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Parish Magazine

St. Luke's Church & Cronton Mission



Photographed by Jane McGregor Graham

February 2024 and March 2024 £1.50



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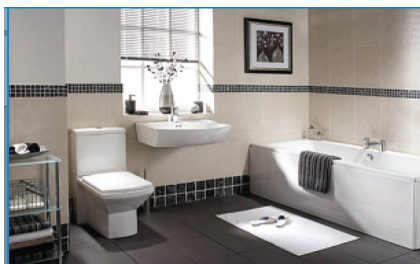
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Rob Leach	via	07761672030
Deputy Warden	Margaret Campbell	01514246039
PCC Lay Chair	Barry Horabin	07471350957
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Project Manager	Barry Horabin	01514249887
PCC Secretary	Sandra Lacey	07761672030
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Eco-Officer	Sandra Vanezis	

Sunday Club usually 1030am in the Bridewell Sundays

Sunday Club Leader Lynn Keeling 01514243142

Director of Music Paul Delaney 07778042553

Choir Practice usually Thursdays 6pm-7pm

Tower Captain Nigel Goulding

Bell ringing practice usually Tuesdays 6.30pm

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

Deadline for articles noon on 18th March 2024

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

THERE WILL BE 6 EDITIONS IN COLOUR with price increase to £1.25 for 12 month subscription, SO £7.50 per year. The money will be collected in February 2024.

The Sanctuary

Meets every Wed 10:30-2pm at St Ambrose Church Halton View Road Widnes

If you enjoy chatting with people in your community, or even if you just need a place to hang out, then we are here for you.

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23 Farnworth Street, Widnes
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Dear Friends

I am writing this article after having just taken all our Christmas decorations down and packed them away; the Nativity scene is still out as the Kings have only just arrived! The rain has stopped at last and there is even a glimpse of blue in the sky, and joy of joys, there are the green shoots of the bulbs peeping through and in the churchyard there is actually white blossom on one of the bushes, a sure sign that Spring is on its way.

In church the crib scene is still there for all to see, reminding us of the wonderful services that we held over the Christmas season when every pew was filled and we heard the laughter and saw the beaming smiles of the children as they came with families and friends to celebrate the wonder, love and joy of Christmas.

But, those feelings we felt then don't need to stop there, we should carry them in our hearts throughout 2024. The shepherds went with haste to tell others about the wonder they had experienced just by being in the presence of the Christ Child. Would it be too much to ask that we carry some of their excitement into 2024 and share that Good News with others?

As we move into the New Year, full of hope and expectation about what that might bring, please hold in your prayers those who have the responsibility of appointing our new priest-in-charge. A new 'shepherd' to guide us, someone who will rejoice with us, someone who will celebrate all that we have to offer whilst enabling and encouraging us to **grow in love, peace, joy and mutual support as we journey in faith together.**



Last year was difficult, and sadly, this year hasn't started too well with the loss of several prominent, very faithful people from our church family. I am sure that each of them would thank God for the families, friends and the fellowship they knew at St. Luke's. As we thank God for their contributions to our church, I pray that God will help us all to reach out to those who need our prayers, support and care in this year to come. Every blessing..... Sue

Fabric Report

Hopefully you will all have enjoyed your Christmas frivolities and returned to normality, whatever that is. As we reported in our last letter, the Saxon Cross was all but destroyed but thankfully can be repaired. As previously said, the interest and support for the repair has been very rewarding, not only in good wishes but in generous donations, and we are very grateful for this response. Here are a few photographs of the cross making its journey to the workshop to be renewed.



The accident has enabled us to look into the early history surrounding this cross and asks the question, is the church older than we realise? When the crash happened it unearthed a date on the base of the top of the cross with the figures 1,000. This suggests that an early church may have been in existence and not the one that history states as being formed in 1180. Watch this space for more revelations.



We had a very constructive meeting with Halton Borough Council (HBC) regarding our grant application for toilets in the base of the tower. Toilets are essential if the church is to progress and be a growing part of the community it serves. We have had plans passed and are well on the way to reaching the matched funding figure we need for the grant support.

We have been asked to provide evidence that toilets are a necessity in the church by means of a questionnaire, which will indicate the dire need for this facility. We would ask you to please take part in this request and prove that the toilets and kitchenette are necessary additions to church life.

The questionnaire is enclosed with your magazine please complete it and return to church as soon as possible. Take it to church or pop in the church post box. If you would like more information on the matter please contact me 07471350957

If you get your magazine online please send your reply to me via email barry.horabin@btinternet.com

Thank You. Barry Horabin (Church Warden)

		FLOWER ROTA
Feb	4	Mrs J Stretch
LENT		Feb 11 to March 24
March	31	Miss L Runcorn Mrs B Owen (Bold)



Advent and Christmas with Farnworth CE and Lunts Heath CP Schools

*Thank
you*

Each school is to be thanked and praised for their amazing Advent and Christmas presentations. Every child who spoke did so with great confidence and maturity. The songs they sang

helped reinforce their messages.

There were 'full houses' at each of the four services and two really important points were made that we would do well to take with us through 2024:

'Real love never ceases, it has no beginning or end.

Gifts should be always given in the same spirit as the wise men gave their gifts to the Christ child.'

