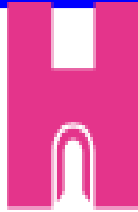


Parish Magazine

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



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Sunday Club usually 1030am in the Bridewell Sundays

Sunday Club Leader	Lynn Keeling	01514243142
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Director of Music	Paul Delaney	07778042553
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Tower Captain	Nigel Goulding	07860632096
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Bell ringing practice usually Tuesdays 6.30pm

Schools	Farnworth C.E. Primary	01514243042
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	Cronton C.E. Primary	01514243881
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Editor	Philip Lacey	07710030973
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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 is noon on 18th September 2025

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

before.

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Tired
Lacked energy & motivation
Suffering health issues



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Benefits of joining Halton u3a

It's a great way to find and develop new interests and make friends in a relaxed environment. It doesn't cost much to join only £15.00 for the year.

Reasons to join:

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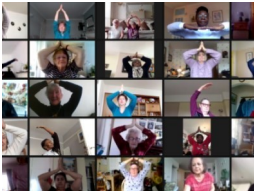
Meet other people with similar interests; learn new things and share your skills.

What the u3a offer



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With 15 local based groups around Runcorn and Widnes, you will never be too far from a group of like-minded learners.



Learn online

Our exciting schedule of online learning activities complements the local offer and connects members across the UK.



Interest Groups online

This online only u3a community has an eclectic selection of groups you can join, all from the comfort of your own home.

General Meetings for members and visitors are held on the second Thursday in the month at 1.30 pm at The Masonic Hall, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QH. These meetings usually offer members and visitors the chance to listen to a speaker talking on a topic of interest, to ask questions afterwards as well as the opportunity to enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Dear Friends,

There is something in that greeting, isn't there?

Jesus is the perfect example of true friendship; he modelled the meaning of friendship to us by loving us unconditionally, by always being there for us, by drawing us closer to God, and by laying down his life for us, his friends. In John Chapter 15, verse 14, Jesus tells us, 'You are my friends if you do what I command'. However, we know that friendships come in many different forms, from those deep bonds of a lifelong friendship to one of a more casual nature; but all are important. Last month, we drove some 293 miles, to Kenmore, a village on the Banks of Lock Tay, in Scotland; it was a long way but worth every mile of the journey. Without exception, everywhere we went, we were welcomed with wide smiles and warm handshakes. Everyone had time to chat; people were genuinely interested and passionate about sharing their knowledge of the local area, it felt like we truly were among friends.



Just a mile from where we stayed there was the Scottish Crannog Centre, a reconstruction of a CRANNOG, an ancient Iron Age fortified dwelling built over water. It was a fascinating place. [See an article elsewhere in the magazine.]

Just as we were leaving, I saw these words on a plaque:
'Welcome hands, feet, hearts, leave traces of quiet witness,
every touch a sense of feltness'

I wonder, does that describe how you feel about St Luke's? In several recent conversations, people have told me that they don't know **what** it is, but there is definitely **something special** about St. Luke's. Do **you** feel that? Do **you** sense the closeness of God's presence in the space we are privileged, just for now, to call ours? Do **you** feel that peace that only the Holy Spirit can gift? Do **you** feel that you are among friends?

We cannot quite claim history going back to the Iron Age; still, I think that we can claim that **OUR** welcome hands, feet and hearts, **are** making history as **WE** leave **OUR** traces of quiet witness. With every touch **WE** make, **WE** are leaving a sense of 'feltness' in St Luke's and in doing so **WE** are making our very own 21st century mark in history and on the people who come through our doors and we offer them touches of friendship.

Scotland was just what I needed. It reminded me of just how blessed **I** am to worship at St Luke's. It is very special to be at the receiving end of the support, care, concern, friendship and fellowship of my church family and hopefully **YOU** feel that way when you worship or visit, as we try to follow Jesus' teaching, 'You are my friends if you do what I command you', and, 'Love one another, as I have loved you'.

Every blessing...Sue



I particularly like this quote about prayer from C S Lewis.

'I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless.

I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. Prayer doesn't change God, it changes me'.

In church, we pray for people who we may never meet, those whose needs we may never know about, but it is always wonderful to hear good news about the impact prayer has had on the people on our Prayer List, and how appreciative their families are of our prayers, concern and support. That has recently been the case for two of those we have named. Please do share any news with us. We all know the power of prayer and as C S Lewis says, he prayed because he couldn't help himself and because it made a difference, it changed him, it definitely has the power to change us too.

Sue



OPEN DOOR SATURDAY
 On the morning of June 5th, we welcomed more than 40 people into St Luke's church for our OPEN DOOR. They came to look around, to ask questions, to have a few moments to pray, to sit and chat and make new friends and for a small donation enjoy tea, coffee, a slice of toasted fruit bread or a Crumpet.

We will be opening our doors on August 2nd, September 6th and October 4th from 10am to 11.30am. Why not come and join us?

ALL ARE WELCOME



	FLOWER ROTA		
	AUGUST		SEPTEMBER
3	Mrs Y Horabin	7	Mr & Mrs R Critchley
10	Mr R Freeman	14	Mrs B Taylor
17	Mrs M Campbell	21	Mrs S Smither
24	Mrs P Johnson	28	Mrs S Tuson
31	Lacey family		

Cronton 6th Form Performing Arts Centre of Excellence

SUMMER & SONDHEIM

An Evening of Music and Song

Wow! What an amazing evening!

