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Parish Review

St. Luke's Church & Cronton Mission

Easter reminds us that hope should never be lost for as dark the road may seem, there always lies light at the end of it. May all your prayers be fulfilled and may wonderful blessings be upon you and all your loved ones on this very special day. Happy Easter.

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SUNDAY CLUB, CHOIR PRACTICE and BELL RINGING PRACTICE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Sunday Club 1030am in the Bridewell most Sundays
Sunday Club Leader Lynn Keeling 01514243142
Director of Music Paul Delaney 07778042553
Choir Practice usually Monday 6-7pm in church
Tower Captain Nigel Goulding
Bell ringing practice Tuesdays 7.30pm

Schools Farnworth C.E. Primary 01514243042
Cronton C.E. Primary 01514243881

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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 Bold.

Deadline for articles noon on 18th May 2020.

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

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Dear Friends,

We are living in increasingly anxious times because of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation.

I want to reassure you that prayers and pastoral support, especially for the most vulnerable in our communities, is something that all churches including we at St Luke's and Cronton Mission will continue to take very seriously.

You will have heard by now that the Archbishops of the Anglican Church have advised us that public worship in churches is to cease for the time being until the danger has passed.

Furthermore, we have had additional instructions that our church buildings must close as an example to others of following our government's directives about venturing outside just for essential purposes.

This means that for the time being baptisms, weddings and church funerals are suspended. Until we are advised otherwise funerals will only be conducted at crematoria or at a graveside.

One thing that we can do is to encourage you all to join us in something which the Archbishops have suggested. Each evening at 7pm we are invited by our Archbishops to join with Christians everywhere in lighting a candle in a window of our homes as an act of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished. Obviously, please take all safety precautions necessary to prevent any accidents with a naked flame!

As we light the candles, we are encouraged to pray for all who are affected by this crisis: especially health workers and carers; those who are ill, the elderly and most vulnerable; and our government and all world leaders as they seek ways to keep their people safe. For the foreseeable future we will need to seek different ways to be church other than congregating together in person, but remain steadfast, God's love for you will never change. If you would like someone to talk to or pray with you over the telephone please ring either me on 07904 320542 or one of my colleagues Sue on 07962 012916 or Clare on 07976 549410 or Lesley on 07803148233. We are also seeking advice about how we might be able to safely help the most vulnerable and isolated of our parish with simple practical needs such as grocery shopping etc. Things are changing rapidly at the moment but we are committed to following the national church guidance which is updated daily at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus>

May God bless you and hold you in His loving embrace.

Revd Bob Pearson

A prayer from Bishop Paul that you may wish to say:

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake.

Amen.



Foodbank

Firstly, thank you to you all for your donations since Foodbank opened.



In this time of crisis with people unable to work we are even more busy than usual and yesterday the warehouse sent out over 800kg of food to our centre for distribution. Unfortunately, our main donations come from churches which are now closed, so donations have dropped off just as demand is increasing. Foodbank warehouse at the Lodge at entrance to the Cemetery will be open from 9.15 to 11.00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays so if you want to drop a bag at the door on your once daily exercise then it would be very gratefully received. Alternately small cash donations would help us have enough money to buy food in if required. If you are not leaving the house perhaps you would help with a donation. Widnes Foodbank Lloyds bank 77-51-12 account no 46858968 Please continue to remember Foodbank during this difficult time. I hope you and your loved ones come through this safe and sound. Pray for those who are isolated and afraid, that they would experience comfort and connection and be able to access the material provision they need. Pray for strength, wisdom, and health for volunteers and staff providing food banks and other essential services in our communities. Pray for clarity and insight for government, business, church and charity as they navigate decisions on the coronavirus together.

Lesley Howell

SILVER WINNER of 500 words story

The little Messenger by Fionn Mcann

The little brown bird hopped, skipped and jumped across the small silvery garden that cold frost must have breathed on the night before. He fluttered his little wings and puffed out his chest that looked like he was wearing a crimson bib. He was on a very important job and puffing out his chest was an important part of that job. He hopped, skipped, jumped and fluttered some more and landed on one windowsill after another. The red bricked building was old and big and a lot of work for a little bird to get around. However, he managed to land on every windowsill of every room where one of the elderly residents slept.

It was on such a windowsill that the nine year old boy saw the little busy bird. He knew it was a robin redbreast from his nature books. He glanced from the little hopping bird back to his smiling Granny who was sitting up in her bed with her eyes closed but telling him she was about to go off on the best journey of her life. She called the place she was going to 'the great unknown' and said she was very happy about going because she was going to meet so many old friends she hadn't seen in a long time.