Thank you and Congratulations to the children and staff from both schools for their wonderful, affirming services. Sue

THANK YOU ST JOHN'S ENSMBLE for the wonderful evening of choral music. We were delighted with the range of pieces that were sung and the witty 'recitals' we heard. The choir always look so smart and they obviously love to sing together and they told us that they really enjoy coming to St Luke's and appreciate the warm welcome they get, that is so pleasing for us to hear. We loved having them come to entertain us and we hope that we can arrange a date with them for a Summer Concert. Sue



THANK YOU GREENALLS BRASS BAND

It is far too long since the band came to kick start our Christmas Celebrations. A good number of people came to support us on this occasion and we were the first audience for their new conductor, a young man with great presence who introduced each piece with such flair and interesting snippets of information. They too said they love coming to St Luke's, always good to hear. They are in the process of changing their name so watch this space on that. They are already booked in the church diary for the first Saturday of December 2024!



.....To the staff and students of Cronton Sixth Form Performing Arts Department who never cease to amaze us with their performances. This year they gave us a taste of the Christmas Carol they had performed to packed houses in their College theatre the week before. We are so blessed with such super talented young people and their tutors who freely give of their time after a busy day in College to come and entertain us. They once again wowed us with their performances. They have a date in the diary to come again towards the end of the Summer Term...we can't wait!

PLEASE READ: IMPORTANT MESSAGE

There will be a FREE CONCERT on **Thursday February 1st at 7pm** in Church given by students from **CRONTON 6TH FORM PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT**. The students will showcase the various talents they will be using for their exams. This is a rare opportunity to listen to these young people perform in our church. Tickets aren't needed, just turn up and be part of an audience they will enjoy performing in front of. Refreshments will be available.

Sue



East Widnes Team Lent study groups will take place at
7pm in St Ambrose Church Hall
on the following dates....
Feb 21st, 28th March 6th, 13th, 20th

JAM CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Nativity story, making angels and eating reindeer sandwiches. Clare.



Treasurer's Report, 01/01/23 to 31/12/23

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjust</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts	91,442	2,000	93,442
Expenses	<u>(63,009)</u>	<u>(56,245)</u>	<u>(119,254)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>28,433</u>	<u>(54,245)</u>	<u>(25,812)</u>

The Adjustment to Receipts is for monies owed to the PCC regarding Bold Mission, the Diocese is aware of this, Apparently the person who dealt with it in the past has moved on to another department.

The total Parish share due by St Luke's for 2023 has been reduced from £84,245 to £72,245 per year. The reduction is very welcome, but unfortunately we are still unable to pay it in full. The initial surplus before creditors of £28,433 has been used to pay the outstanding parish share from 2022 of £26,000. By the end of December 2023, a further £16,000 has been paid to the Diocese, towards the 2023 Parish share, leaving £56,245 outstanding to them. Sadly, quite a few of our regular givers have passed away in 2023, and this has had a remarked effect on contributions to the general fund in the year. There is a shortfall of £2,150 per month, just to break even. £10,000 a month is required to cover the minimum outgoings on the general fund. In December across all of the various services and schools and other concerts, over 3000 people came through the doors. Receipts amounted to just under £15,000, which was fantastic, it would be amazing to have that amount every month. Included in that figure was £680 collected for the Children's Society from the Christingles, £1,464 towards the repairs to the cross, School concerts £643, other concerts £800+. Honestly, I am worried about the future of St Luke's church, like any business, if we are unable to pay our minimum overheads, changes will have to be made. As advised by the Diocese we are paying our minimum overheads and the only creditor is the Diocese themselves. However the Parish Share needs to be paid to cover clergy costs. When you read this magazine, can you please give some thought as to how you personally, can help, if every one of us made a small donation each month of just £5, times 300 that would be £18,000 extra income in the year, donating £10 would double that amount. Spread the word to family, friends and neighbours please. It is so easy to set up a payment with the Parish Giving scheme, you only have to pick up the phone and call:-**0333 002 1260** and Quote our unique church code **220622101**. One off donations can also be made this way or by transfer to

**Details Barclays Account name:- Farnworth St Luke
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48 Account no 30369292 .Your name as reference. Or by
cheque payable to St Luke's PCC c/o Mrs Yvonne Horabin, 12
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Thank You Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)

This is an extract from a letter sent by Bishop John to all clergy, Lay Ministers and Wardens in the Diocese of Liverpool.

Dear friends,

A Happy New Year to all.

"As Christians we watch the years pass not with nostalgia or sentimentality but with the joy of those moving forward to an encounter with true life" (Oscar Romero). May we be able to fill the year ahead with peace and love. I pray for you and your community as you seek to work humbly for God in whatever way you are called to serve. As you do so I would like to encourage you to consider how the bible will feature in your thoughts during this year. It may seem strange for a bishop to be saying this to a Christian community.

Yet as I have spoken before this is a longstanding concern of mine. That Christians have lost the knowledge of God's great story as written in the sixty-six books that make up our bible. We must reclaim that story and see it as our story. And we must be confident in telling it. Young and old, lay and clergy, we must be confident in the story and be able to show how our story fits into God's great story. I don't want this to be a fad or an initiative. I want us to consciously weave our understanding of the bible and biblical study into all that we do over the next and future years. We have the rule of life where we are encouraged to pray, read and learn and I would ask you think about how you use this discipline to reengage with your bible, to maybe delve into places that you haven't visited for a while. You will find great joy in the exploration. Our rule of life challenges us to continue to place scripture at the heart of what we are doing.

Some of you may choose to read the whole Bible in this year. Some may want to read the books in the Bible you are not familiar with. Some may want to re-read the familiar parts of the Bible with fresh eyes and ears. 'Disciple' means 'student.' We are all called to be learners as disciples of Christ.



Let's make 2024 a year where we consciously read, engage with, and study the Bible in every possible context, making a commitment to learn our own story in Christ and to share it confidently. +John



Suggestions for Bible reading

In the New Testaments books of Romans, Corinthians 1 & 2, Galatians, Ephesians and Philippians, we can read God's message for Christians in the early Church. Each of these books is packed full of practical encouragement and advice for any follower of Jesus; the words are still relevant for us today.

