Parish Magazine

St. Luke's Church & Cronton Mission

+ serving God and the community +

St. LUKE'S CHURCH

Christmas Eve



3pm (doors open at 2.30pm) & 5pm (doors open at 4.30pm)

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Sunday December 7th

10.30am Team Holy Communion at St Ambrose **Sunday December 14th**

10.30am Holy Communion & Sunday Club Nativity **Sunday December 21st**

10.30am Morning Prayer

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve 11pm Holy Communion Christmas Day 10am Holy Communion

Sunday December 28th

10.30am Holy CommunionJanuary 1st New Years Day CHURCH CLOSED

CRONTON MISSION WAS 5DF

Sunday December 7th 10.30am Nativity

Tuesday December 9th

6.30pm Lighting of Christmas Tree in the village

Sunday December 21st

10.30am Café Style worship

December 2025 and January 2026 £1.50



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attachments in Word - Arial font 12

Deadline for articles is noon on 18th January 2026 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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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.



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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,

November is a time for remembrance – All Souls Day is followed by Remembrance Sunday; in a way, Advent continues that theme of remembrance. We are entering a time when we remember the coming of Jesus Christ among us – God taking on human form, but more than that – God didn't just take on human form, he actually became human, subject to the same pains and hurts as we are. Not for one moment do I believe that his birth was like on our nativity Christmas cards with their lovely, scrubbed baby lying in a beautifully clean and well-lit manger, with lovely fluffy animals standing around. It was probably cold, dirty, smelly and badly lit. This was what the Son of God, the saviour of the world was born into.

Why did God choose this place and those conditions to send his Son into the world? Why did God take such a risk? There is a simple answer to that – and Jesus tells us this Himself in the Gospels – He came to serve and not to be served. Had He been born in a Royal Palace he could hardly have reached the people that He did – the common, ordinary people of His time – and it was to these people He came to give another chance to.

However, Advent isn't only about looking back – it is also about looking forward! Many of the readings in our lectionary for this time of the year are about looking forward for the Second Coming of Christ. The main theme running throughout Advent is that we need to keep awake and alert, open our eyes and try to see Jesus in all of those who are around us.

I don't suppose that many people noticed Jesus before He began His ministry, and perhaps we need to keep our Lord's words in mind when He speaks of judgement – 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat....' And then the righteous will ask, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?...', and the answer is immediate, 'Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'.

The message is simple – keep watching and keep serving as indeed Jesus did, for in serving others we are serving Christ himself. And let us try to continue to do this throughout 2026! May God Bless you and all those you love this Christmas, and may His peace be in your hearts.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!
Peter



During our All Souls service on November 2nd we invited the bereaved to come along to St Luke's and pause to remember those whom they had loved but no longer see. That loss may have been recent, for others who joined us, it may have been guite a time age.

quite a time ago.

We had over 100 people at our gentle service, a time of readings, prayer, music and the opportunity to remember loved ones by lighting a candle in their memory, floating a rose petal on water and taking away a pebble, which would become a 'pocket hug'.

There was definitely a feeling of loss but more importantly, an overwhelming sense of love. It was a very special time and a privilege to be involved.

Rev Peter and I very much appreciated how difficult it may have been for some to come to church for the service. We pray that everyone left feeling comforted, knowing that they are never alone and that God will be walking with them. Sue

OPEN DOOR at St Luke's Church
Our next OPEN DOOR dates are
Saturday December 6th 10am to 12noon
Saturday January 3rd 10am to 12noon
On both occasions there will be an
opportunity to look at the Christmas
Tree and Carols festival displays.
Refreshments will be available
PLEASE DO COME AND JOIN US.





Festival of Christmas Trees & Carols

Saturday November 29th
Sunday November 30th
Saturday December 6th
Sunday December 7th
Saturday December 13th
Sunday December 13th
Sunday December 14th
Sunday December 14th
Sunday December 14th
Sunday November 29th
10am to 3pm
12noon to 3pm
12noon to 3pm
12noon to 3pm

STILL TIME



Would you like to take some quiet time away from the bustle and busyness of Christmas preparation?

Some reflection time where a space is created to enable each of us to hear God's invitation this Advent?

Ordinand Helen will be offering the opportunity for us to gather and spend time with one another and with God. If you are able, we would love if you could join us during this most sacred time in our church's year.

Session 1 - Tuesday 25th November 7pm to 7.30pm at St Michael's and Sunday 30th November 6pm to 6.30pm at St Luke's **Session 2** - Tuesday 2nd December 7pm to 7.30pm at St Ambrose and Sunday 7th December 6pm to 6.30pm at St Luke's

Session 3 - Tuesday 9th December 7pm to 7.30pm at St Ambrose and Sunday 14th December 6pm to 6.30pm at St Luke's

Session 4 - Tuesday 16th Dec 7pm to 7.30pm at St Ambrose

CHRISTINGLE

Christingles celebrate the birth of Jesus and Jesus as the Light of the World. The word Christingle means 'Christ's light'.

Each element of a Christingle orange has a special meaning.

