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+ serving God and the community +

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Philip Lacey

07710030973

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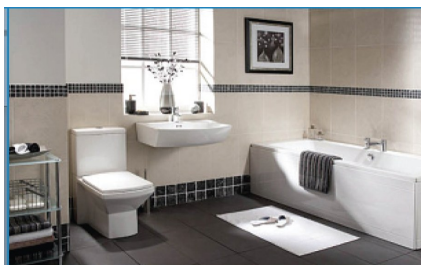
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St Luke's Farnworth Parish

Churchwardens

Barry Horabin	12 Buckingham Ave	07471350957
Pat Johnson	17 Bridewell Court	07717522878
Ray Roberts	7 Mortlake Close	07523696822
Rob Leach	via	07761672030

Deputy Warden

Laura Watkin	lwatkin@sky.com	
PCC Lay Chair	Barry Horabin	07471350957

Funeral Vergers Wardens

Project Manager	Barry Horabin	01514249887
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PCC Secretary	Sandra Lacey	07761672030
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PCC Treasurer	Yvonne Horabin	01514249887
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Safeguarding Officer	Margaret Campbell	01514246039
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Eco-Officer	Sandra Vanezis	
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H&S Officer	George Telfer	07792412415
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Sunday Club usually 1030am in the Bridewell Sundays

Sunday Club Leader	Lynn Keeling	01514243142
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Director of Music	Paul Delaney	07778042553
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Tower Captain	Nigel Goulding	07860632096
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Bell ringing practice usually Tuesdays 6.30pm

Schools	Farnworth C.E. Primary	01514243042
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	Cronton C.E. Primary	01514243881
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Editor	Philip Lacey	07710030973
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Kebbs Farm Clock Face Road Bold Widnes WA8 3XH

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

Deadline for articles is noon on 18th July 2025

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

before.

I WAS:

Overweight
Tired
Lacked energy & motivation
Suffering health issues



now.

I AM:

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Benefits of joining Halton u3a

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

Reasons to join:

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

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

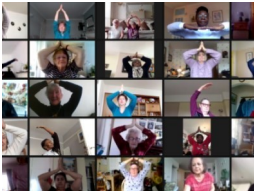
Meet other people with similar interests; learn new things and share your skills.

What the u3a offer



Local Learning Groups

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



Learn online

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



Interest Groups online

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

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

Dear Friends,

Trinity Sunday this year falls on the 15th June, and it has traditionally marked the half-way stage in the Christian year. From Advent, through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and the Sunday up to Pentecost, we are reminded of the acts of God for the redemption of all people. We have been encouraged to think about our Christian faith.

In the weeks that follow, (until Advent comes around again!), we are challenged about our Christian Life. Putting it simply, the first half of the Christian year concentrates on doctrine and the second half on duty.

Duty is defined in many ways, but when we talk of it in these terms it is about a moral obligation or a binding force of what is right.

What does that mean for us?

Our 'obligation' is towards God who is the creator, sustainer and redeemer of the World.

And yet we live in a world of great injustice – a world in which the most basic virtues of civility, responsibility, justice and integrity seem to be collapsing or, in some cases, completely missing. We only need to look at what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank, in Southern Sudan, in Ukraine to see examples of this. But this is not a new problem; several decades ago, Mohandas K. Gandhi warned against what he called the seven social sins. He named them as "Politics without principle, wealth without work, commerce without morality, pleasure without conscience, education without character, science without humanity and worship without sacrifice". I think that when you look at what Gandhi said it provides an apt description of both our world and our community.

Several thousand years ago, the writer of the Book of Proverbs wrote, "Where there is no vision, the people perish". So let me ask

What is the vision for our community?

What is the vision for our Church?

These are real questions that we as a Church and a Community need to answer.

It comes down to what we feel and think are important. For me, I would like it if we could remember what Jesus said to his disciples.

‘A new command I give you:

Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’

Love should underpin everything that we do because ‘God is love and those who live in love, live in God. And God lives in them’. We need to try to help others see God reflected in us.

Rev Peter



At last Reverend Peter's name is on the noticeboard as the panels have been updated, thanks to the generosity of people donating at the funeral of Barry Ingram. The right hand panel will display events taking place each month.