Any of these books would be a good place to start delving deeper into the Bible. If you would like to take one of our Church Bibles to study at home you would be very welcome; please just ask a Warden. Sue



St Luke's

PALM SUNDAY	March 24 th	10.30	Passion of the Palms
		18.00	Holy Communion [BCP]

HOLY WEEK COMPLINE @ St Ambrose 7pm March 25th, 26th, 27th

MAUNDY THURSDAY	@ St Luke's	7pm	Service of HC with Foot Washing
GOOD FRIDAY	@ St Luke's	10.00	Easter JAM Club
EASTER SUNDAY	@ St Luke's	10.30	Holy Communion

Christmas Raffle

Having a licensed raffle in December has been a great success. Being able to sell the tickets across the various services, concerts and other fundraising events took a lot of pressure off the people selling them. A total of £1360 was raised for the toilet fund. Thank you to all who sold tickets, (especially Patsy Clifford our Raffle Queen) People who donated prizes, a total of 18 in all, again another thank you to Patsy who donated a fantastic chocolate hamper, which was gratefully won by Andrea Lightfoot.
Yvonne Horabin



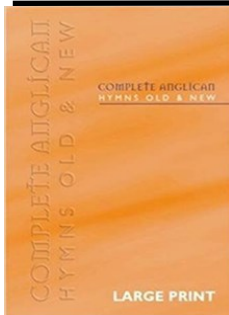
A session of fun, faith and fellowship
Sundays 11th February and 10th March
3pm to 4pm
and
Good Friday 29th March 10am
Story, craft activities & food
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Clare 07976549410

MINERVA WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Minerva held their Christmas celebration in church on Wednesday 7TH December. The original plan escalated somewhat from a short service for approximately 40 to a ploughman's lunch for 110 members at Widnes Cricket Club followed by a wonderful afternoon in church. It went like a military operation - 12.30pm Lunch, 1.45pm Visit to Church where Baz Horabin did us proud, presenting a brief history and a tour of church. This was followed by a celebratory time with the choir and guest organist



Lorraine joining us along with Sue Smither introducing a selection of carols, readings and a thought provoking reflection. We enjoyed sherry and shortbread before making our way home. A truly magical start to Christmas for members of Minerva. Thanks and prayers extended to all. I was wearing my 'Chairman's hat' that afternoon as it has been my pleasure to have chaired this organisation for a number of years. I stood down on 31st December so this was my swan song. I felt more blessed than anyone could have imagined when I knew my farewell event was going to be at 'my Church'. Thank you to all at St. Lukes for this truly amazing day, especially the ladies in the photo plus Yvonne who took the photo. **Pat Johnson**



There are now quite a number of congregation members who would benefit from using a LARGE PRINT COPY of our Hymn book. We do have some but clearly not enough for the number of people requesting them. In the past people have kindly donated money towards Hymns Books in memory of loved ones. If you are interested in finding out more please speak to Sue.

CRONTON CE School and Mission

Café Style worship is currently held at Cronton Mission on the first Sunday of each month. This alternative and more relaxed format for worship was introduced at Cronton a number of years ago now by Dave Roberts and the late Spen Webster. This type of service provides something for all ages where we sit at tables, share refreshments, sings a few songs/hymns, hear a short talk/scripture, and say some prayers. There are opportunities for related craft activities and focussed conversation.

During December and January, café style was led by Clare with a focus on Advent and Epiphany. We all made Advent wreaths, the children made Crowns, parading them proudly as they lived out the journey of the wise men to Judea, whilst the adults had the opportunity to discuss the gifts given to Jesus, and what gifts would be appropriate today.



Church and school came together for their annual Christmas services. Key stage 1 led our Nativity by telling the story of the very hopeless camel who keeps getting lost and quite by chance arrives in Bethlehem where his meeting with Jesus changes him forever. Holy Family church hosted the Ecumenical service bringing together all 3 Cronton churches, the 2 schools and the village community.

Being a church school, the church school partnership and drive from our Parish is paramount in both its operation and strategic planning. Clare and Sue are engaging with school in the absence of an incumbent, and my role as Chair of the Governing board and PCC member maintains communication and collaborative working. We are however looking for new foundation governors, for nomination by the PCC, who can challenge leaders to maintain education standards and Christian distinctiveness in our school. If anyone has an interest in becoming a foundation governor, please contact Sylvia Thomson, headteacher, or myself via the school (0151 424 3881)

This half term's Christian Value is COMPASSION. Let us join the children in showing acts of kindness for anyone – friends, family or even people we don't know.

Debbie Doyle

ROSE QUEEN QUIZ

On Friday 19th January at the quiz at Widnes Cricket Club there were 16 teams. The Fizz Club team won again. Perhaps a handicap system is needed! The event raised £585 plus £500 match funding from HSBC organised by Gayle Lacey. Thanks to Gayle. Thanks to Quizmaster Alan assisted by Beth and to Lynn for organising the event. Also thanks to the people who donated food and prizes and the team members. An excellent night.



MOTHERS' UNION

We wish the year ahead be a peaceful one. We were all saddened to hear about Wendy Collinson's death. She has been a member for many years. Wendy brought her own unique talents to the MU, enjoying our meetings, outings and meals. She was baptised at St Luke's, and it has been a large part of her life. Over the years she has made many friends, and she will be missed. Even at the end she was always happy to have visitors. Our thoughts and prayers go to her family at this sad time. We were also very sad about the passing of Barry Ingram who died in December. He was a warden at St Luke's as well as taking on other tasks. He was kind and generous of spirit. The word gentleman was used many times. His funeral showed how many lives he has touched. May he rest in peace. June Fay also died in January. June wasn't a member of the MU, but St Luke's played a big part in her life as did the uniform groups. May she rest in peace.

