

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

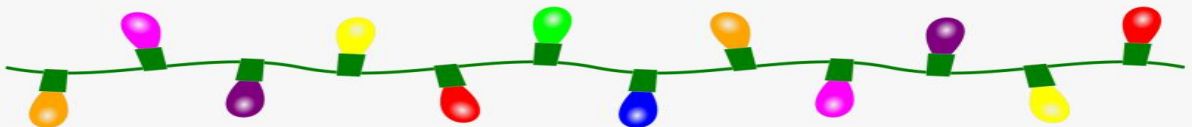


Clock Face Miners Heritage Brass Band Christmas Concert

7.30pm Friday Dec 4th

£7.50pp inc. drink and biscuit

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October and November 2026 £1.50

St Luke's church Farnworth Parish

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Bell ringing practice usually Tuesdays 6.30pm

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

Deadline for articles is noon on 18th November 2026

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



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Benefits of joining Halton u3a

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

Reasons to join:

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

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

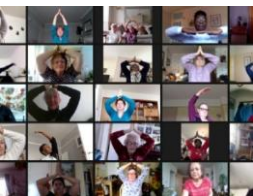
Meet other people with similar interests; learn new things and share your skills.

What the u3a offer



Local Learning Groups

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



Learn online

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



Interest Groups online

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

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

Wenda

MY JOURNEY SO FAR...



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- BOOST SPORTS ACTIVITY?

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*A husband and wife team
passionate about gardening*



Dear Friends,

As we move into October and November, we find ourselves in one of the most noticeable changes of season. The warmth and longer days of summer gradually give way to cooler mornings, darker evenings and the beautiful colours of autumn. The landscape around us changes almost before we notice it, reminding us that change is a natural and necessary part of life.

The seasons also offer us a useful picture of our life as a church. There are times when we need to pause, reflect and take stock, and there are times when we need to look ahead and embrace what a new season might bring.

Autumn is, of course, a season of gathering. Harvest reminds us of all that we have received and encourages us to give thanks and to share what we have with others. It is a good reminder that we are blessed not simply for our own benefit, but so that we can become a blessing to those around us.

Our recent New Testament readings have also given us some wonderful encouragement about how we live together. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks about forgiveness and reconciliation, reminding us of the importance of valuing our relationships with one another. In Philippians, Paul encourages the Christians there to look beyond themselves and to consider the needs and interests of others. These are simple words, but they carry a powerful message for any Christian community.

Perhaps this is something we particularly need to remember as we enter a new season together, there is a whole world outside our doors that needs to know the love of God. There are people who are lonely and would welcome a friendly face, there are families who need encouragement and support. There are people searching for meaning, hope and a sense of belonging and there are neighbours who may never think of walking through the doors of a church unless someone first reaches out to them.

This autumn is a good time for us to look outward, to notice the people around us and welcome those who are new. To encourage those who are tired, to support those who need a helping hand and to celebrate the gifts and contributions of others. And to ask ourselves not simply, "What do I want from my church?" but also,

“What can I give? Who can I encourage? Who can I welcome? How can I help God’s love to be seen in our community?”

We don’t all need to agree about everything, and we certainly don’t all need to be the same. Like the leaves of autumn, we are each different, with our own gifts, experiences and perspectives, yet together we can create something beautiful when we allow God to draw us into a community of love, friendship and service.

Over the coming weeks we will have many opportunities to gather together – through Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance and, before too long, the beginning of Advent. Each gives us an opportunity not only to worship God but to open our doors, welcome others and remind our communities that the Church is here for them too. As the leaves begin to fall and the world around us changes, perhaps we too can allow God to do something new in us. Let us continue to be a church that is welcoming rather than closed, encouraging rather than discouraging, generous rather than inward-looking, and outward facing rather than focused only on ourselves.

Above all, let us remember the words of Jesus; “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

May this new season be one in which we grow together in love, support one another generously, and look beyond our own walls to share God’s welcome and hope with the people around us.

With every blessing,

Clare

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Jesus And Me (JAM) Club August 2026

At our August JAM Club service, we explored the familiar story from Matthew 14:22–33, where Jesus walks on the water and calls Peter to come to him. The disciples were struggling in their boat as strong winds and waves battered them. When Jesus came towards them, walking on the water, they were frightened. But Jesus reassured them with the words, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter bravely stepped out of the boat and began walking towards Jesus. However, when he noticed the strength of the wind and the waves around him, he became afraid and began to sink. Peter cried out, “Lord, save me!”, and immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

Together, we thought about the “storms” that we can face in our own lives—the worries, fears and difficult times that can sometimes feel overwhelming. Like Peter, it can be easy to focus on the storms around us and lose sight of Jesus.

Yet this story reminds us that Jesus is always near and that we can call out to him whenever we need help.

