

Parish Magazine

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

SUMMER FESTIVAL

at Farnworth C of E Primary School

15th June 2pm to 5pm

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More details see Page 18

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St Luke's Farnworth Parish

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Barry Horabin	12 Buckingham Ave	07471350957
Pat Johnson	17 Bridewell Court	07717522878
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Rob Leach	via	07761672030
Deputy Warden	Margaret Campbell	01514246039
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Funeral Vergers	Wardens	
Project Manager	Barry Horabin	01514249887
PCC Secretary	Sandra Lacey	07761672030
PCC Treasurer	Yvonne Horabin	01514249887
Safeguarding Officer	Margaret Campbell	01514246039
Eco-Officer	Sandra Vanezis	

Sunday Club usually 1030am in the Bridewell Sundays
Sunday Club Leader Lynn Keeling 01514243142

Director of Music Paul Delaney 07778042553
Choir Practice usually Thursdays 6pm-7pm
Tower Captain Nigel Goulding
Bell ringing practice usually Tuesdays 6.30pm

Schools Farnworth C.E. Primary 01514243042
Cronton C.E. Primary 01514243881
Editor Philip Lacey 07710030973

Kebbs Farm Clock Face Road Bold Widnes WA8 3XH
Please submit any material, articles or adverts, via
email to farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk with
attachments in Word - Arial font 12

Deadline for articles noon on 18th July 2024

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

The Sanctuary

Meets every Wed 10:30-2pm at St Ambrose Church Halton View Road Widnes

If you enjoy chatting with people in your community, or even if you just need a place to hang out, then we are here for you.

On occasions speakers on subjects surrounding health and wellbeing and it's a place to meet friends in our local community and to share our stories.

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

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OPEN DOOR

There is the opportunity for you to join us on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 11.30am for our 'Open Door'. This is very much a time of sharing; a time for quiet contemplation and prayer and importantly fellowship over tea, coffee, toasted teacakes and crumpets!

SATURDAYS
1st June and 6th July

Dear Friends,

I start with some good news!

We are pleased to announce that Rev Canon Peter Dawkin has accepted the appointment to be our Priest in Charge; at this moment in time we don't have a date for his Licensing but we very much look forward to welcoming him to the churches of St Luke's and Cronton Mission. We will hold him, his wife Linda, their family and the congregation of St Basil and All Saints in our prayers. It will be a time of change for many and we pray for God's blessings to be on them and us.



These past weeks we have heard much about change in our Lectionary readings, but there are verses from the Book of Jeremiah that I keep coming back to: 'I know well the plans I have made for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for disaster! When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord.'



We are confident that Peter will be a wonderful shepherd as he leads us forward in the next chapter of our faith journey but there are bound to be changes and a period of adjustment. Jeremiah was told that God had great plans for His people - and a future full of hope. The message of the scriptures is always one of hope. God has plans for each of us, having faith means believing that God is at work, even during times of adjustment and change.



Faith involves discerning where God is and we know that he has been with us throughout the Interregnum; people have stepped into new roles, we have felt wonderfully supported by our congregations. May I offer my grateful thanks to everyone concerned.

I will close my 'Dear Friends' with the famous words of Julian of Norwich....

<p>All will be well. All will be well. All manner of things will be well. <small>Julian of Norwich</small></p>	<p>And we know that is so because God promises to be with us now and always. Every blessing to you and yours over the summer, Sue</p>
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Farnworth PTA were absolutely thrilled with the amount of clothing etc that was donated by the people of St Luke's to their Library Pod fundraising appeal.

They have donated £150 of the amount they raised to St Luke's for which I have formally thanked them.

The next clothing appeal will take place in the Autumn Term with a closing date of November 7th but I will let you have more details about that later with a date of when we will actually be open for receiving any donations of clothes, shoes, belts, bags etc. *Sue*

GOOD FRIDAY JAM CLUB

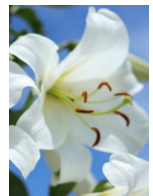
Lovely to have 18 children and 30 adults at our GOOD FRIDAY JAM CLUB. Thank you for coming to hear the special Three Trees Easter story. I hope that you enjoyed the crafts - crosses, egg decorations and cookie tombstones. Then hot cross buns. Thanks too to the people who came to help with crafts and refreshments.



We hope that JACK is enjoying his holiday with Clare and we will learn all about it next time. See you at 3pm on June 9th. Sue



FLOWER ROTA			
	June		July
16	Mrs L Taylor	7	Miss H Guthrie
23	Mrs P Clifford	14	Miss E Lewis
30	Mrs A Marshall	21	Mrs C Liptrott
		28	Mrs R Potter



SUNDAY CLUB

On Palm Sunday the children learnt about when Jesus and his disciples walked toward Jerusalem, he sent two disciples ahead, telling them to find a donkey and a colt. Upon arrival, the disciples found the two animals just as Jesus said they would.

The disciples brought the animals, laying their cloaks on the donkey so that Jesus could ride. As he rode towards Jerusalem, people laid cloaks and palm branches on the road in front of him, shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David," and "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Upon entering Jerusalem, some people asked "Who is this?" Some of the crowd answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Arriving at the temple in Jerusalem, Jesus drove out the people who were buying and selling in the house of the Lord. He healed the blind and the sick; however, at the same time he aroused the suspicion of the priests, who heard children shouting in the temple area calling out, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" The children made palms in their session in the Bridewell and then came into church and paraded round church with their palms whilst Paul played music to sing Hosanna to the King. Well done children.



Wedding on Saturday May 18th

Sarah Roggendorf and
Jonathan Erik Larsson
with Rev Michael
Nicholson.

Wishing you a long and
happy marriage.



SUNDAY CLUB

The children played Kim's game when a variety of items are placed on a table, the children look at the items before they are covered up. The children can't see them but know they are there. One item is removed and the children guess which item is missing. The game was a way of explaining that even though we can't see God he is always there with them.

