

Parish Magazine

St. Luke's Church & Cronton Mission
+ serving God and the community +



Nature & Heritage Day
6th May 2024 10am-2pm

Nature Trail Plant Swop

Refreshments Games

Craft and Art activities

More details on Page 12

April 2024 and May 2024 £1.50



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Director of Music Paul Delaney 07778042553
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Tower Captain Nigel Goulding
Bell ringing practice usually Tuesdays 6.30pm

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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 May 2024

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

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.

On occasions speakers on subjects surrounding health and wellbeing and it's a place to meet friends in our local community and to share our stories.

**Contact David Steadman 07551399631
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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
6th April and 4th May

Dear Friends,



Many of you know that I have recently returned from holiday in Tenerife and I do feel very blessed that John and I are able to get away. The weather however was not as good as the same time in previous years. Without a doubt, it was much warmer than you had here but it was cloudy for much of the day, the winds were strong, sometimes uncomfortably so and this is the effect that climate change is having on them.

Change comes in many forms and over the past few months during the Interregnum we have had to accept some changes to the services in church and I want to personally thank you for your understanding.

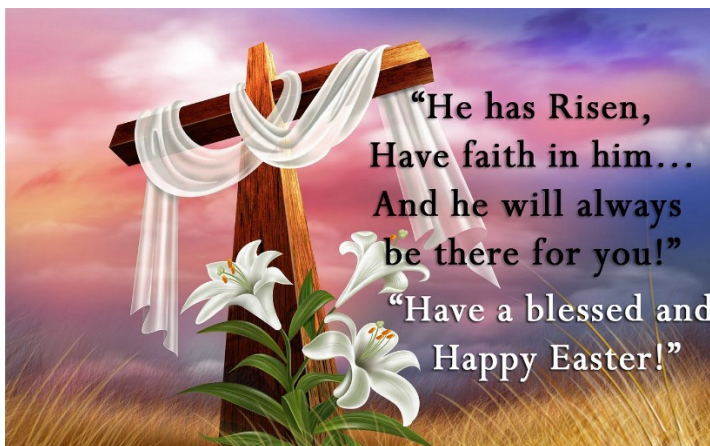
Throughout these months, the one thing that has not changed and is constant is God's love and care for us.

When Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, was taken hostage, he was kept in solitary confinement, for four full years he endured physical and psychological torture. It is impossible for us to imagine how that must have been, to have everything that you know and hold dear taken from you. He said, 'It is in the darkest moments that we must focus on the light.' As a church family, in recent months we have been absolutely broken and devastated by the loss of some really special people. Prayerful men and women of great faith, integrity, kindness and humility, who have contributed so much to the life and work of St Luke's church. They have left gaping voids in our hearts and we have felt bereft and broken. But Terry Waites' quote reminds us that through our faith in the Risen Lord, even in our sorrow, even in our pain and our brokenness we can find the strength, the beauty and opportunity for healing and growth and change. Isn't that what all of those whom we have loved and admired and have lost would want? After his release, Terry Waite encouraged people to change, to show and to share love, kindness, and compassion to those around us.

Jesus came to be the light of the world, a light that no one can quench. How very blessed are we to have our faith in Him who died on the cross for each of us and gloriously rose from the dead so that we might know him and have a deep and loving relationship with him.

For me that means to take on board the Easter message of hope, peace and love and to follow him.

Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid'. John 14:27



May I offer you and everyone whom you love and care for a very blessed and peaceful Easter.

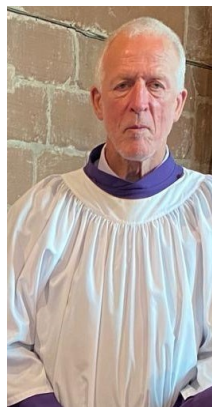
Sue

Geoff Poole

We are all reeling with the shock of the news that Geoff died unexpectedly on March 14th. A gentle giant, a true and learned, multi-talented gentleman, it goes without saying that Geoff will be very sorely missed.

At this time we extend our love and deepest sympathy to Rita and the family. With Rita's approval, a full tribute will appear in the next magazine.

Sue



RIVER of LIGHT

On Friday evening 26th January, the very first River of Light took place, with staff, parents and children from Farnworth school and parishioners from the church. The walk started at the school, with everyone holding their torches or mobile phone high as the procession made its way to the church. A short service was held in church led by Sue, with involvement from the School Ambassadors.

Val Anderson spoke about the history of the Newsagents and her life behind the counter, see a brief summary of this below. After the service the children were treated to hot dogs and drinks. In 1924, Mr George Roberson, (Stuart's Grandfather) purchased no 87 Farnworth Street, which then was a butcher's shop with a slaughter house in the garage at the rear of the property. His daughter Elsie married James Anderson, and in 1945 bought No 87 from her father. By then the property was no longer a butchers and Elsie had it as a dress shop known as "Lorna's Gowns" after her daughter. In 1953 James Stuart was born, known by all as Stuart. He was born with Type 1 diabetes, and with this in mind in the mid 1960s his parents opened Andersons Newsagents. Stuart helped in the shop from an early age, taking over the running of the shop with his mum on his father James's death in 1980. In 1981, as a young 16 year old girl, Valerie Crompton started working in the shop, temporary at first for 8 weeks, however she liked it so much she decided to stay. In 1987 Stuart Anderson and Valerie Crompton were married, and have lived in number 85 Farnworth Street for 28 years. His mum Elsie died in 2004. Stuart and Val acquired No 87 where they currently live and worked up until they closed the shop doors on 29th July 2023. They are in the process of turning the property into a house. No 87 has now been in Stuart's family for 100 years. Val then went on to share some of her memories working behind the counter in a "Sweet Shop", her love of chatting with the children coming in to spend their pennies, helping them to choose their sweets, or a gift and card for their mum or dad, seeing those children growing up and then coming iwith their own children. Amusing us with tales of the men coming in on Christmas Eve, after a visit to the pub, for a last minute gift for their wives. Val would wrap the gift for them and in some cases actually write the cards. She would then get a visit from the wives after Christmas thanking her for the Christmas card.

