

Parish Magazine

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



Spring has arrived.

Photograph by Yvonne Horabin.

April and May 2026 £1.50



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Philip Lacey

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Ray Roberts 7 Mortlake Close 07523696822

Rob Leach via 07761672030

Deputy Warden

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PCC Lay Chair Barry Horabin 07471350957

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Sunday Club usually 1030am in the Bridewell Sundays

Sunday Club Leader Lynn Keeling 01514243142

Director of Music Paul Delaney 07778042553

Choir Practice Second and Fourth Sundays 9am

Tower Captain Nigel Goulding 07860632096

Bell ringing practice usually Tuesdays 6.30pm

Schools Farnworth C.E. Primary 01514243042

Cronton C.E. Primary 01514243881

Editor Philip Lacey 07710030973

Kebbs Farm Clock Face Road Bold Widnes WA8 3XH

Please submit any material, articles or adverts, via email to farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk with attachments in Word - Arial font 12

Deadline for articles is noon on 18th May 2026

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

Wenda

MY JOURNEY SO FAR...



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

Reasons to join:

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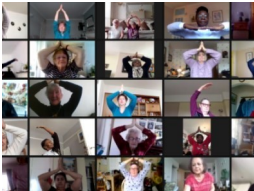
Meet other people with similar interests; learn new things and share your skills.

What the u3a offer



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.

"Christ is Risen!" "He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!"

Dear Friends,

This is how the Celebration of Easter will begin in many churches the world over on Easter morning. A few days before they had crucified him, Jesus had already said to Martha the sister of Lazarus, "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in me though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die". (John 11:25-26). But Jesus didn't stop there; he went on to ask her a question which equally applies to you and me - "Do you believe this?" For the Christian, the answer is a wholehearted "Yes! I do believe!"

And yet our world is filled with disbelief in God and anger at Him for some of the tragedies that happen both near and far. As I write this letter the dreadful bombing of children in a school in Iran which has followed on from the genocide in Gaza has taken place, with one person writing, "Where was God when all this took place?" There are no easy answers to a question like that, but I do believe that God was with them in their midst. Our Risen, Ascended Lord is no stranger to pain and suffering. Before his Resurrection he suffered an agonising death in shame and loneliness - cut off from His Father because he carried our sin.

His disciples must have thought He had failed - Jesus had been put to death by jealous religious leaders and a weak foreign ruler - what a disaster that must have been for them! And yet, Jesus turned this situation around completely - as he had said he would do. He rose from the dead on the third day!

What the disciples had thought to be a disaster was in fact the gateway to eternal life. Jesus overcame the sting of death for all who believe in Him.

As St. Paul said, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? For the Christian, death no longer has any power over us!

May God the Father, by whose glory Jesus was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life, and may he grant you peace this Easter.

Peter



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**Meets every Wed 10:30am-2pm at St
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**If you enjoy chatting with people in your
community, or even if you just need a place
to hang out, then we are here for you.**

**A place to meet friends in our local
community and to share our stories.**

**Contact David Steadman 07551399631
dwandc.steadman@virginmedia.com**

Café Worship @ Cronton Mission March – Transfiguration

I wonder if you've ever had a moment in life that felt so special you wished you could freeze it? Maybe it was a holiday, a celebration, a meaningful conversation, or a moment where everything just felt right. Well, in February's Café Worship we heard about one of those moments — what we might call a mountain moment.

Jesus takes three of his closest friends up a mountain.

Mountains in the Bible are often places where people meet God in powerful ways. And on this mountain, something extraordinary happens. Jesus is transformed before their eyes. His face shines. His clothes glow with light. And suddenly two great figures from Israel's history appear and speak with him. The disciples are overwhelmed. They don't know what to do. So, Peter says something very human. He says, "Let's stay here. Let's build shelters. Let's make this moment last." And honestly, who can blame him? When something sacred or beautiful happens, we want to hold onto it.

But mountain moments are not meant to last forever. They are meant to change us. Sometimes in our lives, we experience moments where God feels close. It might be through worship, music, nature, prayer, or a conversation that touches something deep inside us. Those moments remind us that faith is not just ideas or rules. Faith is relationship. Faith is encounter.

In the story, while Peter is still speaking, a bright cloud covers them and a voice says, "This is my Son... listen to him." Not just admire him. Not just talk about him. Listen to him. That can be challenging. Our world is full of noise and distraction. We listen to social media, news, expectations, and pressure from every direction. But this story invites us to pause and ask: What might it mean for us to really listen to Jesus today?

Then something else happens in the story that I think is incredibly important. The disciples are terrified. They fall to the ground in fear. And Jesus responds in a simple but powerful way. He comes close. He touches them. And he says, "Do not be afraid." Faith does not begin with having everything figured out. It begins with trust. It begins with hearing those words — do not be afraid. Many of us carry fears. Fear about the future. Fear about not being enough. Fear about doubts or struggles in our faith.

This story reminds us that Jesus meets people in their fear with compassion, not judgment. Eventually, they have to leave the mountain. They go back down into ordinary life. Back into crowds, responsibilities, challenges, and uncertainty. And maybe that is where this story speaks most clearly to us. Because most of life is not lived on the mountain. It is lived in everyday routines, conversations, and choices. But once the disciples had seen Jesus clearly, they carried that experience with them. It shaped how they lived and who they became. Café Worship is a little 'mountain moment' for us, a place to pause, a place to listen, a place to remember that God is present with us — not just here, but everywhere we go. Why not come and join us and see what its all about? Every 3rd Sunday in the month, in Cronton CofE School. The children made their own very colourful image of a transfigured Jesus, to remind them to listen to Jesus and not to be afraid because Jesus is with us. Clare.



Baptism	Register 2026	
25th January	Steven Harper Madine	
15th February	Carter Tate Passey	Beatrix Maeve Knibb
22nd February	Jax John Wainwright	Annie Lorraine Potter
15 th March	Isabella Anne Rose	
22nd March	Leo Cook	



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.