Our carol service was on the 13th December. As we haven't got a vicar, I must thank Colleen for organising the service. She put together a most enjoyable evening of Carols and readings, just the right mixture of bible readings, humour and reminding us why we were there. We had lovely carols that members requested. We were very grateful to Lorraine Eldridge for playing the organ for us. Colleen read the intercessions and prayed for members past and present. After the service we were treated to mulled wine and mince pies, with a tin of Roses being past-around. Alma's birthday was in August and as she had an operation on her knee so it was a belated birthday cake and a chorus of happy birthday for Alma. Everyone enjoyed their evening and as Tiny Tim said "God bless us everyone".

Our January meeting was led by Chris and she started with prayers. We had a minute's silence for the loss of Barry Ingram, Wendy Collinson and June Fay. Our speaker was Clare Liptrott, a reader at St Luke's as well as being involved in other areas. Clare started by reading Matthew 28 19-20, to go forward doing God's work and He promises He will stay with us forever. Over to Clare. It was a privilege to be invited to speak at the January MU meeting and I thought a lot about what topic, in the end I spoke about my life with a particular focus on how my faith shaped my journey. From a young age I went to Sunday School with my friends and then as we got older myself and 2 friends decided to be 'rebels' and rather than go to Sunday School we decided

we'd sneak into church instead! So for a couple of years, we went to the main Sunday service at St Andrew's Church in Maghull, unbeknownst to our parents - what rebels we were! We all got confirmed and continued to grow up together, attending church and also a Christian youth club.

My school life didn't go quite as planned and I ended up leaving halfway through my A-levels and by sheer chance got an apprenticeship in a pharmacy, after I had studied for a B-Tec in pharmacy, I got married to Steve and then went off to Manchester University to study for a pharmacy degree (never one to do things the traditional way round!) My parents moved to Widnes and after finishing university and qualifying as a pharmacist Steve and I also moved to Widnes. Not long after settling here we were excited to find ourselves pregnant, it was a very traumatic pregnancy but, thank the Lord, it all turned out well in the end. I was always very close to my mum and dad and sadly, when Oliver was still young, my dad developed cancer, a brain tumour, and although he fought valiantly it was not treatable and he passed away. It was at this point I met Rev'd Helen Morby, vicar at St Luke's Church at that time, she supported our family through the sad time of dad's passing and I began to attend St Luke's Church regularly.

As Oliver continued to grow up, we thought about having another child but it was a hard decision due to the health issues during my first pregnancy, but God guided me and we went on to have Sophie. Sophie was 7 days old the first time she went to St Luke's church and she attended regularly with me whilst she was young, just as Oliver had done too; both my children went to Sunday School at St Luke's and were part of the Rose Queen retinue, with Sophie being Rose Queen herself one year. I became a member of PCC and for a time was also a Church Warden, then one day Rev'd Helen asked me if I had ever thought about my calling, did I think I might be called by God. The answer to this was "yes", I had been feeling 'the call', like a gentle tap on my shoulder, for a while, but I had been ignoring it. It seemed that the time had come to admit to it and so, I began a journey of discernment that was to have many ups and downs, twists and turns, which would ultimately led me to study to become a Lay Reader Minister.

And that is as far as my story got with the ladies from MU, my time was up, and the tea and biscuits were ready to be served,

although I did promise to come back and share with them 'part 2' at some point in the near future. Why was it important to share my story? Well, I think this was because the journey that something or someone has been on, how they were made and crafted, their experiences, their knocks and bumps, moments of sadness and happiness make them who or what they are. Just like the handmade gifts we have all received from time to time that, although not perfect, they hold extra meaning because we know how, why and by whom they were crafted, I hope you now know me and my relationship with God a little better too and just like members of my church families were there to support me on my journey; know that I am there to support, encourage and guide you on your journeys also.

We all enjoyed her talk. Colleen thanked Clare.

During our refreshments a cake was presented to Janet for her 60th birthday and happy birthday was sung.

The whole bright world rejoices now; with laughing cheer!

With boundless joy! To Him who rose that we might rise;

Alleluia!

This is from a 17th century Easter carol.

February 14th meeting is Cathy McMullen

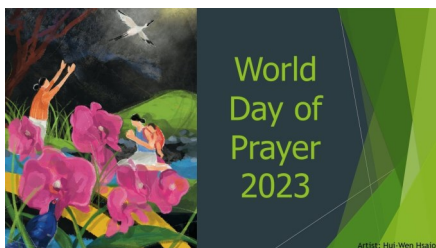
March 13th Spring Social

Tea Rota: February Rita Poole & Val Park-Fennell

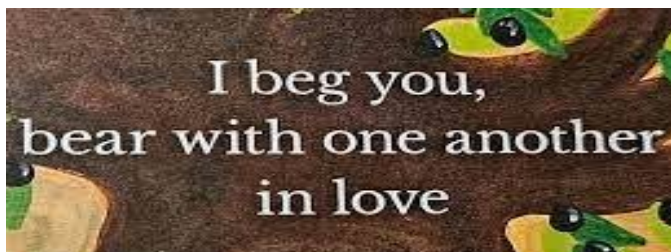
March: Sandria Tuson & Marion Hall

Happy Easter to you all Alleluia.

Rita Poole



St. Bede's church
Friday 1st March 2pm
All welcome



AIR CADETS

Some of you may know that I am the Chaplain for the 310 Widnes Air Training Corps and I went along to lead my Christmas 'Padre's Hour'. I thought you'd like to hear about what we got up to. We started with a Christmas Ice Breaker - creating our own 'elf names' - mine was 'Caramel Elftrott'.