Many of the children took part in the Nature Day, which looked amazing. (I saw all the photos on WhatsApp). I was sad not to be there, but I have been told it was a wonderful day and the children really enjoyed the craft activities.



I would like to take this opportunity to a huge thank you to Lindsay Tague for running Sunday Club whilst I was away. I am very grateful to her and know the children were in capable hands.

Lynn Keeling

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Annual Parochial Meeting, for the accounting year ended 31st December 2023 was held on Sunday 12th May 2024, and this is my report from that meeting.

The funds of the church consist of three funds, Endowment, from which only the interest/dividend income can be used not the capital, and this was £166,867 at 31/12/23 Restricted £77,163 and Designated Funds £4,709 are funds for various purposes, and can only be spent on that, for example, Toilet, Bridewell, Churchyard, Bells etc.

General Fund:- This fund is for the general day to day expenditure of the church, and is the most worrying of all the funds. People have been very generous in supporting the fundraising for the Toilets and Servedy raising just under £14,000 in 2023, but General fund income is down by just under £9,000, and even though expenses are down by just over £14,000 (mainly due to the reduction in the Parish share by £12,000 per year to £72,251 per annum). This still leaves a deficit at the year end of just under £25,000. See basic summary below of last three years.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
General Fund income	79,896	83,391	76,433
Church commissioner's Grants	<u>0</u>	<u>33,270</u>	<u>23,213</u>
	79,896	116,661	99,646
General Fund Expenditure	(32,572)	(34,706)	(27,685)
Parish Share	<u>(72,251)</u>	<u>(84,325)</u>	<u>(84,325)</u>
(Deficit)/ Profit	<u>(24,927)</u>	<u>2,370</u>	<u>(12,364)</u>

Before the Pandemic, we were able to pay the parish share each year, In 2021 we were able to pay £58,325, and owed £26,000 at the year end. That creditor was covered by the grant in 2022 of £33,270, with £7270 going towards the 2022 parish share, a total of £51,055 was paid with £26,000 outstanding at 31/12/2022.

In 2023 £42,000 was paid, £26,000 re the outstanding arrears for 2022 and £16,000 towards 2023 and which left £56,251 owing at the year end. Only £14,000 has been paid since January 2024, which will be offset against the 2023 creditor.

The Diocese is the main creditor at each year end.

We are a very busy church, which is good, but more so this current year, with high energy bills and rising food prices, income is down people just don't have the funds to give any more to the church. In addition to this, sadly quite a few of our regular donors have died, reducing our regular income quite considerably, especially in the current year 2024. We just have to hope and pray that the Diocese understand the position we are in, along with many other churches. As I mentioned earlier, we are a busy church, with funerals and baptisms and occasional weddings. I don't think many of you would know how very little the church actually receives from a wedding or funeral service or baptism, towards church funds. From a Wedding it is £471, a funeral in church it is £249, from a funeral at the Crematorium it is £0, yes nothing. Baptisms again is £0 and we rely on a collection during that service to cover heating bills and other expenses.

As I said in my report last year, we all have a responsibility to think of ways to increase our income, to reach out to everyone to keep this fellowship strong. Everyone needs to play their part in this, not just expect the PCC members to do it. Especially, I would like you all to think about changing the way you give. Please use the Parish Giving Scheme, instead of standing orders (if a tax payer), envelopes or collection plate. Giving by the Parish Giving Scheme had increased in 2022, but due to the deaths of some of our regular givers this is now down to £2000 per month. Even though it has reduced, along with the standing orders, it helps to fund the regular monthly expenditure of the church, for the likes of Insurance, Salaries, Utility bills, Maintenance contracts etc., but leaves very little left towards the Parish share .

Please help by sharing the worry with me and look at ways to increase our income.

Hopefully our new Vicar will share the load too and encourage new growth and funds into the church.

Thank You Yvonne Horabin

If you would like a copy of the accounts please contact me
01514249887 Yvonne.rice@btinternet.com



PARISHGIVINGSCHEME™

For information on the Parish Giving Scheme please pick up a leaflet in church or ask a churchwarden.

FARNWORTH CE SCHOOL

Children from Y5 came to church to join in a mid-week worship with us....below is the letter I sent for their Newsletter

On behalf of everyone at St Luke's Church, I would like to thank the Y5 children, their teachers and TA's for joining us at our 09.30 service of Morning Prayer.

They were all amazing ambassadors for Farnworth School, so respectful of their surroundings and the many adults who came to worship that morning; we were absolutely delighted to have them with us. The children engaged fully with the service; the Value Ambassadors lead us so confidently in our time of prayer and we had the added bonus of them singing a new Worship Song for us.

After well-deserved drinks and biscuits, there was the opportunity to have a few moments to explore and ask questions - and there were many!

I received so many beautiful comments from people as they left. Thank you Y5, you were amazing and we hope to see you again very soon.

As I write, the children are looking forward to their Summer Discos, and also a 'super hero' fun run on Friday 24th May to show their support for Liam Mahoney, a past pupil who is fundraising for Cure Leukaemia. We wish them all the best of luck. Their PTA is also organising a 'colour run' towards the end of term, more about that next time!

I had the privilege of being in school with the Y6 classes who are taking their SAT's. They have been wonderfully focussed and so calm. I am sure they will have done their very best; they are excited to be moving onto their High Schools where I know they will shine.

Sue



There are now quite a number of congregation members who would benefit from using a **LARGE PRINT COPY** of our Hymn book. We do have some but clearly not enough for the number of people requesting them. In the past people have kindly donated money towards Hymns Books in memory of loved ones. If you are interested in finding out more please speak to Sue.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOREEN

I thought that everyone might like to see this photograph of Doreen surrounded by just a few of her family. Her birthday on May 13th saw an influx of visitors; she managed to get out into the garden for a breath of fresh air and to have this photo taken.



I, and several others from church, visit Doreen regularly. She always has that lovely smile, she is keeping well enough and every time asks after everyone in church; she has a list of all the questions she wants answers to!