Stuart and Val love the spirit of the community in the village of Farnworth, and have been the two people who are responsible for the “Poppies , Stars, and Easter eggs that appear on the lamp posts at various times of the year. They have raised £1000/’s over the years for charities with Val’s fantastic window displays. On behalf of everyone in the village, church and school thank you both for all you have done.
Yvonne



Poppy said ‘ The ‘River of Light’ stretched from the school playground to church. We walked the route shining torches and lanterns and colourful lights. This was followed by a service in the church to thank those who help us in our local community and also to pray for those in need. I loved the River of Light as it was a lovely time to appreciate our community and spend a closer time with God by praying together’.



Thanks to Churchwarden Rob for the photos.

Wednesday service

Two of our regular worshippers Audrey and Joyce celebrated birthdays in March. Congratulations to them both.



Thank you for all the Easter treats you donated. Much appreciated.

Shopping List

Tins - fruit, mince, steak, fish, ham and corned beef and UHT juice, 500g rice, biscuits, cakes, shampoo.

Thank you.

Your help WILL make a difference.

	April Flower rota		May Flower rota
14	Mrs B Bullock	5	Mrs L Race
21	Mrs V Park-Funnell	12	Mrs C Harper
28	Mrs K Wong	19	Mrs D Humphreys



NATURE and HERITAGE DAY

We are celebrating nature with our event on **Monday 6th May 2024 10am to 2pm**. Our churchyard is a space open to all the public where people can walk and appreciate nature. Learn about some of the plants in the churchyard, their uses and their importance in the ecosystem on the nature trail.

What to expect:

Nature trail with children's quiz

Plant swop

Ladybird game and Find the bug games

Making bug hotels

Art workshop

Spot the bugs in the churchyard with a magnifying glass

Refreshments on sale

Drop in any time between 10am and 2pm



How you can help:

Grow seeds for the event Collect seeds for you to sow and a pot from church. We would be grateful if you could then donate a plant for the plant swop.

Donations

Prizes for the games: pencils, sharpeners erasers, notebooks, etc.

Excess plants, seedlings, cuttings, or plants you are dividing in your garden. Bring them on the day.

Materials for bug hotels: there will be boxes in the church porch for hollow plant stems, twigs cut into small pieces, pinecones, pots, natural string for tying bundles etc.



All are welcome but please note children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more details please contact Eco officer Sandra 07983399723

Mothering Sunday's poem 'Thank you Mummy'
And here's why – look at all the things you do for me...

*Thank you Mum, for everything you do.
You're the best Mummy in the world!*

You have super-charged legs and a soft centred heart,
a chocolate in a box.
You tidy my bedroom and drop me off at school
and even wash my socks.

You find things that I'd thought I'd lost.
How do you know where everything is?
If I was a bottle of cloudy lemonade,
you'd be the fruity fizz!

*Thank you Mum, for everything you do.
You're the best Mummy in the world!*

You do so many things for me,
so my poem could last forever.
I'm a happy child and happier still,
when we're doing stuff together.

I love you mummy and I always will!
The earth, the moon and the stars.
My love for you is longer still
than the miles from Mercury to Mars.

*Thank you Mum, for everything you do.
You're the best Mummy in the world!*

Poem © Paul Delaney, from 'Hedgehogs 1, Big trucks 0'

***If I was the latest iPhone,
without a simple bug.
My super-charger would be my mum
when she gives me a hug.***

from Paul too

SUNDAY CLUB at MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

The children helped Clare at the service. Charlotte, Summer and Alexis read beautifully. Two new children Ava and Albi were welcomed and took part with the other children to read the prayers. The children made hearts to assist Clare with her lovely service focussed on Love.

The children told us why their mums were so special. Charlotte said 'My mum is super special to me because she does not charge me for all the taxi rides to and from gymnastics. She is so generous and kind and always puts everyone before herself. She is amazing and I could not have asked God for a better mum. I love her so much.'



At the end of the service the children distributed Mothering Day cards to the congregation. The cards were donated by Dorothy Humphreys in memory of Bernard and Phoebe Dunbar. Thank you Dorothy.

On Sunday 17th March children made bookmarks.



MOTHERS' UNION

I have been asked to provide the MU report this month instead of Rita who has, of course, just lost her beloved husband, Geoff. It was devastating news to hear that he collapsed outside church, was taken to hospital but sadly he did not recover. He was a good supporter of MU, one of his many interests at St Luke's. He will be missed in the choir on Sundays and on Wednesdays when he would carry out maintenance and housekeeping jobs before undertaking more research about the church and its history. We will miss his trips to churches in the area. I will miss him on the journey to Mossley Hill church where we occasionally helped with the singing there. He will be missed on Heritage Day when he conducted tours around the village. He will of course be hugely missed by his family and many friends for whom we pray. RIP, Geoff.

Back to MU matters, despite the booked speaker not arriving, we enjoyed an evening of fellowship at our February meeting. The March social was naturally cancelled once we knew Geoff was in hospital.

