

Parish Magazine

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



FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES AND CAROLS

Saturday Nov 29th 10am to 3pm

Sunday Nov 30th 12noon to 3pm

Saturday Dec 6th 10am to 12noon

Other dates to be announced

Refreshments available

Adult Programme £1 Children free

October and November 2025 £1.50



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Contact Editor

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07710030973

email

Farnworthreview

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1/4 page £20

1/2 page £40

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St Luke's Farnworth Parish

Churchwardens

Barry Horabin	12 Buckingham Ave	07471350957
Pat Johnson	17 Bridewell Court	07717522878
Ray Roberts	7 Mortlake Close	07523696822
Rob Leach	via	07761672030

Deputy Warden

Laura Watkin	lwatkin@sky.com	
PCC Lay Chair	Barry Horabin	07471350957

Funeral Vergers

Project Manager	Barry Horabin	01514249887
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PCC Secretary	Sandra Lacey	07761672030
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PCC Treasurer	Yvonne Horabin	01514249887
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Safeguarding Officer	Margaret Campbell	01514246039
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Eco-Officer	Sandra Vanezis	
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H&S Officer	George Telfer	07792412415
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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 November 2025

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

before.

I WAS:

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Tired
Lacked energy & motivation
Suffering health issues



now.

I AM:

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Full of energy & motivation
Enjoying the health benefits



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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:

Make a difference, stay active, keep learning and have fun

Get out to meet face to face –learning together and making the most of life.

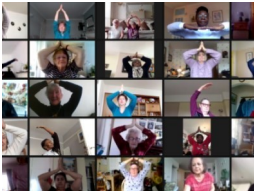
Meet other people with similar interests; learn new things and share your skills.

What the u3a offer



Local Learning Groups

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,

As I sit to write 'Dear Friends' on an evening in early September, I am aware of the chill in the air and the wind whooshing about outside and although the leaves have yet to fully transform in colour, things are definitely beginning to change, the season of autumn is knocking on our doors.

Seasons are fundamental to how we understand the climate and the environment, but for hundreds of years academics have argued that their specialist field is the one which defines the official start of autumn. In meteorological terms autumn begins on 1st September, as each season is defined as a three-month period. Astronomers, however, base the date of the seasons upon celestial events, in this case the autumnal equinox, when night and day are roughly equal length, taking place on 21st September. Whilst the third definition of the start of autumn, comes from phenology – the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events. But whichever way you look at it, autumn is really dictated, not by a set date or a single event, but the changes in the natural world, such as the tinting of the trees and the ripening of autumn fruits.

I love this season, the vibrant colours, oranges and reds of the leaves, the squirrels hunting for acorns, the opportunity to wrap up in snuggly jumpers and drink hot chocolate. The season of autumn also has a lot to offer us as Christians, it has several powerful metaphors for us, reflecting themes of spiritual maturity, letting go, death, and renewal.

Spiritual harvest and maturity

Autumn is traditionally the harvest season, a time for gathering crops that have matured over the summer. This directly parallels biblical teachings about spiritual harvest and maturity.

- **A time of reaping:** Just as farmers reap what they sow, Christians reap the results of their faithfulness. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus tells his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few," equating bringing people to salvation with the work of the harvest.

Bearing fruit: Paul's instruction in Galatians 6:7-9 for believers to

"sow seeds of faithfulness" in order to be "ripe for Christ's return" also speaks to this theme of spiritual maturity.

Letting go and surrender

The image of trees shedding their leaves in autumn is a potent metaphor for a Christian's need to let go of old habits, possessions, or even parts of their identity that hinder spiritual growth.

- **Trusting God:** The falling leaves demonstrate a natural process of release, and Christians are called to similarly surrender control and trust in God's plan.

Preparing for new life: This shedding isn't merely a loss; it's a necessary step to conserve energy and prepare for the new growth of spring. For a Christian, letting go prepares the heart for God's renewing work.

Death and resurrection

Autumn's inevitable transition towards winter's chill symbolises the concepts of death and the promise of resurrection.

- **Dying to self:** The beautiful, colourful decay of autumn leaves serves as a reminder that dying to our old, sinful selves can also be a beautiful part of our transformation into the image of Christ.

Hope of rebirth: Although winter is coming, Christians hold the hope that death is not the end. Just as new life emerges in the spring, Jesus broke through death to offer eternal life. This reminds believers that their lives are joined to a new tree that winter cannot touch.