We were encouraged to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, to trust him even when life feels uncertain, and to remember his reassuring words: "Take heart... do not be afraid."

Some of us sat together on our JAM Club blankets and explored the story together, 'acting' it out with our knitted figures and cardboard boat. Then, whilst the adults discussed the bible passage with reflection questions as prompts, the children made their own scenes with Jesus and Peter figures so they could go home and tell the story over again. Clare



HERITAGE DAY

The event fell on 12th September this year and I was concerned as to its success beforehand, as some of the stalwarts would not be available to help this year, but I need not have worried. Three of the wardens and several PCC members and supporters were able to help and did a great job. They were also assisted by members of the Widnes Historical Society who provided a very interesting display.

The day started overcast and when the doors opened at 10.00 am there were only the workers present with no visitors. Then, as the morning wore on, lots of people did come inside. I couldn't say whether it was the rain stopping that brought people out or whether it was the display by the bellringers, which reminded local people that the event was happening! They had some "newbies" who wanted to give it a try, so hopefully there may be some of them returning for practice at 6.30 every Tuesday evening!

There were also others who were very interested in the organ and how it worked. Paul gave guidance in between playing some hymns and other pieces, which provided some lovely background "ambience"! Well done to Gill and Colin for undertaking tours of the village, one at 11.00 and another at 2.00 pm. Thankfully, the rain mostly held off for those.

Several members of the congregation accompanied visitors around the church, providing background information about the installations and people from our past. Clare showed off some of her beautiful pottery items and Lesley helped people to understand the record books for graves, accompanying others to find places of rest for their loved ones. And, of course, Gloria was once again Queen of the Tea Bar! People sat for drinks and stayed for the chat and companionship, enhancing St Luke's' reputation for being a welcoming church.

We are so blessed at St Luke's church, not just to have our beautiful and historic building for worship and community, but for the great people we have organising and supporting events like this. Enjoy the photos and see you all again next year! Colleen Harper





From a visitor

Lovely, friendly welcome from everyone. Good tours and informative talks about our beautiful and historic church. I chose to participate in the walk around Farnworth village...even though I have lived here all my life still found out some very interesting facts from a very enthusiastic Gill, a well read lady

from the Historical Society. A good couple of hours spent in lovely Farnworth and a good cup of coffee at the end of it.

And final words from Joy

A few weeks ago, I overheard myself volunteering to Baz to guide people round St Luke's church on Heritage Day - I have no idea why! Baz kindly gave me an informative folder to study.

When I got home I thought to myself - why did you do that!! You will make a hash of it! But it was too late, so I read the folder of information but felt even more desperate - I will never remember all that!

On the day though, it didn't matter - although I have only been coming to St Luke's church for 7 years, I had picked up quite a lot of information from others, and the church is so very old and beautiful. I guided 4 or 5 couples or groups, and all of them were from the local area - some were married at St Luke's church, and their children had been christened at St Luke's Church. One couple were actually visiting on their wedding anniversary which was so special. All were lovely people who were very interested in our ancient Church. I talked mostly about the ancient stories of the Bold chapel and the Cuerdley chapel, the hatchments on the walls and of course the false bookcase! All enjoyed my (amateur) guide, and said thanks. They were all so positive and nice, clearly wishing to enjoy their day.

So..... if Baz is looking for volunteers next year, why not try it? You will have a great day, and meet some lovely folk.



PCC would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of this excellent Heritage day which was a huge success and also thanks to the people who visited and enjoyed our beautiful church.

Cronton Mission and School Report

The additional service at Cronton on the second Sunday - cafe style incorporating JAM is growing and means that we have a service each week at Cronton Mission.

The more informal style of all our worships is encouraging attendance of our young families to more services. The first cafe worship in the school day in the first week back had good numbers of children and extended family. Having the good box is an additional opportunity for our families to support the work of St Luke's church and Cronton Mission, and hopefully will increase our giving.

Our children have made an exceptional start to the new school year. They are already thriving in our enriched, therapeutic environment. A space built around love, learning and calmness, where every child feels safe, regulated and ready to grow.

Our four new members of staff have quickly settled in. We feel very blessed they have chosen our school, and have already made a considerable impact on our children. Classrooms are purposeful, joyful and settled, and it has been a privilege to see the children step confidently into their new routines. The key diary dates for the year are already in place, including shared church services, worship and spiritual learning in class, to confirm our partnership working in enabling children and families to flourish through Jesus.