MONTHLY LUNCHESES

1st Monday

**Starting Monday 1st June in
church 12noon £7.50**

**Booking essential contact
Sue 07962012916**

Café Worship @ Cronton Mission Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday was an opportunity to give thanks for mothers and those who have cared for us. One of the quiet gifts many mothers give us is helping us learn to see - not just with our eyes, but with our hearts.

Think about it, we often don't notice things until someone points them out. A mother might say:

- "Look at that beautiful sunset."
- "Notice how your friend is feeling."
- "Say thank you."
- "Be kind."

Again and again, mothers help children see the world properly, they teach us what matters, they help us notice love, kindness, and truth. In a way, they help open our eyes.

And in the Bible reading (John 9:1–41) we heard a story about sight, about how Jesus helped the blind man to see. This story was about a miracle, a man who had never seen in his life, who suddenly received his sight. When we listened closely to this story, we realised that there was something else going on here too! The man who couldn't see physically was actually the one who ended up truly seeing, not just physically but spiritually! He recognised Jesus and trusted in him. Whilst the ones who thought they could see perfectly, the religious leaders, the Pharisees, well they actually turned out to be the ones who were spiritually blind. As part of the service there was time for discussion at the tables with the following questions, that you also might like to think about:

In the story, the man simply says, "*I was blind but now I see.*"

Have you ever had a moment when something about life or faith suddenly became clearer to you?

The disciples immediately looked for someone to blame for the man's blindness. Why do you think people often look for blame when something difficult happens?

On Mothering Sunday, we give thanks for those who nurture and guide us. Who has helped you "see" the world with more kindness, faith, or understanding?

This week, where might God be inviting you to see something—or someone—differently?

Clare



The children decorated glasses to remind them about how following Jesus can help them see more clearly. And we shared flowers with those who care for us, as well as an opportunity to enjoy cake with our refreshments as we celebrated mothers and all those who care for us. Clare.



St Luke's Eco Day

16 May 2026

10am - 2pm



Join us to celebrate our natural environment. There will be a range of craft and art activities, a self-guided tour of the churchyard, plant sale, art exhibition, refreshments, games, seated tai chi and much more.

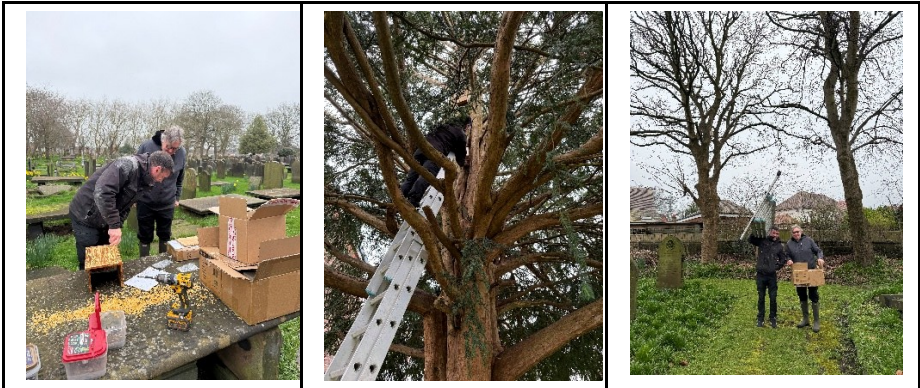
Eco Day 2026 Saturday 16th May Save The date!

Preparations are underway for Eco Day 2026 - 10 am – 2pm

This year we will be hosting the usual activities: a self-guided tour of the churchyard; children's craft activities; plant sale; flower arranging, games and refreshments.

To add extra interest, we are hoping to see birds nesting in the new birdboxes you can see all around the churchyard.

Owen and George have been busy with the bird boxes.



Other new additions for 2026 include an Art exhibition and a taster session of Seated Tai Chi - a gentle exercise for all.

The art exhibition will consist of original watercolours, painted by members of the Friday Art Club based at Farnworth Methodist Church. All paintings will be For Sale so hopefully you will see something you love for your home.

The seated Tai Chi will be a one-off session, and is open to all on a 'first come first serve' basis due to limited space for chairs.

Any monies raised from the event will go toward the church and our next big eco project installing solar panels. Solar panels will help to reduce our electricity bill.

Some other exciting activities, still to be finalised, are also in the pipeline!

We are looking forward to seeing you on the day.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2026?

All three observances began within just 24 hours.

LENT began with Ash Wednesday.



LUNAR NEW YEAR started at the new moon.



RAMADAN began with the crescent moon sighting. This last happened 163 years ago.

WHY IT MATTERS? This alignment brought billions into overlapping **SPIRITUAL MOMENTS**, celebration, fasting, renewal and reflection, all at once.

WHY WAS THIS SO RARE? **LENT** follows the Christian Gregorian calendar. **LUNAR NEW YEAR** uses the lunisolar Chinese calendar.

RAMADAN follows the Islamic lunar calendar.

Treasurer's Report, 01/01/26 to 28/02/2026

General Fund

Receipts	20,153
Expenses	<u>(27,468)</u>
(Deficit)	<u>(7,315)</u>

You will all be pleased to hear that the situation regarding the Rents due to St Luke's from the Diocese regarding Bold mission has now been finalised and as I mentioned in my last report, the balance of Parish share for 2025 has now been paid to the Diocese. The monthly amount for 2026 is £6,379.89 and the first three months have now been paid, mainly from surplus funds from 2025 when we had no parish share to pay. At the end of February 2026 there was £25,570 in the main bank account, of which £10,670 was for the restricted and designated funds leaving only £14,894 for the general fund, out of which £6,379 has been paid to the diocese for the March Parish share. This leaves us very little reserve funds, but hopefully the large heating bills will be getting less and we have, in February, paid all of the annual servicing invoices for heating, fire extinguishers, clock, pat testing on the small electrical appliances etc. The rent from the Nursery using Bold mission is paid to us direct from the letting Agent now, not via the Diocese. This is £4,410 per quarter at the moment, payable Jan/Apl/July/Oct, with an annual increase each July. Whilst this isn't a large amount each month (£1470) it helps towards paying the parish share.