The orange represents the world

The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ

The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Please bring your own Christingle, candles will be available in church.

To make a Christingle

Fasten a piece of red sticky tape or ribbon around the middle of an orange. Cut a small cross in the top of the orange Lay a square of silver foil over the cross.

Make a hole into the orange using a pencil

Place a candle in the hole and wedge it firmly into the orange.

Thread sweets or sultanas onto 4 cocktail sticks

Put the sticks into the orange and you are ready! Please take your Christingle and candle home to light on Christmas Day.

As you enter and exit church there will be baskets for a collection for the Children's society, a Christian organisation who work tirelessly with children and young people to improve their lives. Please support them if you can, they do amazing work.

We look forward to welcoming you on Christmas Eve.



Christingle Prayer

Lord Jesus, light of the world. As I hold this Christingle and think about Your great love for me and for those especially in places of darkness at this time, give me strength, give us all strength to take this light into the world, to share your love with others, especially vulnerable children and young people.

There is a maximum number of people that church can SAFELY accommodate, please be aware of this. To ensure that the porch, aisles and doorways are kept free we ask that you do not bring prams into church. This is for everyone's safety. Thank you.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

St Luke's Service of Remembrance on Sunday, November 9th was well attended by both adults and children from Sunday Club. In my sermon, I spoke about a recent visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.





It is an amazing place and if you are ever in Staffordshire, well worth a visit. Some statues are huge and list thousands upon thousands of brave men, boys and women who have lost their lives in conflicts; others are very simple and bear the name of a single person; each poignant in its own way.

In our service, Bill Pierce was invited to lay the wreath on behalf of our congregation; because of Bill's failing eyesight he was accompanied by his sister-in-law Doris. Summer, our Rose Queen, presented a wreath on behalf of the children and young people from St Luke's, Alexis' wreath was for the children from Farnworth School.



The girls also dropped poppies as Pat, Baz and I read out the names of those men, boys and women from St Luke's, Bold and Cronton who lost their lives in the wars. Summer also read a

prayer. Sue







Thank you to all involved in what is always a very special sevice during which we committed to do our best to be peacemakers of our time.

Sue

NINE LESSONS & AROLS

Please join us from
5.30pm on Sunday,
December 21st for
Mulled Wine & Mince pies
before our Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols at
6pm.
ALL ARE WELCOME

Thank you to flower arrangers - Lesley, Joy and Viv for the beautiful poppy arrangements in church and in the porch. Also thank you to the Farnworth Arts and Craft group who made the amazing poppy net and to Val and Stuart who installed it.





Val and Stuart organised poppies on lamp posts in Farnworth and a fitting display in their house window. Thank you. The talented craft ladies also made a post box topper.

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.'





St Marys Church in West Bank is embarking on an ambitious project for Remembrance 2026.

It is their aim to produce a cascade of poppies from the Church Tower, that will be seen from miles around, even the skies, to encourage worshippers of all denominations to visit the Church and be made very welcome. Donations of good-quality, used poppies that can be used as part of the display would be appreciated.

Please spread the word to your friends, families and colleagues, every single poppy donated will help, and you will know you have helped produce this unique work of art. In addition, the church will be running sessions, where people can knit, crochet, or produce felt poppies - all are welcome to join. Donations of poppy red wool, or purple also welcome. Please take donations to church and Rev Peter will take them to Rev Michelle. Thank you.

Dearest Lauren

My dearest Lauren, It's 'Zero hour' for me in about an hour's time, so I'm scribbling you a quick poem!

Alas, my love!

If our eyes shall never gaze into each other's once more, then please never forget me.

For if my name's on a bullet, I can promise you only this:

The last thing I'll see is your face.

The last thing I'll touch is your skin.

The last thing I'll smell is your hair.

The last thing I'll hear is your voice.

The last thing I'll taste is your kiss.

For a bullet can never steal my dreams away

and extinguish my love for you. Never...

Captain Frederick James Tompkins Somme, July 1916 Frederick's and Lauren's spirits crossed paths again, several years ago. They were married last year, in a beautiful village church. But in that same, old English church, to the right of the organ, you'll find a brass plaque and a framed set of war medals. This is what the plague reads - 'Dedicated to our precious son. Captain Frederick James Tompkins, who'll forever remain in our hearts. Died fighting for England's freedom, at the first battle of the

QUIZ Friday 7th Nov

Thanks to guizmaster Christos and scorer Sandra V with help from Alan and Lynn for a great evening. £1000 raised thanks to generous donations from Mark Freeman of Tilly's Butty Bar and the Cricket Club. We enjoyed an excellent supper of hotpot and apple crumble with custard prepared by Linda. Thanks to everyone who supported the event and/or donated raffle prizes. Winners The Hatters and second The 49ers.







