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Parish Review

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More information on Page 9

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St Luke's Farnworth Parish

Churchwardens

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Barry Ingram | 286 Upton Lane | 01514232492 |
| George Telfer | 8 Wentworth Close | 07792412415 |
| Barry Horabin | 12 Buckingham Ave | 07471350957 |
| Pat Johnson | 17 Bridewell Court | 07717522878 |
| Lay Chair | Barry Ingram | 01514232492 |
| Verger | George Telfer | 01514234640 |
| Project Manager | Barry Horabin | 01514249887 |
| PCC Secretary | Sandra Lacey | 07761672030 |
| PCC Treasurer | Yvonne Horabin | 01514249887 |
| Safeguarding Officer | Margaret Campbell | 01514246039 |

**SUNDAY CLUB, CHOIR PRACTICE and BELL RINGING
PRACTICE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Sunday Club 1030am in the Bridewell most Sundays

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday Club Leader | Lynn Keeling | 01514243142 |
| Director of Music | Paul Delaney | 07778042553 |
| Choir practice | usually Mondays 6-7pm | |
| Tower Captain | Nigel Goulding | |
| Bell ringing practice | Tuesdays 7.30pm | |

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Schools | Farnworth C.E. Primary | 01514243042 |
| | Cronton C.E. Primary | 01514243881 |

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Editor | Philip Lacey | 07710030973 |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|

Kebbs Farm Clock Face Road Bold Widnes WA8 3XH

**Please submit any material, articles or adverts, via email to
farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk with attachments in Word, Arial font 12 Bold.**

Deadline for articles noon on 18th July 2020.

**The Editor, Clergy and the Churchwardens reserve the right to omit or edit material
provided for inclusion in this magazine.**

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Dear friends,

Who feels like celebrating?

Given these extraordinary times I am guessing that many of us could honestly answer, “Not me!”

As I write this, with the exception of those heroes and heroines who continue to provide essential care and services to our communities, we are all still in ‘lockdown’. Although our Government is beginning to give instructions for easing the restrictions, which have kept us safely separated from one another, there is still a long way to go.

Many of us are feeling the pain of being separated from our extended family (including our church family) and friends.

Some are in mourning after a bereavement, followed by a minimalist funeral; or anxiously hoping for an ill relative to recover; or ‘furloughed’ and wondering if there will be a job for them to return to.

Parents are having to make huge adjustments as they try to home-school their children and keep them occupied and happy all-day, every-day.

Teachers and governors are nervously seeking ways to keep children and staff safe after being encouraged to begin a phased return to school from the start of this month.

There is also a reported increase in the number of people who are experiencing mental health problems because of isolation and stress.

I’m sure you all join me in praying for these people.

However, despite, or maybe even because of these circumstances, I want to encourage us all to perhaps make an extra effort to celebrate every opportunity that we are given during this time.

The Church aids us in giving thanks to God for every blessing received and celebrating all that is good in creation. Thankful hearts make for happy and contented lives.

Some celebrations are once-in-a-lifetime events whilst others are annual or even more frequent occasions – the weekly ‘clap’ for NHS and key workers for example.

We celebrated mothers on the fourth Sunday in Lent for Mothering Sunday - although this year’s celebration was very different as we are still not allowed in our church buildings. Encouraged by the Archbishops, many of us lit a candle in a window of our homes and used that as a focus for our prayerful thanksgiving and celebrations.

The month of June gives us an opportunity to do something similar for fathers.

The idea of a special day to honour fathers and to celebrate fatherhood was started in the U.S.A by Sonora Smart Dodd in about 1910 and soon after became popular in this country. It is now celebrated annually on the third Sunday in June and this year falls on 21st.

Although not strictly speaking a religious festival like Mothering Sunday the church, of course, always supports opportunities to put the fifth commandment into practice,

“Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

With this in mind perhaps you might want to use the lit candle idea again as we give thanks and celebrate good fatherhood and pray for fathers everywhere? They certainly deserve our appreciation and need our prayers as they try to love and care for their families in these difficult days.

Whatever the future may hold I pray that you will find many reasons to celebrate in the coming months.

May God our Father bless you with his love,

Your friend,

Revd Bob

To listen to Zoom Morning Prayer



Contact Rev Bob 07904320542 or Sue Smither 07962012916 or Sandra Lacey 07761672030 for the password and a copy of Order of service for Morning Prayer (same format for both services)

Just before service time phone 02036950088 from a mobile or landline

When prompted enter

**Meeting ID: 5095149528#
Participant ID: just press #
Password: 6digits#**

All participants will be muted at the start of the service and people will be unmuted as necessary. To unmute yourself *6 and to indicate you wish to speak *9 to show a hand image on the Zoom screen.

Would you like to have your magazine sent by email and see it in colour? At present a small band of helpers are delivering 200 magazines so if you can reduce this number by receiving your copy by email please send a request by email to farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk THANK YOU

To watch Zoom Morning Prayer



**If you are not already using Zoom
Set up a free Zoom account on
<https://zoom.us>.**

Download the app to a PC or Mac computer - on Zoom website look for “Resources” top right, then choose “Download Zoom Client”.

**On smart phone or iPad it is Zoom Cloud Meetings.
If you do use a browser then Chrome is recommended
You can join a Meeting by Computer, Phone or iPad**

Before you join the Zoom service

- 1. Print a copy of order of service from the website st-luke.co.uk (same format for both services)**
- 2. Contact Rev Bob 07904320542 or Sue Smither 07962012916 or Sandra Lacey 07761672030 for the password**

**To join the service
click on the “Join a Meeting”
Enter meeting ID 5095149528
Enter the password**

All participants will be muted at the start of the service to avoid background noise and people will be unmuted as necessary.

You can unmute yourself but if you could raise your hand to indicate you wish to speak the host will unmute you.

When you join a meeting, please turn on video and computer audio when prompted so that we can all see and hear each other.

If you'd rather not be seen or heard, you can still join. You can change your mind about video and sound whenever you want.

You can have the meeting running in “Speaker mode” – whoever speaks will have their video enlarged. This is the usual way of running things.

You can switch to “Gallery mode” at any time and then see a gallery of everyone else!

You can click on chat and type a comment to us all at any time.

Don't be afraid to have a go – we are all learning and there will be lots of mistakes.

V.E.Day

In 2020, many celebrations are different from those planned. Holidays abroad have been cancelled, birthdays are via social media postings and weddings and baptisms have been postponed. Even funerals have been very much different, with the burials and cremations taking place but not the celebration of lives shared in our church community. Hopefully these will also take place when the lockdown lifts.

