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Parish Review

St. Luke's Church & Cronton Mission

Holy Communion in church on alternate Wednesdays at 9.30am starting on September 30th (other Wednesdays Morning Prayer on Zoom)

On Sundays church is open for Holy Communion on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays with Morning Prayer on the 2nd Sunday

All services in church are also Zoomed so you can join from home

The service rota for October and November is on Page 27

October and November 2020 £1



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St Luke's Farnworth Parish

Churchwardens

Barry Ingram	286 Upton Lane	01514232492
George Telfer	8 Wentworth Close	07792412415
Barry Horabin	12 Buckingham Ave	07471350957
Pat Johnson	17 Bridewell Court	07717522878
Deputy Warden	Rob Leach	
Lay Chair	Barry Ingram	01514232492
Verger	George Telfer	01514234640
Project Manager	Barry Horabin	01514249887
PCC Secretary	Sandra Lacey	07761672030
PCC Treasurer	Yvonne Horabin	01514249887
Safeguarding Officer	Margaret Campbell	01514246039

**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

Editor Philip Lacey 07710030973

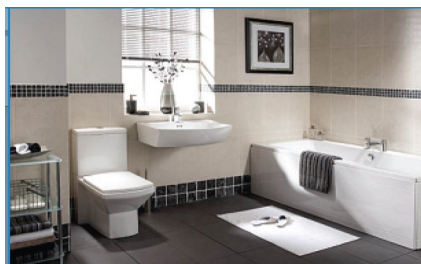
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**Please submit any material, articles or adverts, via
email to farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk with
attachments in Word, Arial font 12 Bold.**

Deadline for articles noon on 18th November 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,

As the world continues to suffer the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic the question, “How can a loving God permit suffering in the world?” is on many people’s minds – you may have been asked it yourself. Of course, there can be no simple or glib answers to such a heart-felt cry when it comes from someone forced to watch helplessly as a loved-one struggles with severe illness or pain.

The only honest answer we can give is to admit that we do not know and that we have no way to find out. I often say to people that there will be a long queue at the Throne of Grace one day to ask such questions, and I hope to be in it!

Whilst we can remind ourselves of the ‘fallen’ nature of our world; the evil perpetrated by human beings on other human beings; and the sinful, all-consuming, self-interest of some which denies others a fair share of the world’s food/medicine/ resources etc – the nagging question, “ Why doesn’t God sort it all out?” still remains.

The bible makes clear that God has already set a date, known only to him, when he will do precisely that. It is commonly called ‘The Day of Judgement’, heralded by the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The final end of all that is evil – including pain and suffering. While we wait for that day we are to spend our time doing what we can to help those who suffer and to extend God’s Kingdom of Justice and Peace throughout the world.

There is no doubt that God views pain and suffering as evil - Jesus showed this by healing all who came to him for help in the New Testament. And yet somehow by God’s Grace, despite the fallen nature of this world, pain and suffering can be used by him to bring something good. Literally, good from evil.

I was reminded of this in something I read about a man who found the cocoon of an Emperor Moth and took it home to watch what happened. He sat and watched for several days until, at last, something began to happen. The end of the cocoon split and the moth inside began its struggle to crawl free through the tiny hole. After several hours it seemed to stop making any progress and, to the man, it appeared that the moth was stuck.

Out of kindness the man decided to try to help and took some scissors and very carefully snipped off a bit of the cocoon to allow the moth to get out. Soon the moth emerged, but it had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings. The man continued to watch, expecting that in time the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which he thought would simultaneously contract to its proper size.

Neither thing happened. In fact, the little moth spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shrivelled wings. It was never able to fly. In his kindness and haste, the man didn't understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle of the moth were the Creator's way of forcing fluid from the body into the wings so that the moth would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Though God doesn't promise to take away our struggles in life he does promise to be with us in the midst of them and sometimes to use them to restore us, making us into better, stronger people. We can trust that God's love is the real thing – never overly sentimental or inconsistent but always constant and everlasting.

May God's love be evident in all your struggles in life and may you learn to trust him more and more.