Debbie Doyle

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**Toys will be gratefully accepted at St Luke's church for the
KINGS CROSS TOY APPEAL before, after and during the services on**

**Sunday November 22nd at 10.30 and 18.00 and on
Wednesday November 25th at 09.30**

**Donations of new UNWRAPPED toys for all ages, along with gifts and
toiletries suitable for older children will be gratefully received to be
distributed to those families who find life difficult at Christmas.**

THANK YOU

Sue

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EWT	SERVICE	ROTA	
October	St Ambrose	St Luke's church	Cronton Mission
Friday 2 nd			14.30 School Café worship
Sun 4 th	10.30 MP	10.30 Joint HC at	Cronton Mission
Wed 7 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 11 th	10.30 HC	08.00 HC	
	12.30 Baptism	10.30 HARVEST	10.30 JAM
Wed 14 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 18 th	09.00 HC		
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café style
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 21 st	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 25 th	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		18.00 HC	
Wed 28 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP	

Café Worship August 2026

At our August Café Worship service, we explored the story of the Canaanite woman from Matthew 15:21–28.

The woman came to Jesus because her daughter was suffering and she desperately needed his help. What stood out to us was her determination and faith. Even when she did not receive an immediate answer, she did not give up. She continued to ask, trust and believe.

Our theme for the service was “Ask – Trust – Keep Going.” We thought about how we can bring all our worries, hopes and concerns to Jesus, trusting him even when we do not understand what is happening or when answers do not come straight away.

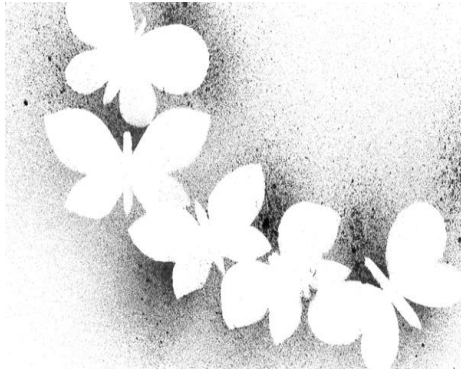


The children created colourful prayer hands as a reminder of the three important words, while the adults and families had the opportunity to discuss what it means to keep trusting and praying during difficult times.

Together, we were reminded that faith does not mean always having the answers. Sometimes faith simply means continuing to come to Jesus and saying, "Lord, help me."

May we all remember to ask, trust and keep going, knowing that Jesus hears our prayers and is always with us. Clare

EWT	SERVICE	ROTA	
November	St Ambrose	St Luke's church	Cronton Mission
Sunday 1 st	10.30 MP	10.30 Joint HC service at St Luke's church	
	16.00 Memorial service	15.00 Joint All Souls service [Time to remember] at St Luke's church	
Wed 4 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Friday 6 th			14.30 School Café worship
Sunday 8 th		08.00 HC	
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 Service at the Cenotaph
Wed 11 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 15 th	09.00 HC		
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 18 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 22 nd	10.30 MP	10.30 MP TOY SERVICE	10.30 HC
		18.00 HC TOY SERVICE	
Wed 25 th	10.00 Sanctuary	09.30 MP TOY SERVICE	
Sunday 29 th	ADVENT SUNDAY 10.30 Team Holy Communion service at St Mary's church West Bank		
		18.00 ADVENT HC SERVICE	



St Luke's Church.
3pm Sun November 1st
All Souls Service.

**A gentle time of remembering
and celebrating loved ones no
longer with us.**
ALL ARE WELCOME

ADVENT

The four Sundays of Advent represent a season of spiritual preparation, waiting, and anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and his second coming. Each Sunday corresponds to a specific theme and the lighting of a candle on the traditional Advent Wreath.

1st Sunday of Advent: Hope

- **Candle:** The first purple candle, often called the "Prophet's Candle".
- **Meaning:** It recalls the Old Testament prophets—like Isaiah—who foretold the coming of the Messiah, inspiring hope and expectation in the hearts of the faithful.

2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace

- **Candle:** The second purple candle, often called the "Bethlehem Candle".
- **Meaning:** It symbolizes the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and reflects on preparing our hearts to welcome Christ, the Prince of Peace.

3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy

- **Candle:** The pink candle, often called the "Shepherd's Candle".
- **Meaning:** The colour shifts the tone slightly toward celebration because Christmas is near. It represents the joy the shepherds felt at the announcement of Jesus' birth and the joy of the faithful awaiting his return.

4th Sunday of Advent: Love

- **Candle:** The final purple candle, often called the "Angel's Candle".
- **Meaning:** It symbolizes God's ultimate love demonstrated by sending Jesus into the world. It marks the final moments of quiet watchfulness and prayer right before Christmas Eve.

Students from
Cronton Centre of Excellence
Performing Arts Department
return to St Luke's Church on

Thursday Dec 10th at 7pm
[Doors open 6.45pm]



Words, Music & Songs... SPONGE BOB MUSICAL

Tickets £5pp on sale in church or
on the door, includes a drink on arrival.

For details, please contact Sue on 07962012916

Donations of shortbread for this concert and the Brass Band concert
would be most welcome.