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CHRISTMAS APPEAL

non-perishable items like tinned meat, potatoes and vegetables, plus festive goods such as Christmas

pudding, mince pies, and custard. Other essential items include tea, milk, biscuits, and long-life fruit juice. THANK YOU

Deepening Faith Through Baptism and Confirmation

We are very blessed to have 3 newer adult members of our congregation at Cronton Mission Church who wished to affirm and deepen their faith through confirmation. For many adults, the journey of faith is one of rediscovery — a growing awareness of God's presence and a desire to live more deeply in his love. Those wishing to be confirmed must first be baptised, and so in September at Cronton Church we were very excited to welcome Mia and her young daughter Mela into our church family as they were baptised together. Baptism is often described as a new beginning, and for adults, this sacrament is a conscious and heartfelt decision to follow Christ — a step that marks a real turning point in life. Through the waters of baptism, sins are washed away, and a new identity is born: a beloved child of God. It's a moment of profound renewal and freedom. Baptism is not a private event; it welcomes people into the Church community, a family of believers who pray, worship, and serve together. In that shared life of faith, new Christians find strength, encouragement, and belonging. Mia and Mela's baptism was such a joyous occasion and meant that Mia, plus two other adult members of our congregation, Amy and Sue, were then able to progress to confirmation together at the beginning of October. The confirmation service took place at Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 4th October, with the Bishop of Liverpool, Bishop Ruth, presiding. Mia, Amy and Sue. along with 11 other confirmation candidates from across the Liverpool Diocese, joined together with their family, friends and congregation members in the magnificent Lady Chapel for this very special occasion.

Confirmation builds upon the foundations of baptism. It is the moment when the gift of the Holy Spirit is sealed within us, empowering us to live out our faith with confidence and courage. The Spirit's gifts — wisdom, understanding, fortitude, and others guide us in our choices and give us the strength to witness to Christ in our everyday lives. For adults, confirmation often feels like a commissioning — a call to step forward in faith and share God's love with others. Together, baptism and confirmation mark both a beginning and a deepening. Baptism opens the door to new life in Christ, and confirmation strengthens us to walk that path with conviction. These sacraments remind us that faith is not static: it grows as we open ourselves to God's Spirit and to the life of the Church. For adults who choose to be baptised and confirmed, these moments are often filled with profound meaning — a visible sign of an inner transformation, and a joyful embrace of the mission to live and share the Good News and I know this is definitely what it felt like for our 3 lovely ladies!

Congratulations Mia, Amy and Sue on your confirmation and of course congratulations to Mela on her baptism too! Clare







Cronton Mission Welcomed Gardeners and Seedlings Our Café Worship Service at Cronton Mission on the third Sunday of September was a bit different, we were very pleased to welcome the 'Gardeners' (year 5 children) and the 'Seedlings' (reception children) from Cronton CofE Primary School to join us at our service. It was a great opportunity to welcome the reception children and their families to school and also to our church. It was a very busy service but so much fun and full of worship. In the service we heard the Bible passage (Matthew 9:9–13) in which Jesus calls Matthew, the tax collector. Matthew wasn't exactly popular — tax collectors were often seen as dishonest or greedy. But Jesus saw something more. As he walked by, Jesus simply said, *"Follow me."* And Matthew did! Later, Jesus joined Matthew and his friends — other tax collectors and outcasts — for a meal. The Pharisees were shocked and asked, "Why does your teacher eat with people like that?" Jesus replied, "People who are well do not need a doctor, but only those who are sick... I have not come to call respectable people, but outcasts.

The Gospels are full of stories showing Jesus' compassion and

power to heal:

Peter's mother-in-law – healed from a fever

A man with leprosy – cleansed and restored

A paralysed man - healed and forgiven

A woman bleeding for twelve years – made whole again

 Two blind men – given sight
 Ten lepers – all healed, though only one came back to say thank you. These miracles tell of Jesus healing bodies, but Jesus does so much more than this, he heals souls too. He mends broken hearts and helps people change for the better, just as Matthew's life was transförmed.

Just like Matthew, we all need Jesus to heal us — not with medicine, but with love, kindness, and forgiveness. Jesus helps us change from the inside out. He works through the people around us too — our families, friends, teachers, and others who encourage us to grow in faith and goodness. Jesus still calls us today, saying,

"Follow me,

There was time in the service for a fun craft activity to help us think more about how Jesus heals our hearts. We made 'plaster portraits' of ourselves using sticking plasters and googly eyes and these have now been transformed into a large piece of artwork that is displayed on the corridor outside the reception children's

classroom.



Café Worship October

The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1–8) In our Café Worship service, we heard the Parable of the Persistent Widow, a parable that Jesus told his disciples "to show them that they should always pray and not give up." In the parable, a widow continually approaches a corrupt judge, pleading for justice against her adversary. The judge neither fears God nor respects people, yet he eventually gives in—not out of compassion, but because he's worn down by her persistence. If even an unjust judge can be moved by persistence, how much more will our just and loving God respond to his people who "cry out to him day and night"? Jesus reminds us that God is not indifferent; he hears every prayer and will bring justice in his perfect time.

The young people had fun making 'prayer wheels' whilst the grown

-ups took time to reflect on the meaning in this parable:

• Perseverance in prayer: The main point is that believers should "pray always and not lose heart". Like the widow, one should keep asking and not give up, even when it seems God is

delaying his response.