God's consistent presence

The predictable cycle of the seasons, year after year, reminds Christians of God's unchanging nature and faithfulness.

- **A dependable rhythm:** Just as the seasons reliably follow one another, Christians can trust in God's promises through all the seasons of their own lives.

Comfort in change: Amidst the changes of life, the constancy of God provides a source of stability and comfort.

So as we navigate through this season looking towards winter and the important Christian celebrations of Advent and Christmas that lie ahead, take a minute to stop and reflect on the here and now, on the season of autumn and all it has to tell us about spiritual growth, surrendering the old to make way for new life, gathering the spiritual harvest, and trusting in God's faithful presence through this and all of life's seasons. **Clare.**

Heritage Day Saturday September 13th

This year we were all ready for Heritage Day in advance, everything was well prepared except for the weather!

Our first guided walk around the village started off in heavy rain but this did not deter the group. This year Gill, the Secretary from Farnworth Heritage group offered to lead the walk. The rain didn't seem to worry them too much and Gill seemed happy with the experience. Later on a second walk took place with equal enjoyment said by all. Well done Gill you've got the job.

The tour round the interior of the church was well received with lots of new faces taking part, many of whom had never been in the church before. Everyone was occupied answering questions and giving directions to various points around the church and generally taking part.

The Tea bar (thanks to Pat and Gloria) and Tombola (thanks to Pam and Ray) were kept busy and everyone was able to have a drink and something to eat in this wonderful building. The book stall and card shop (thanks to Yvonne) took a hammering but with an element of calm which was reflected in the sales of various things.

We had two quiz tours in the churchyard organised by Sandra Venezis which were well received and we will certainly do those again.

The display of post box toppers was amazing, thank you to the ladies of Farnworth Art and Crafts group. Your work is amazing.

All together it was an excellent day with everyone enjoying themselves. The helpers also felt they had done an excellent job. They certainly did.

Financially we achieved an excellent result and made just under £400 which didn't look promising at the start of the day.

I must record my thanks to all who took part in any way in what turned out to be a superb day despite the early rain.

Barry Horabin

Thanks to Barry for organising Heritage Day and for another tour of the church for the Rotary on Monday evening 15th September. The rotary donated £350 which was a lovely surprise.





OPEN DOOR at St Luke's
 Saturdays October 4th
 and November 1st
 10am to 11.30
 Saturday December 6th,
 10am to 12noon
 A time of fellowship, prayer and
 quiet contemplation.
 Tea, coffee etc served.
ALL WELCOME TO DROP IN



Tuesday November 11th 11am to 12noon
Come and share your experience over a cup
of coffee

FLOWER ROTA			
	OCTOBER		NOVEMBER
5	Mrs L Gregson	2	Miss L Runcorn
12	Mrs Gail Beswick	9	Mrs V Park-Funnell
19	Mr & Mrs R Roberts	16	Mrs S Connolly
26	Mr P Herriman	23	Advent

St Luke's Sunday Club

It was lovely hearing the children's news of what they had all done during the summer holidays. They all had a lovely time filled with wonderful memories.

The first week back we talked about us wearing God's love as our armour. Great fun was had by all, as each one took turns holding a shield (a big piece of cardboard) and defended themselves from the snowballs (crushed up kitchen roll) being thrown gleefully at them by their friends. They learnt that by wearing God's armour they are protecting themselves, that righteousness means being right with God and being God's friend, to know his truth and love.

The following week Mrs Smither came to lead a very special session for the children. She came to talk to the children about Holy Communion and the very special meal we share with God. She asked them first to share food with each other and produced snacks and drinks for the children who were delighted to have such treats. Then she asked them to write who they would ask to share a meal with them and what they would have to eat. This led her to talk in simple terms for the children to understand about the last supper and what it means to share the bread and wine.

It really was quite moving to watch the children really listen and they were so sensible and a bit in awe when they had a taste of what the communion wafers and wine are like. It was very special.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Smither for all the hard work she did in preparation for this very special session and to say we all thought she was wonderful, she got the message across beautifully. Thank you so much for doing this and your continued support it is very much appreciated.

On 5th October the children will be taking part in the Harvest Festival in Church doing a little presentation, readings and prayers. Also on this day they will all take communion together for the first time, it promises to be a lovely service, please join us if you can.

Best wishes Lynn



On 5th October the children will take communion together for the first time. Please join us to support the children as they take a step on their journey with God.