To mark 75 years since Victory in Europe in 1945, there would have been different sorts of merry-making. As Rita says in her MU report, we should have been having a coffee morning in Church and I'm sure there would have been plenty of street parties in an ancient community like Farnworth.

All off! We were encouraged to party at home, so Phil and I set up our bunting in the front garden. We had finished in time for the 2 minutes silence at 11.00 am and stood to attention in the front drive. A couple walking their dog realised and joined in - suitably distanced, of course! I was surprised at how much traffic went past at that time, although one or two beeped in recognition of the flags.

We set up a table and enjoyed afternoon tea in the drive, enhanced by our son, his wife and our two grandsons pausing during their daily walk. The boys loved the flags but Kurt, at 2, doesn't understand why Granny and Papa aren't picking him up like we used to. I wonder whether Cameron, at 4, will remember the event. My oldest sister, who was 4 in May 1945, recalls going to a party in Trinity Church Hall in Runcorn. Now we look forward to celebrating her 80th birthday in November - assuming a second wave hasn't hit us by then!

Phil's mum was 18 on VE Day and was living at Tug Hill in Penketh. She recalls going into the bedroom so that they could see the celebrations at the US Army base at Burtonwood. Her generation has lived through so many hardships, which may explain why she is taking lockdown in her stride, planting her bedding plants and even a tree, and looking forward to events planned for later in the year.

Later in the evening, we listened to our wonderful Queen, whose Coronation took place the day before I was born, so has been an ever-present in my life.





Our bunting has been used to celebrate several events in her life, although usually in the back garden, not the front! As usual, she was inspirational and we mustn't forget her message:

"Never give up, never despair!"

I tried to sing along with Dame Vera Lynn but the emotion took over. I always admire people like Rev Bob, Rev Lyn, Sue and Claire, who can maintain their equilibrium in difficult circumstances. We are blessed to have them in our community.

So a different day than that planned. As someone said, love comes in many forms and currently that means staying apart, which is so alien to us. Perhaps this year we will mark Victory in Japan day in August. This event has not been celebrated to the same extent, not because the suffering in that part of the world is overlooked but I think more because we are not especially proud of the atomic bombs that ended it. But basically the people who lived during the war had it far worse than we currently have it. For a start, they lost weight due to food shortages, not piled it on like some of us now!

So, as the old song says, we should "pack up our troubles in our old kit bag and SMILE."

Colleen Harper



Hope you saw Val and Stuart's shop window display for VE Day. Amazing as usual. Thanks to Colleen for photos.



MOTHERS' UNION

This is an unusual update as we haven't had any meetings to report on. It wouldn't have slipped your notice that we have been in lockdown due to Covid 19. It has brought out the best and occasionally the worst in people. There has been a, well deserved, outpouring of gratitude for the NHS, carers and other key workers. And who is going to forget about Captain Tom, the 100year old, raising all that money for the NHS. It has been an Easter we won't forget. We have missed our church services, family gatherings and all the organisations we belong to. We have had to keep in touch by social media. We were unable to hold our coffee morning on May 6th. It was to have a V E day theme. On May 8th V E day was celebrated. Not quite in the way it was planned but it was remembered and people found ways of celebrating while keeping social distance.

Just to cheer you up a bit more. In the past we have had many plagues and we have bounced back. In Elizabethan Britain there was the Bubonic plague also known as the Black Death. William Shakespeare lived through this and lost family members. While in lockdown he wrote some of his less cheerful plays. You never know Romeo and Juliet may have had a happier ending if written at a better time. Queen Elizabeth 1 moved to Windsor Castle where it is said she had gallows erected to hang anyone coming from London I'm so pleased our Queen Elizabeth has a more Christian attitude. We have in the last few months lost members of our church family. We had the sad news of Spen Webster, who was a lay reader and involved in many other areas of church life and a friend of many, he lost his battle from a brain tumour. Spen has been a speaker at our M U meetings. A kind man, generous of spirit who will be sadly missed by many. Our thoughts are with his wife and family. It is sad that we were not able to attend his funeral but I understand his funeral route went via the Stadium where people stood outside and clapped.

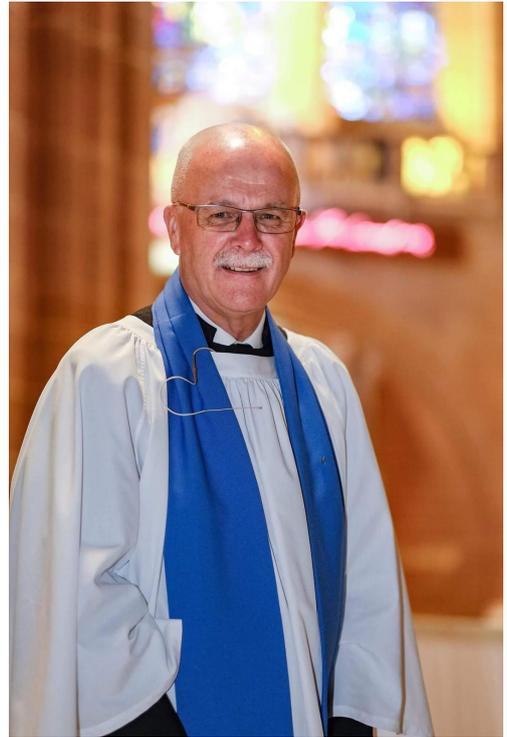
Our June meeting has been cancelled but I don't think you will be surprised by that. That means we will not be having Revd. Jennie McGregor, the Methodist Minister as our speaker, as she is leaving in July. Our good wishes go to Jennie on her retirement. We are praying our meeting on July 8th will be going ahead. It is our social evening and we will all be ready for Christine's party games. We will try to keep everyone informed. It is probably best if the committee do the tea rota that month. The garden party on the 9 July is postponed. We don't meet in August but we will let you know if our trip on August 6th to Sudley House and Gardens can still go ahead. I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Looking through M U Families Worldwide we were reminded of the words of comfort from our Lord. Isaiah 41-10. 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand'. The Mothers' Union has a web site for support. www.mothersunion.org/resources-support-us-challenging-times. Rita poole

Tribute to Spen

Spen was a blessing to everyone that he met, his warmth of character and personality, in the way that he was open to those he met and walked alongside, the friend, the stranger and especially the vulnerable and those in need.

As a minister and Reader at St Ambrose he was pleasure to minister alongside, in leading worship, his musical ability and preaching. A person that the congregation loved and looked up to for their spiritual well-being, teaching and discipleship.

Having been born and lived in Widnes all his life Spen was a well known, loved and respected man and an upstanding member of the community. His career in Local Government finally brought him 'home' to Halton Borough Council where he retired as Risk Manager several years ago. After a few years of retirement he returned to the Council and played a key role as Match Day Safety Officer at the Vikings Rugby League Stadium.