• **Prayer is an act of faith, not manipulation:** The parable is not about how to "get what we want" from God. The widow seeks justice, not a trinket. Similarly, coming to God in prayer, even in helplessness, is an affirmation of faith and an act of trust, not a way to persuade him to help.

 Contrast between a corrupt judge and a just God: Jesus uses a corrupt judge to illustrate his point, suggesting that if persistence worked with a flawed human, it will certainly work with a just and powerful God. This encourages listeners to trust that God hears their prayers and will act on behalf of his chosen

people.

• A cry for justice: The parable is a call to both persistent personal prayer and to advocacy for the powerless in the world. The widow represents the vulnerable crying out for justice, and the story calls believers to show similar persistence in their own lives and communities.

• **Divine timing and justice:** The parable acknowledges that earthly justice can be delayed or absent, but it promises that God will ultimately "vindicate his elect". The final judgment and the coming of the Son of Man will bring God's ultimate justice, even if earthly systems fail.

The parable ends with a searching question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Jesus challenges us to live with a faith that endures through delay, disappointment, and

doubt—a faith proven by persistent prayer. Clare





St Luke's Sunday Club

The children have taken part in few services already since September. The first service they took part in in was the Harvest Festival. They all became Chefs for the day, helping Mrs Smither make a wonderful recipe.

They learnt where the food came from for the recipe but also how God helps not only in growing the food for harvest but how He helps people make the tins and packets in



factories to put them in. And how we need not just farmers to grow our food but people to deliver it and people to sell it, the list goes on. Showing us that God's hand is in all we do and we have so much to thank Him for.

On Remembrance Sunday Summer our Rose Queen laid a wreath on behalf of the children in our church. Summer and Alexis her sister did a wonderful job of carrying their wreathes and in dropping

the Poppy petals, very moving.



We will soon be in the throes of getting ready for our Christmas Nativity, which the children will perform with hopefully the help of some of the congregation at the morning service on Sunday 14th December.

Please try and join us if you can.

We will be having our annual Christmas party on Sunday 7th December at which we are hoping to get a visit from Father Christmas himself if he's not too busy. So very exciting and busy times ahead for us all.

So it just leaves us to wish you all an early happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2025.

Lynn, Lynsey, Hannah and all of the children at St Luke's Sunday Club

Jesus And Me (JAM) Club October

At JAM Club, we heard the story of 'The Thankful Samaritan.' As Jesus travelled toward Jerusalem, he met ten men suffering from leprosy who cried out for mercy. In his compassion, Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they went, all ten were healed—but only one man, a Samaritan, turned back. With a loud voice he praised God, fell at Jesus' feet, and gave thanks. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

This story reminds us that thankfulness is more than good manners—it's an expression of faith. All ten received physical healing, but only the thankful one experienced a deeper spiritual wholeness. When we pause to thank Jesus for his goodness, we draw nearer to him and acknowledge that every blessing comes from his hand.

We thought about the importance of saying 'thank you' and in our craft activity we had great fun with air-dry clay, making 'thank you plates' to take home. Once the clay was dry, we would be able to paint the plates at home. These plates would be a reminder to us of the importance of always being thankful to Jesus. Clare









Cronton School Café Worship - Remembrance

At our monthly school café worship at Cronton School in November the theme was Remembrance. We thought about how Jesus sacrificed his life for us on the cross so all our sins could be forgiven and have eternal life; and we thought about the sacrifices made by many in the past, soldiers in the World Wars and others, so that we can have good lives today. We used visual images to reflect on these important themes. I've included a few of the images and some of the reflective questions we used in case you might also want to use them as tools for further reflection. Clare.

Seeing and Noticing

What do you see in these pictures that catches your eye? Who do you think the people are, and what might they be feeling? What colours or symbols do you notice — what might they mean? How do the images make you feel when you look at them?

Thinking and Feeling

What do you think the images are trying to tell us about remembering?









How might the people in the pictures have shown courage or love? What do the pictures make you thankful for today? If you could step into an image, what would you want to say or do?

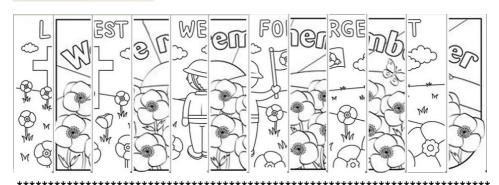
A Faith and Reflection

How do the images remind us of Jesus' words about peace or love?

What do they teach us about sacrifice and caring for others? How can we pray for peace when we look at these pictures? Is there a Bible verse that comes to mind when you see these images?



Continuing with the theme of using visuals to reflect and remember, the children were all given 'special pictures' to colour in and fold in a concertina fashion, depending on which end you looked at the finished image from you saw a different picture. Thank you to Neve for sharing her finished picture with us!





Tuesday January 13th
11am to 12noon in church.
Everyone is welcome to join
us for
tea, coffee and biscuits
in a safe and
understanding environment.