Revd Bob

PUBLIC WORSHIP

The services in church will continue to be livestreamed via zoom for those in a vulnerable category, or simply not ready yet. I want to emphasise that if you are in one of these categories, including being over 70, then you should think carefully before attending. Of course, everyone will be welcome and no-one turned away but the choice (and potential risk) is yours alone.

If you decide to come then you will find that church services are currently very different from what you are used to.

For example:

The wearing of face masks is compulsory.

You will be required to use the hand sanitiser gel provided on entry and exit.

You will be asked to observe social distancing and sit only in the pews clearly marked.

Singing by the congregation is not permitted but the choir (socially distanced) can sing

A Warden will take a note of your name and telephone number to be kept for 21 days in case we need to trace anyone in the event that a fellow congregation member becomes ill.

Of course, the rules are constantly changing to enable us to move out of the 'lockdown' situation of the last six months and, no doubt, guidance from the Diocese will change as time goes on. I would ask you to join me in praying that we might make good decisions that minimise the risk to health by careful attention to detail.

May God bless you and keep you safe from harm,
Revd Bob

Heritage Day September 12th

I was very concerned as Heritage Day approached, would anyone turn up in these anxious times, or would we be overrun by people wanting to do something normal again? As it turned out the numbers attending were only slightly down on previous years. National advertising by Heritage did not take place and HBC only advertised it on its website but did not produce a guide as in previous years.

Our first group was eight ladies from Bridewell Court who wanted the tour of the village followed by a tour of the church. Geoff Poole and I set off on what is normally a forty minute tour but actually took over an hour due to the interest the group showed and the questions they asked. As Geoff is researching the history surrounding the village I handed the group over to him when we reached Derby Road which is where he lives. His knowledge of the area was much appreciated by the group and they asked lots of questions which added to the success of the tour.

The afternoon session didn't produce another village tour but small groups and families came into church to look round and take photographs. Considering the current situation and the absence of lunches and refreshments I was quite pleased with the outcome.

Thanks to Sue who produced a self-guided tour of the churchyard. Congratulations to Cameron and Kurt and their Mum Kerri and Libby and her Nana Val who successfully completed the Churchyard Quiz. A copy can be found on the church website st-luke.co.uk for you to use to enjoy a stroll in the churchyard.

At the end all that remained was to clean the areas accessed by the visitors to be ready for the Sunday Service. My thanks to all who supported the event and cleaned up afterwards and hope that next year normal service will be resumed.

Baz

A huge thank you to Baz for ensuring this event took place despite the current restrictions.

Heritage Day photos



Harvest festival

*Sunday 4th October
Holy Communion 10.30am
in church and by Zoom.*

Share the Gift of Friendship

It's harvest time again, the time of year when we give thanks for and celebrate the gifts from the land, the food and the produce that are grown. The Harvest Festival service also highlights the value of giving and being a good neighbour too.

And so, this year we have decided to focus our donations on the value of being a good neighbour and giving the gift of friendship. We hope to do this by organising friendship letters, cards and pictures to send to local care homes and isolated elderly people. It would really brighten a resident's day to get a chatty letter or colourful card or picture, giving them something to talk about and share with fellow residents.

In recent years we have collected gifts and donations for FoodBank. At this time FoodBank has a good supply of food but anticipates a surge in demand in October when food parcels from the government and other charities end so

donations of tinned and packet food would be appreciated, as well as monetary donations so that later on in the year when they need further supplies they can use the donated money to buy the supplies that are needed.

So we have 3 options for supporting Harvest Festival celebrations this year and you would be very welcome to support any or all initiatives - there will be donation points in Church to receive your gifts of friendship and donations for FoodBank. You can also leave them at the Rectory 10 Hartland Close WA8 9FB.

Yours in friendship,
Clare



St Luke the Evangelist

Sunday 18th October Holy Communion 10.30am

This is the celebration of St Luke the Evangelist, the author of the third gospel and the book of Acts – and also our Patronal Festival. St Paul says in his letter to the Colossians that Luke was a physician and traditionally prayers for the sick are made a feature of his celebration. In pre-Covid (and hopefully one day soon, post-Covid) times we would offer individual prayer and anointing but with current restrictions please pass any names to be prayed for to a Church Warden in church or by phone (numbers on page 3), who will give the names to the person leading intercessions before the service begins. This service will be followed by our Annual Meeting (APCM).