HOOR OF DARKNESS by Helen on Maundy Thursday

Grief and fear

One is wakeful, while others sleep

Empty boasts and promises, fall silent in the face of challenge

Eyes and heart is closed to suffering

Heads heavy in sleep,

Snoring as the struggle rages on

This is the hour of darkness

It's easier to sleep,

Switch off, turn away

Than to face the question

That's it's every human heart like wheat

Life or death, Faith, or indifference,

Submission to the father's will or the triumph of the ego?

Failed by his friends

He clings to the Earth for comfort

Why have you forsaken me?

Why this conflict,

Torn between my desires and yours?

Why must I face this darkness on my own?

Out of the depths comes a quiet voice

Stronger than earthquake

Wind of fire,

Stronger than the torment of
human grief

'You are my beloved child,

I am God with you

Find your strength in my love,

Stay awake and watch





Memories of VE Day from Colleen Harper.

My mum-in-law Jean Harper, (nee Whalley) recalled watching the fireworks display at Burtonwood, put on by the US forces based there, through her bedroom window. Her family lived at Tug Hill Cottage, Friends Lane (just along from the Hayloft). At that time there was an uninterrupted view to the Base. She and her sisters had a few dates with some of the American soldiers! But none of them were lured back to the States. Instead, Jean married Bob Harper and moved from Bold to sunny Widnes.

GOOD FRIDAY JAM CLUB at CRONTON MISSION by Clare

We had great fun at our special JAM Club. ❤️ . We heard the story of 'Dave the Donkey' and how he and Grandpa Donkey

experienced the Easter Story 🐘 🐘 🐘 🐘 🐘 🐘 🐘 🐘 🐘 🐘 🐘 .

There were lots of curious Easter related questions from the

children for me to answer !? . Craft activities including Easter

cards 🐣 and cross art + as well as yummy toast and hot cross

buns. us, we were excited to get a visit from the Easter Bunny 🐰





JAM (Jesus And Me) Club - March and April 2025

JAM Club meets monthly on the second Sunday of each month, and it continues to be busy, with families enjoying listening to Bible stories, getting involved in craft activities and sharing refreshments together.

March JAM Club was during Lent and the Bible story was about Jesus going into the desert for 40 days and being tempted by the devil. Our craft was a story wheel to colour in and build that told the story.

March JAM CLUB



In April JAM Club was on Palm Sunday and we heard all about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and how the people waved palm leaves and shouted “Hosanna!” We had fun decorating palm leaves and also weaving palm leaves!



Treasurer's Report

Endowments held on behalf of PCC @ 31/12/2024 amounted to £170,760 and we are only allowed to use the interest or dividends from those funds. Restricted Funds £168,445 in the main this year are for the Toilets and Designated Funds £2,829 are for various specific funds like flowers etc

General Fund The most worrying of all the funds. This fund is for the general day to day expenditure of the church, and the Monthly income is going down each month. Sadly, we have lost quite a lot of our regular givers, who have passed away over the last year, and contributions have not been replaced. A few months ago I put an appeal in the church magazine asking for people to become a regular giver by using the parish giving scheme (PGS). I can report that this appeal only added one person to the list making a total of only 37 donating that way. This brings in a total of £2600 per month. We still have a few paying by standing order, which brings in another £500 per month, ideally this way of donating is mainly for non-tax payers. Yet again I would ask, if gift aiding donations please use the PGS scheme, not by standing order. The cash donations are down considerably, in fact last month there was less than £500 on the plate and that included Baptisms. The church needs a minimum of £10,000 per month just to pay the regular bills, and you will see from the above figures they only add up to £3600. With other forms of income, i.e. funerals, weddings, investment income, fund raising we might reach the £5000 per month mark.

Things have to change, at the moment we have just been paying all the regular bills, except the Diocese for the parish share. At the end of 2024 we owed **£104,500** in parish share, and at the time we had no way of paying it. However, over the last year we have been in discussions with the Diocese about the property at Bold, formerly Bold Mission, which has been rented out to a nursery since September 2007, on a 15 year lease. After a lot of research, (our thanks to Ray and Pam Roberts for their hard work and visits to the archives in Prescot, Preston and Chester) we have the proof that St Luke's own this property, not the Diocese. The rent owed to us for that period is around £110,000+, we are just awaiting confirmation from the Liverpool Diocese Board of Finance, that the money owed to us is to be offset against our parish share arrears.