Team Service at Cronton Mission Church in November

It was lovely to host the Team Worship at Cronton Mission Church, everyone was invited to join us for café worship with Holy Communion. We heard the Bible story about Zacchaeus and how when Jesus came to his town Zacchaeus climbed up a tree so he could see Jesus. And then something amazing happened — Jesus stopped, looked up, and said: "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." In that moment, Jesus showed





Zacchaeus something far more precious than the gold and treasure he gathered as a tax collector. Jesus showed Zacchaeus that he was **known** — Jesus called him by name, he was **loved** — Jesus wanted to spend time with him and he was **accepted** — Jesus welcomed him just as he was. Now that's real treasure, isn't it? The children made their own trees with

autumnal leaves and placed Zacchaeus in the tree to remind them of how we are all known, loved and accepted by Jesus, just like Zacchaeus was. Clare

Fabric Report Our architect has prepared our Quinquennial Report which highlights the work we need to undertake in the future. This will mean the restoration of the Nave, Choir Vestry and Tower roofs. This will be a large financial cost, most of which can be obtained by grants from Heritage England. In the coming months we will instigate a Roof Appeal and start the ball rolling on our final large project. This will ensure the continued opportunity for this church to offer a religious home for the community of Farnworth and the wider town of Widnes in the future. Unfortunately. I have been informed by the Community Service Supervisor that water had seeped into the Bridewell and short circuited the electrical system. An inspection of the roof has been undertaken and I am grateful to Owen, a member of PCC who has done a temporary fix. I am hoping that the electrics will be completed by the weekend but until then I'm afraid the building is out of bounds for safety reasons. Barry



The Advent season, which marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year, is a time of both joyful anticipation and spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. This year, the first Sunday of Advent falls on November 30th and we will celebrate with a Team

Service. One of the most symbolic and visual aspects of Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath, a circular arrangement of evergreen foliage with five candles. [Thank you to Lesley who makes our Advent wreath and to Colin, who has given the stand a new lease of life.] Each candle represents a different aspect of the spiritual journey leading up to Christmas Day and of those who prepared for Jesus' coming.

Week 1: The Patriarch's candle: typically Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born.

Week 2: The Prophet's candle gives time to reflect on how Jesus' birth was foretold through the prophets.

Week 3: John the Baptist's candle, celebrates Jesus' cousin, who proclaimed the Messiah

Week 4: Mary's candle: completes the Advent story.

Christmas Day: the final candle, white candle is lit to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Each week as a new candle is lit, we also pray for hope, peace, joy, love and the enduring light of Christ in the world.

An ADVENT PRAYER from the Iona Community

For millennia, the light of the stars has travelled, for a thousand years the cross has withstood the winds. For a hundred years of war, wave has followed wave, while people walking in darkness have longed for peace. But before OUR time, before all time, in the beginning, the Word. In this moment, the snowflake, a perfect crystal, is formed and falls. In this moment, the snowdrop, in the dark earth, waits for the returning sun.

In this moment, a child is born, a life begins, blooms... and in THIS time, OUR time, GOD's time, in each beginning, THE WORD made flesh. AMEN

BAPTISMS

21st Sept – Logan David Alan Gribben, Isabelle Florence Gribben, Felicity Evelyn Evans and George Philip Hickey

28th Sept - Alfie David George Armitage, Ava Rose Armitage, Isaac William Waine and Elodie Grace Kathleen Roberts

19th Oct - Connie Alice Pottle, Novallee Rose Green, Navaya Rose Green and Tabitha Caron Tague

26th Oct - Frankie Anthony Dowd and Johnny Anthony Dowd 16th Nov - Jaxon Eric Gregg and Harry Michael Dolan

























Cronton mission and school Debbie Doyle

Our congregation continues to grow. Café worship within the

school day on the first Friday of each month is extremely popular. We have established a very supportive network both face to face and through social media for our school and church communities. We were blessed at Cronton Mission to have 3 candidates for confirmation in September. The confirmation classes were open to all the worshipping community at Cronton. Bible study has and will continue, spending time reflecting on Lukes's gospel. Following the retirement of a number of long-standing school staff in the summer, three staff have taken on interim leadership roles until Christmas, and 2 early Careers teachers have been employed on short term contracts. This has been an excellent opportunity for personal development. I can now confirm that a new Headteacher has been appointed to start in January 2026. Ann Marie Willis is a driven and proven Christian leader with lots of energy for strategic development. The SIAMS inspection required for all church schools has been completed during this school term - The day had a real celebratory feel throughout. The report was extremely positive with recognition of the clear relationship and collaborative working between school and church, and how the school's vision was embedded in every aspect of school life including leadership, curriculum, spirituality and culture. The children's confidence and articulation of their faith, their sense of responsibility and justice was particularly strong. The strength and impact of worship was highlighted, citing that it "is at the heart of the school's daily life and valued by pupils and adults," with reference to "togetherness" and how stakeholders are brought "together to learn, pray and reflect" providing an excellent and distinctly Christian education every day. The wealth of services reported by Clare, clearly demonstrates this togetherness. Cronton village

> churches, schools, businesses and residents also came together for Remembrance Sunday at the memorial gardens, followed by a short service at Cronton

Methodist Chapel.



CRONTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



PLACES NOW AVAILABLE

We offer:

- 15/30 hour places for aged 3-4 years
- Wrap Around Support for 3-4 years
- Teacher led Nursery Classes

JANUARY 2026 FOR 15/30 HOUR PLACES FOR 2-3 YEAR OLDS

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Email: crontonce@ldst.org.uk

U Website: https://www.crontonce.co.uk/

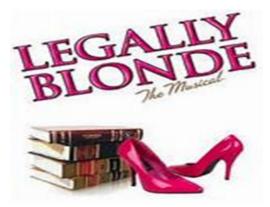
Christmas Concerts at St Luke's church

Saturday December 6th at 7.30pm Clock Face Heritage Miners Brass Band



£7.50pp inc welcome drink pay at the door

Thursday December 11th at 7pm Cronton 6th Form College Performing Arts Concert



Music and songs from Legally Blonde £5pp inc welcome drink pay at the door

FARNWORTH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A few months ago, I asked members of our congregations if anyone had any hats, scarves, handbags or clothes suitable for dressing up that they would like to donate to School. The response was fantastic, so thank you to everyone who donated items, even a feather boa!







This request was to support the **OPAL** initiative that Farnworth introduced at the start of the new term. [Outdoor Play And Learning].

Now, the children are no longer confined to specific areas for KS1 or KS2, but they have the freedom to 'roam' and for different age groups to play together. I was rather sceptical of how this would work but I need not have been because it is FANTASTIC. The KS2 children encourage and support the younger ones to try different activities and learn new skills; they themselves learn how to be patient and communicate effectively with them. We see and hear reports of children spending hours in front of screens interacting with technology and missing out on important life skills. The OPAL programme aims to provide children with opportunities in outdoor environments that are safe but challenging, to be creative, active and collaborative and so develop new interests and skills. That was certainly the case when I went into school one



morning at playtime. The chatting and interaction between the KS1 and KS2 children was wonderful. Happy, smiling, laughing children everywhere, organising games, dressing up, playing house and school, climbing trees and searching for mini beasts in the forest area. It was busy and joyful and I am sure that ALL children will reap the benefits of this initiative.

On November 4th the Reception classes joined us in church for a service to welcome them to their 'St Luke's family'; they were joined by their parents, grandparents and younger siblings. Two groups of children told us what they liked about school and sang, '1,2,3 it's good to be me' and 'Our God is a great big God'. It's hard to believe that they have only been in school for 6 weeks, they weren't at all fazed by their new surroundings and took everything in their stride. Mrs Whitby led us in a prayer and Mrs Kidd said how proud she was of them and their confidence. We look forward to seeing them again soon. The Y6 children who are their Buddies, also treated us to the song, 'You can count on me,' which was very appropriate as they have already built wonderful bonds with their Reception Buddies.

Recently, both Y6 classes have joined us on separate occasions for Wednesday worship in church. They contributed to the services with the readings, they wrote and read their own beautiful prayers and sang their favourite worship songs for us. Parents, grandparents and carers were invited to join us, many stayed afterwards for tea, coffee and biscuits. The children had time to wander round church and, as ever, found lots to interest them. In an article for the school Newsletter, they said they had enjoyed chatting with the congregation and had an 'enjoyable experience'. That is good to know!

an 'enjoyable experience'. That is good to know!
On Wednesday November 26th, Church is going to Farnworth
School! Our midweek service will be held in K52 Hall and the
two Y5 classes and their parents will join us; we are hoping that
this will become a regular termly event.

We are looking forward to the KS2 Advent and Christmas services that are in the church calendar....more about them next time! Sue

LUNTS HEATH CP SCHOOL

Thank you to Mr Paton who shared this information with me. The school has introduced 'It's good to talk' sessions before school every Thursday morning as part of their Well Being initiative.

The Y6 pupils have been working on a Poppy Project. Their amazing work was displayed at Runcorn Shopping City as part of their Remembrance display.



Year 6's fantastic poppy work is being proudly displayed in Runcorn's Shopping City as a part of their remembrance display.

We are looking forward to welcoming the KS2 classes to church for their Advent and Christmas presentations.



FARNWORTH SCHOOL'S VISION AMBASSADORS WOULD LIKE OUR HELP

The school's Vision Ambassadors met recently to discuss their next Outreach Initiative and I was invited to attend. Their understanding of, and empathy for, those in our community who are in need was exemplary. They were very concerned about the number of homeless people in our town and decided that they would be their next focus.

They want to give out backpacks, each of which will contain a smaller bag with specific toiletries, some of which I think WE, as a St Luke's family, could donate? For example, donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, bars of soap, small packs of antibacterial wipes and packets of plasters....these were all their suggestions. I have sourced and ordered 'toilet bags' that the children can fill with our donated items.

They remembered that last year, we as a church, had sent lots of hats, scarves and gloves for their 'Warm Winter' initiative and they loved and appreciated that we would work with them on this project.

I will leave a bag labelled 'VISION AMBASSADOR TOILETRIES' at the back of church for any donations.

Thank you. Sue

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.