Remembering VJ Day – 80 Years On at the National Memorial Arboretum

On Friday 15th August the Royal British Legion, in partnership with the Government, hosted the Commemorative Event at the National Memorial Arboretum to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War.

Attended by Their Majesties The King and Queen, and over 30 VJ Day veterans. Paying tribute to all those who served in the Far East and the Pacific, a national Two-Minute Silence was held at midday, followed by a one-hour commemoration at the base of the Armed Forces Memorial. The commemoration featured 400 members of the Armed Forces and included musical performances, readings and veteran testimonies, as well as a flypast from the Red Arrows and historic aircraft from The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

Our bell ringers celebrated the event too.



A lovely comment from Heritage Day 2025



A lady came into church on Heritage Day to have a look round. Even though she lives quite locally, she had never been inside St. Luke's.

She not only enthused about the building but was keen to pass on her thanks about the welcome she had received as soon as she stepped through the door.

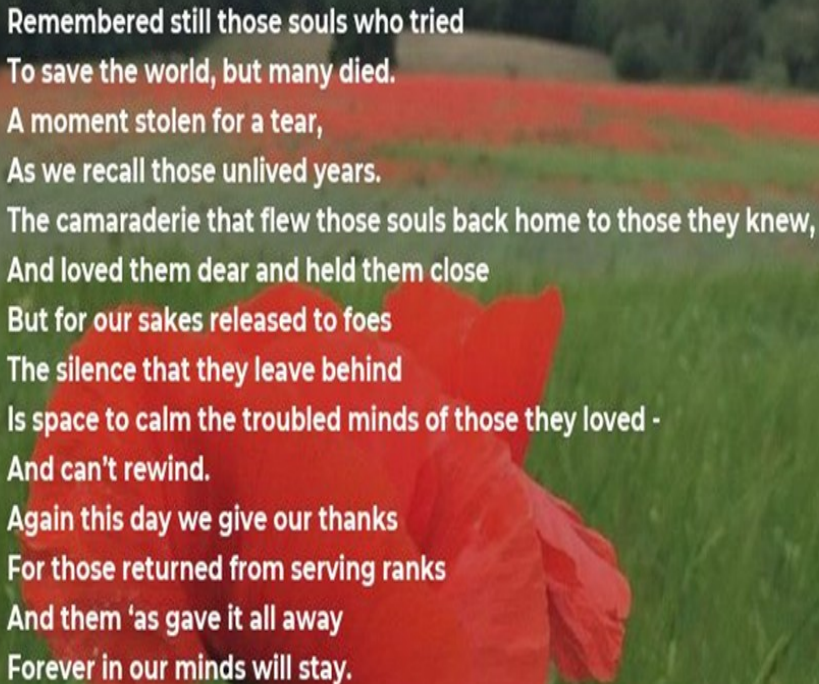
She said this, 'I feel like I got a big hug when I walked through the door. Lovely feel and vibe in this lovely church.' I asked her to record what she said in our Visitor Book, which she did.

We regularly get comments on our WELCOME. Welcoming is not down to just a few people but everyone and it does make such a huge difference.

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who takes time to smile, welcome and chat to both congregation members and visitors as they walk into St Luke's. You may never know what a difference you make. **THANK YOU!**

Sue

Poem for Remembrance Day by Ernie Rowe



Remembered still those souls who tried
To save the world, but many died.
A moment stolen for a tear,
As we recall those unlived years.
The camaraderie that flew those souls back home to those they knew,
And loved them dear and held them close
But for our sakes released to foes
The silence that they leave behind
Is space to calm the troubled minds of those they loved -
And can't rewind.
Again this day we give our thanks
For those returned from serving ranks
And them 'as gave it all away
Forever in our minds will stay.

This year our Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday November 9th at 10.30am. An opportunity to come together to thank God for those who have bravely lost their lives in conflicts and to pray for peace in our world. The children from Sunday Club will be involved; refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Café Worship at Cronton Mission Church August 2025

Even though it was summer we were busy at Cronton Mission Church in August, we had our usual Café Worship and we heard from Luke's Gospel focused on predicting the weather / weather warnings. I've always been interested in weather. The television weathermen or weather women sound pretty sure about their forecasts, but I know enough about meteorology to know that forecasting the weather is sometimes mostly a guess. If we don't like the weather, we can't call the Weather Channel and complain! Why? Because we don't make the weather—God does!