"Will you send me postcards Granny?" asked the boy still noticing the little bird hopping from side to side on the windowsill as if listening to the conversation. "I'll do something even better than that" said Granny. "Do you see the little bird on the windowsill outside? He has visited me every day I have been here". "Yes I see

him" said the boy. "He is my little messenger to you. He puffs up his chest because it is full of hugs and kisses to be delivered to children even grown up ones, that is why his chest is red. I promise you that when I go on my journey my little messenger friend will visit you and you will know his little red chest is full of my love to you" said Granny.

"That sounds great Granny but where is your luggage for this trip?" asked the boy. "It's already at my destination sweetheart. Now give your Granny a kiss, it's time for me to sleep ". He gave his Granny a kiss on the cheek and smelt her lovely Irish Violets perfume that she loved. "Bye Granny enjoy your travels!" "I will" said Granny smiling - her eyes having remained closed the whole time.

Imagine my Granny able to organise my very own robin redbreast messenger thought the boy as he closed the door of his Granny's room and noticed his Mum and Dad trying to smile.

The next morning he awoke to the noise of gentle tapping on his bedroom window. As he drew back the curtain, there was the little robin with his crimson puffed out chest. The little boy felt all warm inside and happy that his granny had reached her destination to 'the great unknown'.



ALL AGE WORSHIP FEBRUARY

On Sunday Lay Reader Clare used Matthew 6 verses 25 to 34 to tell us God says ‘Do not worry’ he will always care for you. Thank you to everyone who brought birds to the service which resulted in a magnificent collage which is now on display in the J.A.M. (Jesus And Me) crèche at church. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Rainbows handed out flowers to the congregation. The aptly name ‘Plant’ family were photographed with flowers and Leaders Sparrow and Robin assembled the bird collage!



The birds were an example of survival; God keeps them alive. The flowers were a good example for the opposite reason; they're so transient. Here today, gone

tomorrow. And yet, God clothes each of those flowers with the most exquisite beauty. If he does that, how much more will he do for us, his dear children.



TRIBUTE TO MIKE DODD

First and foremost Mike was a family man, husband to Betty, dad to Sue and Brian, grandad and brother, friend to so many and importantly a man of great faith, vision, integrity, purpose and reliability. There wasn't a place or thing in St Luke's church that Mike didn't know about. If ever something needed fixing people only needed to mention it in passing and Mike would delve deep into his trusty red metal box that he kept under one of the back pews and find just the right screw, nail or tool for the job and if he couldn't fix it he would most definitely know a man who could.

He knew, and was on first name terms with the electrician, the meter reader, the roofer, the clock man, the organ tuner, the boiler man, the locksmith and many others. He loved to help people who were researching family graves and was so familiar with the churchyard he didn't ever need to refer to plans and maps, he could lead people straight to the plot they were looking for. In Mike's role as verger, our church records and ledgers were meticulously filled in with his distinctive sloping handwriting, we will look at them now and think fondly of him.

As Funeral Verger, he was kind, caring and considerate; he would find just the right words to say to mourners. He set up church so that when the Funeral Directors arrived they knew that everything would be just so, the hymn boards set up, the books out, the Paschal candle in just the right position and lit so it is entirely appropriate that donations given in Mike's memory will be used to purchase a new Paschal candle which plays such an integral part in so many of our services.

There were so many other groups in which Mike played a huge part. The Church Guild which he and Betty ran for many years, the Historical Society, the Mother's Union, he helped the CEFAA ladies, for many years he was a Governor at Farnworth CE School during a time of such change, he helped organise and set up the Christmas and Summer Fairs and played a starring role in the famous Farnworth Follies.

Mike virtually lived at church. You would find him there all times of the day and night. He never stopped looking for jobs that needed doing inside church, in the churchyard or in the Bridewell, for which he sourced some of the police uniforms and artefacts on show. It was just in his nature to ensure everything was in the best it possibly could be.

Mike was undoubtedly a true gentleman, a real people's person, nothing was ever too much trouble for him but we knew that we just had Mike on loan from Betty and she was generous in allowing him to spend so much of his time with us and we do thank her for that.

Mike was a legend and he is irreplaceable. His memory will live long in the hearts of all who knew him and our lives will be all the poorer for his passing.

We send our love, deepest sympathy and prayers to Betty, Sue and Brian and their families; we can only imagine their sadness.

Sue Smither



TRIBUTE TO EVA BURROWS

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Eva Burrows at the wonderful age of 97.

Eva was a friend and such a special lady; she had that lovely smile and a twinkle in her eye which lit up her face. She was very faithful and prayer played such an important part of her life. She had worshipped at St Luke's for many years. She was a member of several church groups. She had played an active role in our Summer and Christmas Fairs; she enjoyed the Spring and Harvest fund raising lunches we used to hold in school and rarely missed the Luncheon Clubs or Afternoon Teas we held in the Bridewell.