On 10th April, our speaker will be Jennifer Lewis
Tea duty is Maureen Morrison and Brenda Bullock
I look forward to seeing you then. Colleen Harper



A session of fun, faith and fellowship

Sundays 14th April and 12th May

3pm to 4pm

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For more information contact

Clare 07976549410

Baptisms

8th Feb

Charlene Buckley and
Joseph James Mullarkey

3rd March

Cameron Shaun Atkin
and Corey Stewart

17th March

Martha Grace Nolan and
Amara Ivy Loseby



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 Mission and CE School

On the first of March, Cronton Mission and School were blessed to hold its first CAFÉ WORSHIP during the school day. Thanks to Clare Liptrott, the short informal service attracted 18 adults and 18 children from school and church, to learn about the Lenton Journey through crafts and discussion over refreshment.



In the book of Exodus, chapter 20, verses 1-17, we are reminded of the 10 commandments including keeping the Sabbath for rest. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it Holy". In today's society, especially for our young families at Cronton, coming to church on a Sunday morning, is in competition with a range of other activities like football, Ballet, rugby and birthday parties, to name a few.

We are proud that CAFÉ WORSHIP is a fresh expression of church in partnership with school. This collaborative working takes mission to school families, and increases awareness of the services happening in the school building on a Sunday.

What makes Cronton an outstanding school, in addition to its quality of education and leadership, which drive the behaviour, personal development and academic outcomes for children, is its vision embedded in Christian values.

**"I CAN DO ANYTHING THROUGH GOD WHO GIVES ME
STRENGTH" Philippians 4:13**

The next Café Worship in school is planned for **FRIDAY 26th APRIL** at 2:30pm. **ALL WELCOME.**

On Mothering Sunday, Lesley led a more informal Morning Prayer at Cronton. Using the reading Colossians chapter 3, verses 12-17, Lesley spoke of GOD'S LOVE for all of us, how the disciples passed on this love as do every generation of Christians. She spoke of a MOTHER'S LOVE, linking in the school Christian value for this half term of FORGIVENESS. Lesley challenged us with developing self-love, as we deserve to feel this and so that we are better able to love others.



Using wooden hearts, families decorated these with fingerprints and jewels. We often use Spotify for more modern hymns with both music and voices by groups like Rend Collective, and today there was no exception. Mums also had daffodils to take home.

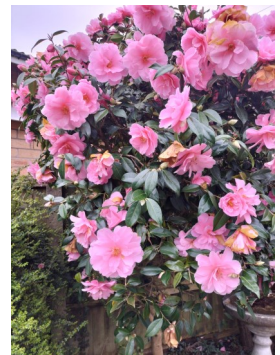


Debbie Doyle

Spring is here

Beautiful Camellia in the garden of Baz and Yvonne

The sweet scented flowers of pink are now blooming
And telling the land that the springtime is here,
For soft and like velvet their petals are glowing
I've waited a lifetime to see them appear.
So still,
The songs of the dawn,
Camellia shines
As a new day is born.



CRONTON SCHOOL

On 1st March we began a new expression of worship at Cronton C of E Primary School, Café Worship, aimed at families with children who attend the school, although open to all. We are aiming to have this time of worship once per month, usually the last Friday in the month.

Parents and families arrived at 2:30pm and their children were able to come to share worship with us before returning to their classes to pack up and get ready for 'home time.'

We explored the meaning of Lent - we learnt that Lent is a festival celebrated by Christians all over the world, an important period of reflection and preparation. A special time to honour our faith, prepare our hearts and get ready for Easter.

During Lent, Christians think about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us when he was crucified and died for our sins. The Bible tells us that Satan tried to tempt Jesus to worship him instead of God. Jesus refused, and so as Christians we often choose to give up something in honour of Jesus' control and self-discipline.

Today, this can involve giving up a treat, such as chocolate, but it can also involve doing something positive, rather than giving something up, which is what we thought about.

We made and decorated 'Lenten Boxes' and put special ideas, promises and prayers in it for us to use during Lent. We can pull out an idea that can help us to remember and honour Jesus, helping us to prepare our hearts for Jesus and Easter celebrations. Clare



Sunday Club in February

The children learnt that God loves everyone no matter what, and they made a lovely poster to show in church with their handprints on. They also gave out little love hearts so that when they are felt inside your pocket it will remind you that God loves you. Lindsey.



Visit to St. Mary's Church West Derby Liverpool 13th February



Continuing our trips to churches of interest some 22 of us descended on St Mary's Church where we were welcomed by Rev. Stephen Boyd and his wife.

Stephen was an informed and entertaining man having gained a B.Th. degree in theology from Oxford. He said he was not an historian but then proceeded to prove to be quite the

opposite with his knowledge and obvious love of his church. He also is a trained organist and played a piece for us after rolling over the seat to get into position. He spent two years as an organ scholar with Dr Colin Porter known to us as the leader of The Liverpool Festival Choir who have visited St Luke's on several occasions. Stephen was at one time interviewed as a possible rector for our church. He knew a lot about the area in Farnworth and knows Michael Freeman and others known to us.

The church is a grade II * listed building and was a Chapel of Ease to St Mary's Walton (near Bootle and Orrell). It has a hall co-joined with the church but run independently where various activities take place and there was a group doing crochet when we visited.

This Chapel of Ease was nearby having been built in 1793 and when it was demolished Saxon material was found on the site. The present church which lies at the entrance to Croxteth Hall was built on land given by the Earl of Sefton along with £500 to build it. He commissioned Geo. Gilbert Scott to design it and the foundation stone was laid in April 1853 and it was completed in 1856. The large central tower was paid for by the banker John Pemberton Heywood.