We were privileged to host the Cronton student's Summer Concert when they showcased the work of composer Stephen Sondheim, a name we perhaps know for his spectacular musicals such as *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*, but not so much about one of his works called, '*Company*'. The story follows five married, or soon-to-be-married couples and their mutual friend, a 35 year old bachelor called Bobby. His friends are desperate to set him up with dates to find a wife. The songs definitely tested the singers, with complex melodies and some rapid delivery of lyrics, we were mesmerised from start to finish.



Interspersed with '*Company*' songs, we were treated to some fantastic individual performances by the A level Music students on the piano, saxophone, bass guitar and drums and a beautifully haunting jazz song. Matt Plant, as Head of Performing Arts, narrated between each of the eleven songs and Lucy Myers, their A level Music Tutor, spoke about each of the instrumental pieces. Matt and Lucy were each presented with a well-deserved bottle of wine and I sent an email to College to be passed on to the students. Given that the 6th Form College has its own theatre, we feel hugely privileged that they still choose to come to St Luke's twice a year to highlight their work and support our ongoing fund raising. We are very grateful to all those who came to support us, I feel sure that they were not disappointed; in the process we raised £370. For not much more than the cost of a cup of coffee, we had a wonderful evening, and the ticket price included a drink and a biscuit. I call that a bargain! Thank you to everyone who came to support us, but special thanks go to the students and their tutors, Matt and Lucy.

Sue

I will be with you...

Wherever you go, I'd like you to know,
I will be with you.

Whenever you cry or you're wondering
why,

I will be with you.

I am the stars of the night. I am the
silver moonlight.

I am the sunbeams, caressing your face.

Wherever you go, I'd like you to know,

I will be with you.



When your road seems long and winding.
When you're dancing in the dark.
When you're thinking: *I've just had enough.*
I'll be your sudden spark!

When you're crying, cold and lonely.
When you're wandering in the rain.
When you're thinking: *Does anybody care?*
I'll be calling your name.

Wherever you go...

When you're staring at a mountain.
When you're swimming 'gainst the tide.
When you're thinking: *I'm all on my own.*
I'll be right by your side.

When your dreams are disappearing.
When you're sinking in the sand.
When you look back, you'll realize I was there,
holding your precious hand.

© Finished April 27th 2023 Paul Delaney
www.pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk

Café Worship at Cronton Church in May

The Bible reading for 18th May (John 13:31-35) included words that will be familiar to many of us:

"A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

In this part of John's Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples a "new commandment": to love one another as he has loved them. This means showing kindness, compassion, and understanding to others, even when it's difficult. Jesus's love was not just a feeling, but a way of acting. By showing love to each other, people will know that they are followers of Jesus.

In the service we thought about what this means for us:

- **Love as a choice:** Jesus's commandment is a call to choose love, not just feel it.
 - **Love in action:** Love isn't just words; it's about showing kindness and being helpful to others.
 - **Following Jesus's example:** Jesus showed love by washing his disciples' feet, a humble act of service.
 - **Love as a sign of faith:** People will recognise Christians by their loving behaviour, not just by their words or beliefs.
 - **Practising love:** We can practice love by being kind, forgiving, and helpful to those around us, even if they are not easy to love.
- We made cards with handmade flowers to take away, to give to someone to show love in action.





a "new commandment": to love one another as he has loved them.



Farnworth CE School

The Y6 children attended a special Leavers' Service at Liverpool Cathedral earlier in June; the key message fitted perfectly with the school value for this half term of courage. They will also have Induction visits to the High Schools they will be attending from September. We hope they will enjoy the new opportunities and take any challenges in their stride.



For the first time ever, the Farnworth girls' football team entered the Premier League Primary Star Football Tournament. After winning the local tournament, eight of Farnworth's talented girls had the unforgettable opportunity to participate in this prestigious event, which saw all Premier League clubs represented. They were picked up by the Liverpool coach and driven to Wolverhampton, where they enjoyed a night's stay in a hotel before the big day at Molineux Stadium. On the day of the tournament, the girls faced a challenging group, competing against Newcastle United, Arsenal, Aston Villa, and Tottenham Hotspur. Overall, the girls finished 3rd in their group, displaying their brilliant performance and resilience throughout the tournament. Well done and congratulations to them all!

As you have walked or driven along Pit Lane, you may have noticed a crane on the school land. The crane was installing the new long-awaited Library Pod. The Pod has been funded by the fantastic efforts of the PTA. The children cannot wait to use it.



There have been Sports Days, Music Festivals, Gospel Concerts, and both a boys and girls Dynamo Cricket event. The Y6 had a Residential Visit to Condover Hall in Shropshire, there they had the opportunity to try many new activities including abseiling, raft building and archery, and the Y6 are looking forward to an end-of-Farnworth performance of their show. All the classes are excited and looking forward to the PTA organised Colour Run at the very end of term. We wish all staff and pupils a wonderful Summer break. Sue

Café Worship at Cronton Church on Father's Day

In the Bible reading for Sunday 15th June from John's Gospel (John 16:12-15) Jesus continued to elaborate on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told the disciples that even when he is gone, they're not going to be alone. Jesus knew he was going to ascend into heaven, but he also knew that once this happened that the Holy Spirit would come down to earth.