There has been a lot of fundraising in this first few months of 2026. In January a very successful Burns Night and Quiz was held at the cricket club, which was match funded for £500 by HSBC, courtesy of Gayle Lacey, Sandra's daughter. A big thank you to all the organisers and to Linda's Kitchen at the cricket club for the lovely food and the donation of a "wee dram" of whisky for all courtesy of the Cricket club. Another quiz is organised for the end of March as well as an Easter raffle. Yet again Patsy Clifford has sold, at the time of writing this report, 700 tickets around Whiston Hospital, as well donating the Chocolate Hamper prize. Thank you Patsy.

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 £12,000 per month. All of your donations help, so please give what you can afford, either in church or as on next page.

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

[Click here](#)



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



Easter is without doubt the most important season in the Church year and Easter Sunday is the most special day of the year. The resurrection of Jesus, God's own Son, changed the world in an unprecedented way. When I did some

research, I found that the timing and traditions of Easter are interesting. Easter is of course linked to the Passover festival which celebrates The Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. This feast lasts for 7 days from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, between late March and early April. Sir Isaac Newton said the resurrection is likely to have occurred on Sunday 5th of April 33AD, however our dates for Easter vary according to the moon. Officially, Easter Day falls on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring equinox. But the precise calculations are very complicated and involve an 'ecclesiastical full moon' which is not the same as the moon we see in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last occurred in 1818 and won't happen again until 2285. The very latest is 25th April which happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038! Sue



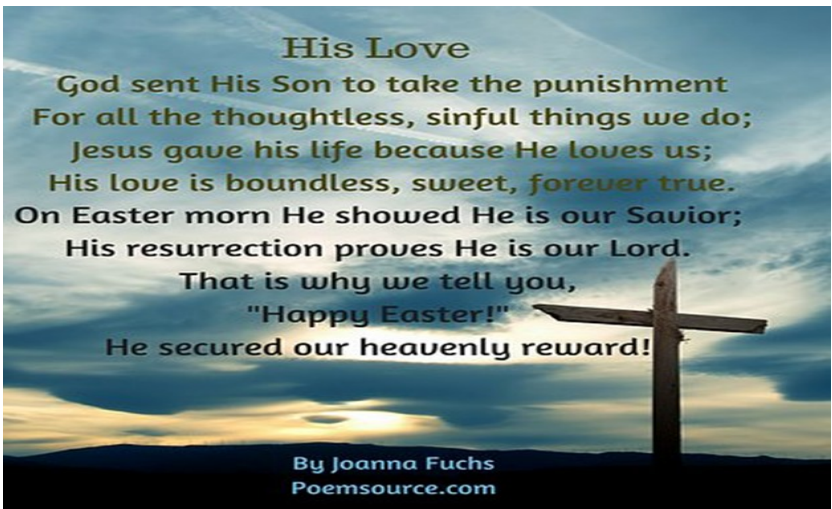
The name Easter comes from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur-Monath'. Eostre's sacred animal was a hare - hence the link with the Easter bunny! Easter eggs are also a symbol of fertility and rebirth, said to portray the empty tomb.

Whatever the meanings or traditions associated with Easter, the resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our church.

Our parish church of St Luke has for centuries been at the heart of Farnworth; it has maintained a Christian presence here and our aim has always been to reach out into our community to welcome and enable people of all ages to develop a closer relationship with God. It has been, and will continue to be, a sanctuary for prayer and worship for all.

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die'. This is **our** belief and **our** faith which we have proudly proclaimed and with God's good grace we will continue to do so for many years to come. Sue

CRONTON MISSION



Home Pictures in May composed by John Clare



The sunshine bathes in clouds of many hues
And morning's feet are gemmed with early dews,
Warm daffodils about the garden beds
Peep through their pale slim leaves their golden heads,
Sweet earthly nuns of Spring.



The gosling broods
In coats of sunny green about the road
Waddle in extasy; and in rich moods
The old hen leads her flickering chicks abroad,
Oft scuttling 'neath her wings to see the kite
Hang wavering o'er them in the spring's blue light.
The sparrows round their new nests chirp with glee
And sweet the robin Spring's young luxury shares
Tootling its song in feathery gooseberry tree
While watching worms the gardener's spade unbares.





St Luke's Church Farnworth

COME & LIFT YOUR VOICE JOIN OUR CHOIR

PURPOSE: Lead our congregation's worship through music to glorify God.

REHEARSALS: Bi-monthly 9am on second Sunday and third Sunday before service at 10.30am.

COMMITMENT: Singing at the 10.30am Sunday service and major festivals.

MUSIC STYLE: A mix of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs.

INTERESTED: Meet Paul, our Musical Director and Reverend Peter in church at 9am on second or fourth Sunday **when the choir rehearse.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Speak to Paul,
our Musical Director in
church or email
paul@pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk



PROMS AND PIMMS

Summer Concert



Clock Face Miners Heritage Brass Band

Saturday July 18th 7.30pm

£7.50 pp inc drink on arrival

Tel:07962012916

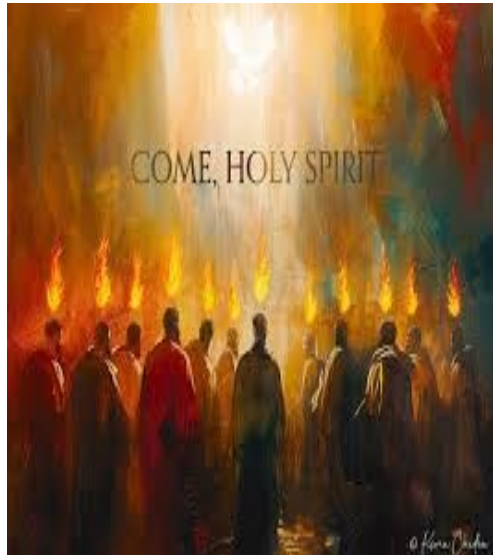
PENTECOST

is celebrated on **Sunday, May 24th.**

Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday or 50 days after Easter Sunday. A Christian holy day known also as Whit Sunday commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and followers of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem according to Acts 2:1-31.