I am sure that everyone would want to congratulate her and send their very best wishes.

Sue



St Luke's Fairs Committee will be joining with Farnworth School's PTA to hold the event at Farnworth School, Pit Lane. 15th June 2pm to 5pm

The format will be slightly different with lots of new initiatives and we are excited and are looking forward to our joint venture. As is the tradition the 'Rose Queen' will open the Festival at 2pm. Our Fairs Committee will be running traditional games so would welcome any donations of items for prizes. For our 'Pick a Bag' stall; sweets, chocolates, toiletries and unwanted gifts would be gratefully received. If you would be willing to man a stall can you please speak to Lynn or Sue.....Thank you

Sue

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Doors open at 6.45pm
Tickets £5pp inc welcome drink**



At St Luke's, we have all come to know and love Matt Plant who, over the past goodness knows how many years, has brought students from the College to perform the most amazing concerts. More recently, Lucy who teaches Music has joined him and we have seen and heard new and exciting music from her fantastic students.

Whilst I was searching for some information on the College website, I found this. I just thought that you might be intrigued to see Matt's 'qualifications'!

MATT PLANT: Artistic Director

M.A. (Distinction) in Performance Practice

P.G. Dip in Dramatic Art from The Academy Drama School,
London

B.A. (Hons) in Drama and English and P.G.C.E.

External examiner

Toured extensively throughout Britain & Europe

Appeared in critically acclaimed productions in London theatres

Resident voice over for London's Heart 106.2FM

We are so blessed to have both Matt and Lucy give up their precious free time at this busy time of exams and so value what they do.

We cannot thank them enough and very much look forward to this next performance at St Luke's.

**PLEASE DO COME ALONG TO SUPPORT THE STUDENTS
AND HAVE A WONDERFUL EVENING Sue**



Cronton Mission and CE School

This month's CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP at Cronton Mission was led as usual by Clare Liiptrott. The service focused on John 15 v 12 "Love one another as I have loved you" and felt very special, as there was lots of opportunity for sharing information and supporting each other pastorally. We talked about what love looks like, how we show love, and the ways we can demonstrate/share the love of Jesus with those around us. We completed a craft activity – a friendship bouquet using paper as a simple way to remember and consider that God loves us and wants us to love others.



If you have not attended a Café style service before, please give it a try – we meet in the hall of Cronton CE school on the first Sunday of each month. It is suitable for all, with children's activities and refreshments also part of the service.

I am pleased to announce that following inspection by OFSTED on the 26/27th March, Cronton CE Primary School has been awarded an OUTSTANDING grading in all areas. The inspection came 11 years to the day since the last inspection, the framework of which had been revised about 5 times since then, the standards required for gradings becoming more and more demanding. I hope you can join me in congratulating the staff and governors at Cronton CE who have always strived to provide this quality of education, driven by a deeply committed and embedded Christian Ethos. As always, the children were amazing, and confidently ensured that the inspectors understood their school, how they learn, how they are expected to behave, and the extensive range of knowledge and opportunities provided for them.

Inspectors said – “Pupils thoroughly enjoy their time at this school. They are happy, enthusiastic, and eager to learn. The school’s motto,

‘Believe, Enjoy, Succeed, Together’

permeates through all aspects of school life. Relationships between staff and pupils are exceptionally strong.



Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) make excellent progress through the school’s highly engaging and ambitious curriculum. They approach their work with high levels of interest and curiosity. Pupils relish the learning challenges that teachers provide during lessons and show strong commitment and perseverance when undertaking tasks.

Pupils are exceptionally proud of their achievements. The school has developed an extensive range of experiences that extend well beyond the academic curriculum. Such experiences help pupils to develop their confidence to an extremely high level. Pupils are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their education”.

Debbie Doyle

BRING CHURCH INTO YOUR HOME

Sundays 10.30am (60 mins)

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FABRIC REPORT

Hopefully, we can now look forward to the completion of the toilet project which is in its fifth year of trying get it off the ground. Halton Borough Council Grants Department is working on our behalf and has approached Grant Providers with our applications. Some very positive results have been achieved. So far we have received a cheque for £5,200 from Benefact Trust. We have progressed to stage two with the National Churches Trust, we received an email from them requesting further information, so that looks promising. Apparently it is difficult to even get to stage two, so prayers and fingers crossed, please! A bid has been posted to the Joseph Rank Trust. Unusually they wanted a paper application and not on line, which is the norm for communication now. The panel assessing our application will be sitting in July. I am enclosing a copy of the appendix sent to the Joseph Rank Trust bid which shows the up-to-date position of our funding for this project. The Council Grants department is now looking at other avenues for grant applications. I have also recently met with the Contractors to finalise various points of the design which will benefit the project and should prove less costly. Discussion also took place on the impact the project will have on church services. This will mean the West end of the church will be screened off for safety and the amount of dust should be kept to a minimum, with their use of dust extractors. Hopefully the disruption to services will be kept to a minimum with only the Wednesday morning service affected. Work will stop when the service is on and we will have to reduce the number of funerals in church while work is going on. The tea bar will be re designed into two units on rollers so they can be moved around to various points in the church as required which will enable us to offer a range of possible events within the church. You may have noticed that the Preaching Cross has been restored to its historic place to the left of the main door. This has set me on trying to find out the history of the previous St Wilfrid's church which was originally here in earlier times. It is hoped later in the year we will invite the new Bishop of Liverpool to come and consecrate the cross and invite not only the congregation but members of the community who supported its rebuild. The site needs to be more presentable and plans are afoot so watch that space. My thanks go to all who have donated not only money but their time.