Of course, my plan was to tell the nativity story BUT I wanted to have a different take on things, to change it up a little, as many young people get the nativity story over and over in school at this time of year and I imagine it is easy for them to 'switch off'. So, my focus was on angels. The cadets listened to passage from Luke's Gospel (birth of Jesus and then shepherds and angels). The cadets were asked to imagine what the scenes would be like and to identify key points / words / images that stood out for them. I expected to have to guide them to think about the angels and how they terrified the shepherds but they identified this themselves! Then I read a passage from the Quran about the angel coming to Mary (did you know that the Quran has more writing about the Virgin Mary than the Christian Bible?) It is important in my role as Chaplain that I am sensitive to the fact that there may be other faiths represented within the squadron.

In Ezekiel 10 **the cherub** is depicted as having two pairs of wings, and four faces: that of a lion (representative of all wild animals), an ox (domestic animals), a human (humanity), and an eagle (birds).

We then moved on to a Christmas Quiz and the final question was to draw what they thought angels looked like. After getting the answers to the quiz we looked at their drawings of angels in more detail and at images I had printed of 'traditional' angels and 'biblically accurate' angels. We then moved on to think about who / what angels are and their link to God. This led to an amazing discussion that all the cadets participated in and allowed me to share the good news.

We finished with a light-hearted game of pass the parcel with forfeits and chocolate coins in each layer. Interestingly a few cadets had never played pass the parcel before, so it was good to share and teach them a new game!

Clare Liptrott

NINE LESSONS and CAROLS

Sue led the service at 10.30am on Sunday 17th December. The change of time from 6pm worked well as the Sunday Club children formed a tableau during the service, the Advent Ring was lit by Viv, a flower arranger and Debbie presented the Advent ring from Cronton.



The service was followed by the Christmas raffle draw, during which mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed.

Sue prepared a lovely service including carols chosen by congregation members:

Once in Royal David's City
O come, O come, Emmanuel
O little town of Bethlehem
Silent night, holy night
See amid the winter snow
God rest ye merry gentlemen
O come all ye faithful

Farnworth School PTA Fundraising for a Library Pod

Are you having a clear out? A de-clutter after Christmas?

Do you have any unwanted clothes, paired shoes, bags, hats, scarves, jewellery, socks, belts, curtains, towels or bedding?

(No uniform, duvets, pillows or soiled / ripped clothing).



In partnership with the eco-friendly Bag2School fundraising scheme, collecting for our next weigh-in!

If you are able to help please take any donations to church, the closing date for accepting items is Sunday April 7th. Thank you.

Any donations will help the School fundraising and also promote the reuse of clothes & shoes to help build a more sustainable future.

For a full list of what can and can't be donated, please visit the website <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

TRIBUTE TO BARRY INGRAM

As a Church family we were so saddened to hear that our dear friend Barry Ingram had passed away. I was privileged to be asked to officiate at this funeral service and as expected, many people came to pay their respects, he had touched so many lives. His nephew Kevin shared some very personal stories with us about his relationship with his Uncle Barry who was like a Dad to him. This is just an excerpt from my Tribute. Barry was born on the 17th August 1939 to parents Harry and Doris Ingram at 286, Upton Lane, the house he has called home ever



since. From the age of 5 he attended Farnworth Infant school, before transferring into the Junior school which was in an entirely different building in those days.

When he was 11, he passed the scholarship and went to Wade Deacon Grammar School for Boys, and he really enjoyed his studies and flourished there. On leaving Wade Deacon, he took up an apprenticeship with British Rail where he worked for 40 years, retiring at the age of 56.

It was whilst he was working for British Rail in the Warrington Goods Yard, that he received his call up papers to do his National Service, apparently he and his friend John, were among the last to be called up. He was drafted into the Dental Corps where he was trained to be dental nurse and technician. He was sent out to Berlin and to Spandau...just the very name of that place sends shivers down my spine, bringing terrible scenes to my mind.

Barry had the dubious 'privilege', if you could call it that, of assisting the Army dentist when he attended to Rudolph Hess. Bryan explained that Barry was actually exempted from the last 6 months of his tour of duty in Germany, due to the stress of working in Spandau, this was the case for all those served there.....we really can't imagine how dreadful that time must have been for them all.. Barry retired from the Railways at the age of 56, but he then

worked for GUS, as a Security Guard. It ended up being a bit more than a temporary job, he worked for about a further 10 years. But retirement wasn't really an option for Barry because he had plenty of hobbies. He loved being outdoors in the fresh air and he walked miles, usually with a dog, apparently he loved Snooker and was very good at it. He enjoyed his garden, especially his roses, and always had a vase fresh flowers in the house.. Holidays were important to him, a special time to relax and visit new destinations and goodness me, he had travelled extensively and visited some amazing places sometimes on escorted tours.

I knew that he loved his time in Russia with all its gilded architecture, we shared stories about Canada, other places he had visited were New Zealand, Peru and Madeira and Tenerife, where he thoroughly enjoyed walking in the hills and visiting the beautiful formal gardens and where his love of photography would be put to good use. Closer to home, he loved the Lake District which was always a stop off point on his way to Arran, a place he must have walked every inch of, he and Robert were such frequent visitors there and Barry always came back totally refreshed.