This passage followed on nicely from the celebrations of Pentecost from the Sunday preceding it and it speaks of the Holy Spirit's role in revealing truth and guiding believers, mirroring the guidance and love a good father provides. Giving us an opportunity to think about the great attributes and qualities of fathers, both our dads on earth and God our Father in heaven. So how does all this fit together? Well, we have God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and now we are being introduced to God the Holy Spirit. The idea of God being 3 in 1 – the Holy Trinity - is a hard concept for anyone to understand and so in the service we used some delicious props to help us understand this concept:

Biscuits

Marshmallows

Chocolate Spread.

All individually yummy, but when we put them together, we get something complete – S'mores - even more yumminess, which is only possible with all 3 parts working together to become the S'mores.

So, if we translate this across to the Holy Trinity:

God the Father – biscuits

God the Son (Jesus) – marshmallows

God the Holy Spirit – chocolate

We can see how the three parts of God

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

are all separate but also come together to complement each other.

The take home message:

we need s'mores God!



Clare





As a church family, we have supported Foodbank since it first came to Widnes in 2012. There are currently 200 volunteers on their books. The work they do to support local families in need is phenomenal. Over the past 13 years they have developed in many ways; alongside handing out emergency food to local people in need, they have introduced initiatives that include training and advice to help families reduce their reliance on them.

Recently, the number of people leaving donations at St Luke's has fallen; there are many reasons for this and we certainly do not want people to feel uncomfortable if they aren't able to donate.

But, leading up to our Harvest Service on October 5th, and in order to boost our collection of food and other items on their request list, we are designating September as a **FOODBANK MONTH** and ask, if possible, that you donate just one item whenever you come to church.

Widnes Foodbank is currently in need of
cartons of long-life milk and juice,
jam,
pasta sauces,
tinned fruit
and coffee.

They are always grateful for donations of treats for children and toiletries for both men, women and children.

A message on their website says this: 'Our foodbank relies on your goodwill and support. Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in the Trussell network is donated by the public - that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three-day supply of food.' Let us do what we can to support them.

Sue

Rose Queen Service 6th July

On the morning of Sunday 6th July a very special service was held in church. A service to carry on the tradition of having a Rose Queen and Retinue at St Luke's, which I think is the only remaining church in Halton to do so.

The Sunday Club children were all in attendance looking wonderful in their outfits. Summer our Rose Queen elect looked very beautiful in her dress and cloak of blue velvet. In the children's hair were garlands of spring like flowers which looked so pretty. Every one of the children looked absolutely fabulous in their beautiful dresses and William and Thomas looked super smart and cool in their matching sage green outfits.

Lesley Runcorn had kindly agreed to crown our Rose Queen which she did beautifully. Summer had quickly and quietly taken off her garland of flowers ready for her crown.



When crowned Summer's smile said it all, she was beaming. Once crowned Summer read out about her time in Sunday Club and how proud she was to be St Luke's Rose Queen. One of Summer's first jobs was to read the Gospel which she did with the help of her friend and lady in waiting Meg. Both girls read beautifully and the rest of the children read the intercession prayers and took offertory and communion. I am so proud of them



Mrs Smither who was leading the service made it very child friendly and involved both the children and the congregation. I'd like to offer my personal thanks to Sue for everything she does and all her help and support around this service and throughout the year. It is very much appreciated, thank you.

Once the service was over official photos were taken at the altar of all the retinue and their families, and of course Lesley Runcorn. The children then joined the rest of the congregation at the back of the church which had been transformed



beautifully ready for a "special" tea party. The children's table was full of food and in the middle was placed a beautiful flower arrangement for Summer our new Rose Queen. Thank you Lesley.



The congregation enjoyed lots of yummy cakes with their tea or coffee . Grateful thanks to all involved in any way.

The morning was very special and was enjoyed by everyone.

We wish Summer all the very best in her duties in the coming year.

The children all enjoyed the special service and I'm so glad that they all will have special memories of it to look back on.

Lynn x



Sunday Club

I can't believe it's the end of another school year of Sunday Club, the time goes so fast. So that means a summer break away from Sunday Club till September. And as always the children have been amazing.

I'm very grateful to Lindsay, Hannah and Jill for coming each week and helping me at Club, I really am indebted to them

But I need to give a very special extra mention to Lindsay for agreeing to step in and run Sunday Club whilst I'm away. It's a big ask and she never waivers. I'm so grateful to her as it enables me to keep a happy balance of running Sunday Club which I love doing and keeping my husband happy by going away and enjoying our retirement. Thank you so so much Lindsay you are a star. The children learnt lots of things in my absence for instance one week they had the story about Doubting Thomas and how he found it hard to believe that Jesus was alive. Another week the children were asked to bring animal cuddly toys with them as they did the story of Noah's Ark. I know they will have enjoyed all their learning. We finished off our Sunday Club year with our annual Teddy Bears picnic and Attendance Awards. The children loved the picnic but I think they enjoyed throwing their Teddies in the air using the parachute more, there was squeals of delight every time one fell off.



Then we went into church in time for the children to receive their Annual Attendance Award of a book to each child. Rev Peter had kindly agreed to present them to the children. He was even testing them on their knowledge asking questions from the books they were receiving. Thankfully Summer got one of the questions right.



Then I got a lovely surprise as Summer presented me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and chocolate on behalf of Sunday Club. It was a lovely surprise and was very kind of them and the children. Thank you once again, but like I always say being with these children is a privilege and a gift, they are all super stars. Hope everyone has a great summer, take care.