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

‘When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them’.



Fabric Report

Every five years we have to produce a report entitled The Quinquennial Review. This reports on the structural state of the church and the methods we will use to repair any problems we may find. As you will remember we have just finished the project for installation of toilets and servery in the church which has been a success.

Part of this review covered the checks on all services in the church, gas, electrical, Pat testing, fire precaution, heating system and lightning conductors. Everything passed but with a slight repair to the lightning conductors required which will be done when we receive the report from the engineers.

One of the main results of this review is the long-standing need to complete the restorations to the remaining roofs of the Nave, Bold Chapel and both Vestries. Although this is a lot of work we will only be replacing the membrane in the Nave and Chapel and any defects that appear, but this will require all the slate being removed and reinstating when the work is complete. This replacement is needed as when it was installed there was no such thing as a breathable membrane. Unfortunately one of the major costs will be scaffolding which will be needed to cover the roof during the whole of the work. But we have been in this situation before and know hopefully how to deal with any problems this may cause. While we have scaffolding in place we will also do some minor repairs to the tower which has been needed for some time.

We will require major grant support with which we have been lucky in the past as Heritage England realise the importance of roof work. They have been very generous in the past and we hope that this will be the case this time.

This is an opportunity for the congregation and the General Public to get involved in this project as this historic building is part of their lives as they walk past it daily. If they want it to continue, they need to be involved.

We will be starting a Roof Appeal very soon which will enable people to be involved in all the activities planned. Remember our Motto.

The Past is our Inheritance, the future our Responsibility.

Cronton 6th Form College A level Music Students Recital Evening

A good number of people came to support the students as they performed the pieces they will be playing as part of their A level Music exams. It goes without saying that they were amazing. Some were nervous at the prospect of performing before a 'strange audience', but once they began to play the nerves vanished.

Their tutor, Lucy Myers, introduced each of the students and afterwards she gave such wonderfully positive feedback, referring to the complexity of the pieces and how well they had performed. They are very blessed to have such an encouraging and accomplished musician as their tutor.



The second year students, those who will actually be taking their exams this summer were: Amelia Daniszewska on Piano, Ruben Boden on Drums, Layla Brindle who sang, Amelia Shotton on Bass Guitar, Izzi Harrison on Flute and Alto Saxophone.

The 1st year students, whose exams will be in 2027, were Amelia McKibbib who sang, Sophie Pallavus and Dillon Hepplehall both played Piano, Mille Bates was on clarinet, Hannah Hogan played Acoustic Guitar, Alexandra Naylor, Grace Gardiner and Kayleigh Myler all played Piano, and last but not least, Lizzy Tyrrell played Bass.

Recordings were made of all the performances and Lucy had to set off home immediately afterwards as she needed to submit 'the evidence' to the Examination Board before the deadline of 12noon the following day!

Apparently, the College is having a new performance studio built, but Lucy still wants to fetch the students to St Luke's to experience our wonderful acoustics and warm welcome.

The date of the Recital for 2027 is already in the Church diary....

7pm on Thursday, January 28th.

Thank you to all those people who came to support these young people.

We can't thank Lucy and her students enough for the wonderful evening of music that we were all able to enjoy.

We wish them every success in their exams.

Sue

Maundy Thursday

is part of the Christian celebration of Easter and marks the night of the Last Supper as told in the Bible. The date on which it falls changes each year. It takes place on the Thursday before Easter Day, and this year it will be April 2nd.

The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin word for commandment, "Mandatum." This reflects Jesus' words "A new commandment I give unto you."



At the Last Supper, Jesus blessed the bread and the wine and shared them with his disciples. Jesus commanded that people should love one another and he encouraged his disciples to eat bread and wine after his death. 'Do this in remembrance of me,' he told them and he washed the feet of his disciples as an act of servanthood and kindness.

By the thirteenth century the Royal Family was taking part in similar ceremonies, washing the feet of the poor and giving money and gifts. When Henry IV became king, he introduced a new tradition, deciding to give the same number of gifts as his age. So, for instance, when the monarch was forty, he gave forty of his subjects Maundy gifts. It became the custom for the sovereign to perform the ceremony, and the event became known as the Royal Maundy.

The first Maundy Money Ceremony took place in 1662 IN the reign of Charles II, when the king gave people undated hammered coins. The coins were a four penny, three penny, two penny and one penny piece. By 1670 the king started giving out a dated set of all four coins. The tradition of the king or queen washing the feet of the poor faded out in the eighteenth century, but the monarch still gave people food and clothing. By the nineteenth century the tradition had changed again, and the monarch simply gave people the Maundy money. Each recipient is handed two small leather string purses. The red contains ordinary coins whilst the white purse contains silver Maundy coins.



The number of recipients matches the current age of the monarch who gifts the coins to men and women chosen because of the Christian service they have given to the Church and the community. Alex Critchley, Sandra Lacey's Dad, was honoured to receive the coins in 2004, on behalf of St Luke's church and Bold Mission.

The coins are now treasured family heirlooms.

Maundy Ceremonies and traditions vary.

In Slovakia and the Czech Republic, this day is called Zelený štvrtok and is known as Green Thursday because of the use of fresh vegetables during a typical meal. The church bells aren't rung until Holy Saturday and in some regions, the church bells are replaced by groups of children who walk around the church with wooden rattles calling the people to worship. Something for the Sunday Club children to try next year??

This year our Maundy Thursday service will be held at St Ambrose, starting at 7pm.