Congratulations to Alix Jones and Michael John McCann married on 27th September



FLC	OWER ROTA		
	JANUARY		FEBRUARY
18	Mrs S Smither	1	Mrs J Stretch
25	Mrs O Wilde		LENT

Treasurer's Report, 01/01/25 to 31/10/255

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjust</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts	104,770	' <u></u>	104,770
Expenses / Adjust Pa	rish share 2025		
	<u>(47,896)</u>	<u>(62,545)</u>	(110,441)
Surplus/ (Deficit)	46,848	(62,545)	(5671

At the time of writing this report, we are still in discussion with the Diocese regarding the remaining rents owed to us from Bold Mission, which, hopefully, will be offset against Parish share 2025. We have had a busy few months with fundraising activities, thank you to all who organised these events and to the people who supported. Amounts raised were:-

July:-St Helens Heritage Brass band and 6th Form College concerts £1126.

Sept & Oct:-Eco day £406, Heritage Day £416, Harvest Lunch £104

November:-Quiz, with generous donations £1000
You will see on the events list in church that both the St Helens
Heritage Brass band and 6th Form College are coming back to
church to entertain us in December. A must for your diaries!
Brass Band Friday 5th December and 6th Form College Thursday
11th December. Also please support the other events in church,
especially the Christmas tree and carol festival. We have a
selection of Christmas cards, money wallets gift bags etc for sale
plus general cards at the back of church. Also second hand books,
jigsaws and DVDS for sale too. See notice board for times church
is open and pop in and have a look at what is on offer.

Please support our fundraising activities and review your donations to the church. We need your support more than ever, to cover the general fund overheads, which are around £10,000 per month. Spread the word please. All 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, just 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 donate as below: By transfer. Barclays Account name:-Farnworth St Luke Parochial Church Council Sort code 20 91 48 Acc no 30369292. Your name as reference. By cheque payable to St Luke's PCC c/o Mrs Yvonne Horabin, 12 Buckingham Ave, Widnes WA8 9EP Thank You Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)



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

Sunday December 14th and January 11th

3pm to 4pm

in St. Luke's church



craft activities & food

Bring your little ones to meet Jack



For more information contact Clare 07976549410

Report from Farnworth Y6C [FRANK CLASS]

On the 12th of November, 6C walked to St Luke's Church for a holy communion service with Reverend Peter. This service consisted of readings based on our communion, prayers our pupils created, sharing of the bread and wine and a song. Our parents and carers came to enjoy our service, and they received communion as well. Some have bread and wine as a sign of thanks to God.





After all the readings and prayers were complete, we sang a song from our gospel singing we do on a Wednesday morning. We all enjoyed our service very much and so did the congregation. After the service we got biscuits and time to explore deeper into the church.

Many thanks to Mrs Smither for organising this wonderful event. Olivia Leyland and Erin Colebrook

[Permission was given by all parents for the photos to go in the magazine. SLS]

MOTHERS' UNION

Our meeting on 8th October was led by Colleen who started with prayer. She also read "If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter," which can be read on page 59 of the MU Prayer and Worship Book. We sang the hymn, "For the beauty of the earth," the perfect hymn for harvest time.

Our speaker was Ray Roberts, a Warden and member of the PCC at St Luke's, who talked about his experiences of being a Street Pastor. Janice Collier, the vicar at St Mary Hale at the time, asked Ray and his wife, Pam, to attend a meeting about setting up the scheme. Ray, as a retired Project Manager, was just the right person for the job. Rev David Gate and Rev Helen Morby were also involved. To be a street pastor, you first have to be trained by the Police and other services, including safeguarding. As Ray was not a minister, he didn't think he could go out preaching – but that wasn't what the street pastor role was about. The word "pastor" means carer. All the pastors were given a uniform and went out in groups of four on Saturday nights. Widnes at night was quite different to Widnes during the day. There were many fights, with bottles being thrown. Clearing up broken bottles was quite important, to stop them being used as weapons. As they were wearing uniforms, the pastors were often asked if they were

they exited the night clubs, cuts and grazes were dealt with, and prayers offered when needed. The pastors also carried anti-spikers, for those whose drinks had been spiked. They soon became familiar with how to respond to drug and alcohol addicts. Sadly, some of the people they befriended during these shifts are no longer with us.

Police. Once they replied that they were not, they were accepted as being there to help. They would give young girls flip-flops as

Ray was often asked if they were scared, to which he said, "No", because they always prayed. Apprehensive – yes, there were a lot of dangerous people out there. They were taken on tours of the bins, as their clients would show them where to get the best food that had been thrown away, and also where to sleep. Prayers were very important to Pam and Ray. They didn't carry cash but on one occasion they needed money for a taxi – so they prayed. Amazingly, they found £10 on the ground, so their prayers had been answered. On another night they had a feeling they had to go a different way from their usual route. They were guided to a

man in the grass; if they had not followed their feeling, it is doubtful that the man would have been found and may not have survived. There were many sad stories but thinking about the people involved, we felt that the saying, "there but for the Grace of God, go I" was very apt. It is so good to know that there are people like Ray & Pam prepared to do this and make such a difference to those in need. So thank you to Ray, Pam and all those who have been street pastors.