Please leave on servery in church. Thank you



Meets on Sundays
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.
Contact Lynn 07741494261



The Bereavement Café at St Luke's church is a welcoming bereavement support time that is held in church on the 2nd Tuesday of every month between 11am and 12 noon. We offer a safe, peer group support space for anyone struggling with grief, loss or life after bereavement. Over tea/coffee/biscuits, our sessions offer the chance to be with people who "get it"; you can talk if you want to, listen if you need to, and feel less alone in what can often feel like a very isolating experience. Alongside fellowship and support, many people find understanding, reassurance and hope through our time together.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME TO COME ALONG

The next Bereavement Café dates are

October 13th, November 10th, December 8th and January 12th.

For more information ring Sue on 07962012916.

Arthur George Houghton is a very special member of our Wednesday morning congregation. He has been coming since before he was born! His mum Megan and Dad Matthew are rightly very proud of their little superstar, and we have loved watching him grow and become more and more interested in exploring his surroundings usually on his hands and knees. But on August 12th, he amazed us all. He walked the full length of our aisle, and his face says it all...he was so very proud of himself. His Mum is a teacher at Farnworth School so sadly we won't be seeing him until the next school holiday. Well, done Arthur, you deserved all the clapping and cheers from your Wednesday friends. Sue



Jesus And Me (JAM) Club September 2026 – The Big Forgiveness

JAM Club explored one of Jesus' parables – the story of the unforgiving servant from Matthew 18:21–35. We began with Peter asking Jesus a question that many of us can probably relate to: “How many times should I forgive?” Peter suggested seven times, perhaps thinking that was being particularly generous. Jesus' answer was “seventy-seven times” – in other words, don't keep count! Forgiveness isn't about keeping score.

Our lovely figures helped us bring the story to life. The children watched as the servant was forgiven an enormous debt, only to refuse to forgive someone else a much smaller debt. It was a great way to see just how extraordinary the King's generosity was – and how different the servant's response was.



Then came the craft!

We made spinning tops, with the number 77 as our reminder that Jesus calls us to keep forgiving. Mine had 77 number 7s on it – although I'm not sure anyone will be checking my counting! The idea was that every time the top spins, it can remind us that forgiveness isn't something we should keep a tally of.

While the children were busy crafting, the adults had the opportunity to read and reflect on the passage together. We thought about why forgiveness can be so difficult, why it can sometimes be easier to receive forgiveness than to offer it, and what it means to forgive without pretending that what happened was okay. Forgiveness can take time, and it doesn't mean that there can't still be boundaries or consequences.

Perhaps the biggest challenge of the passage is that Jesus doesn't suggest forgiveness is only for the easy things. He calls us to forgive “from your heart.” That doesn't mean that hurt doesn't matter or that we simply forget what has happened. Rather, God's mercy and love can help us to stop being controlled by the hurt.

And perhaps that is something we can all take away from JAM Club this month:

- ❖ Don't keep score
- ❖ Don't let hurt have the last word

- ❖ Ask God to help us forgive
- ❖ And remember how generously God has forgiven us.

A simple prayer sums it up beautifully:

God, forgiveness is difficult. Please help me to forgive as you forgive me.

Amen. Clare

Spinning Top Fun:



September Café Worship @ Cronton Mission Church

Our September Café Worship was a lovely celebration of God's generosity, inspired by Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard from Matthew 20:1–16. In the story, workers who had arrived at different times of the day all received the same generous payment. Those who had worked all day were not very impressed, but the landowner reminded them that he had not treated them unfairly – he had simply chosen to be generous.

At the start of the service to try and illustrate this theme I offered the first person to come to me a sticker. Hannah was our first arrival and was delighted to receive her sticker.

Then came the fun part. I gave stickers to all the other children – even though they hadn't been first. Then the adults received stickers too. And, right at the end of the service, we had a very “late” arrival, who also received a sticker! It was a wonderfully simple way of acting out the story. Everyone received the same gift, regardless of when they arrived or how long they had been there. I challenged everyone to keep their sticker on for the rest of the day. If anyone asked, “Why have you got a sticker?”, they were encouraged to tell them about God's generosity and the story we'd heard at Café Worship. Now we just have to wait and see how many people actually manage to explain their mysterious sticker next week!

The children also made their own ‘Bible Bucks’ – Monopoly-style money which they could take home as a reminder of the theme. It was a fun way to remember that God's love and grace aren't something we earn by being first, working hardest or somehow being better than someone else. God is generous, and there is enough of his love for everyone.

The service also encouraged us to think about how easily we compare ourselves with others. Instead of asking, “*Why have they got that?*”, Jesus challenges us to celebrate when others are blessed and to be thankful for what God has given us.

It was a lovely, joyful service – with plenty of stickers, plenty of smiles and hopefully a few conversations about God's amazing generosity taking place beyond the church doors!