Two drawings of the church were exhibited in the Royal Academy in 1853 and 1856. The Ecclesiologist describes "the interior inspires awe at once, by height and nobility"

Did you know Scott also designed the original red telephone box and when only 33 built the (at the time) tallest building in the world, St Nicholas's Cathedral in Hamburg?

He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Have a look at the web site [Gilbert Scott .org](http://GilbertScott.org) The Scott Dynasty for videos etc. the amount of information and the projects that Scott was involved in is phenomenal.

Constructed in red sandstone with a slate roof, York stone pillars and in the Geometric style – English Gothic, a style from early 12th century to mid. 17th century characterised by pointed arches, rib vaults, buttresses and extensive stained glass creating buildings of grandeur. At the crossing it has a central tower with octagonal turrets and crocketed pinnacle. A five-bay nave, a three-bay Chancel and apsidal (an Apse is a semicircular recess with the roof covered by a vault or semi-circular vault).

The nave arcades are carried on circular piers of York stone and their capitals have carved foliage. Quatrefoil pillars are found in the south chapel.

J Oldrid Scott designed most of the other fittings i.e. stalls, altar rails, font cover, pulpit and alterations to the reredos. The sanctuary lamp was designed by Geo. Gilbert Junior. Much of the stained glass is by Hardman (a world leader, 1838 on, in stained glass and ecclesiastical fittings). His firm was founded in Birmingham and he was a close friend of Pugin and Scott and he did a lot of work for Scott at Worcester Cathedral, Gloucester Cathedral Westminster et al.



The west window was by William Wailes and Percy Bacon was responsible for some of the other stained glass.

We can only stand in awe and admiration for these great men and families who have contributed so much to our nation and heritage.

In the floor there is a brass plaque to the memory of Rev. John Stewart the first Rector who died in 1889.

Summary of the Pipe Organ

- The original pipe organ by Gray & Davison 1860.
- Replaced in 1891 also by Gray & Davison.
- Rebuilt in 1971 by Rushworth & Dreaper.
- Further additions in 1988 & 2000 by David Wells.
- A full rebuild and modernisation by Principal Pipe Organs in 2012.
- Now looked after again by David Wells – the company that restored and looks after our organ.

This subject i.e. church architecture etc is a vast and can only be covered briefly here.

We were shown a trap door in top of the tower, which is 49m high, over the nave where you can look down – quite scary I would think. There were no pamphlets or brochures available so there are a limited number of pictures to show but I have included a few I managed to take and some I found.



St. Mary's have a sung evensong once a month with an anthem, sung mag. and nunc, and sung responses. As usual we ended the visit by having lunch. We went to the Nova café, virtually next door to the church and the manageress, a real Liverpudlian character, looked after us well. The next trip is to the Anglican Cathedral in April with more to follow. Geoff Poole (so sad this will be his last entry)

Stuffed into a suitcase by Paul Delaney

My whole life's stuffed into a suitcase.

Ten happy, beautiful years.

I'm walking along, dragging my feet,
crying but hiding my tears.

I wonder where I'll sleep tonight?

When will I stop to rest?

'Keep going,' Father whispers,
'For me, just do your best!'

I wonder if I'll ever see Grandma again?

When will I feel her kiss?

'Keep going,' Father whispers.
'Forget the things you'll miss.'

My whole life's stuffed into a suitcase.

Ten happy, beautiful years.

I'm walking along, dragging my feet,
crying but hiding my tears.

I wonder where I'm going?

Truly, I haven't a clue.

'Keep going,' Father whispers.
'Make me proud of you!'

I wonder if I'm dreaming?

Perhaps I'll wake up in my bed?

'Keep going,' Father whispers.
'Don't look back, look ahead.'

My whole life's stuffed into a suitcase.

Ten happy, beautiful years.

I'm walking along, dragging my feet,
crying but hiding my tears.

I wonder where I'm going?

If I'll forget family and friends?

'Keep going,' Father whispers.

'We walk 'til this road ends.'

I wonder if we'll be welcomed?

Will people sing and cheer?

'Keep going,' Father whispers.

'Don't give in to your fears.'

My whole life's stuffed into a suitcase.

Ten happy, beautiful years.

I'm walking along, dragging my feet,
crying but hiding my tears.

I wonder if I'll see my village again?

My homeland, the country I love.

'Keep going,' Father whispers.

'God is watching above.'

I wonder what my future holds.

What lies at this road's end?

'Keep going,' Father whispers.

'God is always our friend.'



My whole life's stuffed into a suitcase.
Ten happy, beautiful years.
I'm walking along, dragging my feet,
crying but hiding my tears.

Finally, I wonder about who's left behind
as we drift further and further apart.
I glance at the clouds and talk to God:
'Please mend my broken heart.'

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Some beautiful, wise words for us to consider.



Today, I'm going to celebrate what
an unbelievable life I have had so far:
the accomplishments, the many blessings, and, yes,
even the hardships
because they have served to make me stronger.

I will go through this day with
my head held high and a happy heart.
I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew,
the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds.

Today, none of these miraculous creations
will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people.
I'll make someone smile.

I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of
kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems
down.

I'll tell a child how special he or she is,
and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them
and how much they mean to me.

Today is the day I will stop worrying about what I don't have
and start being grateful for all the wonderful things

God has already given me.
I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time
because my faith in God and his Divine Plan
ensures everything will be just fine.
And tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside
I will raise my eyes to the heavens.
I will stand in awe at the beauty of
the stars and the moon,
and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.