Spen's church life began as a child at St Paul's Church where Sunday School, Church Choir, Bell-Ringing, Youth Fellowship and Boys Brigade all played a big part in his life. This continued when his family moved house and began worshipping at St Ambrose where Spen became a Reader, Youth Group Leader and BB Captain. After retiring as Captain Spen always maintained an interest in the organisation and the Boys Brigade lowered their colours as his hearse passed the church and his childhood home on the day of his funeral as a sign of respect.

Spen's faith and beliefs were lived out in the love of God as demonstrated in his preaching, teaching, prayer life and musical talent when Spen played his guitar. He was a blessing to all both in and outside of the church, the deanery of Widnes, and across the Diocese as Warden of Readers. The Readers from the Deanery walked alongside Spen on his final journey from the gates up to the Crematorium.

As an honest and faithful man he was always ready to challenge injustice, preaching passionately on issues of social justice and highlighting a need for church members to be involved. When times were challenging he had an ability to bring people back to reality by saying the words "it is as it is." Living his life as a most faithful person that one could meet and now, walking in the footsteps of Jesus. Speaking calmly with compassion, nurturing with strength and conviction with a gentleness of character. Spen always looked and found the best in people, particularly the most vulnerable in our church and community. I, as others will truly miss him, but know that his presence will continue to look down on us from heaven. His memory will remain at the core of the love and mission at St Ambrose, the Widnes Deanery, the Diocese and further afield.

The church and community was not only blessed by Spen but also by Joan his wife as church treasurer where together their love and encouragement of all was and will continue to be evident.

We at St Ambrose will continue to give thanks and celebrate the loss of a dear friend, preacher, church leader. As his work is over here on earth, may he rest in peace and rise in glory until that day when we meet again reunited in God's kingdom.

Revd Lyn McIver

A COVID-19 poem

The poem was written by British farmer, Graham Furey.

Graham says,

“As primary producers, farmers will continue to produce quality food to some of the highest standards in the world so that shops remain stocked and consumers can pick up the essential groceries they need, when they need them.”

“We're all in this together.”



**In these difficult days of COVID-19,
There are many heroes working unseen,
From NHS to emergency teams,
To N.I. farmers just as we've always been.
No need to panic, local food for all,
No work too hard, no task too small.
With veg and potatoes planted, some rain to fall,
A bountiful crop is promised for all.
The dairy farmer with his grazing cows,
Provides daily milk for the here and now.
Feeding suckler cows and sheep to produce the very best beef and
lamb,
Poultry and sows producing chicken and ham.
Up on the hills livestock and renewable energy do blend,
With the natural environment on which we all depend.
While in the valleys below the crops we grow,
The cereals and fruit, a healthy combination you know.
The friendly farm shop who will deliver local traceable food,
In these difficult times it will do you good.
While volunteers young and old will allay your fears,
And deliver your groceries and medication so no more tears,
We farmers of the 6 counties will provide,
Your nutritional needs from far and wide,
And along with others we will not hide,
But come out of this pandemic on the other side.**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This meeting was scheduled to take place in April but the deadline has now been moved to 31st October 2020. The Annual report and accounts for 2019 have been produced and are on our website st-luke.co.uk if you would like an electronic copy please email sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07761672030



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

| June | | July | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st | Luke 1: 39-49 | 1st | Matthew 8: 28 to end |
| 2nd | Mark 12: 13-17 | 2nd | Matthew 9: 1-8 |
| 3rd | Mark 12: 18- 27 | 3rd | John 20: 24-29 |
| 4th | Mark 12: 28-34,35 | 4th | Matthew 9: 14-17 |
| 5th | Mark 12: 35-37 | 5th | Matthew 11: 16-19, 25 to end |
| 6th | Mark 12: 38 to end | 6th | Matthew 9: 16-26 |
| 7th | Matthew 28: 16-20 | 7th | Matthew 9: 32 to end |
| 8th | Matthew 5: 1-12 | 8th | Matthew 10: 1-7 |
| 9th | Matthew 5: 13-16 | 9th | Matthew 10: 7-15 |
| 10th | Matthew 5: 17-19 | 10th | Matthew 10: 16-23 |
| 11th | John 6: 51-58 | 11th | Matthew 10: 24-33 |
| 12th | John 15: 12-17 | 12th | Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 |
| 13th | Matthew 5: 33-37 | 13th | Matthew 10: 34 -11.1 |
| 14th | Matthew 9: 35-10:8 | 14th | Matthew 11: 20-24 |
| 15th | Matthew 5: 38-42 | 15th | Matthew 11: 25-27 |
| 16th | Matthew 5: 43 to end | 16th | Matthew 11: 28 to end |
| 17th | Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18 | 17th | Matthew 12: 1-8 |
| 18th | Matthew 6: 7-15 | 18th | Matthew 12: 14-21 |
| 19th | Matthew 6: 19-23 | 19th | Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 |
| 20th | Matthew 6: 24 to end | 20th | Matthew 12: 38-42 |
| 21st | Matthew 10: 24-39 | 21st | Matthew 12: 46 to end |
| 22nd | Matthew 7: 1-5 | 22nd | John 20: 1-2, 11-18 |
| 23rd | Matthew 7,7, 12-14 | 23rd | Matthew 13: 10-17 |
| 24th | Luke 1: 57-66, 80 | 24th | Matthew 13: 18-23 |
| 25th | Matthew 7: 21 to end | 25th | Matthew 20: 20-28 |
| 26th | Matthew 8: 1-4 | 26th | Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 |
| 27th | Matthew 8: 5-17 | 27th | Matthew 13: 31-35 |
| 28th | Matthew 10: 40 to end | 28th | Matthew 13: 36-43 |
| 29th | Matthew 16: 13-19 | 29th | John 12: 1-8 |
| 30th | Matthew 8: 23-27 | 30th | Matthew 13: 47-53 |
| | | 31st | Matthew 13: 54 to end |

Treasurers report January to April 2020

Receipts £28,714.60 expenses £47,245.86 deficit £18,531.20

You may not be aware, the PCC faced a deficit of £26,000 in its accounts for 2019, and as you can see from the figure above that will be doubled in this year because of Covid 19, unless we can seriously improve our income.

I am therefore asking you all to prayerfully consider using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) for your future giving.



PARISHGIVINGScheme

A better way to encourage giving in your church

This can be simply arranged with one telephone call to 03330021271 to set up a monthly Direct Debit, for an amount of your choice, no internet connection is needed, you just need to quote our unique parish code which is 220622101.