Project cost	Description	Cost	VAT	Total incl.
Preliminaries	Site establishment & supervision; scaffold enabling; H&S	49,620	9,924	59,544
Preparation	Electrical alteration; ex-floors; ex-drainage; demolition	3,492	699	4,191
Capital works incl. kitchen and toilets	New toilets (including mezzanine to retain bell-ringing) & glass balustrading (to retain historical feature visibility) New (servery)	110,562	22,112	132,674
Investigations	Site service; asbestos; external foul drainage & connection	10,000	2,000	12,000
Professional Fees	Lump sum only - based on favourable 40% discount due to long-standing architects' involvement with the church over several years	10,000	2,000	12,000
Contingency	10% of £183674	18,367	3,673	22,040
				242,449

£183,674 plus 10% Contingencies and 20% VAT (Recoverable) = **£242,449** (based on tender from Finlason Partnership (specialist Diocese Architects); £104,006 raised to-date by parishioners and friends/supporters of the church and its valuable mission, combined as follows - Current secured/pledged funding plus recoverable VAT (£144,414) has been sourced from community (e.g. regular quizzes, raffles etc.), congregational fundraising (Friends of St Luke's, HSBC grant), individual legacies and a recent grant approval of £5,200 (Benefact Trust) NB: all of this money is ring-fenced funding solely for the project

Immediate fundraising plans for raising the balance (£98,035) comprise a number of targeted grant funders (including National Churches Trust, Garfield Weston Faith Programme and Diocese of Liverpool (all submitted), plus other grant opportunities that may be announced in the near future and our continued community and congregational fundraising As the motto of the Friends of Farnworth says

The Past is our inheritance, the Future our Responsibility

Barry Horabin

Tribute to Geoff Poole

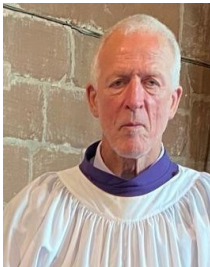
We are still trying to come to terms with the unexpected circumstances of Geoff's tragic death and the first thing to say is that we are still holding Rita and the family in our prayers.

I began my tribute by saying that Geoff was a good man, a gentle giant of a gentleman who was first and foremost a family man and he was also a very private man and so when I met with the family I learned so much about him that none of us were aware of.

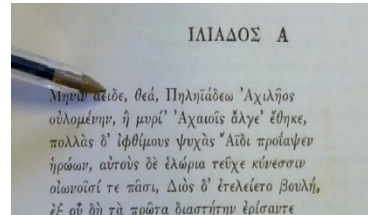
We knew about his love of St Luke's and the hours he spent on research, we appreciated the visits he arranged to the n'th degree to other churches of historical interest. His skills as a 'handyman' came in very handy, you only had to mention something to Geoff and he would fix it. He had spent hours repairing the stone boundary wall and relaying some of the old York flagstones... the results of his work clear for everyone to see...as it will be for generations to come.

We weren't aware that Geoff's working life was spent in the paper industry, specifically adhesive labels; he travelled widely with his work and was so well respected.

He loved languages and was self-taught; he was learning Ancient Greek so that he could better understand old manuscripts.



He sang with several choirs, including of course our own church choir where he and his lovely voice are sadly missed.



Geoff was most definitely a Bibliophile. He always had his head in a book. He never stopped studying and loved delving into Philosophy. Often he would ask me what I thought about somebody or other's thesis or theory...most often I hadn't even heard of the person's name, let alone what the principles they were arguing about. He really was such an academic. Since his death, several people have spoken about his caring ways and how he cared for their wellbeing...that was Geoff to a tee, quietly unassuming.

Geoff's daughter Avril wrote this about her dad: 'Dad named himself the legend after he received an email from his gym telling him what a legend he was, and it became a family joke, but he really was a legend.'

From his passion for reading, singing and history to his black belts in Judo and Jujitsu he really was. His green fingers were the best, he loved gardening and he would go around the dinner plate pointing out what he had grown and how it tasted better than the supermarkets. But the biggest reason he was a legend was because he we always knew we were loved, that's the greatest gift the you can give your children.'

Avril's words were heartfelt and I know that she was speaking on behalf of all the family, Rita her Mum, Keith, Heather and Stuart and their families.

Many people attended the funeral to pay their respects to Geoff, some travelling considerable distances; most stayed for the reception that we held in church afterwards where they shared their special memories of this humble, quiet, unassuming man we were blessed to call our friend.

As a church family, we extend our deepest sympathy to Rita and all her lovely family. It has been good to see her in church where I hope that she finds comfort from the surroundings and support from the people who love and care for her.

Sue

FUNERAL REGISTER			
Date	Name	Age	Location
21/03/2024	Steven Wong	51	St Luke & Fairfield
02/04/2024	Cynthia Shirley Richards	79	St Luke & Crem
12/04/2024	Dorothy Woodward	84	St Luke & Crem
15/04/2024	Malcolm Geoffrey Poole	77	St Luke & Crem
23/04/2024	Jean Mary Young	89	Crematorium
26/04/2024	Marie Nicollette Mullen	74	St Luke & Crem





Huge thank you from Foodbank for all the Easter treats you so generously donated on Palm Sunday.

Shopping list

We are extremely grateful for all donations of food from the public and local organisations, which helps us to put food on the table.

We are particularly in need of these items:

- **Cereal**
- **Coffee**
- **Tinned Fish**
- **Tinned Mixed Vegetables**
- **Jam**
- **Long Life Milk**

Donations urgently needed

As well as providing three meals a day for three days, we include non-food essentials such as toiletries and cleaning products.

Our focus is on food items. However, we try to ensure our visitors leave with healthy food and items for personal hygiene.

We are particularly in need of these items:

- **Shampoo**
- **Deodorant**
- **Washing up liquid**
- **Toilet roll**
- **Shower gel**
- **Washing powder**

We also need nappies and we are always short of the larger sizes 4,4+,5,5+ and 6.

We want to make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry, and your help makes this happen. Your donations make a real difference.

Thank you for your continued support it is much appreciated.



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

Sundays 9th June and 14th July

3pm to 4pm

**STORY
TIME!**

craft activities & food

Bring your little ones to meet Jack



**For more information contact
Clare 07976549410**

FARNWORTH CE SCHOOL UPDATE!