God's love isn't a competition. There is enough for everyone. Clare.



50

Bible
Bucks

God's love isn't a competition,
there is enough for everyone



50

Bible
Bucks

50

Bible
Bucks

God's love is generous

50

Bible
Bucks



20

Bible
Bucks

God's love isn't a competition,
there is enough for everyone



20

Bible
Bucks

20

Bible
Bucks

God's love is generous

20

Bible
Bucks

Tribute to Barbara Critchley

It was such a privilege to be invited to officiate at Barbara's funeral service. Her husband Brain was so generous with his time to share information with me about Barbara's life. This is just a very abbreviated version of the Tribute I gave. This is just some of what he generously shared with me about Barbara. Barbara was the only child of George and Emily Green. She was born in Liverpool on January 31st 1933, and after a difficult pregnancy and painful birth, George and Emily took the decision that she would be their ONLY CHILD, so she was very precious and she had an idyllic childhood, she was loved beyond measure. As a young girl she attended Farnworth Infant and Junior Schools then, having passed 'The Scholarship' she went on to Wade Deacon Grammar School for Girls where she was a very conscientious student.

Teaching was her chosen career path, and she went to study Primary Education for two years at St Catherine's Teacher Training College in Liverpool. Sadly, tragedy struck whilst she was there and her father died...it was such a shock to this close-knit little family and Barbara took it very badly.

She spent her Probationary teaching year in an inner-city School in Liverpool where there were children of all nationalities. She was amazed when after just a few days the children from her class were there to meet her at the bus stop, waiting to carry her bag and escort her to school...how times have changed! She must have made a wonderful impression on them and was obviously much-loved.

After that first year she came back to Widnes to be nearer her mum and she got a job teaching at Simms Cross Primary School, where she stayed for a few quite a few years. After problems with losing her voice, she took the decision to take early retirement but the Director of Schools in Widnes at the time, Mr George Cottrell, had other ideas.

When Chestnut Lodge School was due to open in September, a member of staff couldn't take her up her post as she had been involved in a serious road accident. Mr Cottrell knew Barbara, and so he asked her to step in at the last minute, promising it would just be for a few weeks. That 'few weeks' turned into 19

years, after which she reduced her working week to two and a half days because by then she had discovered her love and aptitude for golf. Soon afterwards she retired completely. Originally, she had joined Widnes Golf Club with two teacher friends; she quickly became a really proficient player and wanted to spend more time on the golf course. Brian also played golf at the Golf Club; together they became a formidable pair, both having won many competitions including the Captain's Prize and both of them had the honour of being Club Captain. They loved golf so much that later in life they even went on specialist golfing holidays abroad.

Barbara actually first met Brian at The Lane Tennis Club on Coroners Lane. After their courtship, they married at St Luke's church on July 23rd 1955; in the photographs I saw, they made a very handsome couple. They had a wonderfully long, loving marriage that lasted over 70 years and throughout all of those years they were absolutely devoted to one another.

In that time, they had some amazing holidays; they flew on Concorde, had numerous holidays in Switzerland, some in the Italian Lakes and quite a few in Madeira where they stayed in the magnificent Reid's Hotel, always in the same top floor suite with its huge double balcony and where they enjoyed the nightly cocktail parties and dances.

We all knew Barbara as a LADY! A lady who was always immaculately dressed, her clothes colour coordinated even down to the shoes and gloves she wore and the handbags she carried even to go shopping.

I knew Barbara mostly through church...a church she had known since she was a little girl when she worshipped here with her Mum, always sitting in that front pew on the left-hand side, right in front of the pulpit, always using the same kneelers.

We had teaching in common and often talked about the changes we had seen...though neither of us would have altered our chosen career paths.....we definitely agreed that not all the changes were for the better.

We also knew the Barbara who was always beautifully spoken, each word enunciated perfectly; she was generous with her time, comments and compliments about the services in church

and we will miss her, her company, her conversations and her faithful ways...but none of us knew her and loved her like Brian...she was the love of his life and he is devastated. Barbara will undoubtedly be sorely missed, and I assured Brian of our continuing prayers and support. Sue

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Hayden Karalius and Kelly Evans married on 5th September and to Adam Murphy and Jennifer Jackson married on 19th September. We wish them all a long healthy and happy marriage.



MOTHERS' UNION

Welcome back after our summer break – a rather warm one this year, but here we are in Autumn.

Sadly, we have lost another MU member: Jackie Whitehead was not only a member but one of the leaders and treasurer until her illness made it impossible for her to continue. She was also my sister-in-law, my dear late husband Geoffrey's sister. I knew her when she was young, beautiful and full of life. It was so sad to see her so frail at the end. Colleen said she was

honoured to display the St Luke's church and Widnes Deanery banners at her funeral.