ANNUAL MEETINGS SUNDAY OCTOBER 18th 11.45am

after 10.30am service in church and on Zoom

There are 2 meetings -

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners - Election of Wardens
and**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Election of PCC members

Reports on

**PCC proceedings
Health and Safety**

**Safeguarding
Finances**

Fabric

Cronton Mission

Deanery Synod and closing remarks by Rev Bob

ALL WELCOME

**A copy of the Annual report for 2019 is on our website
st-luke.co.uk or email**

sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk for an electronic copy

If you would like to join the PCC please speak to Rev Bob

All Souls Service

'The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed'

Wednesday 28th October 9.30am

Sunday 1st November at 6pm.

Both services will be held in church and by Zoom.

Families of those whose funerals have taken place over the last year will be invited to attend but in these unprecedented times the number of people who can safely attend St Luke's is limited to 70. So, your letter from Rev

Bob will ask you to say if you wish to attend or watch on Zoom. If you wish to attend in person we need to know which service you will be coming to so that we don't have to turn anyone away because we have reached our capacity. Details of how to join by Zoom will be in your letter.



The service is for everyone, of course, but especially those who want to give thanks for departed loved ones, no matter how long ago or recently they died. If you would like to have the name of a loved one read out at either of these services please give the name of your loved one to the warden collecting contact details at church or contact Lesley, our Team Administrator on 07399 784 219 who will also provide joining by Zoom details. If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact Rev Bob 07904320542



All Saints Service

Sunday 1st November at 10.30am. This will be a celebration of Holy Communion for All Saints. It is an opportunity to remember all saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history.

ALL SAINTS' DAY



REMEMBRANCE DAY CROSSES

Service of Remembrance

Sunday 8th November Holy Communion 10.30am

The names of those brave local soldiers/sailors/aircrew etc who gave their lives that we might know freedom will be read out.

Royal British Legion Remembrance Day wooden crosses cost £2.50. If you would like to purchase a cross and have the name of a loved one written on it then please add your name and details to the list at the back of church and pass your money to one of the Wardens or contact Sue 07962012916



Advent Sunday

Sunday 29th November

10.30am Holy Communion

We would like the congregation to choose four Advent hymns for our choir (and Rev Bob) to sing.

Please give the name of your hymn to a warden or ring or text Sandra Lacey

07761672030 or email

sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer's Report, January – August 2020

Receipts £69595.56 Expenses £85411.92. Deficit £15816.36

In my last report I said that we would be unable to pay the parish share of £6956.91 per month by direct debit from August, and that there then would be reduced contributions made each month depending on funds.

I am pleased to report that we have sufficient funds to enable payment of the parish share up to November, and possibly December. This has been possible because of generous legacies received from the estates of Betty Gilmour and Tommy Hughes, which have been most welcome. I am sure that both Betty and Tommy would be pleased that their gift to the church has been a boost to church funds in these uncertain times. The legacies are included in the receipts figure above.

We have had quite a few more parishioners changing their giving from cash to the parish giving scheme in the last few months, as well as others sending cheques via Rev Bob with their regular giving envelopes. This is a great help to the church's finances. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)

St Luke's PCC Barclays Bank details.

Account name:- Farnworth St Luke Parochial church council

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



PARISHGIVINGScheme

A better way to encourage giving in your church

This can be simply arranged with one call to 03330021271 to set up a monthly Direct Debit, for an amount of your choice, no internet connection is needed, you just need to quote our unique parish code which is 220622101.

Electoral Roll Revision

if you would like to add your name to the roll wardens have forms in church or you can download one from our website st-luke.co.uk, please return forms by Sunday 11th October to church or by email to Electoral Roll Officer Sandra sandalacey47@yahoo.co.uk

If your name is already on the roll you do not need to complete a form as this a revision of the roll not the production of a new roll.

What is a church Electoral Roll?

The church's Electoral Roll is the register of its voting members; it is a list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Electoral rolls provide an indication of the real membership and strength of the church.