And then of course, there is the Barry who we all know from church. He was very proud of the fact that he and his brothers were choir boys from a very young age, and Robert showed me a small, but very beautiful, silver framed, black and white photograph of the three angelic looking brothers in their choir cassocks and surplices; and up until quite recently, Barry would step in and sing in the choir for major festivals and other services....perhaps the choir is where his love of music originally came from, because he really enjoyed going to live concerts, many of which were in the Bridgewater Hall and he loved live theatre, sometimes at the Lowry in Manchester. From those early beginnings, his involvement with St Luke's has just grown and grown. A member of our Parish Council, he acted as Lay Chair and was a no-nonsense chair; he served on the Team Council. He was a Warden and sidesperson for many, many years. He did the weekly count of money and banked it. He was so meticulous, never a penny out! As our Gift Aid Secretary he spent hours and hours on the wording for Giving in Grace Initiative; he was absolutely determined that the letters should strike the right note. With a Bishop's licence to administer Communion, he visited people in their homes, this was hugely appreciated by those he visited. Cronton School valued his support as a School Governor and member of their Council and he is sorely missed there.

He instigated and organised our Wednesday Open Church sessions, a key requirement of our English Heritage funding. He played his part on Heritage Day, giving tours and proudly speaking about the church he had known all his life. He loved to come to this lectern to either read Bible passages or to lead Intercessions which he meticulously wrote out by hand. He was first to sign up for Lent courses and contributed to Bible studies and Meditation.

The King James' Bible was his preferred Version of the Bible BUT he was very forward thinking, and open to change. He totally understood and accepted the need to move with the times and try new forms of worship and services which he embraced.

Do you get the impression that his life was steeped in faith? He was a man of strong principles all of which were underpinned by his beliefs and his love of God. People sought him out to give his opinion.... he was never, ever a front man... just always, always there in the background, quietly, faithfully working away, there whenever you needed him, just always there, ready and willing to help and support whenever and wherever he could.

And over the years we all needed him and his measured words of wise counsel and we have missed him so much recently. It was good that he was able to make it to church when we acknowledged and celebrated his amazing, selfless service to St Luke's and his church family...I know that he very much appreciated the welcome and the gifts that he received that day.

FOR ME PERSONALLY, I have so much for which to thank him. There are some words that I have purposely not used so far, true gentleman, strong principles, thoughtful, sincere, caring, prayerful, his faith steeped in the Gospel, proud of his roots, great intellect, always so smart, suit, collar and tie and ALWAYS shoes that were polished until they shone...we have so much to celebrate about the way in which Barry Ingram conducted himself and lived his life.

Barry's faith was unerring; he put his trust in God to guide him through all things, knowing that he would provide for him.

And so today, we very much thank God for Barry Ingram, a true gentleman, a soul mate, a wonderful brother, an amazing uncle and a very dear friend to so very many.

As a church family, we send our deepest condolences to Robert, to Margaret and Kevin and his brothers Denis, Bryan and their families. God bless you Barry, a true and faithful servant, you **so** deserve the rest and peace you will now know. *Sue*

St Luke's Sunday Club

Greetings from all at Sunday Club at the start of 2024. Time goes so fast once Christmas is over and now it seems so far away.

We had our Christmas party with lovely food and party games and the biggest pass the parcel I've ever seen, big thanks to Jill Tague for making it for us. We then had a visit from Santa himself, and he gave all the children a lovely gift.



The children once again did us very proud whilst performing in the Nativity, it was absolutely fantastic, and each and every one of them did so well. It really is a privilege being with these young children each week, well done to you all. Special mention and thanks also goes to three lovely people who agreed to play the part of the three Kings (well two Kings and a Queen) they were Gail Beswick, Jeff Evans and Phillip Harper.

And special thanks as always to Sue Smither for putting together such a lovely service.

We started off our New Year learning about Epiphany and the Kings meeting baby Jesus for the first time. The children made beautiful collages of the Kings from triangles and circles on black paper. They were very effective. When we went into church the children went up to the nativity scene and we talked again about the Kings journey.



Another week the children learned about Nathaniel sitting under the fig tree and how he was surprised that Jesus already knew him. Jesus asked Nathaniel to follow Him and become one of His disciples. He wants us all to follow Him too. The children made wonderful pictures of fig trees and drew Nathaniel and Jesus under the tree.

We wish everyone a healthy and happy 2024. Lynn Keeling

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Sundays 10.30am (60 mins)

To join Zoom online Meeting ID 5095149528

For the password please contact Sue

07962012916 or Clare 07976549410

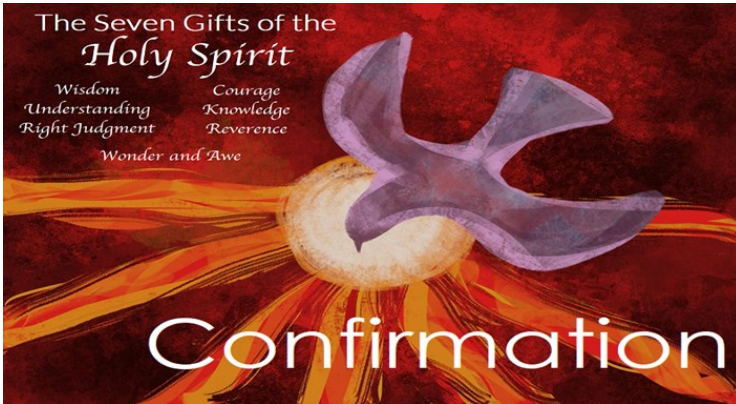
To listen to service with Zoom from landline or mobile dial

02036950088 enter password



FUNERAL	REGISTER		
Date	Name	Age	Location
30/11/2023	Linda Margaret	76	Widnes crem
02/01/2024	Barry Ingram	84	Church & Widnes crem
08/01/2024	John Oliver Slater	93	Widnes crem

CONFIRMATION 2024



We have received information that Bishop John of Liverpool will be coming to Widnes to officiate at the Deanery Confirmation Service of both adults and young children. The service will take place at 4pm on Sunday, June 16th St Michael with St Thomas' church in Hough Green. Confirmation Club will be offered to children in Y5 and Y6 or above and I will send out information after half term. If you are interested in taking the next step on your faith journey, and are considering Confirmation, please speak to Sue for more information.