On Saturday June 15th St Luke's Rose Queen and Fairs Committee will join with Farnworth School's PTA to hold the 2024 Summer Fair.

As a church we will have our Rose Queen and retinue to open the fair; we will set up our traditional stalls and a tombola for which we will need donations of unwanted gifts and toiletries.

The Fair will open at 2pm with the Crowning of the Rose Queen and close at 5pm. Help will be needed on that day to set up the games and to man the stalls during the afternoon, so please put that date in your diary now!

We are very much looking forward to working with the PTA; they have already organised a band, a bouncy castle and other attractions....I am just not sure how many of our parishioners will be bouncing that day....but there will definitely be something for everyone and we feel that it is so important to keep the tradition of the Summer Fair and Rose Queen alive.

There will be more information available in the coming months.

Sue and Lynn

WORLD DAY of PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer took place on Friday, 1st March. The service booklet had been prepared some time ago (that is, before the events of 7th October 2023) by the Christian Women of Palestine. Some of the readings were very moving and thought-provoking. Of course we all pray that lasting peace will soon come to that troubled part of the world.

The Widnes churches came together and held a service at St Bede's Church that afternoon. We were very grateful to the ladies there for hosting the event and providing the refreshments. We were also thankful for the talents of organist Lorraine Eldridge for accompanying the singing. Some of the hymns were new to us or involved new words to an old tune. Everyone attending was in good voice!

The photographs show the organising committee for the event, led



by Gill Beswick from Widnes Methodists. I was honoured, as joint leader of our Mothers' Union branch, to represent St Luke's.

The table shows the produce grown in the area, especially the branches, oil and fruit of the olive trees, along with the Bible and candle.

All are welcome at this event – perhaps you might like to put it in your diaries now for the first Friday in March 2025! Colleen Harper



FABRIC REPORT

At last we can now look forward to the completion of the toilet project which is in its fifth year of trying get it off the ground. The Council Grants Department members are working on our behalf and have approached Grant Providers with our applications and have received some very positive responses. I have also recently met with the Contractors to finalise various points of the design which will benefit the project and should prove less costly.

Discussion also took place on the impact the project will have on church services. This will mean the West end of the church will be screened off for safety and the amount of dust should be kept to a minimum with their use of dust extractors. Hopefully the disruption to services will be kept to a minimum with only the Wednesday morning services affected. Work will stop when the service is on and we will have to reduce the number of funerals in church while work is going on. The tea bar will be re designed into two units on rollers so they can be moved around to various points in the church as required. Electric sockets will be installed so they can be plugged in to various points in church which will enable us to offer a range of events within the church.

You may have noticed that the Preaching Cross has been restored to its historic place to the left of the main door. This has set me on trying to find out the history of the previous St Wilfrid's church which was originally here in earlier times. It is hoped later in the year the Bishop of Liverpool will come and consecrate the cross and we will invite not only the congregation but members of the community who supported its rebuild.

The site needs to be more presentable and plans are afoot so watch that space. My thanks go to all who have donated not only money but their time. As the motto of the Friends of Farnworth says

The Past is our inheritance, the
Future our Responsibility

Barry Horabin



Treasurer's Report, 01/01/24 to 29/02/24

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjust</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts	13873	0	13873
Expenses	<u>(10211)</u>	<u>(12042)</u>	<u>(22253)</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit)	<u>3662</u>	<u>(12042)</u>	<u>(8380)</u>

The Parish Share amount owing is £56,251.28, this will be carried forward to 2024, unless the Church commissioners give us a further grant towards this debt. At the time of writing this report, there are rumours that this maybe happening, but I have not had anything to confirm this yet. However I very much doubt that we would receive the £56000 that is owing to the Diocese, so we will just have to keep paying as much as we can off the arrears before starting on the Parish share for 2024. Since the beginning of 2024, there have been 16 funerals, quite a few of them were regular givers to the church funds, and this has had a marked effect on the General funds. People have been very generous with their donations to the Toilet fund, £500 from HSBC match funding the Quiz. We have also received legacies in memory of Alan Humphreys and Barry Ingram, and our grateful thanks go to both of their families. We have also received a very large anonymous donation to the toilet fund, and I can report that the figure of 50% of the cost of this project £95,500 has been raised, and the team at Halton Borough Council grants department are busy bidding for grants for the remainder of the funds on our behalf. Fundraising for this project is still ongoing, just in case we don't get the full amount required from grants. Hopefully, once the funds are secured and we have a new vicar in place, people will once again contribute to the general fund for the day to day running costs of the church, which are a minimum of £10,000 per month, inc Parish Share. All of your donations help, so please give what you can afford either in church or as below. 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 **Barclays**
Account name Farnworth St Luke Parochial Church Council
Sort code 20 91 48 Acc no 30369292 .Your name as reference,
or by cheque to St Luke's PCC c/o Mrs Yvonne Horabin, 12
Buckingham Avenue, Widnes WA8 9EP For donations towards
fundraising for the Toilets, please state that it is for the Fabric
fund. Thank You Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)

Farnworth School

It has been a busy time in school with two year groups going on Residential visits this term but their main piece of news is that Mr Redman, their Head teacher, made the decision to take early retirement and he will be leaving at the end of the term to take some well-earned rest and to spend time with his wife Alison and their two daughters.

Andrew has steered the school through what have been the toughest of times, the Covid pandemic and then more recently through an Ofsted Inspection where the school and staff were praised for their care of the pupils. We send Andrew our very best wishes for his retirement; no doubt he will be looking forward to some well-deserved family time.