Lynn x

Date	Location	Name	Age
05/06/2025	St Luke & Crem	George Edward Greason	81
10/06/2025	St Luke & Peelhouse Cemetery	Leslie Evans	92
12/06/2025	St Luke & Crem	Ronald James Colebrook	74
17/06/2025	st Luke & Crem	Midge Baker	93
26/06/2025	St Luke & Crem	Jean Garton Bailey	91
29/07/2025	St Luke & crem	Philip Roger Lines	77

BAPTISMS

25th May Lucas David Young, James Andrew John Pitt and Mason Richard John de Asha

15th June Isaac Paul Bromilow and George William Harris

22nd June Evelyn Nora Lesley Hazzard and Rose Martha Fox

20th July Casey William Tunstead, Zachary Liam Carolan and Theia Daisy-May Wallis





Clock Face Miners Heritage Brass Band

This is the programme of music that the musicians played at the concert in St Luke's on July 19th...a wonderful mix of different genres of music.

Bramwyn - John Carr

*Swedish Folk Song - Peter Graham

APT- Rose & Bruno Mars

* Love Story - Taylor Swift

Wonderful Tonight - Eric Clapton

Soloist Jimmy Ball

*The Beatles Go Brass - John Lennon & Paul McCartney

One Voice - Barry Manilow

*The Show Must Go On - Queen



*Montagues & Capulets - S. Prokofiev

How Far I'll Go - Lin-Manuel Miranda

*A Thousand Years - David Hodges & Christina Perri

Soloist John Hall

Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen

*Speak Softly Love - Nina Rota

Soloist Sara Thompson

Soul Bossa Nova - Quincy Jones

William Haw is the young, energetic Musical Director of Clock Face Miners Heritage Brass Band. Will has himself played in numerous bands across the North West, competing on Cornet, Soprano Cornet and Tenor Horn. He has great vision and enthusiasm, and works hard not only with the long-established members of the band but also with the up-and-coming youth talent. He has already achieved much in the short time he has been with them and celebrated success in recent competitions in Saddleworth and in Kirby Lonsdale winning NINE trophies in the space of 48 hours...what an amazing achievement. He told us that St Luke's held a very special place for him as it was where he conducted the band in his very first concert. Just two short of one hundred people, **not** counting the 28 band members, came to enjoy the Proms and Pimms Concert and everyone agreed it was a huge success; the band received several well-deserved standing ovations.

Will Haw is such a charming young man; he not only conducted the band but also entertained us with informative chats between each piece.



We raised a fantastic £400 plus a further £165 in the raffle. Thanks must go to everyone who supported the event and bought raffle tickets, to the people who donated bottles of Pimms and to those who kindly donated such a wonderful selection of raffle prizes.

We donated £50 of the proceeds to the Band to support their work.

Before Will left, I managed to book two dates in the diary with him.

Christmas Carols and Cava Concert
FRIDAY December 5th 2025 7.30pm
Summer Proms and Pimms
SATURDAY July 18th 2026 7.30pm

I don't think we will have any problem selling tickets for either of these events! Sue

MOTHERS' UNION

Our meeting on 11th June was led by Chris and started with prayers. Our speaker was Judith, Heritage Manager from the Catalyst Museum. The museum is now over 40 years old, having started life in 1982 at the back of the Town Hall with 5,000 items. The move to the Gossage building at Spike Island happened in 1986 and at the entrance is a large caustic pot which says, "Welcome to the Catalyst Museum." It is 17 cubic metres and weighs 15.75 tons. It was the last thing made by Widnes Foundry before it closed. Judith talked about the history of the chemical industry in Widnes, including the founders of ICI, Messrs Mond and Brunner. Ludwig Mond lived in "The Hollies" in Derby Road with his wife, Frida, and sons Alfred and Robert. Alfred became involved in politics and he and his wife were shot in strange circumstances.

The Brunners lived above what is now Boots Opticians in Widnes Road. John Tomlinson Brunner and his wife Jane later became Lord & Lady Brunner. Their son was Rosco and their daughter, Ethel, was a keen hunter. While on safari, her husband was shot! It is unclear what happened but after the death certificate was written, the safari continued. So both families were involved in strange events that were brushed aside.

The magazines in the Museum are more like a census in that you can trace anyone who has worked at ICI and all their details will be found. ICI also had workmen's records. The oldest person recorded was in 1849 and the log is a bit like a school report, stating how well they worked and their timekeeping. The comments on the reverse would not be allowed today!

There are also chemical reports. ICI made many things, like bleaching boar hair for brushes. There are fatal accident reports: in 1894, John Winstanley was killed in an explosion. He was unfortunate to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. His poor wife was told to put her children into an institution! There wasn't any welfare then. She refused and it is thought family and friends helped her. Brunner & Mond (one of the companies that made up ICI) did set up a retirement fund. Education was important and sons of workers were helped. Judith had found a booklet containing information about her own grandmother. She also found in the newspaper archives a relation who was fined for being drunk!

In 1946 the War Charities Committee was set up and an Emergency Committee for health.

Judith and her team have recovered thousands of photos and still have more to sort out. There are photographs of Christmas parties, aerial views of the ICI plant, the floods and pictures of products like ICI Soda Crystals. Linda Brown thanked Judith for coming and giving us an interesting talk with a good deal of humour. Some of our members will be interested in finding out about their families who worked at such a major employer.

The 9th July meeting was our Summer Social event. Chris, our games guru, led the meeting, starting with the Mothers' Union prayer but then the fun part! "Open the Box" required answers to 3 questions before each player could choose a box. Prizes included wine, chocolate, soap and a notebook but poor Brenda got the booby – a bag of prunes! Fortunately, she does like them so was pleased.