The advantages of PGS are:

The scheme is delivered locally by us but administered centrally thus reducing our administrative burden.

It means increased cash flow through faster recovery of Gift Aid, Direct Debit offers greater flexibility with regards to managing giving. Increases and decreases can be made easily with anonymity for donors, if required.

Leaflets explain PGS and other giving options. (PGS leaflet attached).

Gift Aid is a scheme which allows charities to claim from HMRC, the basic rate of tax their donors have paid. Gift Aid increases the value of donations by 25%, so it means even more money goes to church – and it won't cost you extra.



By signing up to PGS and through donors' generous commitments, we can be assured of a regular, tax efficient source of income which has the capacity to increase with the cost of living, yet involves virtually no administration. With the help of the PGS, donors benefit from a system that is secure, confidential and easy to use, while supporting the Church today and for the future.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact me on 0151 424 9887 or Rev Bob on 07904320542

Once again, on behalf of the PCC many thanks for your giving. The church depends on the giving of its members such as you in order to fulfil its ministry in this parish.

Yvonne Horabin Treasurer



St Luke's church with Cronton Mission has registered with www.parishgivingscheme.org. This is the information you need when you ring to make your gifts to your church through the PGS:

Our full church name is: Parish of Farnworth St Luke's church with Cronton Mission Our unique church code is: 220622101

The PGS phone number is:

0333 002 1271

(The call costs no more than a national call to a landline and counts towards inclusive minutes)

To change your Direct Debit, once it is set up:

Simply ring the PGS team on 0333 002 1260, or email info@parishgiving.org.uk

You can also write to: Parish Giving Scheme 76 Kingsholm Road Gloucester GL1 3BD.

Why give through the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is simply the best way you can support St Luke's church and Cronton Mission. The PGS is an Anglican charity. Most Liverpool parishes have joined and over half of English dioceses support it. Joining the PGS makes a huge difference compared with weekly envelopes or cash on the plate because we can collect your gift now. It is more efficient than standing orders. Find out more at www.liverpool.anglican.org/parishgivingscheme.

Your gift is *always* in your full control (by email or phone) with PGS. The Scheme is for every church member with a bank account. You do not need to pay tax.

Your gift leaves your account by Direct Debit on the 1st of each month. It is in the church account by the 11th and any Gift Aid reclaims by the end of the month. The PGS saves time and administration and helps with cash flow. Even though we can't worship in church your gift will support our ministry and PGS helps us make generous giving part of our daily life and discipleship.

How do I join?

You can give to your church by making a ten minute phone call:

Have your bank details to hand: account number, sort code and the name of your bank.

Have the church details found on the left to hand: our church name and our unique PGS church code.

Ring the PGS office in Gloucester on 033 3002 1271. They will guide you through the process.

If you are a taxpayer and wish to Gift Aid you can arrange this during your phone call. Any existing Gift Aid declaration to your church is unaffected.

You have the option to increase your giving by inflation each year. Many do this. If you do choose this, PGS will check with you every year to make sure you still want to increase your Direct Debit.

What happens next? You will receive confirmation by of your DD, the amount and date of your first PGS gift. If you already give by standing order, cancel SO once PGS have confirmed with you. How much does it cost? Nothing. PGS makes no charge everything you give goes to the church.

Tribute to Val Constantine



Firstly, I am sure that you would want to join with me in offering the Liptrott family of Clare, Ste, Oliver and Sophie our very deepest sympathy as they have had to say their farewells to someone who was both a dearly loved mum and much adored nanny.

Val sadly passed away very peacefully in Heathside Care Home, Penketh, after a couple of spells in hospital.

She will be remembered by many at St Luke's for her kindness, warmth and generosity in helping others. A member of the Bridewell Lunch cooking team, vegetables were her speciality, especially those roast potatoes! She loved music and would very often fetch her CD player along with suitable music to entertain the ladies as that ate their lunches; she would much rather be in the background washing the dishes and tidying things away.

If there was ever cleaning and polishing to be done she would be one of the first there. She helped Iris with the Aladdin's Cave and when Lesley Runcorn asked if she would like to try her hand at Flower Arranging she willingly agreed and very much enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of the flower ladies, sometimes going with them to the cathedral.

Even though her health deteriorated she was always concerned more about others than herself.

These words were said at her funerals service:

Val was a person who never wanted much, but just for others to be happy and she got the greatest satisfaction from "giving"; a loving Wife, a wonderful Mum, a perfect sister and sister in law, a loving Nanny, an amazing Auntie and Great Auntie, a heartfelt friend and neighbour, a brilliant & dedicated Nurse, colleague, teacher and tutor.

She will be sorely missed by many, but we do have wonderful memories to hold on to of her love and generosity of spirit, her friendship and most of all her dedication to her family. She rests in peace now, reunited at last with her beloved Harry.

Sue Smither



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Our friend Spen Webster

It was with such great sadness that we heard that our dear friend Spen Webster had lost his hold on life after being diagnosed last year with a malignant brain tumour.

A Reader based at St Ambrose, Spen came to St Luke's on many occasions to lead services and to preach sermons. He had a fantastic gift for preaching God's word; people would really engage with his message which was always clear, uplifting and relevant. His absolute love of the Lord came through loud and clear.

Spen was appointed as the Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Liverpool; he worked hard to encourage greater diversity within the Reader community. A significant legacy that he left for Readers were reworked Policies, Guidelines and Procedures to ensure that Liverpool Diocese' Readers of the future would be treated with due respect and fairness.

Down to earth, a real people's person, Spen had time for anyone and everyone and because of that he was so hugely respected by all. A word here, a warm smile, a pat on the back there was his way of acknowledging the work done by all, no matter how big or how small, how important or how seemingly insignificant, to Spen everyone mattered in equal measure.

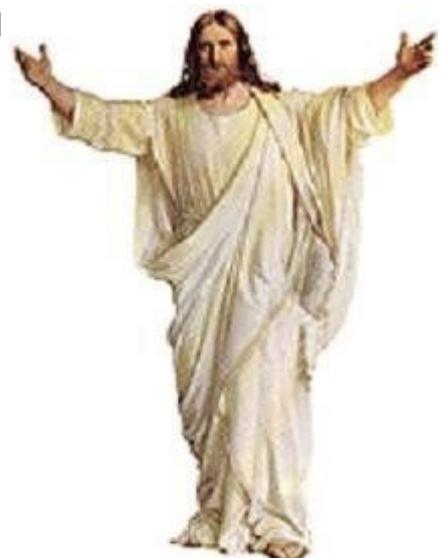
As a Reader, Spen was my role model. There were obviously people at St Luke's who encouraged me, Rev'd Helen Morby, John Westbury, Mike Dodd among them, but Spen was the person to whom I listened and became inspired, he was the type of Reader I wanted to become.