Farnworth CE School.



The beginning of the term brought the devastating news that their Head Teacher, Andrew Redman, had made the decision to step down and retire from teaching. He will leave at Easter and the Assistant HT, Mrs Whitfield, will cover for the Summer Term until a new Head Teacher is appointed for September 2024. I hope that some form of 'Leaving Service' will be possible in church.

A 'River of Light' walk, a joint venture between school and St Luke's, is organised for Friday January 26th. The plan is to invite and thank people in our local area who help us. The 'procession' will leave school at 5.30pm, there will a service in church at 6pm when several people will speak about their role in the community. The children will sing a few songs and read

some prayers. Afterwards Hotdogs/tea/coffee/ biscuits/juice will be served. It is hoped to make this an annual event as a thank you to people who help us.

Lynn Keeling and I were invited to attend a PTA meeting to discuss the Summer Fair. The committee are keen to help carry on the tradition of The Rose Queen and include some elements of the traditional fair with the stalls and games that we can offer. The PTA really are enthusiastic and have the manpower to help set up stalls. They have lots of ideas to bring in the crowds.

We have offered to help with an Appeal to raise half the funding for a much-needed Library Pod. This involves us asking congregation members to donate unwanted clothes, belts, handbags etc which will be sold by weight to boost funds.

I continue to lead Collective Worship in both Key Stages and that is a joy. The Value for this half term is HOPE.

Sadly, a past member of the teaching staff, Mrs Ryan, died last week. This sent shock waves through the school family. We hold her family in our prayers. Sue



The Y5/6 children have booked a date to come into school for their Easter Celebration; this is a first for them. More dates are booked in the church diary for next term for them to start off a local history walk in church before heading off down into the village. Sue



After the Y1 children came to have a look around church as part of a Local History topic, I was invited into Moorfield School to talk EYFS and all KS1 children about the Christmas Story. As a result of this I have been invited next term to speak to the KS1 children about the Easter Story and then in

the Summer Term about the importance of Christian Values. These are during the KS1 Collective Worship slots.

OPEN DOOR WEDNESDAYS

Church will be open for 9.30am service
(30 minutes) until 3pm

People on hand to show you around our
beautiful church and chat to you over a cuppa.

'GAMES GALORE'

Grosvenor Women's club host & provide refreshments

1.30pm to 3pm Wednesday

Men welcome.

**Come and join a light hearted group of people who play
games - scrabble, chess, dominos, UNO and many
more.**



**Folk getting to know each other and sharing
laughter and tales recalling childhood memories
of games played. Afternoons are free - donations
gratefully accepted for church funds. We look forward
to seeing you! Contact Pat Johnson 0151 257 7737**

Sunday Club

meets each Sunday of the month, except the second Sunday. (none in August)

10.30am in the Bridewell

For children aged 4 to 11.

We have lots of fun learning about God's Love for us.

Please come and join us.



Please contact Lynn 424 3142 for further details

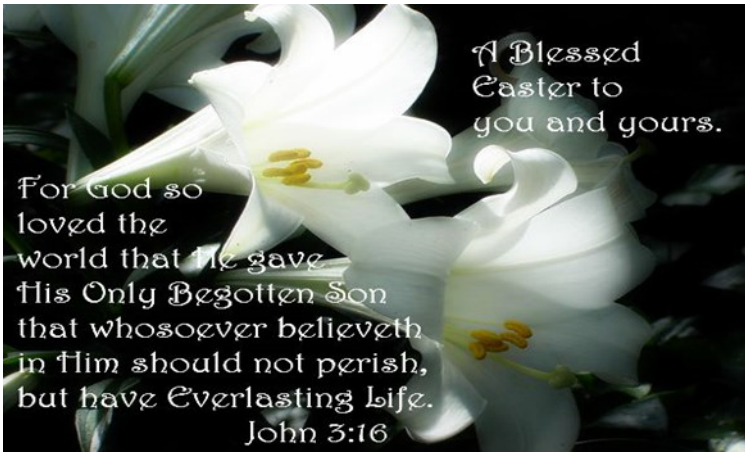
Summer aged 7 says "I like Sunday Club because we do fun activities and learn about God"

Alexis aged 5 says "I love Sunday Club because I like making pictures, doing sticking and playing with my friends"

"I have been going to Sunday Club since I was very little. I've had lots of fun there, drawing and making things and also reading prayers in church. It's been great learning about God" **Luca aged 11**

"I love Sunday Club because I like all the activities we do and learning about being a Christian in a fun way. I like being a role model for the younger children. And talking to the congregation, learning from them. I love performing for them at services. **Charlotte aged 11**





Without Easter,
there would be no hope of heaven.

Without the hope of heaven,
there would be no repentance,
no personal transformation,
no attempt to follow biblical principles.

Without Easter,
the world would be in chaos
and darkness.

Jesus' death and resurrection
means we can be reborn,
to live better, to do better,
to shine light into the shadows.

Hallelujah! Happy Easter!

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

ECO DAY 6th May - lots of eco friendly activities in church and in the churchyard. Refreshments on sale. More details in the next edition.

Hedging in churchyard done 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th January, mainly by Justice Department but with other volunteers from church, the Horticultural Society and community. Thanks to Baz for organising and Geoff Poole for tackling the ivy on the walls. The donated bulbs have been planted by the Justice group.