Who can join?

Baptised adults (over 16 years) who live in the parish, or who have worshipped regularly at St. Luke's church or Cronton for at least six months and are committed to being part of the life of the local Church of England congregation.

Why Join?

Enrolment is a way of saying....“I belong”. For us it is an act of commitment to St. Luke's church or Cronton Mission and the church as a whole. It opens the way for a greater involvement in the life of the church at parish, deanery, diocesan and national levels.

We believe God wants us

to worship Him above all others

to be members of His family

to grow in our faith

to be ministers of His grace

to use our gifts and talents for the benefit of others

St Lukes Sunday Club

Hello everyone I hope you are all keeping safe and well during this unusual time.

Sunday club sadly have not been unable to meet up but we have been keeping in touch, through the gift of modern technology, through Zoom (how wonderful this is) to be able to chat and see the children but more importantly for them to see each other has been marvellous. We keep in touch with the parents using Whats App and by using this we can share photos too. It's so important to talk and share any news.

The children were able to join the Sunday service in June to help celebrate Father's Day. They had all written something about their Dads and Grandads and read them beautifully to the congregation. They finished by signing a hymn at the end. As always I was very proud of them all and never fail to be in awe of them and their confidence.

At the end of every school year just before the summer holidays we have a prize giving in church for the children and a Teddy Bears picnic. And of course this couldn't take place but as restrictions were lifted a little I thought it would be lovely for the children to come to my garden and have prize giving and the picnic there.

We had hoped to arrange it at the beginning of the holidays but for lots of different reasons it didn't happen but on Sunday 14th September it finally did.

And how lucky we were. The sun shone and everyone except for a couple of the children could attend. Parents came too and we had a lovely time..

We were also very honoured to have Mrs Smither come along to give the prizes out. Thank you very much Sue for coming along, it made it that bit more special for us all.

The children brought along their own picnics and of course their Teddy bears. After the picnic the parachute came out for some games and it was so lovely to see the children play together and use their imaginations. They at first had all their teddies on the parachute sending them flying high into the air, the winner of this game was whose teddy stayed on till the end! Then they gathered lots of garden furniture up and made a den using the parachute, it was a joy to see.

Another special moment came later when we saw that some of the older children were reading a bible story to the younger children, they were all sat enthralled.

**It was a very special couple of hours, spent with some very special children. I don't know when we will be back to 'normal' but I know that when we do these wonderful young people will be there ready and waiting. Best wishes everyone and stay safe
Lynn**

A huge thank you to Lynn and Alan for hosting this special event for the children and Sue for presenting the prizes.







The Sunday Club will be involved in the Harvest Festival service - singing and signing, reading the lesson and sharing their poems and pictures about Harvest with us. The children will be using Zoom.

News from Cronton

Dear Friends,

I have persuaded Lesley to take some much needed and long overdue time off, so this month's update comes from me.

Like other schools, our Cronton children have now returned to the important business of continuing their education after the summer break.

Despite the restrictions made necessary by the dreadful Covid-19 pandemic our prayers have been answered and the return has been as smooth as we could possibly have hoped for. Our grateful thanks are due for the sterling efforts of Mrs Thompson and her staff and governors in ensuring that our school is the safest and most well-organised environment possible.

I must also praise the children who have been excellent in cheerfully following instructions and abiding by the rules to keep one another safe.

Although it is not possible for me to physically enter the school premises at present, every Monday I have enjoyed immensely, via the miracle of technology, leading the whole school in a time of Collective Worship (what we used to call an Assembly). Our Zoom meetings have been great fun and, although singing is not to be encouraged yet, we have watched others on our screens and even had a little dance whilst remaining seated! Our theme for this term is the Christian value of 'service' and we are learning what this might mean for us as we try to put it into practice.

Sadly, so far we have not been able to resume our church services on Sundays in school but Mrs Thompson has kindly contacted someone for advice about if and how it might be possible for us to do this in the near future. Please include this in your prayers as we would all love to return to worshipping together in school as soon as we safely can.

Whilst there have been no church services at Cronton a few people have joined us at St Luke each Sunday at 10.30am; and several young families have joined us via Zoom.