We send our love and deepest sympathy to Spen's many friends and colleagues not only at St Ambrose but from lots of other churches too.

We cannot begin to appreciate the sadness and pain that Joan, Rachel and Lizzie must be feeling. Their tireless support of his Reader Ministry and their love for him as a husband and dad meant the world to Spen and I am sure that you would want them to know just how very sorry we are that they have lost someone so precious to them.

Spen is now at peace in the arms of His Lord, a place which he richly deserves.

Sue Smither



'Ne'er cast a clout 'til May is out'

Are you familiar with that old saying? It was one my Mum used often when my sister and I were keen to get out of our warm winter woollies and into our bright summer cotton dresses. My Mum made most of our dresses, many of which she 'smocked' and my sister and I were the envy of many of our friends.



I did a bit of research on this 'ne'er cast a clout' saying, Professor David Clark-Carter says: 'This expression is ambiguous. It is unclear whether it means you can stop wearing winter clothing when the May tree has blossomed or when the month of May has come to an end.

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p><i>hawthorn blossom</i> ILLUSTRATION</p> | <p>Horticulturist, Martin Howe says this: This is a familiar old English phrase, still heard in Yorkshire. It is particularly used in relation to whether or not to plant out bedding plants in spring. "May" actually refers to the "May Blossom" of hawthorn rather than the month itself. So the old saying warns of the variability of our spring weather and not to pack away winter clothing until the Hawthorn is in full flower.</p> |
|---|---|

In France, during Medieval times, a man would propose to his beloved by leaving a hawthorn branch on the door step of her home the first of May. If she left the branch at the door it was a sign that she was accepting his proposal.

Traditionally, it was taboo to bring hawthorn blossom into the house in Medieval England because it was feared that it would bring death with it. This is because the hawthorn blossom's distinctive fragrance was said to carry the 'smell of death'.

Interestingly, marriages weren't allowed in May; it was considered unlucky to marry in the 'hawthorn month'. Since most people during Medieval times rarely bathed and June was usually one of the months in which they would have a bath; you can imagine that in May they would be quite smelly!

This was supported by another saying: "*Marry in May and you'll rue the day.*"

Sue Smither



We are so blessed to have such an amazing NHS and this is at last being fully acknowledged and appreciated after the stories of their dedication, personal sacrifices and exceptional work during this Covid19 Pandemic.

We do have members of our own congregations and people from within our local community who work in hospitals, care homes, pharmacies, hospices, surgeries, ambulances and other 'medical' facilities.

Then there are the other Key Workers, police, fire service, postmen, refuse collectors, shop keepers and their staff, farmers and pickers, bus, taxi and lorry drivers and many, many others who have worked throughout this dreadful time to ensure that we can keep going. We thank God for them and for their selfless sacrifice and service.



Both Farnworth Church of England Primary School and Lunts Heath County Primary School have been open during this Coronavirus Pandemic to take in the children of Key Workers. Fortunately, because of the beautiful weather that we have been experiencing, the children have been able to take full advantage of the extensive outdoor facilities in both schools.

The school gates on Pit Lane and the school railings on Wedgewood Drive have been adorned with many messages of support from both the children, their parents and the teachers.

Currently, Governors, Head Teachers and their staff are working on plans to reintroduce some classes back into school life. No easy task when social distancing and all the latest Health and Safety measures need to be put into place and enforced with little ones.

We thank them all for their commitment and pray God that all will go well for them and the children as they slowly return to the 'new normal'.

Farnwoth School gate and Lunts Heath School gate



St Lukes Sunday Club

The last few weeks have flown by in this very strange time we are living in called lockdown. We have missed doing lots of lovely things at Sunday Club with the children and we miss them terribly but the children have been keeping themselves busy and we keep in touch and they send me photos of what they have been doing.

One young lady has even learnt to ride her bike, which is wonderful well done Madison.

Here are a few photos of some recent activities.

Ruby has painted from her imagination a sunrise and a lake at sunset, they are lovely and she is very talented.

Luca has been busy with projects from school. He is learning about cave art and did his own version on his patio and then he had to imagine discovering a cave and then it becoming a museum so this is his plan and design for the site with a café made with Lego and the cave art around the outside. He's so clever.

And lastly Luca again designing a poster about being kind. Something we all need lots more of these days.

Best wishes everyone and stay safe Lynn.



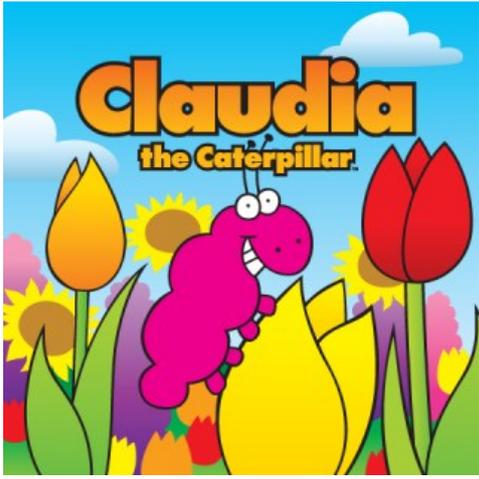


**More photos from
Sunday Club.**

**Send photos, stories
and poems to Lynn
to go in the next
magazine.**



Clare, our Lay Reader invites you and your young people to join in with our story telling and activities:

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| June |  | If you would rather sit at home watching TV than tell the people of Nineveh to "Stop being nasty – or else!", you need to read Jonah's story. It has everything: boats, storms, worms and a really cool whale that eats people. |
| July |  | She was born to fly, she longs to fly, but will Claudia ever fly? An epic saga of courage, faith and aerodynamics guaranteed to have you living life to the full and but hopefully without jumping out of a tree! |

To join in, visit our website:

www.st-luke.co.uk

and click on the family tab.



Sad News

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Edith Fildes at the age of 101; she passed away peacefully in her sleep at Widnes Care Home on April 20th.

Mrs Fildes was a fondly remembered congregation member at St. Luke's, where both she and her late husband Dudley were hugely involved not only in church life but also in building and restoration projects.

Many will remember the beautiful Fund Raising Garden Parties held in the garden of their home on Coroners Lane that she so graciously hosted. She was the 'Mary Berry' of her time, baking amongst other things the most amazing pavolas piled high with fruit. Others will remember her fondly as their English teacher at Wade Deacon Grammar School; here she instilled a love of literature and the rules of English grammar into her pupils.