The rent from October 2022 to June 2024 will be repaid to us direct from the Diocese in a one off payment. The new lease started in July 2024, and we have now been repaid the amount that the LDBF received from the tenant for the 6 months in 2024 and 3 months in 2025. Since April 2025 we have now started to receive the rent direct from the tenant, the quarterly amount after management fees being £4,181, annually £16,724. This is a welcome addition to the General fund income, but we have to remember that Parish share is £6,254 per month, so it will cover just under 3 months. Going forward in 2025 we have got to start to pay our way. Hopefully we can entice groups to hire the church, now we have the facilities to do so.

I hear the phrase “**our church**” mentioned a lot, but people are going to have to realise that if they want “**their church**” to still be here for when their children get married, have families of their own, then they need to support it financially. If they don't then the church, like many others, will **CLOSE**. Please tell everyone you know. I will leave it in your hands to spread the word. Thank You.
Yvonne Horabin

VISIT TO BUILDING BLOCKS NURSERY at BOLD



Cronton Church on Palm Sunday by Clare

On Palm Sunday and at Cronton Church we went on our own little adventure. We met at Cronton School, which is where we usually meet for church and our friends from Cronton Methodist Church joined us. We blessed our palm crosses and then we walked with our crosses and palm leaves waving in the air down the road to Cronton Methodist Church where we shared worship together.



Cronton Mission and school

The success of our fresh expression of church is ever growing – the monthly café worship on a Friday during the school day welcomes school pupils and their families, but includes anyone linked to our church and village community too, for a short service with activities and refreshments. Clare has been central to the organisation of a very special event in school on the 26th June. This year Liverpool Diocesan Trust's Ethos day will be held at Cronton. More details and photos in the next edition. Cronton CE school is about to undergo a period of significant change. Before Christmas, Mrs Sylvia Thomson, headteacher at Cronton for the past 18 years, told me of her intention to leave school at the end of this academic year, and I have now formally received her resignation. Mrs. Thomson has been paramount in the drive for Cronton's achievements and attainments, and the priority of the Governing body along with Liverpool Diocesan School Trust, is to maintain stability and standards until such a time that we can recruit a new Headteacher. Mrs Thomson has always supported Church as a priority and views its collaborative partnership working essential to the function of both organisations, as such, the Mission, along with St Lukes, are planning a special service at Cronton Mission on Sunday 27th July to reflect this and celebrate the work Mrs. Thomson has facilitated. Debbie Doyle

OFFERTORY REINTRODUCED

**Brenda, Anne
and Elaine
joined
Eucharist
ministers
Colin and Barry**



ECO DAY on Saturday May 17th

Thanks to everyone involved. There was a huge effort from so many people. I'm so pleased it all fell into place and we managed to share our lovely environment with so many of our local community.

There was something for everyone - leaf painting with Suzy, pictures with nature with Clare, flower arranging with Lesley and Susan, scallop shell and stone painting with Julie and Carole, plant stall by George and a churchyard trail set up by me and Rob. Christos kept the children amused with the Ladybird game and explaining the nature trail. Gloria was busy serving refreshments especially with the 'bee' cakes. Olga, Colleen and Val did a roaring trade on the 'pre-loved' stall, thanks to everyone who donated items and to Rob and Phil for transporting the items. Rachael from Faiths for Change did activities on water resources and some people made pledges regarding water consumption. A most enjoyable day. Quite a few people paid on line so we don't know the final total yet but it is over £300.

The 'Pre loved' stall was such a success so it will take place each month at Open Door on first Saturday of each month 10am to 11.30am , thanks to Olga.

The Bible teaches that humans are stewards of the earth, responsible for caring for it and protecting it. This responsibility extends beyond protecting the environment for its own sake, to ensuring a liveable planet for future generations. Hopefully our Eco Day helped a little in achieving this.

Sandra Vanezis









Is Warden Rob hugging a tree????

Every flower is a soul
blossoming in nature.