The children remembered World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday 21st March, when they once again supported Cheshire Down Syndrome Group by selling 'Gingerbread Socks' for £1. The reason for the sock shape is that people with Down's syndrome all have three copies of chromosome 21 and chromosomes look like socks. On that day, the pupils were encouraged to wear bright, multi-coloured socks. All donations, including the money raised through the sale of the biscuits, was donated to CDSSG.

Both the school gymnastics and athletics teams and the basketball team will shortly be representing Halton in the Merseyside Youth Games. The children should be so proud of their success to get to this stage and we wish them every success.

This year the children will be celebrating Experience Easter in their own classrooms with scripts that I have written for them; I will share some of their thoughts on that in the next magazine.

Sue



On February 1st, we were delighted to host a special evening in St Luke's when students from the Music Department of Cronton Sixth Form College came along with their tutor Lucy Myers and a piano accompanist for their A level Recital Evening

Most of the students came to perform pieces they will be playing when they sit their A level Exams in Music just a few weeks' time. Goodness me, it is hard to put into words just how amazing they were.

Quite a few people from our church congregation came along to support them, as did many of their own family members and friends. It was a wonderful evening and the atmosphere in church was just so very special.

Even though at first some of the students were nervous at performing in front of quite a large audience, once they 'took up their instruments/voices' and began their recitals their talents and skills just shone through.

I learned that some of the students are going on to study in prestigious Schools of Music, some with highly coveted scholarships and bursaries; others are taking up new subjects. Whatever these young people choose, we wish them all the very best in their exams and in the future.



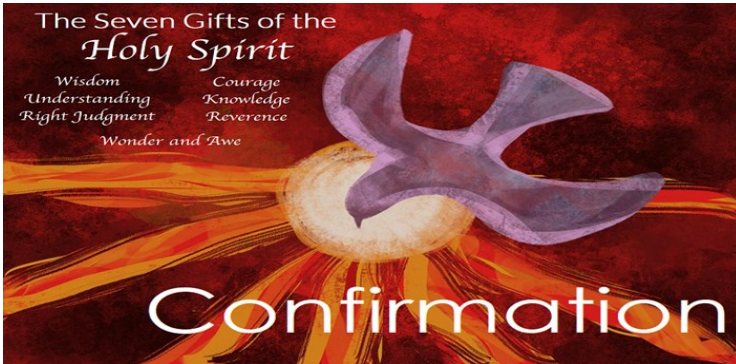
I have no doubt that we may be seeing some of them when the students from the Performing Arts Department come to perform their Summer Concert for us on

Thursday June 20th at 7pm.

More details will be available nearer the time, please do try to come along and support them. Having a good audience makes all the difference.

Huge congratulations and thanks to them and to their tutor Lucy for a magical evening of exceptional music. Sue

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.

Lunts Heath CP School

We are looking forward to welcoming the Y5 and Y6 classes and their parents from Lunts Heath School into church for their Easter Service. We are very much looking forward to that. They also have dates in the Church Diary for their KS1 children to come into visit church and then go on a walk to learn more about the history of Farnworth Village It has been a real joy and privilege to forge links with the school and they are very keen to work with us on more initiatives.

We wish the staff and pupils a wonderful Easter break. Sue



OPEN DOOR WEDNESDAYS

Church will be open for 9.30am service
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'GAMES GALORE'

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Men welcome.

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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**





Tributes

Sadly, only months into 2024, we have already had to record the deaths of too many long standing and faithful parishioners from our Church, all of whom had contributed so much during their lifetimes. As a church family, we extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends who are mourning their passing.

Maurice Pitt

Maurice's son Nigel gave a family tribute to his dad and we learned so much more about his many interests, the important impact he had on local businesses and unexpectedly his love of certain sports. The church was packed with people who had come from all walks of life to pay tribute to him.

Below is part of my tribute to Maurice.

I came to know Maurice through church, but for the last ten years or so, I sent his magazine to the Farm for him, and he would drop in from time to time to see me....nearly always in his tweed jacket, sometimes a hat in his hand, usually **just** as I was about to start cooking our evening meal. He would come in and make himself comfortable in our lounge, have a cup of tea and then fire a load of questions at me about what was going on in church and what the people who worship here were doing. He was always interested, very sharp and perceptive and occasionally he might appear again the following week armed with more questions!

But he was ever the gentleman, always polite and courteous. Over the years he had been a generous benefactor to St Luke's, especially supporting us on big building projects when essential and extensive work has been essential to maintain the integrity of the building. Our church definitely held a special place in his heart...built on glebe land, land that had been owned by his family, so Maurice really did have a vested interest in St Luke's and its people.

For the past few months, Maurice had been gently cared for at Stocks Hall Nursing Home in Skelmersdale.

In Maurice Pitt, we had so much for which to thank God and to celebrate, he was an amazing, dad, grandad, partner brother, uncle, colleague and friend....no more struggles for him, he is now at peace.