Sue

EWT Rota April	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Wed 1 st	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Thurs 2nd MAUNDY Thurs	19.00 HC		
Fri 3 rd		10.00 JAM	
	14.00 Last Hour		
Sunday 5 th EASTER DAY	10.30 HC	10.30 HC Joint service at St. Luke's church	
Wed 8 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 12 th		08.00 HC	
EASTER 2	10.30 HC	10.30 MP Joint service at St. Luke's church	
Wed 15 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 19 th	09.00 HC		
EASTER 3	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 22 nd	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 26 th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
EASTER 4		12.30 Baptisms	
		18.00 HC	
Wed 29 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	

I would like to thank everyone who supported the recent quiz at the Woodlands Pub in aid of Marie Curie. My cousin Colin and his son Stephen are both running in the London marathon and the money raised will be included in what they raise. Over £1200 was raised on the night along with donations. My cousin was so pleased and overwhelmed by everyone's generosity, so on his and his son's behalf and mine just want to say once again a great big thank you to everyone. Best wishes Lynn

EWT Rota May	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Sunday 3rd EASTER 5	10.30 Team Holy Communion at St Ambrose church		
Wed 6th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Fri 8th			14.30 Family Worship
Sunday 10th		08.00 HC	
EASTER 6	10.30 HC	10.30 MP Joint service at St. Luke's church	
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 13th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Thurs 14th Ascension		19.00 HC	
Sunday 17th	09.00 HC		
EASTER 7	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 20th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 24th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
PENTECOST		12.30 Baptisms	
		18.00 HC	
Wed 27th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 31st TRINITY SUNDAY	10.30 MP	10.30 Joint Holy Communion service at Cronton Mission	

FLOWER ROTA			
APRIL		MAY	
5 & 12	Miss L Runcorn Mrs B Owen (Bold)	3	Mrs L Race
19	Mrs V Park-Funnell	10	Mrs C Harper
26	Mrs K Wong	17	Mrs D Humphreys
		24	Mr & Mrs R Roberts

A tribute to Doreen Hough

I have written elsewhere in this magazine that it is turning out to be full of Goodbyes to people from our church family whom we have known and loved and sadly had to say our farewells to....that is definitely the case with my very dear friend Doreen Hough.



The Matriarch of such a tight knit family. Her death, just before Christmas, robbed them of someone so very precious to them and I'd like to add my name to that list. Doreen had many conversations with me about her funeral and especially her choice of hymns...which changed quite often...but apparently she left quite a few written 'instructions' which we tried our very best to follow. Her granddaughter Lucy delivered an amazing tribute to her Nana, and I have been blessed to include some of her words in this tribute. Thank you Lucy!

Doreen was born on Friday the 13th of May 1938, the middle of three children, she was raised in Latchford, Warrington, with an older sister called Joan, and a younger brother, Fred. She had a very happy childhood, even during the war. She loved the Saturday outings on the family motorbike and sidecar travelling to Blackpool and Rhyl, and in summer months the bike was often loaded with camping gear. As a child she embraced life to the full, she enjoyed school and was both a diligent student and a talented sportswoman, proudly playing netball for both her school and Lancashire. She spoke of a childhood filled with love and laughter, many hours spent playing in the streets around St Hildas Mission in Latchford where she sang in the choir. Her grandparents lived next door to the Mission, so it's no surprise that Doreen grew up learning of the value of faith and the importance of kindness and service to others. These were the values she practised and carried with her throughout her life. She fondly recalled her Saturday night routine of heading to the sweet shop with her girlfriend to buy a bar of chocolate to share before going out for a dance; it was at one of those dances that she met her future husband, David and it was love at first sight.

They married in 1957 and settled in Hough Green and with the birth of their three children they became a family of five and she loved being a mum to Andrew, Douglas and Gill. Sadly,

Andrew their eldest son, passed away at the age of ten and his loss had a lasting impact on her life, and while it tested her faith it also led her to find a certainty and comfort in it. In 1977 Doreen returned to work joining RTZ's planning department where she met and made friends for life. She loved travelling, enjoying holidays closer to home in North Wales and Scotland, as well as unforgettable adventures further afield, including Puerto Rico and Canada. In 1986 following their retirement she and David moved to Llangollen, a place they found whilst on one of their walking holidays with friends. David found work volunteering at Berwyn rail station, where he was the station master and Doreen became the manager in the café. Working together they enjoyed welcoming people from all over the world to this pretty village in north Wales. She joined the amateur dramatics society and performed in many shows. Music was a passion and during her lifetime she sang in many choirs, our own church choir included. David and Doreen moved back to Widnes in 1989 after the birth of their first grandchild. She became a devoted grandmother and adored each one of her four grandchildren and subsequent ten great grandchildren who fondly called her 'Big Nan'. She took great joy in watching them grow into confident little people and loved sharing their photos and recounting their adventures with her visitors - of which there were many.

In 2022, Doreen and David celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary, surrounded by family and the occasion was marked by a card from Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second—something Doreen treasured. Sadly, only a few months later David passed away and the sorrow and pain of losing him never really left her but she was absolutely confident that in time they would one day be reunited. That time came just before Christmas.

Doreen felt hugely blessed with family, her wide circle of friends, colleagues and good neighbours. A visit with Doreen just brightened your day filled you with such joy, she was a delight to be with, such a generous, interested and interesting hostess, an hour soon passed and became two or even three! I cannot tell you how much I miss her. Our regular chats, MANY WhatsApp messages, and our time sharing Home Communion

joined by other family members. Doreen was a lady of such great faith, it shone from her very being, her nightly prayers and singing hymns part of her daily routine that sustained her through the toughest times of her life.

Only days before she passed away, Lucy asked her Nana if she had any words of wisdom she would like to share with her.

She said this, '**Keep loving over everything. Love will always find a way**'. To close her tribute Lucy challenged those of us attending the funeral to keep loving, to love and take care of ourselves and one another and in doing she said we would be honouring Doreen's life. Let us do our best to do that.

God bless Doreen, you were one of God's most faithful servants and you are already sorely missed, especially by me.