FOODBANK



Shopping list jam, toilet rolls, UHT juices, beans, coffee, tinned tomatoes, UHT milk and toiletries

Your support makes a difference

Last winter, mum-of-four Nikki* was one of 225,000 people in the UK who turned to a food bank for the first time.

Nikki received emergency food and support that meant she could provide for her family. It was a huge weight off her shoulders.

As food banks are stretched to breaking point this winter, your support could also help us push for long-term change.

Together, we can create a more just society where everyone can afford the essentials and no one needs to use a food bank.



Carbon Fast

for Lent

LENT 2024 WEEKLY OVERVIEW

WEEK 1 Feb 14-18

FAST from Unawareness

Expand your knowledge about climate issues

Watch a documentary and read a book

WEEK 2 Feb 19-25

FAST from Silence

Pray for creation

Talk about the climate crisis

WEEK 3 Feb 26-Mar 3

FAST from meat and dairy

Go meat free

WEEK 4 Mar 4-Mar 10

FAST from food waste

Make a plan for using leftovers

Compost fruit and vegetable scraps

WEEK 5 Mar 11-17

FAST from Driving

Cycle, walk or take public transport

WEEK 6 Mar 19-24

FAST from excessive energy use

Turn down the thermostat

Turn off appliances when not in use

WEEK 7 Mar 25-30

FAST from Social Media

Don't log on to social media and find alternative activities

EWT	SERVICES	FEBRUARY	
Feb	St Ambrose	St Luke	Cronton
Sun Feb 4 th	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Style
2 before Lent		12.30 Baptism	
Wed 7 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Sun Feb 11 th		08.00 HC	
1 before Advent	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
	12.30 Baptism	15.00 JAM CLUB	
Wed 14 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Ash Wednesday	19.00 TEAM HOLY COMMUNION at St. AMBROSE CHURCH		
Sun Feb 18 th	09.00 HC		
Lent 1	10.30 TEAM HOLY COMMUNION at CRONTON MISSION		
		12.30 Baptism	
Wed 22 nd	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Sun Feb 25 th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
Lent 2		18.00 HC	
Wed Feb 28 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 MP	



Ash Wednesday is a holy day that signifies the beginning of Lent. It marks the entry into a season of spiritual preparation for Holy Week, which culminates in Easter. Any march toward the redeeming work of Christ must begin with a recognition of our need for his grace - and that reminder is Ash Wednesday.

The day affirms that we are dust, as ashes are literally spread in a cross on our foreheads.

The cross represents Jesus and how he has redeemed us. We are encouraged to seek repentance with humble hearts and prepare for his gift.

EWT	SERVICES	MARCH	
March	St Ambrose	St Luke	Cronton
Sun 3 rd	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café
Lent 3		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 6 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Sun 10 th		08.00 HC	
Lent 4	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM CLUB	
Wed 13 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 MP	
Sun 17 th	09.00 HC		
Lent 5	10.30 TEAM HOLY COMMUNION at St. Luke's church		
Wed 20 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Sun 24 th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
Palm Sunday		18.00 HC	
Wed 27 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 MP	
Thurs 28 th Maundy Thurs	19.00 TEAM HOLY COMMUNION with Foot washing at St Luke's church		
Fri 29 th	10.30 Café Style	10.00 JAM CLUB	
Good Friday	3pm TEAM LAST HOUR at St Ambrose church		
Sun 31 st EASTER DAY	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 HC

Maundy Thursday is the day when Christians remember the Last Supper, when Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples before being betrayed and arrested. During the meal, Jesus took and blessed bread and wine and shared them with his disciples, calling the bread and wine his body and blood. He urged the disciples to do the same after his death in memory of him, and indeed Christians have done so ever since at Holy Communion – also known as the Eucharist.

CHRISTINGLE

It was amazing - my favourite service of the year! Sharing the good news that Jesus is the best Christmas present EVER and will forever be the Light of the World - with grumpy sheep, carols and candles. Clare



OPEN DOOR



There is the opportunity for you to join us on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 11.30am for our 'Open Door'. This is very much a time of sharing; a time for quiet contemplation and prayer and importantly fellowship over tea, coffee, toasted teacakes and crumpets!

SATURDAYS
3rd February and 2nd March

Helping Hands
Caring since 1989

We have arrived!

Helping Hands has been established for over 30 years, but has a new branch in Widnes to provide a fully tailored home care service to the people of St Helens, Widnes and surround areas.

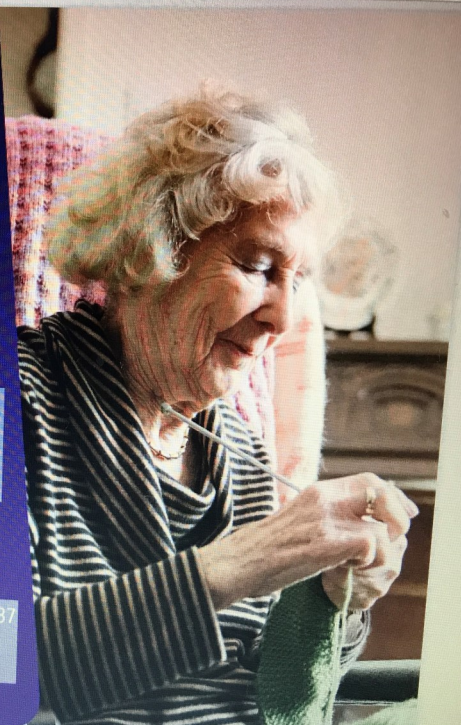
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07962012916**

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Clare Liptrott 07976549410
Lesley Firth 07803148233**

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Team Administration Lesley Howell

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