

12 online sessions, to be completed over four weeks.

Each session takes about 20 minutes.

Sessions involve listening to short scenarios, imagining how the scenario may turn out and answering some questions.

You will be able to view your progress as you go along.

You must be aged 18 years or older, 15 to 28 weeks pregnant

Details from relax.healthmachine.io

Doubts about the Christian faith? – take action now!

Rev'd Dr Roger Roberts

Do you have doubts about the Christian faith? July is the month for you to decide what to do about them. This month the Church remembers Doubting Thomas, and there IS action *you* can take, either way.

You know the story: Thomas was the only apostle not present when Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of His resurrection. When the rejoicing disciples later told Thomas that Jesus was alive, he flatly refused to believe them. He had seen the crucifixion. The gospel goes on to relate that a week later Jesus indeed appeared to Thomas, and invited him to put his hand into the holes in His hands and feet. Thomas was utterly overwhelmed. His response was 'My Lord and My God!' He saw, he believed.

Then Jesus said something which is relevant to us today. "Blessed are those who have *not* seen and yet have believed." (Jn 20:29) Jesus KNOWS it can be hard for you, who have never seen Him, to believe that He is indeed alive, and Lord of all. Which is, of course, where we are today. Perhaps you really struggle with doubt. Well, there are two courses of action you can take.

Don't read the Bible. Begin to forget what Christianity teaches. Don't go to church, don't ask God, or anyone else, for help. Your 'doubts' are perfectly honest questions, but stop looking for answers. Assume that because you have questions, there are no answers.

Look for some answers. Find out what the New Testament actually says about Jesus – by reading it! Do not be confused into thinking that you 'doubt' something which you may not even really 'know.' Pray – remember that Jesus said that those who believe without seeing are 'blessed'. So, ask God that, if He is there, please would He 'bless' you by opening your eyes to spiritual realities. Go to church. Yes, the Christian faith demands that we take God at His word, with no evidence other than His Word. But though we believe in Jesus without seeing Him, we do NOT believe without considering Him. Faith is not blind credulity and unthinking naiveté. We have faith in the historic person of Jesus Christ.

Peter writes some real encouragement in his first epistle, "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Signs found outside churches

- ~ It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- ~ If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
- ~ This is a ch__ch What is missing? (U R)
- ~ Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- ~ In the dark? Follow the Son.
- ~ Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.
- ~ If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.



The Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight “Lest We Forget”

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) was inaugurated on 11th July 1957 at RAF Biggin Hill. It was initially called the RAF Historic Aircraft Flight and consisted of three PR MK XIX Spitfires and the last RAF's airworthy Hurricane. It was then renamed to the Battle of Britain Flight before a final renaming in 1969 to what it is to be known as today, BBMF.

The mission of the RAF BBMF is to maintain the priceless artifacts of our national heritage in airworthy condition in order to commemorate those who have fallen in the service of this country. The RAF BBMF serves to promote the modern day Air Force and to inspire future generations.

The Flight currently operates six Spitfires, two Hurricanes, a Lancaster, a C47 Dakota and two Chipmunk aircraft (primarily for training). All aircraft are flown by regular RAF aircrew. The BBMF is a regular RAF unit, manned by service personnel and funded by the Ministry of Defence.

Spitfire: The iconic Supermarine Spitfire was critical in defeating the Luftwaffe air attacks during the Battle of Britain in 1940. More Spitfires were built than any other combat aircraft before or since World War Two - 20,341 in total.

Hurricane: The Hawker Hurricane played a vital role in the Battle of Britain. There are only twelve airworthy Hurricanes left in the world and the BBMF operates two, one of which was the last one to be manufactured from a total of 14,533.

Lancaster: The Avro Lancaster is the most famous and successful RAF heavy bomber of World War Two. There are only two airworthy Lancasters left in the world - 7,377 were built. The BBMF Lancaster did not take part in any hostilities and was built by the Vickers Armstrong factory at Howarden Airfield, Cheshire on 31st May 1945.

Dakota: The Douglas C47 Dakota is one of the most successful military transport aircraft designed in history, and was widely used by the allies in WW2. The BBMF Dakota performed parachute dropping operations on the eve of D-Day plus missions to evacuate casualties.

Chipmunk: The least deployed of aircraft on the BBMF fleet. Used for training of the Flight's pilots on tail-wheel aircraft, reconnaissance of new venues and the delivery and collection of pilots and spares.

The Lest We Forget motto of the RAF BBMF is intended to honour the thousands of men and women in the air, on the ground and at sea that gave their lives for this country in the noble pursuit of freedom.

The BBMF is located at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire LN44SY with a visitor centre providing conducted tours. Telephone 01522 782040. They are also supported by Lincolnshire's Lancaster Association, Unit 4, Wavell Drive, Lincoln LN3 4PL who have a world-wide membership.

Derek Ankers



All in the month of July

It was

750 years ago, on 11th July 1272 that Robert I (Robert the Bruce) was born. He was King of Scotland 1306-29.

125 years ago, on 1st July 1899 that the Gideons International was founded. The evangelical Christian association places free Bibles in hotel rooms, hospitals, schools, military bases and prisons around the world.

90 years ago, on 4th July 1934 that Marie Curie, Polish-born French physicist died. Twice winner of the Nobel Prize for her work on radioactivity. The first woman to win a Nobel prize.

75 years ago, on 27th July 1949 that the first successful test flight of the de Havilland Comet, the first commercial passenger jet, took place. The jet went on into production.

Also 75 years ago, on 29th July 1949 that the BBC began broadcasting regular weather forecasts on TV.

70 years ago, on 5th July 1954 that the BBC launched the first daily television news programme in the UK.

Also 70 years ago, on 21st July 1954 that the first part of J R R Tolkien's epic fantasy novel *The Lord of the Rings* was published.

65 years ago, on 25th July 1959 that the first hovercraft crossed the English Channel. The SRN-1 had been designed by British inventor Christopher Cockerell.

60 years ago, on 28th July 1964 that NASA launched its Ranger 7 space probe on a mission to the Moon. On 31st July it sent back the first close-up images of the lunar surface.

50 years ago, on 24th July 1974 that the US Supreme Court ordered President Richard Nixon to surrender the White House tape recordings that had been subpoenaed by the House Judiciary Committee in April. The White House released the tapes on 5th August, and Nixon resigned on 9th August, before he could be impeached.

40 years ago, on 9th July 1984 that York Minster in England was struck by lightning, which set fire to the roof and destroyed the south transept.

30 years ago, on 15 July 1994, that the Rwandan genocide ended. Up to 1.1 million people were killed by the Hutu-led government and other militias between April and July.

15 years ago, on 5th July 2009 that the Staffordshire Hoard was discovered by a metal detectorist in Hammerwich, a village in Staffordshire. It is the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver ever found, and consists of around 4,600 items dating from the 7th century.

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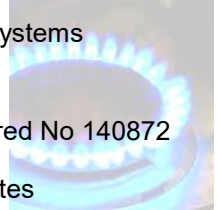
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