Supper consisted of sandwiches, sausage rolls, quiche, (thanks, Sue!) cheese & crackers and crisps, followed by scones (Rita's speciality!) with jam and cream. Then the fun continued with Bingo, with prizes including wine and a huge box of shortbread. Our numbers were small, and it was simple fun – but really enjoyable. Thank you, Chris, for your ingenuity in thinking up new games, kind donations for prizes and for giving us a lovely evening.

Our "Garden Party in Church" on 17th July was well-attended and we are grateful for the donations of food and raffle prizes. Baz and Yvonne had already decorated the church, ready for the concert on the following Saturday, but it is amazing how some bunting, linen tablecloths and china tea pots can transform the mundane into a special occasion. We raised over £175 towards MU charitable works, so thank you to everyone who came. Pat Johnson did an amazing job in persuading some of her fellow residents of Bridewell Court to come along – and we hope some of them will consider becoming members too!

10th September: Holy Communion and New Members Service.
Tea Rota the Committee.

8th October: "My Experiences as a Street Pastor" with Ray Roberts, our church warden. Tea rota Sue Connolly and Linda Strickland.
All welcome to both events.

If you are considering membership, come along to a couple of “taster” events before making a decision. You will be made very welcome.

From the Prayer Diary:

*Holy Spirit, inspire my thoughts and actions today.
Lead me to do your will and bring glory to your name.
Guide me to make a positive impact and enrich the lives
of those around me.*

Amen.

Rita Poole

Fabric Report

Now that the church lighting has been repaired and back to full working condition there only remains to do the five year survey of the whole system, then the current project will be completed.

We have also had a survey done on the church for a wireless system of Security Cameras and are just waiting for the quote to arrive. This will be a great asset to the church as it will improve the security of the building and surrounds.

In the coming months we will be launching a final Roof Appeal which will bring to an end twelve years of Restoration Work. It will comprise of work on the Nave roof, Vicar’s and Choir Vestry and some work on the Tower. Once completed it should be secure for the next 900 years. There will be a large cost involved for this work but in the past we have been able to receive quite large grants, particularly for roof work. The Architects are at present working on a possible cost plus a survey of the work involved and will deliver this in the next few weeks. Once this is done we will arrange a meeting of the whole church to outline the work and costs involved and how you can take part in the project.

Every piece of work we undertake enhances this iconic building for us all, and the future congregations to enjoy, the sense of peace and tranquillity in this very troubled world.

Barry Horabin

OPEN DOOR WEDNESDAYS in AUGUST

Church will be open for 9.30am service
(30 minutes) until 1pm

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

'GAMES GALORE'

No sessions in AUGUST

Restarts Wednesday 3rd September 1.30pm
to 3pm

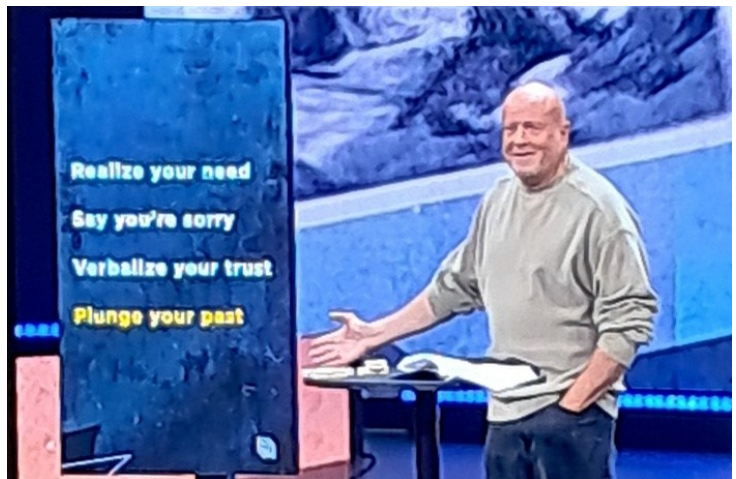
Come and join a light hearted group of people who play games -
scrabble, chess, dominos, UNO and many more. Folk getting to
know each other and sharing laughter and tales recalling
childhood memories of games played. Sessions are free -
donations gratefully accepted for church funds. We look forward to
seeing you! Contact Pat Johnson 0151 257 7737



Cronton Mission and School

I have recently been to Texas, to visit my son, and had the opportunity to visit his church – LAKEPOINTE CHURCH in Rockwall. This was a massive building like a theatre or Sports complex with large auditorium as well as small meeting rooms and chapels.

Lakepointe Church was founded through a love for Christ, and a goal of serving the community. Today, the church has grown and continues to spread the message of God and the Christian faith. No matter your background or your story, they invite you to come and be part of what God is doing at Lakepointe, promising that you will find a family to belong to, as you explore who God is, and the full life He has for you.



They hold 4 main services each week (Saturday and Sunday), and the service I attended had more than 1000 people there. The service began with people helping themselves to coffee and buying cakes and pastries. Whole families were welcomed by 100s of volunteers from the parking lot, through the foyer to the auditorium. The hymns and worship songs were performed by a full band at the start of the service, then one of the leaders led prayers and a sermon followed – the thinking was very modern and relevant to today’s society but telling and reflecting core biblical truths that have been affirmed throughout church history as essential to the Christian faith. This made me reflect on what we do at St Luke’s and Cronton and asked myself the following questions. How are they so wealthy? Why are our congregations falling rather than growing? And what is it that makes families in America prioritise Church over going to Tennis or football on a Sunday morning?