This is literally 'hot off the press'

A few weeks ago, Farnworth had their SIAM's Inspection; this is when an independent Inspector comes into school to look at the Christian ethos of the school. I had a telephone interview with Tina Astley, the Inspector and I shared with her the wonderful partnership we have with Farnworth CE School. Below is a copy of the email I received from Mrs Whitfield and some extracts from Tina's report.

Well done and Congratulations to EVERYONE at the school.

Hi Sue

Please find attached our SIAMS report. It truly captures and celebrates our lovely Farnworth family. Thank you for taking the time to share the wonderful work that you and St. Luke's do to support us, with Tina. It was, and always is, very much appreciated. Kind regards Heather Whitfield Interim Headteacher

In her report Tina stated:

There are exceptionally strong partnerships with the local church; they support the provision and spiritual development opportunities offered at Farnworth. The recent 'walk of light' highlighted the strong school, church and community links. It is an opportunity to join together in worship, linking school with church and home. There is a shared determination that these partnerships thrive and are mutually supportive.

A commitment to wellbeing is seen through the pastoral support available through staff and church links. As a consequence, pupils feel safe in school and know they will be listened to. Staff speak highly of the high quality support they receive. Farnworth Church of England Primary school is a place where all are cherished. Pupils 'walk in the light' and provided with a firm foundation 'ready for the journey ahead'.

Farnworth Church of England Primary school is living up to its foundation as a Church school.



Colleen led our April meeting with prayers and readings and we sang “All things bright and beautiful” to mark Rogation Day. She then introduced Christel Langdon-Griffiths, a representative of Christian Aid (CA). Christel lives in Warrington, is herself ordained and is also married to a chaplain and they have three children. We were able to view the slide show which Christel brought to show the latest advertisement and details surrounding the CA work, which is providing help wherever

there is a humanitarian emergency, whether through conflict, earthquake, flood or famine. Each year they focus on one country and this year it is Burundi, one of the poorest countries in Africa. Burundi is not just located in the heart of the continent, it is also heart-shaped, hence its nickname, “the heart of Africa”. CA has been active in Burundi for over 30 years. We followed the life of Aline Nibogora, a single mum who was cast away by her violent husband. She escaped the trap of poverty by her faith, love for her children and help from CA. Aline’s priority is for her children to have peace and a good future. She undertook a 3-day community workshop with a CA-funded trainer, where she learned how to make a steady income and could start to make long-term plans. Through the savings group she was able to get a start-up loan to open a small business trading avocados and peanuts locally. With the profits she was able to buy a bicycle to help transport greater quantities. She earned enough money to rent a house and be reunited with her 3 eldest sons. Her faith has seen her through the darkest of times but now she can provide for her family. They share prayer time together. Aline uses her experience to help other families in her community. She is an achiever who does not just have dreams, rather she has plans to be carried out. Christel asked us to GIVE, ACT and PRAY during CA Week: we can GIVE using their famous red envelopes Linda shared a few ideas about how we can ACT, suggesting sponsorship by family and friends not just for running a marathon but for the simple things we do each day such as walking, knitting, sewing, reading, etc. We can PRAY that the CA activities can be successful, improving the lives of many people. It was clear that, like other CA speakers who have talked to us in the past, Christel is very dedicated to helping those in need. Colleen thanked her for her very interesting talk, showing what can be done to help people make a future for themselves – especially women!

Lord, your Kingdom is one without end. Inspire us with the vision of justice and peace of life before death, leading to a brighter future. Amen.

MU is also taking part in the “Thy Kingdom Come” project, whereby we are asked to pray for 5 people and invite 1 to church to share our faith. One of the things we need to pray for is that people will come forward to take up representative roles in MU as this triennial comes to an end later this year. We need a new Area President to replace Colleen! Our Coffee Morning on 15th May was very successful, raising £170 towards MU’s charitable work. Many thanks to everyone who attended, donated or bought items, including raffle tickets. The top prize was a beautiful flower box, kindly donated by a former flower arranger at church, Linda Gregson. We send many good wishes to Linda at this time.

Upcoming events:

12th June Rev Canon Michael Rogers ‘Triangle of Hope project’

10th July Summer Social

18th July Afternoon Tea in church, 2.pm-4pm Tickets £5 from Colleen

Tea Rota: June – Linda Brown and Colleen

July – Joy Miller and Shelagh Wareing.

Rita Poole, Magazine Secretary

JUNE	SERVICES		
	St Ambrose	St Luke’s	Cronton Mission
Sun 2nd	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Style
Wed 5 th	Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 9 th		08.00 HC	
	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM CLUB	
Wed 12 th	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sun 16 th	09.00 HC		
	10.30 TEAM SERVICE at St Ambrose church		
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 19 th	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sun 23 rd	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		12.30 Baptisms	
		6pm HC	
Wed 26 th		09.30 HC	
Sun 30 th	10.30 HC TEAM SERVICE at Cronton Mission		

FUNDRAISING GRANT APPLICATIONS

I asked both Farnworth and Lunts Heath schools and the 6th Form College to help support our Grant Applications for funding for the Toilets and Servery and we were humbled by their response. I asked Matt Plant, Head of Cronton 6th Form College Performing Arts Department, if I could share his letter with you...he wrote....

I have been asked to write to you regarding our outstanding partnership with St Luke's Church. Our relationship with the church goes back many years and, in that time, we have forged a strong and lasting friendship with church leaders and parishioners alike. Due to their support, we can schedule a variety of creative endeavours that enhance the overall subject delivery of both A Level Drama and A Level Music as well as our extra-curricular accomplishments. St Luke's is, in short, a staple of our academic year and an accepted part of our syllabus-based study.