Edith never lost her interest in St. Luke's Church; she regularly received Home Communion, kept up her annual subscription for the Parish Review and was visited by parishioners who kept her informed of all the news and updated her on the latest building projects.

As a church family, we send our deepest sympathy to Judith and Michael and their families. Their mum was a gracious, inspirational lady and she will be sorely missed.

Sue Smither



We are not people of fear:
 we are people of courage.
 We are not people who protect
 our own safety:
 we are people who protect
 our neighbours' safety.
 We are not people of greed:
 we are people of generosity.
 We are your people God,
 giving and loving,
 wherever we are, whatever it costs
 For as long as it takes
 and wherever you call us. AMEN

[Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference]

Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support Widnes Foodbank during lockdown, both by dropping food at the Warehouse and by donations of cash via cheque or directly to the Foodbank account.



We have also had generous donations from local supermarkets which have helped keep stock at a good level along with specific shortage items we have been able to buy with donated cash. Foodbank continues to operate but all from Crossing Point as our two church-based centres are closed. Crossing Point took over their opening days and we added a delivery service for those clients who were shielding or in quarantine.

We have adopted an online voucher system which seems to be working well and we may find that the emergency has pushed our IT forward more quickly than would have happened in normal times.

We have been blessed by lots of new younger volunteers most of whom have been furloughed, this has been helpful as many of our centre staff and drivers were over 70 so unable to volunteer at this time.

We are very grateful to everyone who has volunteered especially those at the warehouse who have continued to deal with the incoming and outgoing food using social distancing for their own and visitors' safety. Thanks again for your continued support.

Regards Lesley

From Pam Telfer

This is one of the orchid species named flower of the holy spirit. It starts blooming during pentecostal period once a year. Before bloom, it looks like praying saints, when the flower blooms, it looks like a flying dove. How amazing is God's Creation!



| Funerals 2020 | | April to June | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Widnes Crem | Date | Name | Age |
| Widnes Crem | 2nd April | Alice Murphy | 88 |
| Widnes Crem | 6th April | James Headon | 90 |
| Widnes Crem | 15th April | Robert McLennon | 84 |
| Widnes Crem | 15th April | Alan Arnold | 68 |
| Widnes Crem | 20th April | Val Constantine | 75 |
| Widnes Crem | 22nd April | Jean Kilburn | 85 |
| Churchyard | 1st May | Edith Fildes | 101 |
| Widnes Crem | 5th May | Kenneth Munslow | 84 |
| Widnes Crem | 7th May | William Michael 'Mike' Fallon | 65 |
| Widnes Crem | 12th May | Judith Henderson | 85 |
| Widnes Crem | 19th May | Eleanor Hindley | 62 |
| Widnes Crem | 20th May | Carol Brooksbank | 74 |
| Widnes Crem | 2nd June | Mary Cotterall | 94 |
| Widnes Crem | 3rd June | June Sybil Scarl | 82 |
| Yew Tree Cemetery | 4th June | Frederick Richard Farrell | 84 |
| Widnes Crem | 10th June | Colin George Turton | 79 |

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

In your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust
our brothers and sisters.
In this life you embraced them
with your tender love;
deliver them now from every evil
and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:
welcome them into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow,
no weeping or pain,
but fullness of peace and joy
with your Son and the Holy Spirit
forever and ever.
Amen.

NURSEBUFF

News from Cronton

The sun is still shining and God is good. The planet has shown it can repair itself... will humans learn from this lockdown and be the custodians of creation that God intended? Once life goes back to normal will we forget the lessons of the contrast – of us not impacting on the planet?



We have said goodbye to some good friends and special people in the last couple of months and one of these was at Cronton: Liz Hindley will be sorely missed. The only time she wasn't in church with Finn, Amelia, Becky and Luke was when she was in Clatterbridge. An amazing, strong, and positive woman, Liz was an inspiration. I really don't think we believed she would ever lose this fight, although she defied the odds many times over the last few years. It was a shock and it was sad that few could join us inside the crem. Thankfully it was a beautiful day for those standing outside and I am sure that, as with our other friends from churches in Widnes, we will have a rousing memorial service to give thanks for the lives of some very special people.

It is strange not to be in church enjoying fellowship and worship, although time seems to have flown. That is probably more the case for those of us still working and with extra work to do. I'm worn out, however, I do have new skills and if you need COVID training in donning and doffing PPE kit – I'm your go-to. I need to do a shout out for huge thanks to Merseyside Fire and Rescue who have – at no cost – trained parents and carers of very vulnerable youngsters in PPE3 'fit test' masks. These are needed for those with tracheotomies, suction, oxygen and so on. These are worrying times for vulnerable members of our community and I'm not sure everyone is taking it seriously enough – I have stopped feeling embarrassed about wearing my face mask in Tesco. This is a designer mask created by my friend Rachel's mum. Yes I am overselling it, it was simple to make I believe. PLEASE wear a mask when you are out, don't touch your face [at least until you have washed your hands]. Soap and water is much more effective than hand sanitiser. Be aware that you can be infected via your eyes. This will not be over any time soon – stay safe.



I thought I would share more about my retreat at Scargill House and our daily talks from Roy Searle and Phil Stone. I *am* aware that you will get bored of this before I will...and apologies in advance [going to do it anyway]. It seems a lifetime ago. Our theme for the week was Streams of Living Water.



I mentioned in the last edition that I read a book while I was there called 'The most powerful Prayer on Earth' and I asked: Can you guess what this prayer is? I will pretend you were motivated to think about this... the prayer? Jesus on the Cross – "Father forgive them" Luke 23:34. Peter Horrobin refers to this as a healing prayer – suggesting that the complicated act of forgiving is the primary weapon of breaking the bondages of darkness. 'Freedom comes, not from fixing on the complexity of ... [the] problem, but from looking upon the simplicity of God's answer'. Forgiveness – how powerful is that prayer?! How difficult is it to live out? Am I the only one of us to struggle? Some things are easy to forgive, but not everything – can we forgive anything? Are we at risk of becoming 'captive to bitter feelings?'

Forgiveness in the face of extreme provocation is, he says, a challenge to our human nature. He said that this prayer is God's miracle key to healing the past. Simple? Obvious? Common act? Hmmm.

'Forgiveness is an act of love not justice.' We know it – do we ever need to remind ourselves of it? One of the streams of living water we covered was 'Holiness' – lots in this session excited me but I promise to only share a few thoughts. On the subject of prayer – a few words from Rowan Williams: "prayer is like sunbathing; just turn up and put yourself in the light'. We don't always need a script or learned prayer, 'be still for the spirit of the Lord is moving in this 'place'. Be still, be in the moment, breathe deep, commune with our Father. Sometimes we need to 'pray as you go' like Ignatius. This way of prayer is a great help when we are aiming to live a 'response-able' life through the transforming power of Jesus Christ [Roy Searle]. Response able – don't you love that emphasis on the syllables? I really liked Roy's images – 'a Christian is a recovering sinner plodding hopefully in the right direction'. 'We do what we can to allow the grace of God to do what we can't do on our own'.