Once her mobility decreased, it was such a privilege to take Holy Communion to her, first at her home and later in Widnes Hall.

She would share with me wonderful stories of her childhood. As a little girl she lived in Greenway Road and she told me how she would go with each of her friends to their different Sunday School classes so that they could all go together and enjoy the annual summer outings and Christmas parties, three times over!

She was such a lovely person, a joy to spend time with, and I will miss her,

She was blessed to have a wonderful caring family, especially her daughters Julie and Anne, they obviously adored her and she them.

We send them our deepest sympathy and will hold them and their families in our prayers.

Sue Smither

CHURCH WAS OPEN!

The Archbishops have made the ruling that NO REGULAR SERVICES are to be held in churches given the present situation with the Coronavirus Pandemic. On Sunday March 22rd, we were allowed to open for Personal Space, Quiet Prayer and the opportunity the light candles in a place of peace and sanctuary. Single use resources were available i.e. Bible Readings and Prayer resources. We asked that people please take these away when they left. Hand sanitiser was used on entering and leaving the building and the recommended 2 metres social distance was kept between individuals. The Toll Bell was rung at regular intervals: the centuries old traditional way of calling the people of Farnworth to prayer. We were encouraged by the number of people who came to pray in our beautiful, historic Church of St Luke when we opened. Some of those were regular worshippers but others just came to find that peaceful space for prayer and reflection. One gentleman came because he had heard the bell tolling and knew that was an invitation to come and pray.

UNFORTUNATELY by mid-afternoon of the following day, March 23rd, we were advised that ALL churches must close their doors until notified otherwise. This is a very sad and unprecedented measure to try to control the spread of the Coronavirus and we must all play our part. PLEASE DO BE ASSURED OF OUR PRAYERS AT THIS TIME.

We have a very robust Continuity Plan in place. Please do stay safe, follow the latest Government and NHS directives and we will get through this.

FARNWORTH CE SCHOOL

Life in school has been as busy as ever. Some Y5 and Y6 children took part in an exciting dance performance at the Brindley Theatre. Their dance was based on the Japanese Soran Bushi tradition. They really enjoyed the experience.

The children from Year 3 recently had a wonderful Residential Visit to CHET [Crosby Hall Educational Trust]. They spent three days and two nights there and had such fun. Crosby Hall is situated in the ancient manor of Little Crosby, it is a Grade II* listed building set in lovely grounds The existing hall was constructed around 1785 in place of the previous Elizabethan manor house, some parts of which still remain. The children did lots of exciting activities including a night walk and making pots. The School Council are busy funding for a log cabin, which will go up in the 'Forest School' to provide shelter for the groups using the area. Their latest idea is to hold a Bring and Buy Sale of unwanted books, games and DVDs. We wish them luck with that....but now of course, that sale will have to wait until school returns.

It was really sad and very emotional for the children from Y6 who had to say their Farewells to friends and staff at such short notice due to the closure of school on March 20th. As their Church Family, we assure them of our prayers at this unprecedented time and wish them every success in the High Schools. Sue



**Farewell
and
Good Luck**

CONFIRMATION CLUB

It has been such a privilege to work with the five children from Farnworth CE School who joined us for St Luke's Confirmation Club this year. They have been such an amazing group of



young people to work with. They have been so engaged throughout the whole course and the conversations round the table have been mature beyond their years. Bishop Beverly confirmed Amie, James, George, Matthew and Will on Sunday March 8th at St Mary's church, Hale. The church was packed; the people of St Mary's made us very welcome and served tea and delicious cake after the service.

The service itself was wonderfully affirming and Bishop Bev was absolutely lovely with the children. She spoke to them before hand and really engaged with them; she took her time as she confirmed, anointed and prayed for each one of them.

They proudly showed off their Confirmation Certificates at a Celebration Assembly in school the following Tuesday. Well done and Congratulations to them all. My personal thanks to Alma and Barry who stayed late every Wednesday to serve refreshments to the children when they came from school.

Sue Smither

OPEN THE BOOK

Over the past few months, the OTB Team has been welcomed into school to present Bible stories to both KS1 and whole school Collective Worship. Children of all ages



enjoyed the story of The boy in the Temple and The storm on the lake and KS1 children had the story of The blind beggar and The party. It is good that we have managed to include at least one whole school Open the Book presentation each half term. Teachers, Miss Picton and Mr Tucker, have stepped in to help when we have been short of OTB adult actors, but the stars of the shows are always our 'actors' who have come from Y3M, Y3W, Y2T and Y2S.