Sue

Wendy Collinson

We were sad to learn of the death of Wendy and again I was privileged to be invited to take her funeral service that was held at the Crematorium Chapel. Every seat was taken. She was honoured by the Mother's Union who presented their flags at the Chapel. The family prepared a tribute for her, from which I have taken the following information Margaret Wendy Collinson was born in October 1931 in St Helens, but her family moved to a house on Coroners Lane when Wendy was about three and a half. She attended Farnworth and Wade Deacon and on leaving she took a post with the NatWest bank, following in both her parents' footsteps. As well as full time work, Wendy was also extensively involved in parish activities: as a Sunday school teacher, Bell ringer and Akela, or Scout Leader. In fact, it was through scouting that Wendy was to meet her future husband Barrie, a senior scout at the time; they married on 30th August 1962 at Farnworth Parish Church. Their first home was in Gt Sankey but they later moved to Coroners Lane where they brought up their two children, Sarah and Mark. Wendy always gave generously of her time: as a volunteer church cleaner and regular flower arranger, member of the Historical Society and Mothers' Union, not to mention Secretary of the Widnes Ladies Lifeboat Guild for over 25 years, she was eventually presented with a gold medal for her services.

When her own children became parents she was a natural fit for the role of family matriarch and she loved having the children as they grew up she enjoyed hearing about their achievements. Wendy had a passion for life and lived hers to the full, believing we should do everything we can, while we can, as life is short...though she lived to the grand age of 92. She was described in her Tribute as a 'legend'.

Until more recently, Wendy was a regular member at our 10.30 services but as her health deteriorated, she found that difficult. I was privileged to take Holy Communion to her in her home. She was always so grateful and afterwards we would chat about church events.

Barrie, Sarah and Mark and their families and her sister Judith, obviously dearly loved her and her passing has left them heart broken. As a church family, we offer them our deepest sympathy.

Sue

June Fay



St Luke's church was packed and additional seats had to be quickly brought out for June's funeral service that was held in church. Her Guiding family formed a Guard of Honour in the porch and the Mother's Union also paraded their flag to welcome her into church.

I first came to know June through Guiding. That lovely smile, that wonderful warm welcome, making you feel that YOU were the special one, when of course we all know that **she** was.

Brownies were never confined to one evening a week in Moon Meadow, her home was open to 'her girls too'. Saturday mornings at Ganton Close for badge work, lots of crafting and first aid, and, with the help of Denys, learning how to wire a plug. My daughter loved every minute of her time with June before 'flying up' to Guides.

June set those young girls such a wonderful example about what 'SERVICE' really meant... I promise that I will do my best: To be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the (Brownie) Guide Law. **They** are rules for life that have stood them in good stead and many of June's girls went on to achieve the highest levels in Guiding, some of whom became leaders themselves and many still fly the Trefoil flag proud and high for Guiding across the world.

Then there was the Auntie June from childminding. June, always there on the playground in plenty of time, waiting patiently to gather her charges together, **every one** of them happy and eager to see her, and their parents of course were confident that their children were safe and loved in Auntie June's hands. And then there was the 'St Luke's June' that I knew. The Parish Clerk who sat in the freezing cold vestry EVERY Thursday evening, between 7 and 8 o'clock. Often she was the first point of contact for couples wanting to get married here, and the new parents enquiring about Baptisms for their precious new babies...and we can all imagine how they felt as they left...reassured that everything was in safe hands.

BUT, apart from her clerk's role, she played a huge part in the life of this church, nearly always first to volunteer, here to clean and polish and sweep and wash dishes. She loved the Summer and Christmas Fairs, she enjoyed the Parish Lunches and the more recent soup and sandwich lunches where she

enjoyed catching up with old friends, and she soon made new ones.

MOST importantly, St Luke's was the place where she, and Denys, came to worship the God in whom they put their trust. For a while, she lived over in Hatchmere, but when she moved back to Farnworth after Denys passed away, I was privileged to be invited into her apartment in Bridewell Court to take her Home Communion. Often joined by Pat Johnson and Ann Entwistle, we would chat for ages afterwards. From time to time she would jump up, and search amongst her many bits of paper, newspaper cuttings and photographs and come back to show us something relevant to our conversation....a twinkle in her eye and a big beam on her face.

For me, June Fay was just so very special, the proudest, yet, at the same time, most gentle, self-effacing, humble, modest, unassuming lady I have ever had the fortune to meet.

Ian, Denise and June decided that money donated in June's memory should be sent to St Luke's Church, a place in which her their Mum and Dad had been so involved and which they loved so much, People were super generous and as a church we gratefully accepted a significant sum of money.

Being in June's company always was such a pleasure; she made everyone feel important and **never** took any credit for herself. She so deserves the rest and peace she will now know in heaven, and of course she will be reunited with Denys, the love of her life who she has missed so much.

As a church family, we send our love and deepest condolences to Ian, Denise, Paul and their families.

Sue

Before passing away Geoff sent this photo as a tribute to June.



May Griffiths

Sadly, due to poor mobility we haven't seen May in church for quite some time, however she never lost interest in St Luke's and I maintained contact with her by taking Communion to her at home and Gail delivered her magazine that she read from cover to cover.

May was 93; when she was 80, there was a party for her at The Upton Tavern and from then on she kept saying, 'I don't think I'll make another year'. How wrong she was. Born and bred in Widnes, May had never known any other home other than Alder Avenue. She lived there with her parents, older brother and younger sister who sadly died at the age of two and May often spoke of the tragic circumstances of her death; she religiously visited the family grave. May attended Farnworth School and then the Commercial College and after that she worked as a Secretary but she had a disagreement with someone in her office one day and just walked out, never to return.

She had such a sharp brain and was keen to some degree to keep pace with technology BUT she loved her old typewriter and had me searching for the correct ink ribbon for it when the other dried up.

'Set in her ways', May was a strong minded independent lady who often shopped locally so when she didn't appear for a few days people would ring to enquire if she was OK. John, the butcher, would call in his lunch break to fetch her the two slices of roast beef and one lamb chop. Where food was concerned May was a creature of habit and had her meals all planned for the week.