—Gerard De Nerval

BAPTISMS

27th April

Zachary James Bagshaw

Rupert Stephen Rogan

Trudy Rose Rogan

Oliver Peter McManus

18th May

Harriet Elaine Cowan

Sofia Grace Wallace

Willow Josephine Lunt





OPEN DOOR SATURDAY -
 First Saturday of each month,
 10am to 11.30am St Luke's
 doors are open for people to
 drop in to look around, ask
 questions and chat over a cup
 of tea or coffee, toasted tea-
 cakes or crumpets. Please do
 wander up, have some quiet
 time if you need it or sit and
 chat if you are need of
 company.
 Everyone welcome.

Starting on Saturday June 7th 10am to 11.30am outside church (weather permitting) there will be a

‘pre-loved and recyclable’ stall

to raise money for church funds.

If you have items for this stall which must be new or in good condition please drop off at church on Wednesdays when Open Door Wednesday is 10am to 3pm.

Thank you.

FUNERAL REGISTER

Date	Name	Age	location
02/05/2025	Pauline Anne Cooke	77	St Luke & Crem
06/05/2025	Barbara Green	68	St Luke & Crem
08/05/2025	Bill Salmon	88	St Luke & Churchyard
22/05/2025	Tony Tallon	90	St Luke & Churchyard
29/05/2025	Ian Lucas	67	St Luke & Fairfield Cemetery



On Palm Sunday Patsy cut the ribbon and the servery and toilets were officially opened. Rev Peter gave a blessing and everyone enjoyed nosecco and cake.



Barry thanked everyone for supporting him on his journey to seeing these innovations in church. He introduced and thanked Lewis Culshaw and Derek Nuttall. Dave Bracegirdle, Director of Frank Rogers attended the service on Wednesday on 16th April.

Steve, Chris, Steve and site foreman Ian whose work was exemplary. Thank you.



People from Abbeyfield trust that gave us our first big donation of £25,000. Thank you.





On Wednesday 16th April 'The Golden Girls' (Dorothy, Joyce and Audrey) cut the ribbon a second time.

COME and SEE our new community area.



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.

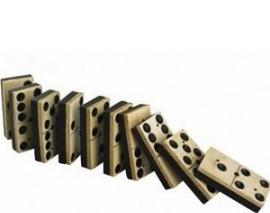
'GAMES GALORE'

Grosvenor Women's club host & provide refreshments

1.30pm to 3pm starting 4th June

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. Sessions are free - donations
gratefully accepted for church funds. We look forward
to seeing you! Contact Pat Johnson 0151 257 7737**

Grosvenor Women who run Games Galore donated £1,000 for the 'Toilet Fund'. Two tables and eight chairs were purchased for the community space at the back of church. Huge thank you.



GROSVENOR WOMENS CLUB

After 37 years meeting at Widnes Cricket Club we have moved to the community space at the rear of St Luke's Church.

7.45pm Tuesday evenings. New members always welcome. A non sectarian, non political group we enjoy speakers, demonstrations, socials and outings.

Come and spend an evening with us - you'll be most welcome. For more information contact Pat 07717522878



Grosvenor Womens Club has very kindly agreed to Faiths4Change giving a talk on Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust at their session in church on Tuesday 24th June see poster on next page. There will be refreshments.

Water Stories

A Talk with Mersey Gateway
Environmental Trust

Tuesday 24th June 2025
7.45-8.45pm

St Luke's Church, Farnworth, Pit Lane
WA8 9HU

Join the MGET Conservation Officer for an engaging talk on the Trust's work, the wildlife of the Mersey, and how we can all help protect it. Participants will take part in water quality sampling, and view the small critters of the river under the microscope.

Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust is a charitable trust working to protect the Mersey estuary, through practical conservation work, research, and education.

This is a free event. For more information contact
rachel@faiths4change.org.uk/07715 087655

MERSEY GATEWAY
ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST



Faiths4Change Company number: 7201450 Charity number: 1138834

St Luke's Sunday Club

The children took part in the Mothering Sunday service again this year and as always it was a delightful service. The children had drawn portraits of their Mums and said why they loved their mums. They then shared an acrostics poem spelling out the word

MOTHER, this was followed by them singing a song dedicated to their Mums to the tune of All Creatures Great and Small, it was lovely that the children did some signing too. Two of our young members Summer and Meg then read the intercession prayers, which they did very beautifully with reverence and grace. Well done girls, we were all very proud of you. At the end of the service during the last hymn the children went out to the congregation and gave everyone a special Mothering Sunday prayer card.