Sue

Share your worries!

I was so unhappy, but nobody knew.

I was super sad; I was feeling blue.

My head was full of worries and fears.

And my heart was heavy, packed full of tears.

Then I told Miss Fox what I was worried about.

She saw me at dinner time and helped me out.

We sat in her classroom, and she listened to me.

And now I'm buzzing, like a happy bumble bee.

If you're looking happy BUT it's just pretend,

share your problem with an adult or a friend.

They will help you to rise and shine

and soon you'll be saying, 'I'm doing just fine!'

Everybody worries about different things,

even famous people like Queens and Kings.

Share your worries and then they'll fade away,
like ice cubes in a glass, on a hot summer's day!

www.pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk

Mother's day poem

Thank you Mum, for everything you do.

You're the best Mummy in the world!

You have super-charged legs and a soft centred heart,
a chocolate in a box.

You tidy my bedroom and drop me off at school
and even wash my socks.

You find things that I'd thought I'd lost.

How do you know where everything is?

If I was a bottle of cloudy lemonade,
you'd be the fruity fizz!

Thank you Mum, for everything you do.

You're the best Mummy in the world!

You do so many things for me,
so my poem could last forever.

I'm a happy child and happier still,
when we're doing stuff together.

I love you mummy and I always will!

The earth, the moon and the stars.

My love for you is longer still

than the miles from Mercury to Mars.

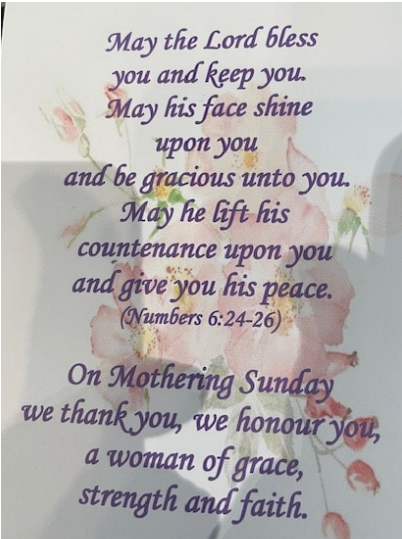
Thank you Mum, for everything you do.

You're the best Mummy in the world!

check out www.pixabay.co.uk - all the images are copyright free

The children performed and signed a Mother's Day song to the tune of All things bright and beautiful, it really was lovely and the signing was very special after a bit of a practice with all the congregation. It was great they could all join in too. The children also read the intercession prayers and took the offertory to the Altar.





Every single child read beautifully and with great confidence and it was so lovely to see how much they have blossomed, I am very, very proud of them all.

At the end of the service the children helped to give the ladies in the congregation a prayer card and a KitKat. Thank you to Dorothy Humphreys who donated them.

It was a beautiful service enjoyed by all.

Best wishes Lynn

FARNWORTH SCHOOL

Every class has been super busy working on new artwork and writing based on favourite books, The displays in the main central corridor are amazing.



Goodbye - Someone who has been like an institution in school is retiring. Gill Moran has been a dinner lady/mid-day assistant/team lead at Farnworth for so many years and she is known and loved by literally thousands of children. She was presented with gifts at a special Collective Worship. We thank her for her care and commitment to the children and wish her a very long and happy retirement.



On Friday March 20th the PTA asked children to bring an Easter egg donation into school in exchange for coming in their own clothes. All donated eggs were used as prizes for the PTA Easter Bingo.

On Monday 23rd March, the children were asked to come to school in their school uniform but wearing brightly coloured socks, either matching or not. This was to raise awareness of World Down Syndrome day. They also sold Gingerbread sock biscuits for a £1 donation for the DS Society.



Some of the pupils went to a training session at Liverpool Football Club Academy. There were some very excited children and their parents/carers too!!

And FINALLY... we wish all children and staff a very happy Easter break.

Tribute to Beryl Heapy

This has been such a sad month for us at St Luke's with the death of yet another member of our long standing congregation. Beryl Heapy was a regular member of our Sunday morning congregation until about 3 years ago when it became necessary for her to go into Residential Care. She loved St Luke's and up until then rarely missed a service. Many people attended her funeral on Friday March 20th, quite a few of them being the parents of children whom she had taught at Farnworth School.



Mostly she taught 'top infant' classes and she was so dedicated, highly regarded and hugely respected. As a newly qualified teacher she helped me to settle in and had lots of words of wise counsel to share. I distinctly remember thinking at the time, that one was a bit strange. It was, 'Try to get out at dinner time' It sounded like I needed to escape! She said this because to her lunchtime was sacrosanct; rain or shine she would walk from school to her house in Coroners Lane to eat her lunch in the peace and quiet of her home. Those of us left behind had to cover dinner duty where we were expected to sit at the tables and eat with the children! Beryl knew what she was doing, they were wise words indeed.

Amongst other things, I know that she loved her garden and music. For me, one particular piece of music the family chose was so very poignant. As we stood waiting outside at the Crematorium Chapel, the sun shone in a beautiful clear blue sky and the blackbirds were singing away like I have never heard them before, lots of people commented on how lovely that was. Then in the service, during the Time of Reflection, the Paul McCartney song 'Blackbird' was played. We heard these words, 'You were only waiting to be free'. Beryl is now free and she will know the heavenly rest and peace that she so deserves. As St Luke's Church and Farnworth School families we offer our deepest condolences to Karen, Alison and Kevin and their families.

Sue

FOODBANK EASTER APPEAL

Thank you for all your donations. At this time Easter treats would be appreciated.



Tribute to Audrey Davis



Sadly, we have 'lost' a dear and very valued member of our Wednesday morning congregation.

Audrey Davis hadn't been too well for a couple of months and consequently hadn't been able to attend church, but I was privileged to be invited to take Home Communion to her, and we were joined by her lifelong friend Joyce Marshall. Receiving Communion and prayer was an important part of Audrey's life.