We were very much looking forward to the children coming up to church to partake in Experience Easter and for their Easter Service, of course all that is now



**on hold due to the school closing early because of Corona-virus. We are holding all staff, pupils and their parents and carers in our prayers at this difficult time.
Sue**

BAPTISMS



Welcome to our newly baptised babies. Elizabeth Rose with mum and dad and Adelyn Rose with her big brother Jack.



Sophie Grace with mum Sara, dad Michael and her big brothers and Ben Anthony with mum Stacey, dad James and brother Oliver.

Unfortunately all Baptisms are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Once we are allowed to conduct Baptisms services again we look forward to welcoming families and their little ones. Team Administrator Lesley will contact families once Baptisms can take place.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS



	April		May
1st	John 8: 31-42	1st	John 14: 1-14
2nd	John 8: 51 to end	2nd	John 6: 60-69
3rd	John 10: 31 to end	3rd	John 10: 1-10
4th	John 11: 45 to end	4th	John 12: 20-26
5th	Matt 27: 11-54	5th	John 10: 22-30
6th	John 12: 1-11	6th	John 12: 44 to end
7th	John 12: 20-36	7th	John 13: 16-20
8th	John 13: 21-32	8th	John 14: 1-6
9th	John 13: 1-17, 31b-35	9th	John 14: 7-14
10th	John 18: 1 to end 19	10th	John 14: 1-14
11th	John 19: 38 to end	11th	John 14: 21-26
12th	John 20: 1-18	12th	John 14: 27 to end
13th	Matthew 28: 8-15	13th	John 15: 1-8
14th	John 20: 11-18	14th	John 15: 9-17
15th	Luke 24: 35-48	15th	John 15: 12-17
16th	Luke 24: 35-48	16th	John 15: 18-21
17th	John 21: 1-14	17th	John 14: 15-21
18th	Mark 16: 9-15	18th	John 15: 26-16:4
19th	John 20: 19 to end	19th	John 16: 5-11
20th	John 3: 1-8	20th	John 16: 12-15
21st	John 3: 7-15	21st	Luke 24: 44 to end
22nd	John 3: 16-21	22nd	John 16: 20-23
23rd	John 15: 18-21	23rd	John 16: 23-28
24th	John 6: 1-15	24th	John 17: 1-11

	April		May
25th	Mark 13: 5-13	25th	John 16: 29 to end
26th	Luke 24: 13-35	26th	John 17: 1-11
27th	John 6: 22-29	27th	John 17: 11-19
28th	John 6: 30-35	28th	John 17: 20 to end
29th	John 6: 35-40	29th	John 21: 15-19
30th	John 6: 44-51	30th	John 21: 20 to end
		31st	John 20: 19-23

During the pandemic, there will be posts on our website each Wednesday and Sunday of the set Lectionary Readings and some suggestions for prayer

AS CHURCH IS CLOSED THE FOLLOWING ARE POSTPONED

Annual meetings Sunday May 17th 12 noon

Visitation Thursday 11th June at St Basils & All Saints

THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Open Door, Knit and Natter and Games Galore on Wednesdays

Toddler Church, Messy Church and Sunday Club

THE BRIDEWELL IS CLOSED

So there will be no Book Sale and no Aladdin's Cave until restrictions are lifted

Thank you for your understanding and we pray the church doors will be open in the near future.

News from Cronton

The sun is shining and God is good – his love and mercy endless. Keep praying and singing. Focus on the good, raise a smile and stay fit and healthy – that’s my plan – what’s yours?

I’m a bad example, I have put a pound on this week [the resemblance with a Weeble is quite striking/shocking ... delete as appropriate].

Anyway – Cronton.



The confirmation service at St Mary’s Hale was very special and our seven candidates all agreed with that. Bethany, Ruby, Charlotte, Amy, Elsa, Jack and Zak – congratulations, we are thrilled to be walking with you on your faith journey as disciples of Christ. Bishop Bev was amazing... perfectly pitched sermon that packed a punch wrapped in giggles.

[Does that sound quite violent? It was gentle and powerful at the same time.]

This photo shows Bishop Bev sharing the Peace. We certainly felt the Holy Spirit.



**Bethany has written about confirmation on behalf of the group: -
*Our confirmation service was brilliant and everyone who came really enjoyed it. It was a very special day and made me feel really proud. Our preparation course taught us all about the meaning of confirmation and why we***

make our promises. It was really interesting and fun and we all wanted it to go on forever so we have decided we want to carry on with a Jam club (Jesus and Me) so we can continue learning all about Jesus and the Bible. I really like the discussions, prayers and readings we do.

Bethany Evans. Cronton CE Primary.