For our churches to continue to exist, we need to change whilst retaining some of the excellent things we have going on in our churches. I don’t have the answers, but it has certainly given me food for thought.

As the academic year comes to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all staff for their contribution to the provision of outstanding education for ALL our children. Driven by our vision, teaching and learning is embedded with our Christian values each and every day, to enable children to flourish. All our children deserve a massive WELL DONE for all they have achieved this year.

Cronton School will undergo significant changes from September following the retirement of a number of staff. Earlier in the year, the administrator, Mrs Felton, and a teaching assistant, Mrs Soni, retired, and this summer, a teaching assistant, Mrs Hill, assistant head, Mrs Jones, and the headteacher, Mrs Thomson, are also all retiring. This adds up to over 125 years of committed service to Cronton school. Interim measures will be in place until Christmas whilst the local governing body complete the recruitment process. alongside LDST, to ensure we employ a new headteacher who can continue to work with the whole school community to drive school improvement in the current local and national landscape.

Mrs. Thomson has led this school as headteacher for 18 years. She has consistently given more than 100% commitment throughout this time, to providing outstanding education for all children at Cronton and beyond. She has been a driven leader who has fully worked in partnership with the wider school community including Cronton Mission and the Parish, and with a passion to ensure all children receive the highest quality education and the opportunities they need to develop as individuals. She will be missed by the children, staff and governing body, but I ask that you join me in thanking her for her outstanding contribution to this school and wish her well in her new venture in working part time as Education Officer for LDST. We pray that this allows her to enjoy an improved work, life balance with her family, as a reward for the challenging and demanding work she has consistently provided at Cronton.

Debbie Doyle

Talk by the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust on the water of the Mersey

On Tuesday 24th June the Grosvenor Ladies Group opened up their meeting to all for the talk from Hannah Atkins from the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust. The talk was well attended and all there found the talk interesting and uplifting when hearing about the water quality of the Mersey. Hannah explained the surveys carried out on the status of the water quality and wildlife in the estuary from 5 years prior to the building of the Mersey Gateway Bridge to date. The data collected indicated the building of the bridge has had little overall effect on the wildlife in the Estuary and showed that because of the fewer dogwalkers and people walking in the area during the time of building some wildlife increased during the time of building in certain areas.

The Mersey estuary is a valuable habitat for many species. Migrating birds, invertebrates and microbes in the mud are not only a valuable food sources for many organisms in the estuary ecosystem but also a huge carbon store and a valuable asset in the reduction of carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

Hannah explained how the water quality has improved tremendously since the seventies when it was a highly polluted river. The water is now so clean it supports a huge range of fish

species including salmon. Evidence of the salmon was found in fish passages at weirs, when cameras not only showed the salmon migrating upstream but an otter hunting them also. Other mammals found in the Mersey also include seals, porpoise and dolphins. Every time I walk near the Mersey I will keep my eyes peeled for anything exciting to see.

If you wish to find out more about the ecology of the Mersey you can email Hannah to receive The Mersey Gateway Environmental trust newsletter at hannah.atkins@mget.org.uk.

Sandra Vanezis



Treasurer's Report, 01/01/25 to 30/06/2025

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjust</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts	64,006	0	64,006
Expenses	<u>(27,149)</u>	<u>(37,527)</u>	<u>(64,676)</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit)	<u>36,857</u>	<u>(37,527)</u>	<u>(670)</u>

Whilst it is lovely to be in a position to pay our Parish Share for the first 6 months of 2025, it is a bit of a false picture, as the receipts in this period include one off amounts of a £10,000 legacy, plus £6,780 back rent from Bold Mission for the period July 2024 to December 2024. At the time of writing this report, we are still awaiting the Diocese Board of Finance to confirm the position regarding the outstanding Rents owed to us, and the parish share owed by us. We are now receiving rent from Bold Mission direct from the management agency rather than the Diocese, however as it is only £4,400 per quarter, it will only cover three months parish share in a year. Going forward we will have to be able to pay £6254 this in full every month, which, at the moment is impossible. If we can't do this then the church will be at risk of closing. I can't stress this enough.

Please support our fundraising activities and review your donations to the church. Some of the regular donors haven't increased their giving in the last 10 years. There is very little in cash on the plate each service too.

Your support in raising funds for the toilets has been amazing, of the £200,000 cost, only £34,500 was from grants, the remainder has been from legacies, gifts from various organisations and donations, thank you for your support and well done to you all .

We now need to keep that support going to cover the general fund overheads. Spread the word please, that help is required. 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, pick up a leaflet in church or as below

By transfer. Barclays Account name:- Farnworth St Luke Parochial Church Council Sort code 20 91 48 Account no 30369292 .Your name as reference. By cheque payable to St Luke's PCC c/o Mrs Yvonne Horabin, 12 Buckingham Avenue, Widnes WA8 9EP Thank You Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)

Café Worship at Cronton School

As Christians, we are all called to share the Good News, so that others may come to know God and Jesus. One of the ways to do that is to 'plant' a new worshiping community, sometimes called a 'fresh expression of worship' and this is what we have done in Cronton. It involves taking worship out, to meet people where they are, rather than expecting them to come to us in church at 10:30am on a Sunday morning.