The children made their own weather wheels whilst the adults thought about the importance of taking note of the spiritual climate. In the passage (Luke 12:54-56) Jesus talks about forecasting the weather. He comments that the Jews were pretty accurate in forecasting weather, but they weren't as good at observing the current spiritual conditions and interpreting the spiritual climate, the spiritual 'weather warnings' and we have the same problem today. If we received a weather warning about a severe storm I think / I hope we would pay attention, maybe we would alter our plans or batten down the hatches, and at the very least we might decide to take an umbrella out with us. And so, we must do the same when we hear Jesus' spiritual forecasts. In the Bible passage Jesus said to the crowd, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is.

Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?" Although they were good at predicting the weather by observing the conditions, they were clueless about understanding God's spiritual climate. Here's the tragic mistake of Jesus' listeners. In fact, the Jews missed the signs of Christ's First Coming. For hundreds of years, God used prophets to predict the Messiah would come. He graciously gave hundreds of signs that the Jews could consult in order to identify the Messiah: but they missed the signs. God showed them hundreds of years in advance the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; He would be born of a virgin, of the tribe of Judah. Daniel even prophesied the exact time when the Messiah would be born, that's why wise men from the East were looking for the birth of the King of the Jews—they were looking for the signs, but the Jews weren't.

John reports Jesus came unto His own (the Jews) and they didn't receive Him. When Jesus spoke these words, He knew the cross was only a few weeks away and the Jewish people were clueless about His identity and purpose. Just a few weeks after He spoke these words, Jesus would approach Jerusalem and weep over the city because they missed all these signs. In Luke 19:41, 44 we read: As he approached Jerusalem, he wept over it and said, "If you had only known on this day what would bring you peace ... but you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you." That was the tragedy. They didn't recognise the signs of the times; God was doing the greatest thing in history—and they missed it! But before we are too harsh on the Jews of 2,000 years ago, let me ask you this..

Are we any better now? How good are we at understanding the spiritual signs? Jesus said it is possible for us to understand the "sign of the times." And the best sign we have to understand the spiritual forecast is the Word of God – the Bible.

We have an advantage over the Jews in Jesus' day: we have the complete written revelation of God. There were over 300 Old Testament Scriptures predicting the first coming of Jesus. There are over 1,000 scriptures predicting the events of the Second Coming of Christ. The Bible isn't hard to understand once you have the key.

The key is all the Bible is about Jesus:

The Old Testament says: Someone is coming

The Gospels say: Someone has come, and His name is Jesus

The Epistles and Revelation tell us: Someone is coming again—get ready!

But there are plenty of other clues God has given us, too and we need to pay attention to these, to the winds of what is happening in our world today. The Bible says in the last days, perilous times will come. When you turn on the news all the stories seem to be about the various 'storms' of the world. There is an ill wind blowing and we should pay attention to the political and spiritual climate.

But it is not all bad, the Bible also predicts in Joel and Acts that in the Last Days, God will pour out His Spirit our sons and daughters will proclaim God's Word, young men will see visions and old men will dream dreams!

See the weather wheels on the next page.

Clare





HARVEST APPEAL

SHOPPING LIST

Tinned meat/fish

Tinned veg/fruit

Fruit Juice (1 litre)

Coffee/Tea

Long Life Milk

Cereal

Tinned Fruit

Jam

Toiletries

Please bring donations for Foodbank
to Harvest Festival

Sunday 5th October 10.30am

THANK YOU

Café Worship at Cronton Mission Church July 2025

At our café worship service in July, we heard the Bible story of Jesus' visit to the home of Mary and Martha and how Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Jesus whilst Martha bustled about getting a meal ready. Martha complained to Jesus and requested that Mary help her, but Jesus highlighted that Mary had chosen the right option.

It is a familiar story to many of us but one that is often hard for us to put into action. In our busy daily lives taking time out to focus on Jesus and growing our faith can often feel difficult, so many competing priorities: our work lives / our family commitments / time with friends etc.

The children made paper plate clocks to take home with them, to remind them about the importance of making time for Jesus each day and the adults were introduced to 'The Rule of Life'. This is not a new initiative, but it is one that is being championed by the Liverpool Diocese. 'The Rule of Life' is a framework of practices and habits designed to help a person grow in their spiritual journey, often by deepening their relationship with God and becoming more like Christ, rather than a strict set of rigid rules. Like a trellis supports a vine, it provides structure and direction for daily rhythms, helping to bring balance, focus, and intentionality to how one lives out their commitments and faith in the world.