Remember the 10 Commandments for the modern world? I have had a total of zero suggestions so I am taking the hint and dropping the topic. However – I now have a taste for lists and have found another list for your delectation [is that a real word? Panicked and checked – yes it is: - pleasure and delight... may have oversold this], it is definitely not as important as the Commandments but it is a true list. A list of newspaper headlines from 1998 – the best ones I would suggest.

- 1. Include Your Children When Baking Cookies**
- 2. Something Went Wrong In Jet Crash, Experts Say**
- 3. Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead**
- 4. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms**
- 5. Prostitutes Appeal To Pope**
- 6. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over**
- 7. Miners Refuse To Work After Death**
- 8. Stolen Painting Found By Tree**
- 9. War Dims Hope For Peace**
- 10. Is Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last A While**
- 11. Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide**
- 12. Kids Make Nutritious Snacks**
- 13. Survivor Of Siamese Twins Joins Parents**
- 14. Hospitals Are Sued By Seven Foot Doctors**
- 15. Enraged Cow Injures Farmer With Axe**

My thoughts... are editors not supposed to check the content before a newspaper goes to print? Year 6 could do a better job, but then we [or I] would not have had a chuckle. Take care – peace and love. Hope to see you soon. Lesley, LML at Cronton

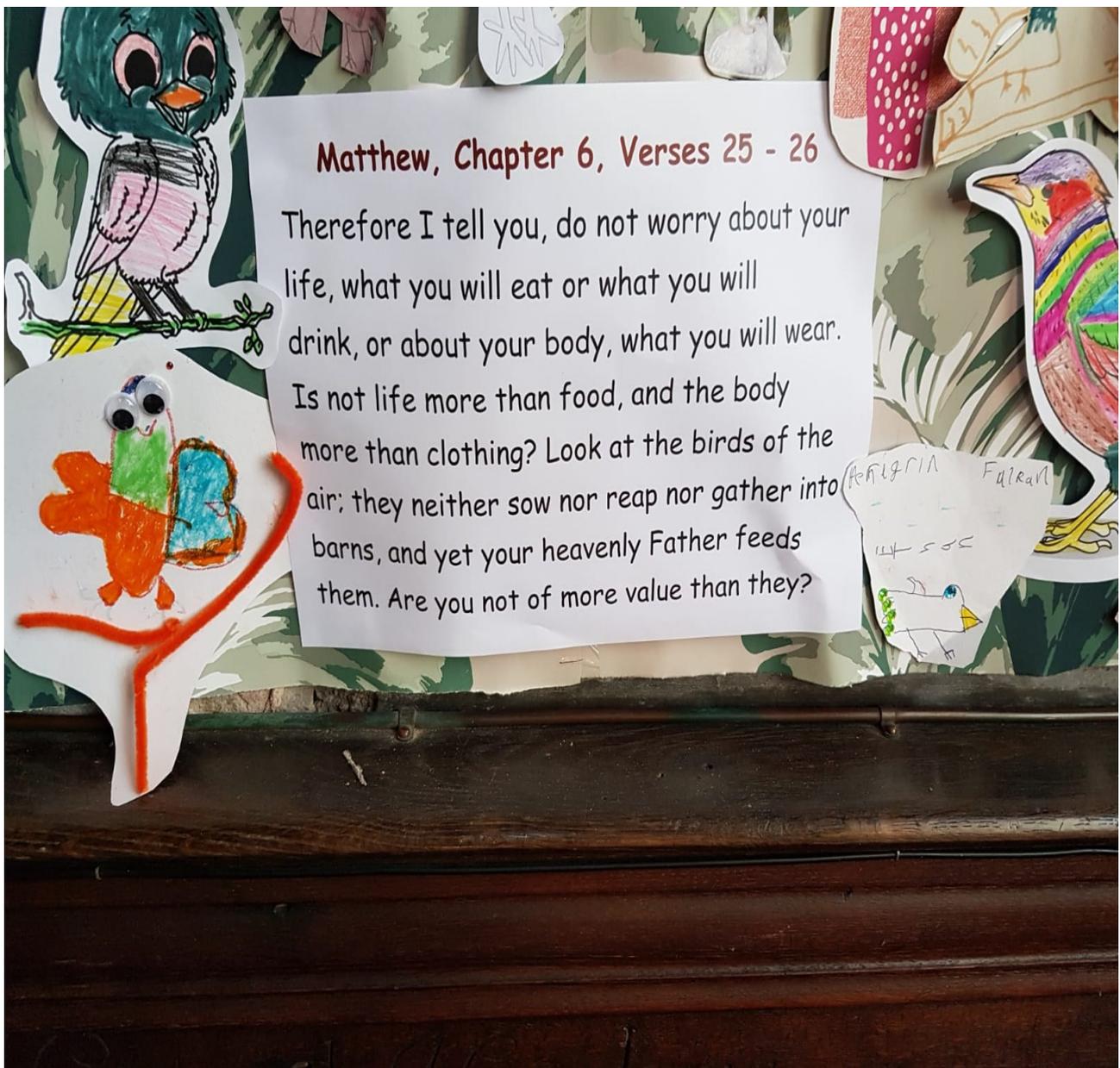
A message from church

On Wednesday 27th May Alison went into church with Bob to do a Zoom morning service which was very moving for the PCC members who joined to watch and listen on Zoom. Alma listened to it via Yvonne's phone, as she rings Yvonne at 9.30am when we are usually in church.

As you will see from the front cover hopefully by the time you read this people without a computer will have listened on their landline.

Whilst in church Alison took the photos below. She said 'Looking at the children's display how beautiful it was, and the message is what we need to hear at the moment with this time of stress and worries Just remember our God is good'.

Thank you Alison.



Church bells by Geoff Poole

No original research is claimed and the information has been gathered from various sources and some of these are referenced at the end of this article and my due thanks to those responsible.

I hope you find it interesting and a distraction in these trying times.

We can take this opportunity to thank the bells ringers of St. Luke's in particular for their dedication over many years to keeping alive this long tradition of bell ringing. Many parishes no longer enjoy this privilege. Apparently the first recorded use of church bells was in Italy in the 5th century and at a similar period in Britain as mentioned by Bede.