Since last September, on the last Friday of each month, we have held a café-style worship at Cronton School. Worship that has been open for all to attend, including parents and grandparents of children at the school, who are able to bring their children out of class to join the service, as well as members of the local community too. Worship has included learning all about the ministry and teachings of Jesus through Bible stories, craft activities and prayer, and as this is café worship, sharing refreshments together too. This worship has been very successful, with 40-50 people attending each service and we plan to continue these services and further build this worshiping community when school reopens after the summer break, on the first Friday of every month, starting at 2:30pm. You are very welcome to join us!

In our June worship we started by sharing sweets and thought about the importance of saying 'thank you'. And we heard a Bible story about how Jesus did something very kind for 10 men, actually 10 lepers who were healed by Jesus, and we looked to see if any of them said 'thank you' in the story.

The story: - In the times of Jesus' ministry, people sometimes got sores or rashes that would not go away. The medicines they had in those times did not cure those skin problems. Sometimes, the sores would get so bad that the person would die. This was called leprosy. People with leprosy could not get close to anyone else in case other people got leprosy too. People with leprosy could not hug anyone or eat with anyone. They had to live away from the city. They could only be with other people who had leprosy. There were ten men who had leprosy. They did not live in a city. They have to stay away from everyone. They must have been very sad. The 10 lepers had heard about Jesus. They heard that Jesus could make people well. The problem was that the men could not just walk up to Jesus because they did not want Jesus to get leprosy too. Instead, they waited on the road for Jesus to walk by.

When they saw Jesus approaching them, they called him before he got too close. The 10 lepers said "Jesus, master have pity on us!" Jesus must have been very sad to see these men. They would have had sores some of them might have even had leprosy so long that their toes or fingers might have rotted off. The lepers were probably very smelly. Some might have just wanted to run away from the men, but Jesus did not run away from them. He told them to go and show themselves to the priest. The 10 men listened to Jesus and went. While they were going, they were healed! Jesus could have ignored the 10 men and run away, but Jesus healed them and made all the leprosy disappear instead!

The men were so happy! They could hardly believe it when they looked at their healthy skin. Now they could go and be with their friends, and now they could go and give their families a great big hug. Now that they were healed when they saw the priest, he would have a special ceremony for them, on the men would get permission to go back to the city where the other people lived. Most of these 10 lepers were Jewish men like Jesus and the disciples were, but one of these lepers was a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritans did not like each other very much. The Jews thought the Samaritans were not very good people, they thought they were better than the Samaritans. But as the ten men continued towards the priest, one man, a Samaritan, stopped and began walking back to Jesus. He wanted to say "thank you" for what Jesus had done. The Samaritan was so thankful that Jesus had healed him that he threw himself down by Jesus' feet and kept saying, "thank you." Others thought that the Samaritans were not good, but Jesus knew that this man had a good heart and was full of faith. After all, the other nine kept going on their way to the priest and did not return to thank Jesus. Jesus told the man to go ahead and go to the priest. He said to the man, "Go your faith has made you well." The man went on his way very happy and thankful.

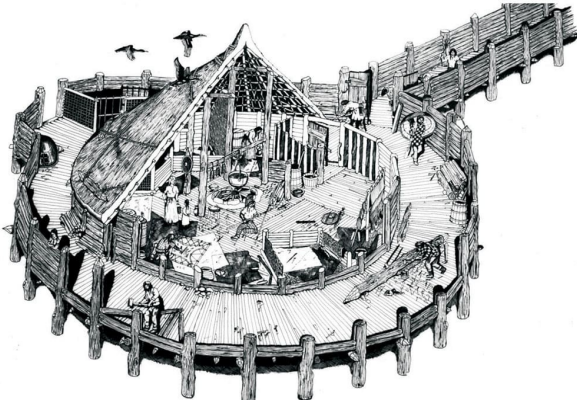
We thought about how we would feel if we had been healed by Jesus and thought about what we want to thank Jesus for. We also thought about what this miracle tells us about God and Jesus, and we realised that Jesus can change our lives if we ask him to help us. The Bible says that God is the Potter, and we are the clay. When we are open to God's will in our lives, He moulds, transforms, and blesses us as we walk with Him.

We then rolled up our sleeves and had fun with our craft activity. The activity involved taking a piece of clay and moulding it into something to remind us of the story, of how Jesus heals us and changes us and that we have much to be thankful for in God and Jesus. Clare



The Scottish Crannog Centre

A Crannog is a fortified island dwelling, constructed in a lake or on marshland. Essentially, it is a huge round house, built on wooden stilts on a manmade island away from the shore, so it was easy to defend. Whole family groups and their animals lived in them and they can be found in both Scotland and Ireland.



Some forty-five years ago, and just a few miles from where we were staying on the banks of Loch Tay, archaeologists discovered the remnants of one such ancient Iron Age settlement. Archaeologists and scores of local volunteers, raised enough money to recreate this Crannog, and a visitor centre, using the materials and tools they would have used way back in 500BCE. Tragically, in June 2021, the Crannog itself was completely destroyed by a fire that ripped through the wooden structure in just 6 minutes.

They thought they had lost everything, but, with the sheer determination of the local people and the generosity of benefactors, £4 million was raised in a matter of months. Despite the total devastation to the Crannog, the visitor centre reopened just five days after the fire, they continued to hold events, including sell-out performances of Romeo and Juliet, with weekly music and storytelling nights and a midsummer celebration.



This says something about the determination of that community to pull together, to recreate something that was precious to them and very much part of their heritage. So far, they have built a wonderful new exhibition centre and five replica Iron Age homes where Iron Age crafts are demonstrated.