Since our last edition [fanfare] I have been on a retreat – it's only taken me five years to get there, rather proud of myself... scrap that, I only got there because Miranda, the Archdeacon's PA, set it up. The Archdeacon clearly felt I was never going to get my act together to do it myself. I went to the Scargill Community in North Yorkshire [Kettlewell] and spent the week coughing. In hindsight that could have been very unpopular given where we are now – but the doctor at the Walk In had given me the once over and told me my chest was clear - carry on as usual, so I did.

Well, Scargill is an amazing place, open to all for a day, a weekend or longer stay and I would recommend it to you when the crisis is over. You don't need to be on a guided retreat. We had two talks each day from Roy Searle and Phil Stone. Our theme... Streams of Living Water. We looked at different streams [ways] of being with God. Contemplation, evangelism, Holiness, incarnational, social justice and charismatic. I was worn out by the end of the week – but so uplifted and recharged.



There are so many quotes from the speakers that I am itching to share – but here’s one for now: “Those who lean on Jesus’ breast hear the heartbeat of God”. And one more: “we are communers not consumers”. I know sentences out of context are a poor representation of the whole but I like ‘soundbites’ because they become ‘ear worms’ that come to mind when I need a reminder. They provide comfort as well as encouragement. I would be grateful to hear any that you find inspiring. I read a book while I was there – from their well-stocked library. I managed to read it because it was a pocket sized book. It was called ‘The most powerful Prayer on Earth’ by Peter Horrobin [any relation?]. Can you guess what this prayer is?

More on this book next time; for now, the reference to Psalm 19: 7-11 I found in there was a joy revisited. *‘In his Word, God has given wonderful guidelines for living. He has also shown where the dangers are. And in this amazing psalm God promises that if you choose to live within the boundaries He has set (the law of the Lord), He will revive your soul, give you His wisdom, give joy to your heart, put light in your eyes...’*

The law of the Lord is perfect.

It gives us new strength. [reviving the soul]

The laws of the Lord can be trusted.

They make childish people wise. [...making the simple wise]

The rules of the Lord are right.

They give joy to our hearts.

The commands of the Lord shine brightly.

They give light to our minds. [...they are radiant, giving light to our eyes]

The law that brings respect for the Lord is pure.

It lasts forever.

The commands the Lord gives are true.

All of them are completely right. [...sure and altogether righteous]

They are more priceless than gold.

They have greater value than huge amounts of pure gold.

They are sweeter than honey

that is taken from the honeycomb.

¹¹Your servant is warned by them.

When people obey them, they are greatly rewarded.

[...in keeping them is great reward]

Whatever is happening in the world – God remains the same; Alpha and Omega.

Remember the 10 Commandments for the modern world? Well the Book Exchange and Drop-In have come with a version [the order is ‘as they came’ not prioritised]. Note: the contributions are not the responsibility of this author [well, one is]

1. Don't park in disabled bays if you haven't got a badge

2. Smile at people

3. People are entitled to their opinion

4. Be kind

5. Move more, eat less

6. Look after the planet [there's no plan B]

7. See the funny side of life

8. If a stranger on the phone asks/tells you to send

money – put the phone down

9. Make time for yourself

10. Be generous with your time

If you have a partner get a king sized bed

I'm sure you can add alternatives... still waiting... you can't say you're too busy ... lesleykwright@hotmail.com
[I'm ready]

Take care – peace and love. Lesley, LML at Cronton

St. Luke's Parish Registers

<i>Holy Baptism</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	
	<i>1 Mar</i>	<i>Elizabeth Rose Adamson</i>	
		<i>Adelyn Rose Passey</i>	
<i>Funerals</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>
<i>St Luke</i>	<i>4 Feb</i>	<i>Barbara Mary Broome</i>	<i>92</i>
	<i>6 Feb</i>	<i>Diane Brigg</i>	<i>72</i>
	<i>14 Feb</i>	<i>Doris Joan Mason</i>	<i>93</i>
	<i>20 Feb</i>	<i>Eunice Robertson</i>	<i>88</i>
	<i>21 Feb</i>	<i>Eva Burrows</i>	<i>97</i>
	<i>25 Feb</i>	<i>Mike Dodd</i>	<i>81</i>
	<i>13 Mar</i>	<i>James (Benny) Hill</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>Widnes crem</i>	<i>28 Jan</i>	<i>Edith Broadhurst</i>	<i>88</i>
	<i>10 Mar</i>	<i>Freda Fenney</i>	<i>89</i>
	<i>12 Mar</i>	<i>Elsie Austin</i>	<i>92</i>
	<i>25 Mar</i>	<i>Norman Hunt</i>	<i>80</i>

St Luke's Sunday Club

The children have been very busy since Christmas which seems so long away now. We started the year talking about Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men. The children have also been learning that even though we can't see God, that He is always with us, just like the stars. So we made lovely star pictures.

They have also been learning about Lent and loved the pancake races but enjoyed tasting them even more.