Whilst I was on holiday, her son Carl rang to give me the devastating news of her death - it came as quite a shock. Audrey was such a lovely gentle lady, always so neat, so precise and very organised. She had left very detailed instructions as to what she wanted for her funeral service...the chosen music, hymns, readings, tributes, prayers, even down to drawing an image of the front and back cover of the Order of Service that she wanted to celebrate a long and fulfilled life. She was born and bred in Widnes, and after studying at a Secretarial College in Liverpool run by Miss Ffoukes, Audrey's first job was at Evans Medical where she met a dashing young RAF man called Roy Davis, they married in 1951 and bought their lovely home in Windsor Road. When they were first married they had amazing adventures riding round Europe on Roy's scooter ...that came to an end when their children came along, first Carl and then Pamela.

We have all admired Audrey's artistic flair, her crafting skills and beautiful handwriting, hence this 'Baguet Script'! Her talents included dressmaking, knitting and embroidery, all of

which she learned from her mum and which she put to good use throughout her life. She continued to learn new crafting skills and was a cherished member of the Farnworth Craft Group. Audrey and Joyce have embroidered many things in church including an altar cloth, a beautiful wedding kneeler and amazing Giving in Grace banners. They knitted poppies to make a Remembrance Sunday Wreath which is presented annually by the younger members of our church family, they stitched felt Christmas Pudding Christmas tree decorations and along with Brenda Taylor, worked for many weeks repairing the Sunday School banner that hangs proudly in church. Audrey has most definitely left a lasting legacy of her talents and skills with us that will be admired and enjoyed by generations to come.

Audrey was generous with her time and support with many of our Fairs and her contributions towards any home baking were always gratefully received. For many years she and her friend Hazel Davies went in to share their baking skills with the classes at Birchfield Nursery; for the children that was always a big treat and Audrey was so gentle and patient with them.

In his tribute, her son Carl said this, 'Mum brought energy and enthusiasm to everything she did. She remained curious and engaged with the world, family and friends. She was always friendly, cheerful, optimistic and pleased to see people. I think, as a result, everyone loved to see her. If ever there was a "secret source" to longevity, that has to be it. Mum may be gone but her legend lives on.' Never a truer word spoken and we as St Luke's worshipping community would all reiterate that, and her presence, especially at our Wednesday morning service, will be sorely missed. We offer Carl and Pam and their families our very deepest sympathy on their Mum's passing and send them our love and prayers.

Sue

In the famous words of the 'Through the keyhole' presenters, 'Do you know who lives in a home like this?'



You would be forgiven for thinking that these images come from a luxury hotel.....but they don't! This beautiful new building with its lovely pathways and gardens, its luxury dining room and sumptuous beauty salon, has become the home of Joyce Marshall! [Well, not the whole building obviously!] Joyce has decided that the time is right for her to move into a new home where she will have the support she now needs. You can imagine that it has been a very difficult decision for her to make, leaving the home she has known and loved for so many years.

We will miss her terribly at our Wednesday morning services, but **we will** still see her from time to time at St Luke's, we will make sure of that. She, and her late husband Ken, were regular Sunday evening worshippers. they always sat in their favourite pew towards the front on the left hand side; both loved the very traditional Book of Common Prayer services we used then. Joyce still prefers the 'old ways' to the new and really appreciates services where Communion is offered.

I have known Joyce for about 45 years and to me she is inspirational; she has such a wonderful, very positive and forward-thinking outlook on life that belie her age. She may struggle with her sight, but she certainly does not let **anything** get her down, not even a broken hip!

We will miss her presence and wise words but wish her every happiness in her new home where I am sure she will soon settle in and make new friends. At the service on March 25th she was presented with cards and gifts. I am confident that she will never forget her St Luke's family and neither will we forget her. Sue



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in St. Luke's church

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Drop in group for anyone who has experienced loss to talk with people who understand.
 Second Tuesday of each month in church 11am to 12 noon. Tea/coffee/biscuits are served.
ALL ARE very WELCOME
 Next dates are April 14th and May 12th

FUNERAL REGISTER

Date	Location	Name	Age
10/02/2026	St Luke	Kathryn {Kay} Grabaskey	64
11/02/2026	W crem	Denis Ingram	85
12/02/2026	W crem	Ray Black	76
27/02/2026	W crem	Alan Temple	82
12/03/2026	St Luke & Crem	Christine Willacy	78
17/03/2026	St Luke & crem	Barbara Brown	89
20/03/2026	St Luke & crem	Beryl Heapey	88
27/03/2026	St Luke & crem	Valerie Hill	78
31/03/2026	St Luke & crem	Audrey Davis	96

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen".

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.



Sunday School
FOR ALL!



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**



MOTHERS' UNION by Rita Poole on behalf of the committee

At our February meeting we were to have Clare Liptrott as our Speaker but unfortunately she was unwell. Glad to see you have now recovered, Clare, and we look forward to you joining us again in 2027. Fortunately, Pat Johnson managed to persuade Pat Wareing to talk to us about St Valentine, which was followed by a quiz. Pat W is the secretary of the Grosvenor Women's Club who meet on a Tuesday in church. The topic was timely as we were only 3 days away from St Valentine's Day. We heard that Valentine was a preacher living in Rome under Claudius II, who ruled from 268-270 AD. Claudius banned marriage for soldiers, as he thought that would make them better warriors. Valentine carried out marriages, against this ruling, and was himself married in secret. He was arrested and told to denounce Jesus and worship the Roman gods. Valentine refused and was put in jail. There was a man whose daughter, Julia, was blind. He asked Valentine to pray for her – which he did and Julia regained her sight. Valentine wrote to Julia, signing the letter, "Your Valentine". The next day, he underwent a triple execution – flogged, stoned and beheaded – on 14th February. In 1835, Father John Spratt brought Valentine's remains back to White Friars Chapel in Dublin and he was made a saint.