A very knowledgeable local guide showed us around the new exhibition. He explained that the original Iron Age settlers may have brought skills with them from Persia, travelling across land and sea to Denmark, then over to Scotland. I said, 'So essentially following one of the faith roads!' In more recent excavations, they found many artefacts with carvings of crosses and some larger pieces of pottery that they think may have been a chalice.

Local crafters and school children have been involved in making a lovely embroidered panel based on the verse from John 10: 'I am the gate'. Building the new Crannog itself is underway;

skilled and importantly local craftsmen and their apprentices are staying true to the original materials and to the simple hand tools they originally used, but now, of course, they have to comply with Health and Safety restrictions, so progress is slow! Sue

Giving Thanks For Summer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!
Thank you for the warmth of the sun
and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me
and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my
friends and family,
and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer.

Teach me how I can pray
no matter where I am or what I am doing.
Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence
and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.

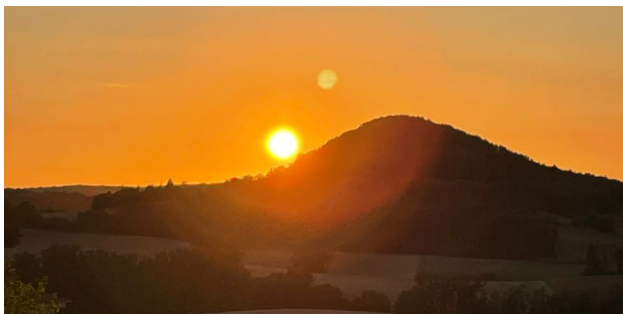
As I enjoy Your creation, create in me
a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.



Sunsets can be stunning, the colours and cloud formations subtly changing before our eyes. This poem called 'Sunset' was composed by S.Bryant.



Sunsets, a beauty that never fades,
a sight that fills my heart with joy and gladness.
As the sun sinks low in the western sky,
I stand and watch with wonder in my eye.
The orange and pink hues that paint the clouds
are like the flames of love, so bright and proud.
The purple and red that streak the sky
are like the petals of a flower, so high.
But as the day gives way to night,
the beauty of the sunset takes flight.
Yet the memory of its splendour remains,
a treasure to be held, a joy to gain.
So let us stand and watch the sunset's glow,
and savour the beauty that it bestows.





WELCOME SUMMER

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

AUGUST
BEACH
BIKES
CAMPING
CARNIVAL
COOKOUTS
FIREFLIES
FIREWORKS
FISHING
FLIPFLOPS

FUN
HULA HOOPS
ICE CREAM
JULY
JUMPROPE
JUNE
MOVIES
PARADES
PARTIES
PICNICS
POOL

POPSICLES
ROLLERCOASTER
SANDALS
SPLASH
SPRINKLER
SNOWCONES
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
SWIMMING
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**A session of fun, faith and fellowship
for families and the 'young at heart'**

**Sunday September 14th 3pm to 4pm
in St. Luke's church**



craft activities & food

**Bring your little ones to
meet Jack**



For more information contact

Clare 07976549410

August	EWT ROTA		
Date	St Ambrose	St Luke	Cronton Mission
Sunday 3 rd	10.30 MP	10.30 JOINT HC at St Luke's church	
Wed 6 th		09.30 HC	
Sunday 10 th	10.30 HC	08.00 HC	
		10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 13 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 17 th	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café worship
		No Baptisms	
Wed 20 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 24 th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		No Baptisms	
		No 18.00 HC	
Wed 27 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 31 st	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	

Dates for your diary

Harvest Festival Sunday Oct 5th 10.30am.

Please bring donations for Foodbank.

Harvest Lunch after 10.30am service on Sunday 12th October.



September	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Wed 3 rd	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 7 th	TEAM HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE at St Ambrose		
Wed 10 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 14 th		08.00 HC	
	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 17 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 21 st	09.00 HC		
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 24 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Fri 26 th			14.30 School Worship
Sunday 28 th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		12.30 Baptisms	
		18.00 HC	

CRONTON SCHOOL CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP

starts on Friday 26th September.

Come and join Clare at 14.30pm for worship, crafts and refreshments.

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 9 says "I like Sunday Club because we do fun activities and learn about God"

Alexis aged 7 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 13**

"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 13**



Tuesday Tea Dance

St Ambrose Church Hall W48 0QB

Every Tuesday

1.30pm to 4pm

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Line dances

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Everyone welcome!



St Basils Club
Saturdays 8am & 9.30am
Becci 07887 525589

Parklands Sports & Social Club
Wednesday 7.30am & 9am
Peter 07762 174165

Cronton Methodist Chapel
Tuesday 7.30am 9.30am 5pm & 6.30pm
Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Kate 07931 237062

Widnes Cricket Club
Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Thursday 7.30am & 9am
Joanne 07816 542755

St Ambrose Church Hall
Friday 7.15am & 9am
Joanne 07816 542755

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and to share our stories.**

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dwandc.steadman@virginmedia.com**



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Priest in charge

Area Dean, Rev Canon Peter Dawkin

01514204963

peter.dawkin@btinternet.com

Lay Ministers

Sue Smither 07962012916

Clare Liptrott 07976549410

Lesley Firth 07803148233

www.st-luke.co.uk

Team Administration Lesley Howell

07399784219

eastwidnesteam.2942@gmail.com

OR use Contact Us tab on our website

st-luke.co.uk

Weddings and Baptisms

Contact Lesley Howell

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