The children were once again going to perform a little song and talk about their Mums on Mothering Sunday but sadly because of the current situation services have been stopped including



Sunday club. I will really miss seeing the children each week but their health and safety comes first.

We did however hold our Rose Queen Quiz on Friday 13th March and it was a great success, thanks to everyone who supported it in any way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gayle Lacey who is the COO of HSBC bank who very kindly on behalf of HSBC price matched the amount we made in the raffle up to £1000. The raffle raised £1050 so with the money from the quiz the event raised approximately £2450, which is amazing. It's a wonderful gesture and we can't thank her enough. This was the third year HSBC supported our church.

I want to take this opportunity to wish that everyone reading this, stays safe and well.

Take care of each other Lynn Keeling xx

PCC would like to thank Lynn and Alan Keeling for organising the quiz and everyone who donated a prize. Every prize was donated your generosity was overwhelming. Also the wonderful spread of food was courtesy of Sunday Club parents and church members. Again everyone was so generous. Thank you.



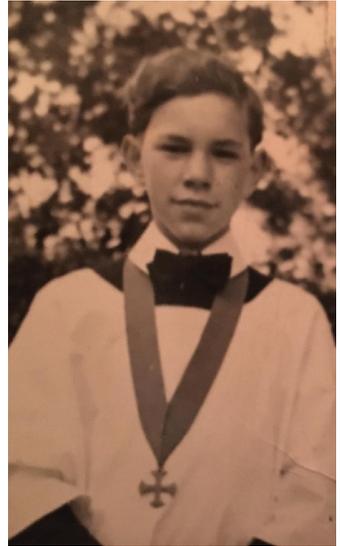
That was the good news. Unfortunately the Summer Fair will not take place in June this year because of coronavirus. There may be a smaller event later in the year but we don't know when!



TRIBUTE to Norman Hunt

From Pat Johnson

A dear friend - Norman was a Choir boy at St Luke's from age 8 until present day he last sang in church on 1st March 2020. Norman and his wife Thelma were very involved in the preparation of the Church Magazine - Thelma typing and Norman every Saturday night turning the old Bander copier at the back of church to print it. He was a sides man for many years and be-

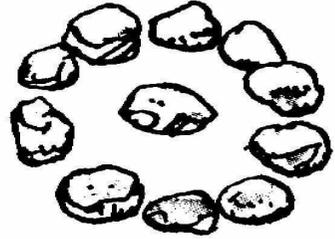


came a Church Warden. He also found time to ring the bells. He was Scout leader and then Group Scout leader for many years, giving up every Friday evening and many holidays to take Scouts on many Scout Camps. Norman was an extraordinary leader in many respects not least when hosting camp fires at Moon Meadow when he managed to get everyone involved from the youngest cub or brownie to the oldest member of the Griffon unit. His enthusiasm was infectious - evidenced by his stage performances at the Queens Hall for our gang shows. He was also there to assist with guiding events - helping in any way he could with the 16th & 17th St Luke's Guide companies.

I know I can speak for June Fay, Brenda Bullock and myself as Guiders at St Luke's who had the pleasure to know and work with him. Always a smile and a word for us each Sunday. He will be sadly missed.



**TRIBUTE to
Norman
Hunt
From Sandra
Markey**



Norman was a legend as a scout leader

- **He instituted SINGA-LONGA-SANTA. We still use Norman's concept of each unit giving a performance for parents, the only time we get a full scout hall too, always an enjoyable evening. Norman came to the one in 2019, but did not stay too long I am afraid. We always make money at this event. Thanks Norman.**
- **Legendary campfire leader—the very best songs and such a long list don't know how he remembered them all. His rendition of 'Toot n Ta' with the relevant silly actions made sure every scout and guide enjoyed that one. A true legend.**
- **District camp - only at District camp did leaders sleep on water beds or was that just water, never been to a wetter camp, but such fun. When the leaders and helpers dropped their tents, we were sleeping on huge puddles! Have to say the cubs and scouts did a lot better.**
- **I will remember Norman for many things both in scouting and as a friend, always helpful, we did a lot of laughing. He always had time to calm you down, when the occasion arose, and it often did. St Luke's Scout and Guide group has a lot to thank him for and so do I.**

From Colleen Harper - I was greatly shocked and saddened to hear of the death of my friend, Norman Hunt. He first joined the choir at St Luke's when he was 8 and there is a photo of him as a young chorister in the vestry. He will be sorely missed, not only for his lovely tenor voice but also for his warmth, friendliness and sense of fun. If you ever saw the sopranos on the front row giggling behind their hymn books, it was probably because of some whispered gag from Norman behind us. Naughty but nice, as the saying goes! The choir would have turned out in force to sing (or try to, through the emotion) at his funeral but of course, under CV-19 rules, it can only be attended by his close family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Olga and the family during these heightened difficulties. Hopefully it will not be too long before a memorial service can be arranged when the whole of the St Luke's congregation can gather to salute a smashing bloke. RIP, our lovely Norman.