The Liverpool Diocese summarises the Rule of Life based around six words:

We are called to **Pray**, **Read** and **Learn**
AND sent to **Tell**, **Serve** and **Give**.

You might find it helpful in writing a Rule of Life for yourselves, to support you growing in faith and strengthening your relationship with God.



Writing a Rule of Life - one approach

Personal Rule Assessment

Take a sheet of paper and make a line down the middle. Make a line across about two-thirds of the way down.

Label the top left rectangle *Daily*, and the top right rectangle *Weekly*. The bottom left rectangle is labelled *Monthly*, and the bottom right *Annually*.

In the *Daily* box write in any spiritual practice you do daily (e.g. Bible reading). Follow suit with each of the following boxes. You will certainly have Sunday worship in the *Weekly* box. If you do something three times a week, write it in the *Weekly* box and put "3X" behind it. Something you do twice a month, would be in the *Monthly* box with "2X" behind it. Stretch your imagination. You can always edit this later. Just because things are routine doesn't mean they're not important. The *Yearly* box might have things like annual retreat or Covenant Service in it. What you've got on your sheet is your rule as it currently exists.

Expanding Your Rule

If you yearn to do more, then it's time to look around for what will work for you. This is an interesting and exciting process, but it takes time.

Start by going back to the personal assessment sheet you made up. See how balanced your spiritual life is by coding each item according to the code below. Some items will have more than one category.

E = Education (personal bible study, house group etc.

L = Liturgical participation (Reader, deacon, eucharistic minister, preacher etc.)

S = Service (committee work, volunteer work, newsletter, pastoral care team, etc.)

W = Worship

If there are gaps that you wish to try and fill without overburdening yourself then add something in that you are going to try perhaps for the first time or after a gap of several months or years. Use a different coloured pen or pencil for these.

Be patient with yourself and remember that this is not an athletic contest. True progress will only happen with God's grace, and that will be given to you in his time, not yours. It's important that you feel comfortable with what you add on.

Go slowly. Your chances of success are better if you add one or two things at a time, learn to live with them and fully integrate them into your life. Adding too much at once can be overwhelming and burn you out. Think in terms of making it for the long haul.

RULE OF LIFE

DAILY	WEEKLY
MONTHLY	ANNUALLY

Balance for Spiritual Life
E = Education (personal bible study, house group etc.
L = Liturgical participation (Reader, deacon, eucharistic minister, preacher etc.)
S = Service (committee work, volunteer work, newsletter, pastoral care team, etc.)
W = Worship
P = Personal

Clare



Church members will be running the Games Room at the School market as usual to promote church in the community and raise money for church funds.

If you would be so kind as to donate Christmas novelties, sweets, Tombola prizes and gifts for Pick a Bag that would be appreciated. Please leave in church. There will be Christmas wrapping paper, bags and cards on sale too.

If you would like to sponsor a stall for £10 that would be most welcome. Please give money to Yvonne or a church warden. Thank you.

FARNWORTH CEP SCHOOL

Everyone has settled back into school after the Summer break, including the new Reception Class children. There are already dates for this half term for Parents' Evenings so it is a busy start to the Autumn Term

Everyone is looking forward to using the new Library Pod; some of the furniture is already in place, so it shouldn't be too long before it is open.

The Y6 classes both have dates in the diary to join us for a Wednesday mid-week service and we have been invited into school for a Wednesday Service of Holy Communion with the Y5 children and their parents see below.

In school, there is a new Initiative called OPAL. It is designed to 'transform playgrounds into inspiring places for creative and physical play, so enhance well-being, develop skills and generally improve social interaction.'

The school has asked if anyone could help by donating the following items:

Old bed sheets for den building

Old pots and pans and kitchen utensils

Clothes for dressing up, including handbags and scarves

Please let me know if you can donate any of these items. We are looking forward to the children coming to church for their Harvest Service which will be led by their Ethos Ambassadors. They will fetch items for Food Bank. Sue



HOLY COMMUNION

with children

FARNWORTH SCHOOL KS2 Hall
Wednesday, November 26th 9.30am

The 9.30am midweek Service on November 26th will be held in Farnworth School Hall KS2 Hall. Children from Y5 will join us; their parents will also be invited. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards.