Throughout this partnership, St Luke's has always been extremely amiable, generous, and kind when allowing us rehearsal and preparation time, often meaning that staff and students are in the building for many hours prior to the performance evenings and events. Improved toilet facilities are necessary to enable the success of our partnership to flourish and to further support efficiency and convenience for the hundreds of supporters who, throughout the years, have had to use other methods. St Luke's has a very special place in the heart of our community, and it must be acknowledged that the church is not only a place of worship but a place of outstanding historical interest. Only with better facilities can we fully embrace this interest and highlight for the community precisely what St Luke's Church means to everyone.

Huge thanks also to Mrs Whitfield and Mr Paton for the very generous words in their letters of support.

We are very proud of our associations with the local schools and the 6th Form College, long may they last. Sue

OPEN DOOR WEDNESDAYS

Church will be open for 9.30am service
(30 minutes) until 3pm

People on hand to show you around our
beautiful church and chat to you over a cuppa.

'GAMES GALORE'

Grosvenor Women's club host & provide refreshments

1.30pm to 3pm Wednesday

Men welcome.

**Come and join a light hearted group of people who play
games - scrabble, chess, dominos, UNO and many
more.**



**Folk getting to know each other and sharing
laughter and tales recalling childhood memories
of games played. Afternoons are free - donations
gratefully accepted for church funds. We look forward
to seeing you! Contact Pat Johnson 0151 257 7737**

Sunday Club

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

10.30am in the Bridewell

For children aged 4 to 11.

We have lots of fun learning about God's Love for us.

Please come and join us.



Sunday School
FOR ALL!



Please contact Lynn 424 3142 for further details

Summer aged 9 says "I like Sunday Club because we do fun activities and learn about God"

Alexis aged 7 says "I love Sunday Club because I like making pictures, doing sticking and playing with my friends"

"I have been going to Sunday Club since I was very little. I've had lots of fun there, drawing and making things and also reading prayers in church. It's been great learning about God" **Luca aged 13**

"I love Sunday Club because I like all the activities we do and learning about being a Christian in a fun way. I like being a role model for the younger children. And talking to the congregation, learning from them. I love performing for them at services. **Charlotte aged 13**



NEWS and THANKS from Barry Horabin

We now have a Priest in Charge for St Luke's and Cronton Mission. Sue and I were on the interview panel to choose a candidate who would be a good fit for our church. Both of us were in agreement on what we wanted. Someone to lead us in our faith, in Sue's words, a Shepherd. Eventually we both agreed that Rev. Peter Dawkins was the ideal person to take us forward.

Having said that, since we have been in an interregnum, we have had a Shepherd in Sue who has guided us to a safe haven. The amount of work she has undertaken has been outstanding, and we were so pleased when she was licensed to offer Holy Communion, which has been much appreciated by the congregation. A huge thank you Sue from everyone.

Of course, lots of work has gone on unseen, but is still appreciated, I refer to Sandra Lacey and Yvonne. Sandra keeps us on our toes with vital information and with Philip does a great job in producing the award-winning Parish Magazine throughout the year.

Yvonne, our treasurer is a genius in balancing the ever-decreasing Parish Funds, while corresponding with Halton Borough Council as they search for funding for our toilet project. This is a very time-consuming job to which I can testify. Many hours are spent on the computer making sure we can afford to stay open, but this is a major issue we will have address in the not too distant future.

Throughout the interregnum the Wardens - Pat, Colleen, Rob, Margaret and myself have supported each other and supported Clergy and congregation with care and attention. The church would not function without wardens and they are one of the many things that make this an outstanding church in the eyes of the public.

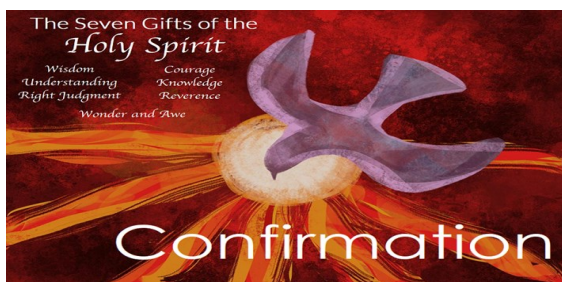
Members of the PCC deserve some appreciation for the good work that they do and I am sure they are aware of the huge responsibility they have undertaken. Thank you to all who have agreed to continue on PCC. I am pleased to welcome back George Telfer as Health and Safety Officer, a role for which he is well qualified. I am personally pleased as I have missed his banter and infectious laugh. Welcome to Owen Mullarkey, a relatively new member of our congregation, who has agreed to join our PCC. Hopefully Owen finds the role worthwhile and rewarding.

We are blessed that we have a dedicated group of bell ringers under the guidance of Nigel Goulding who regularly call the faithful to services every Sunday. Our Organist Paul makes our Sunday services a delight along with the Choir who lead us in our singing

and help to make us feel uplifted. Special mention should be made to Margaret, our Safeguarding Officer who is a demon in chasing us to fill out those important forms.

It is always a pleasure when the Sunday Club join our service and the children show what they have done and read their special prayer. Well done to Lynn and her support team led by Lindsey. I must record my thanks to Sandra and the Community Service Team who keep our churchyard tidy and make it a pleasant place to visit, sit and perhaps contemplate. Another Sandra (popular name!) is Sandra Vanezis who organised our first Nature Day promoting the churchyard and eco issues. Excellent new initiative. Sadly, we have lost friends, in the last five months, who had worked hard for the church, firstly Barry Ingram, who was a warden, lay chair of the PCC, Gift Aiding officer and had many other roles. Then Geoff Poole, although not a member of the PCC, he was always on hand to undertake minor repairs around the church and within the church walls. He was a member of the church choir, as well as other choirs in Liverpool. After finding the stone with the date 1000 on the cross, he was assisting me in trying to trace the records of the church from its inception, a job I will do in his memory.

In closing may I personally thank you the reader of this report and the congregation for making this church a place where God is evident in everything we do.



We have received information that Bishop John of Liverpool will be coming to Widnes to officiate at the Deanery Confirmation Service of both adults and young children.