DONATIONS - We are hugely indebted to everyone at St Luke's for their generosity when giving to church, either on the plate or through Standing Orders and to those who can apply Gift Aid to their giving. A donation was given in memory of George Deans by his wife Alwyn and the family for an oil filled Paschal candle. Over £575 was donated for a stand for the Paschal Candle in memory of Mike Dodd. Thank you everyone.



Messy Easter 2020 by Clare Liptrott

It is a shame that this year our families won't be able to meet together for Messy Church on Good Friday as they usually would BUT we are still planning to share Easter craft activities and worship together. On Thursday 9th April an Easter craft activity will be posted on St Luke's Church website for parents to print out for their children to complete over the Easter Weekend. We are asking children to take pictures of their completed craft and send the pictures in to the website so we can upload them for everyone to share. I will also be recording and posting a reading of the Easter Story and some short prayers that children can watch and listen to on their computers.

To join in please go to the St Luke's Church website:

<http://www.st-luke.co.uk/>

and click on the Messy Church tab. The resources will be available from Thursday 9th April 2020.



TREASURER'S REPORT 1st Jan 2020 – 29th Feb 2020

**Receipts £16439.03 expenses £21888.71 deficit £5449.68
average £687pwk**

Under normal circumstances it is usual for the income to be down in the first two months of the year due to bad weather and after Christmas empty purses. In addition to that some of the annual maintenance charges are due in those early months. Normally this shortfall is covered by increase in donations in the Spring. The last few years have been a struggle financially as we have lost a lot of our regular givers for various reasons. Due to the government's restrictions on the church being open for worship due to the corona virus, this will also have a big impact on our income over the rest of this year. Our weekly cash income either in envelopes or on the collection plate is around £530pwk which added to the average weekly deficit so far this year makes a deficit of £1217pwk. Unfortunately there will be only a slight reduction in overheads as the main expenses are for Parish share, Insurance, Heating and Lighting, Clergy expenses and Salaries which are over £10,000 per month. We appreciate that there are troubled and unknown times ahead for all of us, but if you usually donate via envelope or on the collection plate and still would like to make a donation, this can be done either by a payment from your bank account if you do online or telephone banking to St Luke's PCC Sort code 20 91 48 account no 30369292 or by cheque payable to St Luke's PCC c/o Rev R Pearson The Rectory, 10 Hartland Close, Widnes. WA8 9FB. Thank you so much for your continued support. Yvonne Horabin Treasurer

Experience Easter in the home:

Please journey through Easter Week with these readings and prayers. I hope that you find it helpful. Sue



**Palm Sunday:
Hopes and
Dreams**

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds gathered and shouted, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”. People began to throw their cloaks and palm leaves onto the ground to make a path for Jesus, they were very excited and full of hope. Some of the called Pharisees, grumbled but Jesus told the people not to worry, God was with them. PRAY: Father God, help us to look ahead and to know that we can always share our hopes and dreams with you. AMEN



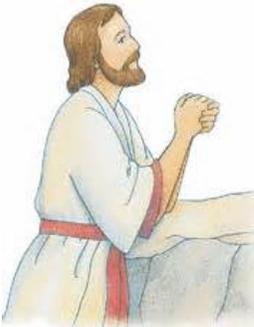
**Foot washing:
Servant King**

“Jesus took off his outer clothing and wrapped a towel round his waist. After that he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciple’s feet, drying them with the towel”. “When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His outer clothes and returned to His place. ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’ he asked them. ‘You call me teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that YOU should do to one another as I have done for you.” PRAY: Refresh me and my Spirit Jesus’ name, Revive me and renew me in the name of Jesus AMEN



The Last Supper: Remember me

On the night before He died, Jesus had supper with his friends, his disciples. He took some bread and thanking God for it, he broke the bread. Jesus gave the bread to each one of his disciples and said, 'Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this to remember me'. PRAY: Father God, we thank you that Jesus came to live among us and we thank you that He gave us a special meal when we can remember Him. AMEN



Gethsemane: Alone

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." But, they were tired and they fell asleep. In the darkness of the night Jesus felt very alone. PRAY: Thank you God that you have promised to listen to us when we are feeling alone. AMEN