LUNTS HEATH CP SCHOOL

Mr Paton reported that it had been a good start to the new school year. The Y3 children have already been out on a trip to Chester Zoo, always lots to see there, including some new additions. What an exciting start to KS1 for the children! In their calendar of events the Y5 HAVE a 'Chemistry with Cabbage Workshop', that sounds really intriguing! We look forward to welcoming Y3 and their parents for their Harvest Service; they too will fetch donations for Food Bank.

Sue



Harvest Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for our food and water.
Thank you for those who take
food to the food banks so that it
can be sent to the ones who need
it.

This harvest festival, please let people come together
to use their voices to sing their songs.

Thank you to the farmers who bring the food.

Thank you for the foodbank who take our food to the
poor and people who need it. We thank God for giving
the farmers good weather so they could prepare our
food for today.

Amen

Reuben, Valentina & Darcey
Farnworth CE Primary
School





Would you like to join us for
the Advent Lunches?
£5 pp, at 12 noon

Wednesday, December 3rd
Wednesday, December 10th
Wednesday, December 17th

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Please sign the list in church or contact Sue:
07962012916

ALL SOULS SERVICE
'A time to remember'
Sunday, November 2nd
3pm.



This is intentionally a very gentle service. The names of those from our Parish who have died during the past twelve months and have had services in our church or at the Crematorium Chapel will be read out.

There will be an opportunity for reflection and for everyone present to light a candle in memory of departed loved ones, all those whom we no longer see, but whose love and memories still live on in our hearts and minds.

Sue



Visitation 2025 - Warden Rob Leech, Deputy warden Laura Watkin. Rev Peter, archdeacon Simon, warden Pat Johnson and warden Barry Horabin.



Unfortunately warden Ray Roberts had a prior arrangement so attended the visitation at St. Mary's church Great Sankey, but here he is, so everyone knows our wardens now.

If you have any queries or concerns do not hesitate to contact them.

As officers of the Bishop, wardens have a role in ensuring that church life is healthy. They are expected to keep records and return reports, particularly to the Archdeacon and as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), they are trustees. Safeguarding, care of the fabric of the building, and the seeking of faculties (the church's equivalent of planning permission) all come within their remit.



*Widnes Baby Loss
Awareness Group*

Events 2025

Bandstand Decorating

Sunday 5th October 1:00pm
Victoria Park Widnes

Lantern Walk

Friday 10th October 6:30pm
Victoria Park Widnes

Wave of Light Service

Sunday 12th October
6:00pm
St Luke's Church Farnworth
WA8 9HU

BAPTISMS

27th July Vincent Dolan, Ida Elsie Booth, Willow Elsie McGuire and Paloma Faith McGuire







Christmas Concerts at St Luke's church

Saturday December 6th at 7.30pm

Clock Face Heritage Miners Brass Band



£7.50pp inc welcome drink

Tickets from Sue



Thursday December 11th at 7pm

Cronton 6th Form College Performing Arts Concert

£5pp inc welcome drink

Tickets from Sue

Treasurer's Report, 01/01/25 to 31/08/2025

	General Fund	Adjust	Total
Receipts	84,533		84,533
Expenses / Adjust Parish share 2025	<u>(36122)</u>	<u>(50,036)</u>	<u>(86,158)</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit)	<u>48 411</u>	<u>(50,036)</u>	<u>(1625)</u>

At the time of writing this report, we have heard from the Diocese Board of Finance that they have agreed to offset our outstanding Parish share up to the end of December 2024 against the rents received by them from Bold Mission up to September 2022, when the initial lease ended. We are still in discussion with them regarding the remaining rents from September 2022 to end of June 2024.

As I stated in my last report, 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 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.

We need your support more than ever, to cover the general fund overheads, which are around £10,000 per month. 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 make a donation by transfer to Barclays
Account name:- Farnworth St Luke Parochial Church Council
Sort code 20 91 48 Account no 30369292 Your name as reference or by cheque payable to St Luke's PCC c/o Mrs Yvonne Horabin, 12 Buckingham Avenue, Widnes WA8 9EP

Thank You Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)

OPEN DOOR WEDNESDAYS

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'

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

Dorothy Lightfoot has been
involved in the life and work at
St Luke's Church for many years.
She has been a wonderful
Advocate for children's
ministry and has long championed
their inclusion in worship at St
Luke's.



She has served for many years as a Member of St Luke's PCC
but has now decided that the time is right for her to step
down. Her prayerful and considered input in meetings has been
greatly valued and we thank her for all the time and effort she
gave. I personally have valued her friendship and support
through my Reader Ministry.