CRONTON ZOOMERS



Can I encourage all of you to please join us in this way until we can return to having our services back in the school building?

I can promise you a very warm welcome if you can either come in person or join us online if you prefer. Even if you only have a simple landline telephone you can dial in and listen to the service. To join us via Zoom or by telephone see instructions below.

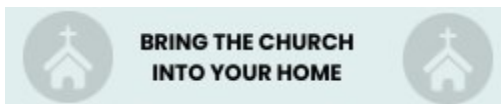


I am shortly going to set up a Cronton Mission WhatsApp group so that we can keep in touch with each other and I can quickly share any developments with you. If you would like to be invited to join this group please send me your mobile number on 07904320542.

In my last parish in Wigan there was a local saying, "Keep goin' wi y'ed down!". We can adapt that for this present time in Widnes to "Keep going with your head up...and your face mask securely in place!"

God bless you and keep you safe,

Revd Bob



Sundays 10.30am (60 mins)

Wednesdays 9.30am (30 mins)

To join Zoom online meeting ID is 5095149528

For the password please contact Sue 07962012916 or Clare 07976549410

To listen to Zoom from landline or mobile dial 02036950088 and enter meeting ID and password

SERVICE ROTA		
OCT 2020	St Ambrose	St Luke's
Sun Oct 4th HARVEST	10.30 MP	10.30 HC in church & Zoom
Wed 7th	10.00 MP	09.30 MP just ZOOM
Sun Oct 11th	10.30 MP	10.30 MP in church & Zoom
Wed 14th	No service	09.30 HC in church & Zoom
Sun Oct 18th ST LUKE'S DAY	10.30 MP	10.30 HC in church & Zoom (APCM after service)
Wed 21st	10.00 MP	09.30 MP just ZOOM
Sun Oct 25th	10.30 MP (APCM after)	10.30 HC in church & Zoom
Wed 28th ALL SOULS	No service	09.30 HC in church & Zoom
NOV 2020	St Ambrose	St Luke's
Sun Nov 1st ALL SAINTS	10.30 MP	10.30 HC in church & Zoom
ALL SOULS	Service 4pm	Service 6pm in church & Zoom
Wed 4th	10.00 MP	09.30 MP just ZOOM
Sun Nov 8th REMEMBRANCE	10.30 MP	10.30 HC in church & Zoom
Wed 11th	No service	09.30 HC in church & Zoom
Sun Nov 15th TOY SERVICE	10.30 MP	10.30 HC in church & Zoom
Wed 18th	10.00 MP	09.30 MP just ZOOM
Sun Nov 22nd	10.30 MP	10.30 HC in church & Zoom
Wed 25th	No service	09.30 HC in church & Zoom
Sun Nov 29th ADVENT	10.30 MP	10.30 HC in church & Zoom

MOTHERS' UNION

After many months of lock down we were able to hold our September meeting in church. With social distancing in place and wearing masks and visas we may have looked like extras from Casualty and the welder's convention but it did the job. It was a lovely service taken by Revd; Bob in his usual warm, relaxed way, so thank you Bob. I would like to thank Colleen who works hard arranging and informing us all of the changing situation. Well done we do appreciate your hard work. We had 13 members attend and it was lovely to see them all. It was a service of Holy Communion and we were able to re-affirm our vows. We were reminded of the aims and objects of the Mothers' Union to preserve and strengthen family life. To uphold Christ's teaching, to encourage parents to bring up their children in faith, to maintain worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. To promote a stable family life and protect children and to help those whose family life has met with adversity.

While Revd; Bob prepared the sacrament, Pat and Colleen sang 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind'. It was lovely to hear them singing. Well done it's not easy singing in front of everyone. We were able to take the wafer but Revd; Bob took the wine for us. We won't know if our October meeting will take place it all depends if there is a funeral that week, plus the 6 people only ruling. The subs may have to go up but that will be next year. Colleen said that some members would prefer an afternoon meeting in 2021. What do you think about that idea? People who work or those looking after children may find afternoons difficult. Also, when we are back to normal there are activities in church Wednesday afternoons. It is something to think about.