As we learned from her Service of Thanksgiving, Jackie was a devout Christian, caring and always there to help out. When she led a meeting, she would talk about a biblical event and often brought along a display to demonstrate. She enjoyed our meetings and outings and was always ready to lend a helping hand. When in the care home, one of her carers remembered her being the "lollipop lady" at Fairfield Primary School, and she was also a very popular dinner lady, as her daughter Alison jokingly reminded us. She loved her family and her 3 grandchildren. She will be missed, especially that laugh! May she now rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers go to Alison, Colin, Boaz, Joshua and Autumn.

On Wednesday, 5th August, we held our MU afternoon tea in church, from 2 – 4.00 pm. What a lovely afternoon it turned out to be and was well attended. There was a wonderful selection of sandwiches, pork pies, sausage rolls, flan and crisps, with grapes and strawberries adorning the plates. Each table had their own pot of tea. This was followed by a delicious selection of cakes and scones with strawberries, jam and cream. We had many lovely comments. It was so good to see everyone chatting and enjoying each other's company. Colleen's quiz was based on "tea", with 15 questions ranging from which country drinks the most tea, and how big was the largest-ever tea bag, to what age group drinks the most coffee, etc. There were some surprising answers! As it was all guesswork, the scores weren't that high. The winners scored 8, so well done to that team. There was also a raffle with lovely prizes. A big thank you to all who contributed to making food and offering donations for the raffle and to everyone who attended, to make it a lovely afternoon when we also raised £180 for MU funds.

The event on 9th September was our "Holy Communion (by extension) and New Members Service". We must thank Sue Smither for taking the service. We had four new members being enrolled, Pat, Gloria, Sheila and Carole. They received the MU service book and a MU brooch. Welcome, ladies, and we hope you enjoy your time with MU.



Chris read the bible reading, which was I Kings 3:3-34. Sue then read out the Purpose, Aims and Objects of the Mothers' Union to which we all joined in, affirming our commitment. Sue Connolly read the intercessions, remembering those who have passed. We then sang the hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness". The MU ladies always sing out with joy. We were so lucky to have Lorraine Eldridge playing the organ for us.

After the service, Sue told us that this was the last communion by extension that she is allowed to conduct. We were all surprised and saddened, as we all enjoy the services she leads and her past assistance to MU is very much appreciated. She has been a lifeline to St Luke's church as a whole, enabling us to have communion during the interregnum, etc. She has worked so hard, while also having to deal with the loss of her beloved husband, John, whom she cared for during his illness. Thank you so much, Sue.

After giving out the notices, Colleen presented flowers to thank Sue for taking the service, and to Lorraine for playing the organ for us. Thanks, also to Colleen for preparing and printing the order of service. We finished the evening with hot drinks and biscuits, giving us a chance to mingle and chat. We look forward to welcoming more new members – you don't need to be married, have children or even be a woman! Being a baptised member of the Christian faith and agreeing with the aims and objects of MU are the only requirements. Why not come along for a couple of "taster" sessions before deciding on joining – you would be very welcome!

Future events:

14th October: Some Autumn fun with stories from Sue Connolly about her experiences as a guide at Liverpool Cathedral. Tea rota: Sue Connolly and Linda Strickland.

11th November: "Our Support Work", with speaker from the Royal British Legion. Tea rota: Judith Axford and Janet Littler.

Prayer from MU Prayer Diary:

God of peace, gather us in unity and grace. Silence confusion and revive our souls. Let Your love bind us together as we walk forward in strength, hope and spiritual renewal. Amen

Rita Poole, on behalf of the Committee.

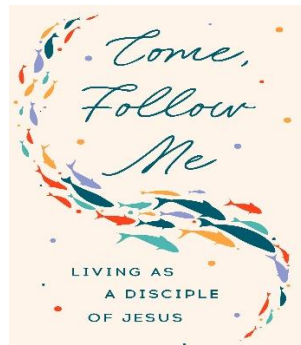
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OPEN DOOR

We open the doors of St Luke's church wide on the 1st Saturday of most months from 10.00 to 11.30 for all who might want to drop in for a quiet time of prayer or reflection, a look around our beautiful church or simply a chance to catch up with friends over tea, coffee, toasted tea cake or crumpet.

The next dates for your diary are October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th. All welcome.

'Will YOU be MY disciple?' by Maureen Levins



Will YOU be my disciple? I want to know.

Will YOU go where others will not go?

Will YOU go to the poor, the oppressed and the sick,

I could send another, but it's YOU I pick.

Will YOU be MY disciple? I am asking YOU.

Will YOU serve those in need, just as I do?

Will YOU care for the sick, the lepers, the poor,

for I have called upon YOU to knock on their door.

Will YOU be MY disciple for the rest of your days,

will YOU give from YOUR heart and not for man's praise?