The service will take place at 4pm on Sunday, June 16th St Michael with St Thomas' church in Hough Green. Confirmation Club will be offered to children in Y5 and Y6 or above. If you are interested in taking the next step on your faith journey, and are considering Confirmation, please speak to Sue for more information.

POEM from PAUL DELANEY

Why are you doing this to me?

*Why are you doing this to me? What have I done, I ask.
Are you a human being? Or a monster in a mask?
I haven't done anything wrong. I've carried you, for a million years.
But now, everything's changing. And my eyes are full of tears.*

You throw plastic into my oceans, fill my rivers with acid rain.
Is it right to name another? Somebody else to blame?
You chop down my jungle trees, homes for a thousand creatures.
Ancient trees, plants and flowers, older and wiser teachers.
You destroy woods and forests, plants and creatures, cast aside.
Animals, birds, insects and fish, with nowhere left to hide.

*Why are you doing this to me? What have I done, I ask.
Are you a human being? Or a monster in a mask?
I haven't done anything wrong. I've carried you, for a million years.
But now, everything's changing. And my eyes are full of tears.*

You strangle my lungs, every day, your chimneys puffing out
smoke.
Car exhausts pumping fumes, their poisonous chemicals choke.
You heat up the atmosphere, my icebergs melting fast.
I wonder if you'll ever say, 'Icebergs? A thing of the past!'
You kill mighty animals, a cruel and twisted addiction.
Lions, tigers and snow leopards, pushed to the brink of extinction.

*Why are you doing this to me? What have I done, I ask.
Are you a human being? Or a monster in a mask?
I haven't done anything wrong. I've carried you, for a million years.
But now, everything's changing. And my eyes are full of tears.*

You take the car, rather than walk, like sloths, sleepy and lazy.
But will you ever change your ways? Selfish, mean and crazy.
You still use 'single use' plastic, I see it, stuffed in city bins.
Quick, convenient, easy to make. But only the factory wins.
You hear my woeful whisper: '**Stop** your approaching fate!'
But if you close your ears, One day, it will be **too late**...

www.pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk

Peace is...

Peace is a Blue Emperor butterfly, fluttering in the breeze.

Peace is a field of fragrant flowers, the sound of buzzing bees.

Peace is a host of angels, singing a heavenly song.

Peace is a delicate instrument, a flute or a Chinese gong.

Peace is a bloody battlefield, now an innocent carpet of grass.

Peace is a school at the midnight hour, a silent, empty class.

Peace is a warm and cosy bed, waiting for you to climb in.

Peace is sitting alone with your thoughts, away from the daily din.

I bless wild winds - 'Peace be with you!'

I bless strong seas - 'Peace be with you!'

I bless majestic mountains - 'Peace be with you!'

I bless humble hearts - 'Peace be with you!'

Peace is an old grandfather clock, its heartbeat tick-tocking away.

Peace is a golden summer sunset, the end of another day.

Peace is a motorway on Christmas night, abandoned, silent and free.

Peace is a sleeping baby, rocking on somebody's knee.

Peace is the bottom of the ocean, its secrets cold and deep.

Peace is a ghostly graveyard, its spirits in heaven, asleep.

Peace is listening to tweeting birds, leaving their branches to fly.

Peace is space, magical and mysterious and stars twinkling high.

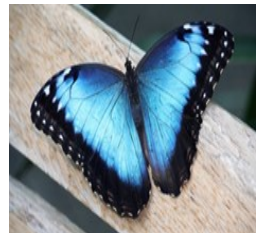
I bless wild winds - 'Peace be with you!'

I bless strong seas - 'Peace be with you!'

I bless majestic mountains - 'Peace be with you!'

I bless humble hearts - 'Peace be with you!'

www.pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk



Congratulations to Midge Baker on her 90th birthday 19th May. Dressed as a ray of sunshine!



Easter in Ukraine

We are always delighted to see Halyna in church but even more so on Sunday May 5th. Orthodox Easter is celebrated at a different time to ours; in the Ukraine they use the Julian calendar whereas the date we celebrate Easter is determined according to the Gregorian calendar!



That day Halyna came dressed blue and yellow, the colours of the Ukrainian flag. She brought with her a basket with eggs and a special Easter cake that is traditionally eaten by families in her home country.

It is called Paska and the recipe is passed down from one generation to the next. Halyna kindly baked some to share with us.

Thank you Halyna.

Sue

Nature and Heritage Day

With the aim of sharing the beauty of our churchyard when the bluebells and blossom are at their peak, we held the first Nature and Heritage Day. The event was held on Monday the 6th May. We were blessed with perfect weather for the occasion and thanks to the hard work of volunteers and the Justice department the Churchyard did not disappoint. A carpet of bluebells, horse chestnut, lilac and hawthorn blossom were in their full glory. To guide visitors around the churchyard, a nature trail was set up, combining some information about the myths, heritage and ecology of plants in the churchyard, a quiz and directions. This was accessed by information on posts with QR codes at each stop.

Inside the church delicious cakes and tea and coffee were on offer as well as games and craft activities. To help wildlife in the community, bug hotel making and making bird feeders from pine cones were also carried out. A beautiful patchwork quilt, made from recycled material, was donated and raffled.

Earlier in the year seeds were distributed and we were pleased to see some of them returned as young plants for the plant swap. In preparation for the day, gardeners had also dug up spare plants and donated them for the event. For a donation, people helped themselves to plants for their gardens.

We are very grateful to all the people who supported the event. Many thanks to all who attended, donated prizes for the games, donated plants, cakes, raffle prizes and volunteered to staff the stalls and prepared QR codes for the nature trail. A good time was had by all and I believe our aim of helping people appreciate how lovely the churchyard is, was achieved. It is hoped this will be the first of many more Nature and Heritage events.

Earlier in the year hundreds of hawthorn whips and bulbs were planted. As these grow and mature, so the beauty and wildlife of the churchyard will grow, giving us even more to enjoy and celebrate in years to come.