We were asked to pray for Mary Westbury and Dorothy Wall who are unwell at the moment. We have been bombarded with doom and gloom for such a long time and it has caused many to become anxious and depressed. Being able to worship together has a positive effect, and prayer is very powerful. One of the August readings was Matthew 17 v 20. Jesus told His disciples that if they have faith as a grain of mustard seed, they could move mountains and nothing is impossible.

At this time of year, I would usually ask how you enjoyed your summer holidays. The covid-19 has meant holidaying at home, sycation I believe it is called now.

Seeing an article about beach huts reminded me of the old seaside holidays. Not everyone had a holiday it may have been a day at the seaside. My mother's holiday as a child from London's East End was hop picking in Kent. Before the 18th century the only people on the beach were fishermen unloading their catch or mending their nets. The others, under the cover of darkness were smugglers. Little dots of light bobbing about from their lanterns as they drag their booty ashore. A silvery moon shimmering over their ship was not something they would have wanted. When salt water became a remedy for a multitude of ailments there was a fascination for bathing in the sea. King George III gave his seal of approval in 1789 at Weymouth where bathing machines were the answer to bathing and modesty. By the 1890's they lost their wheels and day huts appeared. Sunbathing was the new fashion. The rows of brightly coloured beach huts were a world away from rustic fishing huts. The first public beach huts were built in Bournemouth in 1909. The Dorset coast has more huts than anywhere else. Hut

2359 is the oldest hut in Bournemouth. It has a blue plaque and is still available for hire. Some have name's such as 'Forget-me-not', 'Seas, The Day' and 'Penny's from



Heaven'. The average price in Norfolk is £11,000. A blue and white hut in Southwold made headlines selling for £150,000. Ah well looks like it's the very large beach towel for changing. As we are travelling towards Autumn, I have a harvest prayer from my 'calendar of prayers' book.

All thanks to God for the harvest of the orchard
All thanks to God for the harvest of the field
All thanks to God for the harvest of the garden
All thanks to God for the earth and all its yield. Amen
Keep safe until we meet again.
Rita Poole

TRIBUTE to TOM HUGHES

As a church family, we were very sad to learn of the death of Tom Hughes, a much loved member of our St Luke's congregation. Tom was known locally as 'Tom the Barber', working for many years out of his shop in Farnworth Street.

Born in Runcorn, one of three brothers, on leaving school Tom went to work in a local hairdresser's shop, Gilberts in Greenway Road where he initially trained as a ladies' hairdresser later going into gent's barbering. He married Dorothy, the love of his life in June of 1952. Dorothy was a very keen Ballroom and Latin American dancer and even though Tom was convinced that he had two left feet, he had some private lessons and he and Dorothy went on to travel great distances entering competitions and winning many trophies. All this time, Tom continued with his hairdressing, saving hard to buy his own business, eventually buying both a business and house in Rainhill.

You only have to think of Tom and an image of an immaculately dressed gentleman comes to mind...formal shirt, matching tie and socks, perfectly coordinating with whichever suit he was wearing, his shoes polished until they shone, his hair neatly combed; such a dapper gentleman.

Eventually Tom and Dorothy moved to Widnes when they bought a bungalow in Swynnerton Way and the shop in Farnworth Street where he entertained as he cut hair, telling countless tales and doing his famous 'disappearing thumb trick' to amuse the children.

Tom's world revolved round Dorothy and sadly when she passed away in 2014 after a protracted period of illness, his world fell apart. He was so very lonely. After a while his own health deteriorated and following a few falls, and some spells in Whiston Hospital it was apparent that Tom wouldn't be able to cope at home, even with the support of a family, friends and neighbours dropping in and keeping their eye on him.

He spent some time in Oak Meadow and then finally moved to Halton View Care Home where he settled and made friends. He quickly became a favourite With staff there and was always happy to welcome visitors. Tom was always so very grateful to people who called to see him and for the Holy Communion he was able to receive. Unfortunately, Tom became weaker, sadly

he was unable to fight off an infection and he lost his hold on his earthly life. Now there is no more loneliness, no more pain or discomfort for him, his earthly life complete, reunited with Dorothy, the love of his life. His ashes were recently interred next to Dorothy's in a family grave at St Anne's Church, Rainhill, a service attended by just a few family members, in accordance with current Covid19 guidelines.