Will YOU give of YOUR talents, YOUR time and YOUR wealth,

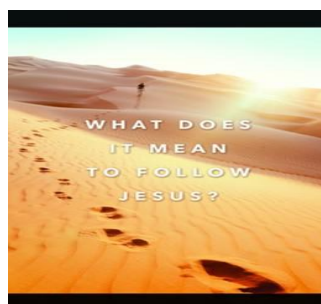
for I have called upon YOU to give of YOURSELF.

Will YOU be my disciple? I ask this of YOU.

Though many I have called, those who have answered are few.

It will cost YOU a lot, but it is well worth YOUR loss,

MY blessings and life await YOU at MY Cross.

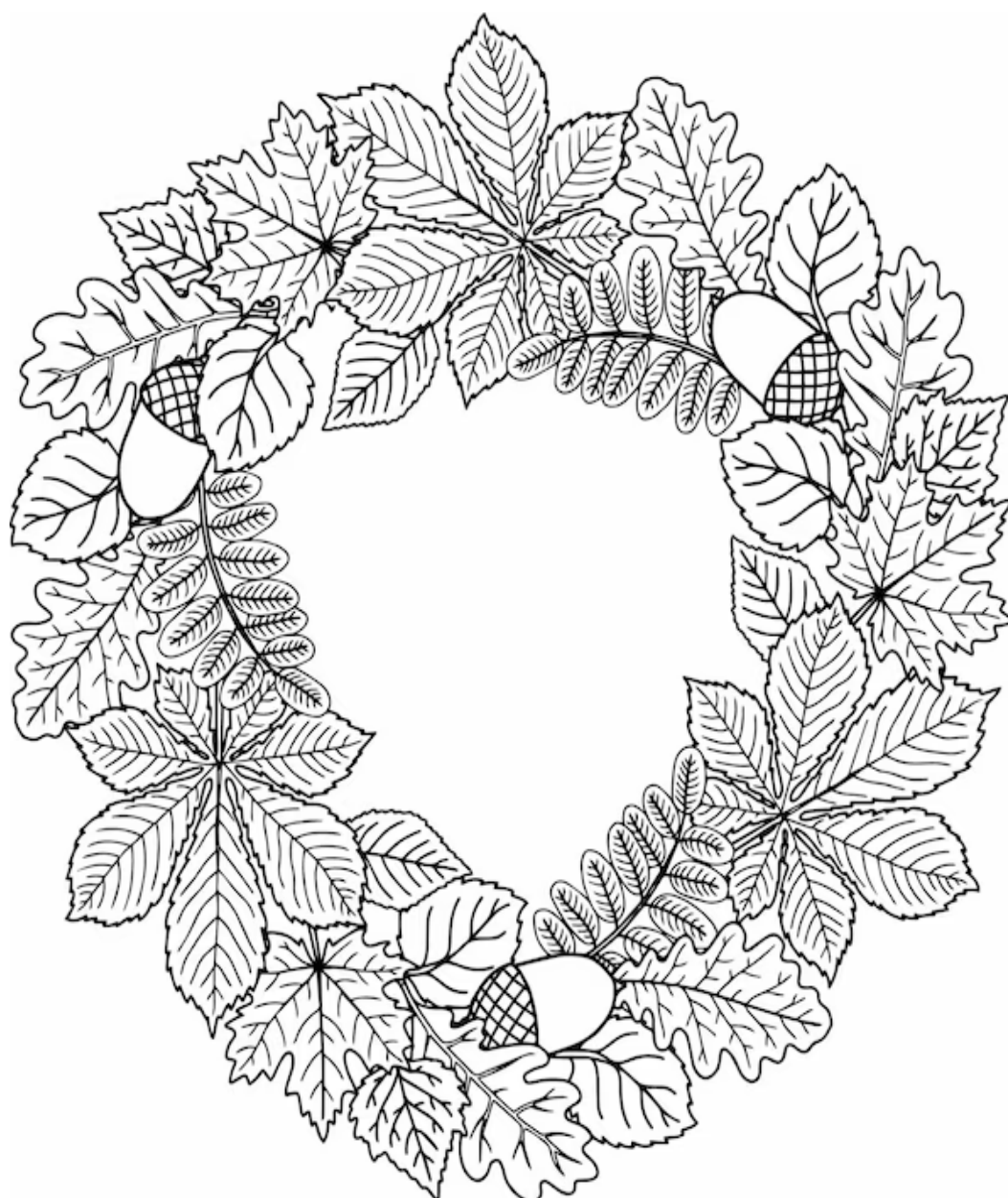


Sue

.....

If you would like to colour in this Autumn image, take a photo and send it to me, I will print them and display them in church. Alternatively, when it is done fetch your magazine into church and I will do it for you. We have felt tip pens you can borrow if you don't have any at home. Sue

.....