We are looking forward to celebrating our next Nature and Heritage Day, hope to see you there.

Sandra Vanezis



Making tasty feeders from cones for the birds



Ladybird game



Flip the Lid to find a bug



Our essential and much appreciated refreshments team



Our raffle



Enjoying the flowers



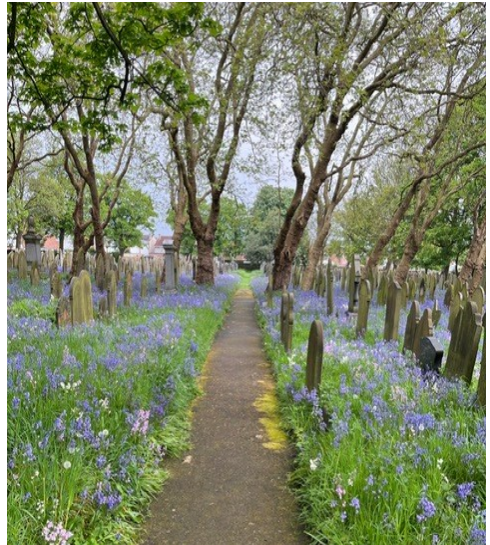
Enjoying the refreshments



Fun for families of all ages



A nice bug house completed



Beautiful Bluebells

PCC would like to thank Sandra and her helpers for organising this very successful Nature and Heritage Day which will now be an annual event.

Bishop John's message for Pentecost.

“Pentecost is a feast of unity, hope and new beginnings. The Spirit of God brings unity at Pentecost. There were people from different cultures and linguistic background; many of them could not tolerate each other. The power of God broke all those barriers. But what we might forget is the fact that the Spirit creates this united community through a subversive act. The spirit upsets the existing unity! The story suggests that there was some sense of unity before the Spirit acted. The disciples were together at the beginning of the story, apparently in quite an orderly fashion but towards the end of the story there is confusion! We must also notice that those who witnessed the event inevitably had some sort of common language because they were able to communicate with each other (Acts 2:12). The empire and conquest had already brought some unity, giving a common language. Pentecost subverted this unity which already existed and brought about a new kind of unity that respected diversity and differences. In order to bring about true unity and real peace what currently appears to be unity and peace will have to be subverted. In a world of injustice and inequalities, status quo in most cases offers peace to the privileged ones only and what is considered to be peace is peripheral and superficial. It is only the subversive power of the Spirit of God that can equip us with the true gifts of unity, hope and peace. The current challenges we face as a diocese, deanery and parishes can feel like the unity and peace is being disrupted. But I believe that is the disruption that God needs in his church as he moves us towards new realities and a new future. I pray we remain open to the disruptive and subversive work of the Spirit in our midst as the diocesan family. We may have uncertainties that can dampen our hope. But God is not giving up on us. He might be enabling us to work in a different way than before. As we let the Spirit break down the barriers, we might feel disruption. But it is the same Spirit into whom we were all baptised. The work of the Spirit in our midst, re-creating us in Christ, uniting us, equipping us and sending us out has never ceased. Come Holy Spirit, and renew our hearts and the heart of the earth!”

Farnworth Methodist Cubs visit St Luke's



On Thursday May 16th, a group of Cubs from Farnworth Methodist Church, their leader Stuart Parlane and other helpers, came along to church. They had heard Alan Foster talk about the history of Farnworth and our church and already knew lots.



This visit was part of their LOCAL KNOWLEDGE BADGE [History badge] they wanted to come along and explore for themselves. They were really interested in all the statues in Bold Chapel and if we were ever to open up the Crypt or the Bell Tower for visitors I am sure that they would be in the queue. They asked lots of very sensible questions.

Lesley and I enjoyed showing them round; we hope they all earn their Badge very soon.
Sue

BAPTISMS

21st April	Amelia Rose Wooley	Freddie Thomas Wooley
	Isabelle Ivy Wooley	Violet Shwenn
	Maeve Dorothy Gill	Brodie Frederick Tyrer
5th May	Poppy Louise Smith	Rosie Alice Jean Patterson
	Luke John Dumbell	
19th May	Lillian Tague	Margot-Rose Joyce Sedman
	Poppy Holmes	



More Baptism photos



JULY	SERVICES		
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Wed 3rd	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sun 7 th	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Style
Wed 10 th	Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 14 th		08.00 HC	
	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM CLUB	
Wed 17 th	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sun 21 st	09.00 HC		
	10.30 HC TEAM SERVICE at St Luke's church		
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 24 th	Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 28 th	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		6pm HC	

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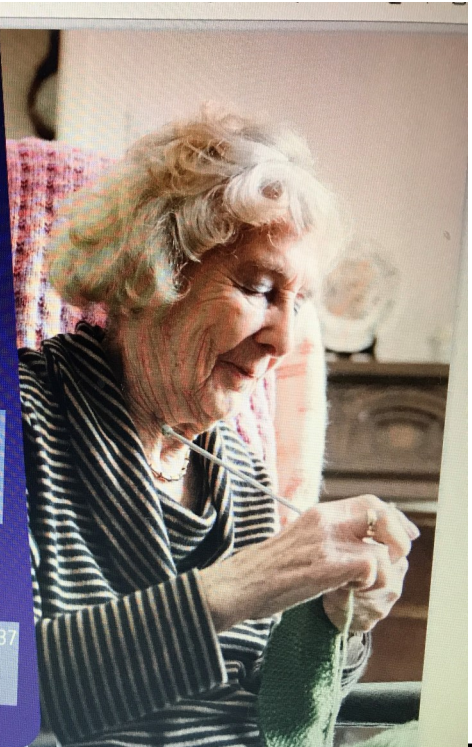
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**Acting Priest in charge during the interregnum
Area Dean, Rev Canon Peter Dawkin
Contact via Lay Minister Sue Smither
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**Lay Ministers
Sue Smither 07962012916
Clare Liptrott 07976549410
Lesley Firth 07803148233**

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