At a parish level they marked the time of day, in addition to calling people to worship, rang out the Angelus the thrice daily devotion in the Western Church summoning monks and layfolk to set times for daily prayers. At one time they sounded the curfew – a reminder at bedtime to douse the open fire in the interest of safety. When a death occurred they were rung three times slowly and after a pause another three times, this was done twice more for a man and once more for a woman then followed by a series of slow rings recording the age of the deceased. I'm tempted to wonder how they might work out how to cover all the other orientations.

Since their introduction some 3500 to 4000 years ago in China, bells managed to become an important part of religion and religious ceremonies all around the world. They are the oldest and loudest musical instrument. Their ability to carry information across large distances was viewed as an excellent tool of communication between religious priest and their congregations. For that purposes, many types of bells were crafted over the millennia, from small and private religious bells to the large bells that were hung in the highest church towers of our history. The biggest bells where a sign of prestige.

After the creation of first metal bells in Ancient China, they become more and more used in religious ceremonies. That tradition was passed on to Hindu and Buddhist religions where bells were accepted and tightly integrated into their ceremonies. In Hindu temples bells were placed at the entrance of the building, or above the doors into the inner sanctum. Devotees rung those bells as a part of their prayers that they wanted to reach their deity. In Buddhism, bells were perceived as representation of the offering to the Buddha's and bodhisattvas that had the purpose of accumulating positive karma. Sounds of the bells were also viewed as the representation of wisdom, peace, patience and cure of confusion. In Japan, Buddhist bells were integral part of all their temples, sometimes requiring the strength of 20 monks to be operated (one enormous bronze bell reached weight of 30 tons and could be heard from the distance of 48 kilometers. Japanese Shinto temples also used bells (usually shaped as zodiac animals), but they were rung by visitors who prayed for good fortune.

Christianity came in contact with the bells during the last stages of life in Ancient Egypt. Their bells were used in ceremonies that celebrated the god Osiris, but were usually made as a flat gong. Judging by the writings in bible, Moses studied priesthood in Egypt and introduced bells into the Jewish religion.

After Roman Empire fell, the tradition of bell use in religion resurfaced in European Christianity. There, knowledge of Bell founding was created in Italy. Under the leadership of the bishop of Nola, Palanius, creation of bells and their infusion into Christian ceremonies started to spread across the lands and receive popularity not only because of their ability to gather faithful to religious ceremonies, but also as an excellent alarm

in times of danger. During the next few centuries, Christian monks from Italy brought the knowledge of bells across continental Europe. Official acknowledgment of bells in Christian ceremonies happened in 604 by Pope Sabinian who later established a ceremony of blessing. Bells reached England from 650 to 750, until they were eventually extremely popularized by the ceremony of Saint Bede. He introduced ringing of bells at funerals. During following centuries, metallurgy and architecture suddenly went through large transformation, and under the centuries of Renaissance, bells in Christian churches all across Europe started to become larger and louder. By the height of Gothic architectural period, churches received massive bell towers and bells that were decorated with intricate designs.

Bells are certainly the loudest musical instruments and can be heard from many miles away over land or sea. A true Cockney is someone who is born within the sound of Bow Bells – which can be heard as far away as Hackney, six miles away.

The bell can be the largest or the smallest of musical instruments and to many the sound of ringing church bells is quintessentially English. We also have Big Ben, The Lutine Bell, school bells and ship's bells.

Great Bell. The main bell, officially known as the Great Bell but better known as Big Ben, is the largest bell in the tower and part of the Great Clock of Westminster. It sounds an E-natural. The original bell was a 16 ton (16.3-tonne) hour bell, cast on 6 August 1856 in Stockton-on-Tees by John Warner & Sons.



The present bell weighs more than 13 tonnes. Big Ben is the nickname for the Great Bell of the striking clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster in London and is usually extended to refer to both the clock and the clock tower. The official name of the tower in which Big Ben is located was originally the Clock Tower, but it was renamed Elizabeth Tower in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II.

The tower was designed by Augustus Pugin in a neo-Gothic style. When completed in 1859, its clock was the largest and most accurate four-faced striking and chiming clock in the world.

Great Paul in St Paul's cathedral is bigger and weighs 17 tons and Great George in Liverpool Cathedral weighs 15 tons and is tuned to Db.

We have bells in our nursery rhymes – “Oranges and Lemons rang the Bells of St Clements”; we have bells in our idioms: “Go like the Clappers”, “Ring the Changes” as well as having “Peals of laughter”.

We also have bells throughout English history – from the Anglo-Saxon curfew bell introduced by Alfred the Great to Churchill's Second World War Decree that all church bells should be silenced so that their ringing could be reserved to warn of enemy invasion.

Bells were first authorised for use in Christian churches as mentioned above in around 400AD and by about 600 AD they had become common in the monasteries of Europe. Bede reports on them in England at around that time. The earliest English ring of church bells appeared in the 11th Century.

Let's hope that a special peal can be arranged in the future when the current pandemic has subsided.

Some of the references used in researching this article; Wikipedia, Geoffrey R Sharpe- Historic English Churches, worshipful company of turners, compelling truth.org., extracts and articles taken from various sources.

The churchyard is open even though church is closed.

Hopefully people are finding comfort and peace in the churchyard at this time.

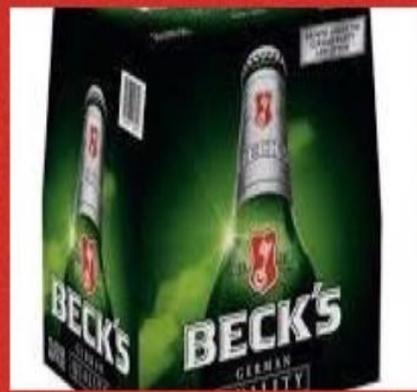
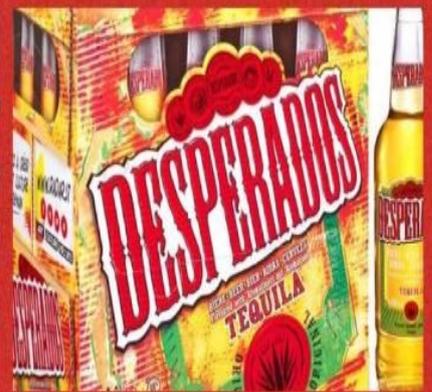
The PCC would like to thank everyone who has been tidying the churchyard. It is much appreciated. Arthur has been laying paths, Geoff has started to tidy the triangular Garden of Remembrance, Margaret and Lyn tidied the other area of the Garden of Remembrance and George is calling in regularly to check. If anyone missed out apologies and thanks to you too.



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