Fabric Report

As I mentioned in my previous report in July, there are two projects that we will be starting to get the plans/faculties for as well as fundraising.

The smaller one being for solar panels on the south facing roofs. The roof area has been examined to make sure it will take the weight of the panels, plans have been drawn up and submitted to Halton Borough Council for this project. However, we have been unable to complete the faculty with Liverpool Diocese because they have a new online system and the person that is in charge is still on holiday until 1st September. The total cost for this will be around £30,000, We have some funds from a legacy last year of £5,000 added to this a further £1,000 from fund raising. Halton Borough Council members are in the process of finding various sources of grants that they can apply for on our behalf. Our next meeting with them is on the 7th October. Ray is applying for an ECO grant via the Diocese of around £5,000.

Regarding the repair to the Nave and Bold Chapel roofs, some exploration work has been done to determine what sort of insulation is currently on the roofs, and also to check the dormer windows to check their current state and if any major repair is required to them. We have been advised by the diocese that this will be classed as a repair, and a faculty is not required. Once this exploration work has been done, we should be able to obtain a more realistic cost for the work from the church architects and begin the process of finding suitable grants. Yet again Halton Borough Council will be assisting us, but grants won't cover 100% of the costs, we will be required to raise funds too, usually around 25%. There will be various fundraising events on the calendar so please support them.

Also to help with this problem we would ask you to join the Friends of Farnworth Church and become an ambassador in keeping this Ancient Building in existence for another 1,000 years. Ask in church for details. It is your support to achieve this goal is what we need.

Please join us in leaving a footprint in the history of this building.

Barry Horabin. Remember our motto

THE PAST IS OUR INHERITANCE, THE FUTURE OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Treasurers Report January 2026- August 2026

The receipts for the first 8 months of 2026 in the general fund amounted to £72,984 the expenditure was £83,542 making a deficit of £10,647, which is similar to the deficit in July 2026. The expenditure does include 7 months of Parish Share of £44,667, which in part I have been able to pay from surplus funds from 2025. However, as at the end of August 2026 I have been unable to pay the August parish share. The main reason for this is lack of funds, especially in August, when the collection is always notably lower. Please help by supporting the various fundraising events in the year. Yvonne Horabin



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5th October
NONE IN November
and December
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BAPTISMS

20 th	Luca James Hollingsworth
September	Ezmay Noreen Eden

'God's grace is the water of life which fills our souls in baptism, making us new in His love. All of God's grace in one little face.'

	FLOWER ROTA		
	OCTOBER		NOVEMBER
4	Mrs L Gregson	1	Miss L Runcorn
11	Mrs Gail Beswick	8	Mrs V Park-Funnell
18	Mr & Mrs R Roberts	15	Mrs S Connolly
25	Mr P Herriman	22 & 29	Advent

Prayer for the departed

"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."

FUNERAL REGISTER

Date	Location	Name	Age
30/07/2026	St Luke's church & crem	Beryl Bazley	76
6/09/2026	St Luke's church & crem	Barbara Critchley	93

FARNWORTH SCHOOL REPORT

The children have settled back into school life and their new routines. There has been lots of decorating done in school over the summer holidays and all the classrooms look really fresh and inviting. Mrs Kidd's room has had a complete makeover with calming green walls and some new furniture; it is a really welcoming and pleasant space for meetings. The biggest change has been to the KS1 hall. The floor has been restored and polished and it looks amazing.

There are quite a few changes to the teaching staff and some new faces in the school office. The children will be coming into church on the morning of Thursday, October 8th for their Harvest Services, fetching their donations for Food Bank; they will come in two groups and I will lead a Harvest service in school later that day for the Reception class. The Reception children will join us later in the term for their service to Welcome them to our St Luke's Church family.

We wish them and all the staff at Farnworth a wonderful Autumn term. Sue.



SATURDAY 21st November 11am to 3pm

Church members will be running the Games Room at the School market as usual to promote church in the community and raise money for church funds. If you would be so kind as to donate Christmas novelties, sweets, Tombola prizes and gifts for Pick a Bag that would be appreciated. Please leave in church. If you would like to sponsor a stall for £10 that would be most welcome. Please give money to Yvonne or a church warden. Thank you.

Days, Months and Seasons

T E D S E R S B E Y R A U R B E F Y N N
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 I A B M N R N L M M N O V E M B E R M P
 R U M P A Y D E C E M B E R U H I I N E

APRIL	AUGUST	AUTUMN	DECEMBER
FALL	FEBRUARY	FRIDAY	JANUARY
JULY	JUNE	MARCH	MAY
MONDAY	NOVEMBER	OCTOBER	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER	SPRING	SUMMER	SUNDAY
THURSDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	WINTER

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