Dorothy is a lady of deep faith and prayer; any comments she
made, especially on my sermons, were always appreciated.

We send her our thanks for all she has contributed and offer
her, Les and the family our very best wishes.

Sue



Toy Service

**Sunday November 30th at
10.30am**

**Please can you help make Christmas a little more
special for children and young people
in our area through our**

**St Luke's/Kings Cross
Christmas Toy Appeal.**

**This year, more than ever, a gift from you would help
make Christmas magical.**

**Sadly, the current economic situation is causing an un-
precedented challenge for so many of the most vulnera-
ble, low-income families in our area. Donations of new,
unwrapped toys and gifts can be**

brought to the Toy Service

**dropped off at St Luke's between 10am & 3pm
on Wednesdays Nov 5th to 26th Nov**

left at 3, Farndale, Widnes, WA89JL. THANK YOU!

	Funeral	Register	
Date	Location	Name	Age
20/08/2025	St Luke & Crem	Pamela Howard	82
21/08/2025	St Luke & Crem	Christopher Oates	79
28/08/2025	St Luke & Crem	Rosemary Barry	85
2/09/2025	St Luke & Crem	Isobel Smith	100
09/09/2025	St Luke & Crem	Ian Woodward	37
16/09/2025	St Luke & Crem	John William Lamb	90
07/09/2025	Crematorium	June Leah	93

Cronton mission and school

Cronton Mission as part of Farnworth Parish and St Lukes PCC has significant decisions to make regarding its future. We have been asked to consider “Fit for Mission” – a Liverpool Diocese initiative which will bring together the parishes in Widnes Deanery under one big umbrella.

Whilst recognising the need for change to ensure our churches remain financially viable, and more importantly, serving the needs of our worshipping congregations and wider communities, there are anxieties about retaining local decision making by people who understand our churches and local people.

At Cronton Mission, we have always strived to be forward thinking and embrace change, but ask for your prayers at this time to ask God to lead and drive our decisions, so that they are the right ones for generations to come.



At the end of the last academic year, we held a Holy communion service of thanksgiving at Cronton Mission, led by Reverend Peter and Clare, for the work of Sylvia Thomson, who has taken partial retirement and left her role as headteacher. This service brought together St Lukes and Cronton Mission alongside Sylvia and her family, school families (past and present), and retired governors and clergy. We thanked Sylvia for the commitment and drive she has given to Cronton school and its community for 18 years, leading the school to achieve 2 consistent Outstanding Ofsted ratings and seamlessly embedded our distinctly Christian vision and values throughout. We asked for God's blessing to support Sylvia in her new venture. Sylvia received gifts from both Cronton and St Lukes – Clare had produced a piece of artwork encompassing the stained-glass window at Cronton and involving members of our worshipping communities who added their fingerprints. Shared refreshments and fellowship ended our worship.

The autumn term has started well with Julie Roberts as interim headteacher and Amy Durr/Matthew Tunstall as interim assistant heads. The children have settled well in their new classes along with 2 additional temporary teachers. Work is underway alongside LDST to recruit a new headteacher, which will then establish leadership arrangements going forwards. We pray that the right person sees our advert and is driven to visit the school to reflect on the contribution they can make to the provision of an outstanding Christian education for our children, and in leading our school through the local, national and world challenges we face.

Debbie Doyle





**A session of fun, faith and fellowship
for families and the 'young at heart'**

Sunday October 12th and November 9th

3pm to 4pm

in St. Luke's church

**STORY
TIME!**

craft activities & food

**Bring your little ones to
meet Jack**



For more information contact

Clare 07976549410

JAM (Jesus And Me) Club September 2025

At JAM Club in September, we heard the story of the shepherd and the lost sheep, and we thought about how each and everyone of us is important to God and how he loves us all.

We had fun making our own sheep masks, colouring in and sticking on cotton wool, before playing a game looking round church to find the sheep that were lost and needed to be found.

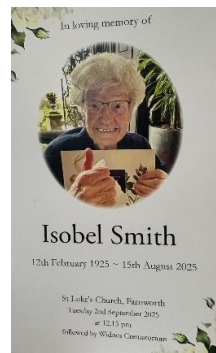
Clare



MOTHERS' UNION

Welcome back after our summer break. I hope you are all refreshed and ready for a busy autumn and winter period.