It was such an interesting talk, and we all learned a lot about St Valentine – why his special day is on 14th February and why cards are signed "From your Valentine". Pat followed the story with some amusing things children have written about St Valentine: "You must tell your wife she is pretty, even if she looks like a dumper truck!"

"It is watching a movie under the stars, maybe doing pottery, cooking and DIY lessons together."

"God decides who you will marry and be stuck with."

"When you kiss someone, they have to be rich."

"Parents say they don't want any more kids."

These made us all laugh. Well done, Pat! The first part of the quiz that followed was to name the leading characters from romantic books, such as Mr Fitzwilliam Darcy and Miss Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The second part asked for the names of actors who had played lead roles in romantic films, such as Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. The last section involved finding as many words as possible from the letters of

Valentine. It was amazing how many words the winning team were able to make! Well done, Linda and her teammates. And thank you to Pat for a great evening which we all enjoyed very much. The March meeting was our fun evening, led by our entertainment guru, Chris. She started the evening with prayers and notices and then moved on to the first game, "Open the Box". Each contestant took it in turn to answer 3 questions which were multiple choice and the rest of us could shout out our suggestions. With three correct answers, the contestant could pick a card – they were all beautifully decorated with glitter, etc. The prize on the card might say something like dishwasher or afternoon tea. The actual prizes were not quite as you might have imagined – the "dishwasher" was Fairy Liquid and a washing up brush! The "afternoon tea" consisted of tea bags and an Eccles cake! Other items included a denture box and cream, soap and a flannel, a wooden spoon and an egg poacher. Simple fun but great fellowship. The next game was called "Last Woman Standing". Each of us was given a card bearing the name of a famous female. We all stood up and one by one, the names were called out from separate cards. If it was the name on your card, you had to sit down. The last woman standing won an Easter egg. Chris kindly provided cream eggs for all those who had not received any other prize. Thank you for your hard work and donations to create another fun evening – we don't know how you think up these games, but we are very glad you do!

Forthcoming dates/changes to the original programme:

8th April: Helen Owen Children's Centre nursery and primary school in Uganda. Tea rota: Lesley Runcorn and Brenda Bullock.

15th April: Coffee morning in church, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

13th May: Alastair Johnson Update on the work of Christian Aid.

Tea rota: Christine Turner and Gillian Wynn-Parle.

10th June: Linda Brown's talk postponed as Confirmation Service at St Luke's that evening. 8th July: Summer Party August: No meeting

9th September: New Member and Renewal of Vows service inducting Pat Johnson and Gloria Jones.

Colleen, recently re-installed as Widnes Area Trustee at the Cathedral, is hoping to organise a visit to Liverpool Town Hall during July/August. It will be open to non-members.

Father, thank you that we can come boldly to you. Let our lives reflect your love. Use us to bring peace, joy and hope, wherever we go. Amen. Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

M.U. Wednesday 15th April
After the morning service 10.00
am to noon.

£1.00 per person for a hot drink
and cake. There will also be a
raffle. Proceeds will help pay
membership for Indoor Members
and also go towards MU
projects.



TRIBUTE TO LILY WOODSTOCK

We were so saddened to hear that Lily had passed away following a time in Halton View Care Home and a short spell in Whiston Hospital after a fall. I was privileged to be invited by her brother Kenneth and his family to officiate at her Funeral Service which followed the very traditional format which we felt Lily would have wanted.

I began my tribute by admitting that I always called Lily LILIAN and she never once corrected me, so it came as a bit of a surprise that she was Baptised LILY and that was her preferred name.

Everything about Lily to me said LADY. The way she spoke with her beautifully enunciated words, that lovely smile, the way in which she dressed, a twinset and tweed and pearls sort of lady, quite private and understated and yet you absolutely got the sense that there was so much more to her than that.

I learned from Kenneth that she had been born in Widnes to parents Harold and Bertha Woodstock and that the family lived at the top of Dundalk Road. As a little girl she attended Ditton County Infants School, then Simms Cross Primary School before going on to Wade Deacon Grammar School for Girls...definitely a girl's only school back then! Apparently when she left Wade Deacon she didn't go on to study at College or University, but she went straight into a job in the Tropical School of Medicine, which was of course attached to Liverpool University, and she worked in the labs there. But she studied hard and her career blossomed; her work took her all over the world as she carried out research and ultimately helped develop vaccines for diseases in many of the poorer countries. Lily had been part of a pioneering team sent to Addis

Ababa to set up a Medical School there, that in itself was special and groundbreaking in its time and consequently she wrote reports and papers that were published in medical journals.

Lily never married and lived in Highfield Crescent, and several of her neighbours attended the service. She loved walking and belonged to a Ramblers Group, and some of her walking group also joined us.

We all know that she loved music and sang in several choirs, including our church choir, and, apart from the time she spent abroad with her work, she was widely travelled. She had visited America, Canada, India and South Africa and can't you just imagine her taking an interest and delight in all that she saw and experienced?



She was a member of the International Soroptimists, their aim being to educate, empower and enable ALL Women, their principles would have sat so well with her.

She and her friend Marjorie Blennerhasset travelled to Hong Kong for the very first meeting of the International Soroptimists.

Lily herself showed great compassion for others, she was concerned about people being cared for and comfortable, especially after surgery and had done some research on this 'holistic approach' to medicine.

Her Dementia came as quite a shock to me, the change in her was sudden and quite dramatic, we were definitely losing the Lily we all knew and loved.

Sadly, I feel that I only ever got to know the very tip of the iceberg with Lily; she was so genteel, so humble, so unassuming, yet there was an underlying steely determination there.

But now she is at rest, she will know the peace that she so deserves after a lifetime of faithful service to the church, to her family and friends, to her profession and to the Charity she supported. She will be sorely missed and we will all miss her gentle ways and that lovely smile.

Sue

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Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Kate 07931 237062

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Joanne 07816 542755

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Clare Liptrott 07976549410
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www.st-luke.co.uk

**Team Administration Lesley Howell
07399784219
eastwidnesteam.2942@gmail.com
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