She loved talking and socialising, going out for coffee or a meal and she was taken on quite a few little holiday breaks with friends and afterwards she loved to share stories about the places they had visited. In recent times, May could not have managed were it not for her two very special friends Jane and Sylvia. There were her taxi drivers for her many medical and other appointments...they really stepped in and supported her which I know she really appreciated. She had struggled recently but now her earthly life is complete. She was God's faithful servant and had worshipped at St Luke's all her life, but now she will be happy to be reunited with her mum and dad, her sister and brother with lots to catch up on. God bless May, rest in peace. Sue

Ann Entwistle

Yet another sad loss when Ann sadly passed away, she and May had been great friends for many years and they died within weeks of each other. When Ann's husband, Dr Tony Entwistle retired they moved from Farnworth to live near Delamere but a few years after he passed away Ann moved back to Widnes and was living in Bridewell Court. Even though she lived a fair distance away she still maintained contact with St Luke's and she worshipped with us on a Wednesday morning, afterwards she loved to stay to chat and catch up with friends. Ann had always been extremely active and involved in the community and gave freely of her time and expertise to many organisations, some of which she actually instigated. Her background was in nursing and as a G.P.'s wife it was almost expected in years gone by that you became involved in the community, and that's definitely what Ann did wonderfully. She devoted much of her time to Clatterbridge Hospital and organised many fund raising events, one of which was at the Queens Hall, and Ann invited Christine Turner's daughter Catherine, who was just three years old, to present flowers to the consultant, an important moment for such a young girl. Ann was the person who started the Contact Centre, inviting Sue Connolly, Christine Turner, Stella Lewis, a member of the clergy from Runcorn, a local solicitor from Widnes and others to come on board; Chris has been involved with the Contact Centre for more than ten years, and as she said, 'You could not say no to Ann!' Ann was committed to fund raising for Halton Haven.

As a stalwart Member of the MU she supported them and their work. When she could not attend church or MU anymore, Christine took Communion to her in her home where apparently she always had her MU book ready and they would say the MU prayer together. Ann was a very faithful lady, a committed Christian; she loved to talk about the bible passages and prayers, and very much looked forward to Chris' visits and to catch up on the latest news from church. Ann was very generous in so many ways and she will be sorely missed by her family and those who knew her best. We offer them all our deepest sympathy and thank Christine for the important contact she maintained with Ann. My thanks to Christine Turner for her help with this Tribute to Ann. Sue

APRIL	EWT	Services	
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Wed 3 rd	Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 7 th	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Style
Easter 2		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 10 th	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sun 14 th		08.00 HC	
Easter 3	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 17 th	Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 21 st	09.00 HC		
Easter 4	10.30 TEAM SERVICE at St Ambrose church		
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 24 th	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sun 28 th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
Easter 5		6pm HC	



Our next TEAM SERVICE will be held at

St Ambrose Church at 10.30am on Sunday April 21st and we are asking for YOUR help with this. We would like people to choose their favourite Bible verse and write this on a form that can be found at the back of church; you may decide to do this anonymously or give your name if you would like to. That is entirely up to you. We will then randomly pick out three from each church in the Team and build a service round these Bible verses by finding hymns to complement each one. The closing date will be Wednesday April 17th. Thank you.....Sue

MAY	EWT	SERVICES	
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Wed 1st	Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 5th	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café
Easter 6		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 8th	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Thurs 9th		7pm HC for ASCENSION	
Sun 12th		08.00 HC	
Easter 7	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 15th	Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 19th	09.00 HC		
Pentecost	10.30am TEAM HOLY COMMUNION at St Luke's		
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 22nd	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sun 26th	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 HC
Trinity		6pm HC	
Wed 29th	Sanctuary		

	FUNERAL REGISTER	
Date	Name	Age
08/02/2024	Maurice Pitt	86
31/01/2024	Lesley Ann Ryan	73
02/02/2024	Joe Pennington	32
06/02/2024	June Fay	89
07/02/2024	Margaret Wendy Collinson	92
12/02/2024	Patricia Pass	78
20/02/2024	Mary (May) Griffiths	93
29/02/2024	Dorathy Anne Entwisle	90
29/02/2024	Alma Schofield	92
01/03/2024	John Mc Whinnie	65
08/03/2024	Margaret Leahy	97
11/03/2024	Maureen Mottershead	76
15/03/2024	David Anthony Prescott	39

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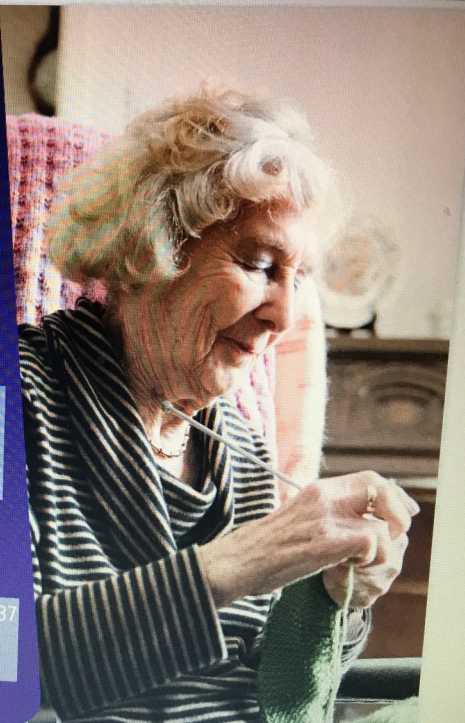
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