Over the summer, we lost two former members of MU: Eunice Stobbie was a member at St Mary's West Bank but moved to St Michael's Ditton when their branch closed. She was Deanery Treasurer for many years, only giving up the post when she went to live in Westvale Care Home. Her funeral was held in her spiritual home of St Mary's. Eunice had reached her century, as had a former member of St Luke's who has also sadly died, Isobel Smith; in fact they were born less than a week apart! Isobel's funeral at St Luke's was held on the 75th anniversary of her wedding at the same church. Our thoughts are with their families and may they both rest in peace.



Our branch doesn't meet in August, so it was good to meet up for our Holy Communion and New Members Service on 10th September. Sue led the event, standing in for Colleen who was on holiday in Crete. We are grateful to Sue Smither for leading the HC by Extension – she is a great supporter of MU and always makes people feel welcome at St Luke's.

This event saw two members being inducted and receiving their badges and service book: Linda Strickland and Gillian Wynn-Parle. Welcome ladies and we hope you will enjoy your membership. Chris read Psalm 18, vv 10-24, which deals with disputes. It ended with "when a man takes a wife, he takes a treasure". This was met with approval, as you can imagine! All members renewed their MU vows to strengthen and preserve

marriage and Christian family life and their baptismal promises. After Sue C had led the intercessions, we sang "To God Be The Glory". We didn't have an organist but that didn't stop us singing out with gusto! Afterwards we enjoyed the fellowship of hot drinks while Sue read out the notices, as detailed below, starting with our Branch events:

8th Oct: "My Experiences as a Street Pastor" with Ray Roberts, our church warden. Tea rota Sue Connolly and Linda Strickland.

12th Nov: Advice & Guidance from a speaker from the Citizens Advice Bureau. Tea rota Judith Axford and Janet Littler.

10th Dec: Christmas celebrations. Tea rota the committee.

Diocesan events:

13th Oct: Modern Slavery service, Liverpool Cathedral, 12.00 noon

18th Oct: Council Meeting followed by Branch Training and Lunch

24th November: 16 Days of Activism service, Liverpool Cathedral, 12.00 noon, followed by lunch and a dramatic production entitled "Lady in Red". Please let Colleen know ASAP if you would like to attend as places are limited.

13th Dec: Carol Service at St Chad's Church, Kirby, 2.00 pm

17-19 April 2026: Weekend retreat at Cliff College. Booking information to follow in the new year.

The Membership year starts in January and for 2026 will cost £31 for full members and £21 for Indoor members. Payment can be in full or by instalments. As you will see from the logo above, MU will be celebrating 150 years since its inception next year. If you are considering membership, come along to a couple of "taster" events before making a decision. You will be made very welcome. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in church, starting at 7.30 pm.

From the Prayer Diary: We pray for church communities of all denominations as they work to bring God's Kingdom here on Earth. Bless them to be vehicles of hope and bringers of peace in their communities. Amen.

Rita Poole

EWT	ROTA	OCTOBER	
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Friday 3 rd			14.00 Family Harvest Worship
Sunday 5 th	10.30 HARVEST	10.30 JOINT HARVEST FESTIVAL at St. Luke's church	
Wed 8 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 12 th		08.00 HC	
	10.30 HC	10.30 JOINT MORNING PRAYER at St. Luke's church followed by Harvest Lunch	
	12.30 Baptisms	15.00 JAM	
		18.00 Babyloss Service	
Wed 15 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 19 th	09.00 HC		
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 20 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 26 th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		12.30 Baptisms	
		18.00 HC	
Wed 29 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	

TEWT	ROTA	November	
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Sunday 2 nd	10.30 MP	10.30 JOINT HOLY COMMUNION at Cronton Mission	
	16.00 All Souls	15.00 All Souls	
Wed 5 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Fri 7 th			14.30 Family Worship
Sunday 9 th		08.00 HC	
Remembrance	10.30 Service	10.30 Service	10.30 Service at Cenotaph
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 13 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 16 th	09.00 HC		
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 20 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC at Farnworth School	
Sunday 23 rd	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		12.30 Baptisms	
		18.00 HC	
Wed 27 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 30 th	10.30 Service	10.30 JOINT TOY SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION at St. Luke's church	

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

Popular sequence &
Line dances

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Tea/biscuits included
£4 pp

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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dwandc.steadman@virginmedia.com**



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St. Luke's church and Cronton Mission

Priest in charge

Area Dean, Rev Canon Peter Dawkin

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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

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