Good Friday The Crucifixion

‘Soldiers led Jesus outside the walls of Jerusalem to Golgotha, which means the place of the skull. A crown of thorns was placed on his head. They nailed him to the cross and fastened a notice to it that read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews’. While the soldiers waited for Jesus to die they cast dice to see which one of them would take away Jesus’ robe to keep for themselves. When Jesus became thirsty, the soldiers offered him a sponge soaked in vinegar. At three o’clock that afternoon, Jesus died. PRAY: Lord, today we remember your sacrificial love, love that shone light into the darkness and brought us forgiveness of our sins. Thank you that we can now walk in the light of your life, Hope, truth, freedom and forgiveness. AMEN



**Easter Day:
He is Risen:
Alleluia!**

After the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and two other women set out at dawn to visit the tomb where Jesus had been laid. As they reached the entrance to the cave, they were startled by the dazzling figure of an angel, who said, ‘Do not be afraid. For I know that you are looking for Jesus, who died. He is not here.



Easter Day:
He is Risen: Alleluia!

He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.'
PRAY: Father God, as we celebrate Easter this year with great uncertainty because of Covid-19, help us to remember that first Easter Day and all that happened, the day when Jesus brought us hope and light and we thank you for Him, His sacrifice and His promise of unconditional love, for we know that He is with us always. Alleluia! AMEN



Our Lord Jesus Christ, taught us
to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for Him.
In this time of uncertainty and anxiety,
give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our prayers, our love,
and your love,
for your name's sake. Amen

MOTHERS' UNION

Our February meeting was led by Colleen. We started with prayers and the hymn 'Shine, Jesus, Shine'. Our speaker was June Houghton, Provincial President. You maybe excused for imagining a high powered business woman but June is a warm, friendly everyday mum and she doesn't drive but is a great rail user. She spoke about hope, confidence and encouragement. God knocked on her door and she opened it. Joining the MU was down to a lady called Phyllis, a vicar's wife. Being asked to come along to a meeting is how most of us found ourselves becoming members. She has been a child minder, telephonist and secretary for the MU for 13yrs. She has been a branch leader, a Deanery President and Diocesan secretary. When Margret Houghton was retiring, Bishop James asked June to consider taking on the role. She talked to Geoff Engle who asked her 'Can you say no to the Bishop'? She replied 'I can say no to the Bishop but not God'. There are 5 provincial presidents and 12 zones around the world each province has to pay into Mary Sumner house a levy of 10p a head. June went to Rwanda where the MU have been involved in many worthwhile projects. She has seen God working in Prisons where the inmates made their own banner. She always thought she couldn't do things but with prayer and encouragement she always managed to do the job. She said to us 'when God knocks, open the door'. June finished with a bible reading. 1 Corinthians 13 ending with 'the greatest of all is love' as it was nearly Valentine's day, she gave us all a chocolate heart.

We were sad to hear about the death of Eva Burrows. Eva was a life-long member of St Luke's church and was married there. Eva was involved in church cleaning, the flowers and for many years a member of the Mothers' Union. She was always ready to help at the fairs and was a very good cake maker. I know she had a great sense of humour and listening to her family tributes she was a warm, loving lady who always made you welcome. Her faith was strong and never faltered. She will be missed by many and our thoughts are with her family.

We then heard the sad news of Mike Dodd. A loyal and hard-working member of St Luke's involved in many different roles over the years. Anything needed doing and Mike was there. An honorary member of the MU we were grateful to Mike opening up and closing the school hall when we had our meetings there. I'm sure there were some wet and windy cold nights when he would have rather stayed in the warm, but he never let us down. Our thoughts are with Betty and her family.

We have just heard the sad news of Norman Hunt, another loyal member of St Luke's, who contributed and gave a lot of his time to the church. He was a member of the choir and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go to Olga and his family.

Our March meeting was our fun evening with our game's guru Chris. It was AFIA beetle drive. You had to throw a 6 to start but instead of a beetle we had to draw a caravan. The MU is involved in AFIA, Away From

It All. They give holiday and respite breaks to those who need it. Our members got into the game with lots of oows and aarhs and triumphant whoops. The winner of the four games won a delicious chocolate squirrel. We also held a raffle with some lovely prizes. We were low on numbers as members had other events on the same night. We managed to raise £22 for AFIA which was very good. Thanks go to Chris for our fun evening. Unfortunately there will be no MU meetings in April or May (including the planned coffee morning) and we have postponed the speakers until later this year or next year. We realise this will be sad news for those of you who enjoy our get-togethers but it is necessary for the benefit of all. We look forward to meeting up again as soon as it is considered safe. Meanwhile please pray for everyone involved in the coronavirus crisis.

Rita Poole

Our church website

By the time you read this magazine things may have changed again. So if you have access to the internet keep up to date by visiting

st-luke.co.uk

If you have an email address email farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk and the editor can keep you up to date by email.

TAKE CARE and KEEP SAFE

Please light a candle at 7pm each evening as an act of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.



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