At our meeting on 12th November we were joined by Jo, a lovely lady from the Citizens Advice Bureau. The CAB has been going for 85 years. They can be found in the old Co-op building in Lugsdale Road in Widnes and in the Shopping City in Runcorn. Opening times 10.00am - 1pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. They deal with a host of issues, such as financial problems faced by people who are already suffering from the physical pain of losing a loved one. They deal with benefits for disability, carers, debt relief and sorting out repayment plans. They have 7 debt workers. They also help with form-filling, which can be overwhelming and difficult to negotiate, even at the best of times. They also deal with housing issues, evictions and houses with damp and mould problems. They can issue vouchers for the Foodbank and for fuel, between £30 and £50, help with grants for washing machines, beds and other household items people may need and help with family disputes (but not marriage guidance) and put people in touch with agencies who can help. They assist women leaving the Women's Refuge. The Refuge will only take brand new items, whereas we may have good-condition items that are no longer needed in our homes that may be useful to those without. Jo told us about Care UK, a charity shop that sells goods and the money raised can help those leaving the Refuge. This is something MU can contribute to.

Jo has worked for CAB for over 16 years and obviously loves helping people. It is good to know that there are people like Jo, who can help if you find yourself in difficult circumstances. The Bureau also welcomes volunteers, so if you have some free time. Our future events:

2nd Dec – Christmas meal at Riverside College, 12.00 for 12.30 10th Dec – Christmas celebrations with carols, mince pies, mulled wine and fruit juice. Tea rota – the Committee.

14th January – Lorraine Eldridge, organist 'Her Christian Life and

the part her musical skills have played'. Tea rota – Committee. 13th Dec: Diocesan Carol Service at St Chad's Church, Kirby, 2pm. Let Colleen (07946 389162) know if you need a lift.

From a Calendar of Prayers:

God, our loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the wisdom of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Amen. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Rita Poole

Jesus And Me (JAM) Club Remembrance Sunday

At JAM Club, we heard the parable where Jesus says that no one lights a lamp and then hides it under a basket or pot. Instead, they place it on a stand so it can give light to everyone in the house. We lit a battery tealight candle and put a pot over it and the light was hidden so we took the pot off, and the light shone brightly again. We thought about how soldiers in the wars had sacrificed so much so we could have good lives now and so it is important for us to remember them, honour them, to live our best lives, lives that are a good example to others.

We made poppy lanterns and put tealights (battery ones!) in them so the light would shine through. And we finished our worship, sharing yummy toast and jam together. Clare



Sunday Club

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

10.30am in the Bridewell



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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



December	EWT	Rota	
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Wed 3rd	10.00 Sanctuary	10.30 MP	
Friday 5 th			14.30 Family Worship
Sunday 7 th	10.30 HC Team Luke's church	Service at St	10.30 NATIVITY
Tues 9 th			18.30 Lighting of Christmas tree
Wed 10 th	10.00 Sanctuary	10.30 HC	
Sunday 14 th	·	08.00 HC	
	10.30 HC	10.30 Joint MP & Nativity at St Luke's church	
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 17 th	10.00 Sanctuary	10.30 MP	
Saturday 20 th	10.00 Blue service		
Sunday 21st	09.00 HC		
	10.30 Christingle	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship
		18.00 9 Lessons and Carols	
Christmas Eve		09.30 No service	
		15.00 & 17.00 Christingles	
	21.00 Christmas HC	23.00 Midnight HC	
Christmas Day		10.00 HC	
Sunday 28 th	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		18.00 no service	
Wed 31 st	No service	No service	No service

January	EWT	Rota		
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission	
Sunday 4 th	10.30 HC TEAM SERVICE at St Ambrose			
Wed 7 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP		
Friday 9 th			14.30 Family Worship	
Sunday 11 th		08.00 HC		
	10.30 HC	10.30 Joint MP at St Luke's		
		15.00 JAM		
Wed 14 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC		
Sunday 18 th	09.00 HC			
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship	
		12.30 Baptisms		
Wed 21 st	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP		
Sunday 25 th	10.30 HČ	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	
		18.00 HC		
Wed 28 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC		

FUNERAL	REGISTER		
Date	Location	Name	Age
02/09/2025	St Luke & crem	Isabella Smith	100
09/09/2025	St Luke & Crem	lan Woodward	37
16/09/2025	St Luke & Crem	John William Lamb	90
17/09/2025	Widnes crem	June Leah	93
19/11/2025	St Luke & crem	Lillian Diane Owens	75

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Parklands Sports & Social Club Wednesday 7.30am & 9am Peter 07762 194165

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

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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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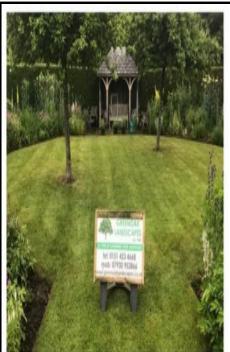


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Clare Liptrott 07976549410
Lesley Firth 07803148233

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