Tom always counted his blessings; he was surrounded by people who loved and cared about him and St Luke's Church always held a special place in his heart.

We have very recently received a legacy for PCC funds, typical of Tom's thoughtfulness, appreciation and generosity. We are sad to have lost this special gentleman but he is now at peace, in God's safe keeping, his eternal rest so well deserved. God bless you Tom. We will miss you. Sue Smither

We're Going Back To School



What excitement there was on Thursday September 3rd when the doors of Farnworth CE School opened to all pupils, the first time since school closures were announced by the Government. Actually, school had never been fully closed. It had been open all through the Lock Down period to cater for the children of Key Workers, I can only imagine how grateful those parents were. 'Bubbles' were created to keep the children safe and lots of measures were in put place to ensure that there was limited contact. One Key worker parent described it to me as 'A LIFELINE'. WHIZZKIDS stayed open too.

Over the lockdown months teachers still kept in touch with their classes sending lovely encouraging messages and they prepared and sent out work for the children to do at home to ensure that their learning was as uninterrupted as possible...but there's nothing quite like face to face teaching and interaction or being with your friends.

On Thursday I watched from my dining room window as a stream of children dressed in their new uniforms passed on their way to school. Chattering away, big smiles on their faces.

School is different...it has to be to ensure that everyone is kept safe. Start and end times are staggered, year groups are kept in Bubbles, there are staggered play, lunch and home times. Mr Redman and his staff have done an amazing job under very difficult circumstances which kept changing day by day.

Here's how some of our Sunday Club have described their first day back.

Cara said, 'When it was time to come back to school I was excited but nervous. My new teacher is Mrs Love, she is kind and I am in Year 4. The work is a little bit more challenging but I am doing well. Being back in school is fun but I do miss my mum and dad's home schooling'. I wonder do Jeff and Nic miss home schooling? Cara's brother Alex wrote, 'I was nervous because I hadn't seen anyone in months. We didn't do proper work, we mostly just heard about what school would be like. I was sad because my best friend wasn't there.'

Summer was really excited; she completely forgot about social-distancing when she saw her best friend Antosh on her first day back!



**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS, WELL DONE and THANK YOU to everyone,
teachers, support staff, children and their parents.**

Sue



We are so very blessed to have such amazing people in our St Luke's family who have great technology skills. It is thanks to Sandra, Rob and Clare that we are able to join together in wonderful fellowship from our homes or in church and still feel very much part of the

worship offered to us. Colleen helps with the set up in church and those actually in St Luke's are able to see a screen showing people in their own homes.

We have had such positive feed back about the ZOOM services from individuals and from families unable to be with us in church. If you haven't already joined us, please do consider Zooming in... it would be fantastic to welcome you and it is so simple to set up. Details of how to do this can be found on page 25.

A huge thank you to everyone who makes this possible. Sue



Daily Bible Readings October and November

	October	November
1 st	Luke 10:1-12	Matthew 5: 1-12
2 nd	Luke 10: 13-16	Luke 14: 12-14
3 rd	Luke 10: 17-24	Luke 14: 15-24
4 th	Matthew 21: 33 to end	Luke 14: 25-33
5 th	Luke 10: 25-27	Luke 15: 1-10
6 th	Luke 10: 38 to end	Luke 16: 1-8
7 th	Luke 11: 1-4	Luke 16: 9-15
8 th	Luke 11: 5-13	Matthew 25: 1-13
9 th	Luke 11: 15-26	Luke 17: 1-6
10 th	Luke 11: 27 to end	Luke 17: 7-10
11 th	Matthew 22: 1-14	Luke 17: 11-19

12 th	Luke 11: 29-32	Luke 17: 20-25
13 th	Luke 11: 37-41	17: 26 to end
14 th	Luke 11: 42-46	Luke 18: 1-8
15 th	Luke 11: 47 to end	Matthew 25:14-30
16 th	Luke 12: 1-7	Luke 18: 35 to end
17 th	Luke 12: 8-12	Luke 19: 1-10
18 th	Luke 10: 1-9	Luke 19: 11-28
19 th	Luke 12: 13-21	Luke 19: 41-44
20 th	Luke 12: 35-38	Luke 19: 45-48
21 st	Luke 12: 39-48	Luke 20: 27-40
22 nd	Luke 12: 49-53	Matthew 25: 31 to end
23 rd	Luke 12: 54 to end	Luke 21: 1-4
24 th	Luke 13: 1-9	Luke 21: 5-11
25 th	Matthew 22: 34 to end	Luke 21: 12-19
26 th	Luke 13: 10-17	Luke 21: 20-28
27 th	Luke 13: 18-21	Luke 21: 29-33
28 th	John 15: 17 to end	Luke 21: 34-36
29 th	Luke 13: 31 to end	ADVENT SUNDAY
30 th	Luke 14: 1-6	
31 st	Luke 14: 1,7-11	

Message from Joan Webster

Due to the ever changing restrictions imposed by the Covid situation it will not be possible to have a Memorial Service for Spen as we had planned. We have therefore decided to set up a 'Just Giving Page' to enable anyone who would like to to make a donation in memory of Spen. The donations made along with any given previously given will be shared between St Ambrose Church and the Walton Centre.

Donations can be sent directly to me in the more traditional method if folks prefer. This is the link

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/spenwebster



Prayer for a Winter's Day

**As the days shorten, and the nights grow longer,
we are thankful for the small things that lift our spirits-
the glimpse of the sun through the clouds,
a cup of tea, freshly baked scones.**

**As the days shorten, and the nights grow longer,
we are thankful for glimmers of hope;
for the small acts of kindness that tell us
we are not alone in our uncertainty.**

**As the days shorten, and the nights grow darker,
we are thankful for all that stirs us into life;
a piece of music, the sound of laughter,
for words of wisdom that inspire us.**

**As the days shorten, and the nights grow darker,
we are warmed by the beauty that surround us,
the warmth of another's smile,
the company of family and friends.**

**May the thoughts of our hearts,
the words of our mouth,
the work of our hands and all that we do with our lives
speak of grace and truth and the love of God.**

[Based on a prayer written by Lynne Firth, a minister from NZ]

The meaning of Advent & the symbolism of the candles

Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year, encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth at Christmas.

We celebrate Advent by placing an Advent Wreath in church, very kindly made by Lesley Runcorn, and lighting candles each week. Our Advent Wreath is located near the pulpit so the congregation can look at it and contemplate the meaning of Advent.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent is a longstanding tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penitence, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.

Celebrating Advent is an excellent way to prepare our mind and heart for the true meaning of Christmas - the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



PARISH REGISTERS

Funeral

5th August

JOAN SMITH

'Rest in peace'

ADVENT CANDLE PRAYERS

WEEK 1 The candles remind us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. This first candle focuses on the Patriarchs, especially on Abraham, and on David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born.

WE PRAY: Lord God: You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are our light and our salvation. AMEN

WEEK 2 The second Advent focuses on the Prophets and reflects on the way birth of the Messiah was foretold.

WE PRAY: God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. AMEN

WEEK 3 We reflect on John who proclaimed the Saviour.

WE PRAY: God our Father, in their old age, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. AMEN.

WEEK 4 This week we pray about Mary who was the Mother of Jesus Christ.

WE PRAY God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; bless us, who long for your coming. AMEN

CHRISTMAS DAY: The fifth and final candle in our Advent wreath celebrates the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, born on Christmas Day.

WE PRAY: God our Father, the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love and to shine as lights in your world today. Alleluia! AMEN.

TOY SERVICE



**Sunday November 15th
10.30am in church & on Zoom**

Please donate unwrapped new toys so they can be given to Trinity Church Widnes who distribute them to children in Widnes who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present.

Toys can be taken to the service in church, put in the church porch between 10am and 12noon on Saturday 14th November and dropped off at the Rectory.

Name _____

Harvest

r o u s i l o s c h g e
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b h t r a c t o r h e a
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r l w e a t h e r s p o
a s d f g h ÷ k l t s z
f e s c a r e c r o w f
w o b n y e r n i a r q



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