On Palm Sunday we decided to hold Sunday Club at the back of church as this was to be the day the new kitchen and toilets were to be officially opened and we wanted the children to witness this.

The children were very good and got on with their crafts quietly. They made palms out of rainbow paper to wave and also made palms by drawing around their hands and grouped them together, they were very effective. We also had work sheets to do telling the story of

Jesus' journey into Jerusalem. Later they waved their palms to everyone in church when they went up to show the congregation what they had been doing.

Best wishes Lynn

POEM COMPETITION

From David Findon

The interest that people show

In Christian activities is low

But without we take part

Congregations lose heart

The question to revive is How?

The christening of a child

Is something we must not hide

And parents together

Promise to raise a believer

As our priest the congregation will lead

At the start of each new year

The future potential is clear

We look forward with pleasure

To days & nights to treasure

With all our family dear

The wise people of the congregation

Spread the word throughout the nation

But seeds can fall on stony ground

And many people hear not a sound

However felicitations to all of creation

A book about John Middleton

Is one that needed to be done

The Whimperley tome

Is now cast in stone

Let's celebrate a successful outcome

From Pat Waring

Golden daffodils

Nodding gently in the sun

Herald in the Spring.

Walks in the churchyard

With mem'ries all around her

Tries to find some peace.

I wish I could fly

Feel the wind beneath my wings

A spirit so free

Spring has come at last
It brings us joy and gladness
Our world comes to life.

Winter's past and gone
The earth puts forth its bounty
Spring at last is here.

Staying young from Pat Waring

Should I opt for feeling younger?
Should I smooth away the years
Say goodbye to all my wrinkles
From laughter and from tears
Should I have a brand new hairdo?
A face lift, trendy gear,
Or just stay in my comfort zone
And laugh away my fears?

My fears of getting older
I really can't ignore
Will I become a wise old bird
Or just an ageing bore
Recounting all my troubles
My problems and my woes
To anyone who'll listen
When I am feeling low?

Or should I be an optimist
Take life the way it comes
Accept my ageing body
The creaking of my bones
Get out and make an effort
To seize life by the horns
Do things I haven't tried before
And see the way it goes?

I look into the mirror
And think who's that standing there
Is that my mum? It can't be me
With all that greying hair.
Inside I still feel seventeen
With all my life to come
So now, before it gets too late
Let's see what can be done.

I could learn another language
Join the gym and do keep fit,
Start the week with Aquacise
Or sharpen up my wits
By doing a computer course.
At least then I could sit.

I could get myself on Tik Tok
And dance around the room
Play tennis, golf or ten pins
To chase away the gloom
I could listen to that Stormzy
Instead of Frank Sinatra
Get my eye brows sorted out
Like young ones say I oughta.

I guess the key to staying young
Is really in the head
An open mind, A listening ear
is all it takes, instead
Of moans and groans and worries
Take chances, make new friends
Try new things, fulfil yourself
And live life to the end.

Just perused the latest *Parish Review* to find out about progress with the **St Luke's Toilet project**, in which I briefly had a modest hand (not literally), hence could not resist a meagre punt below for old time's sake. Steve Bretherton (HBC - Retired)

Candle for Christmas (and Always)

If ever you deploy a doubt
In the power of simplicity
Look long upon a candle's light
For there shines a divinity

A flickering flame for memory
Or shimmering spark for precious peace
Or greeting for the world-weary
Its gentle *light-of-love* release

Illumined *soul* for loved ones gone
Illumined *space* for quiet prayer
Illumined *faith* in the Holy One
Illumined *life* with hope to spare

If ever you deploy a doubt
In the power of redemption
Look upon the Gospel's light
For there shines a salvation

Life – This Way Steve Bretherton

Words diminish by their telling
Each blast of *hate* or *love* out-cried
Sudden fright or fancy yelling
Loud lung of life to Heaven skied
Look close and you may find a few
That quietly grow from sultry seed
And in your leaping life will sow
A root or two each time you read

These words are separate from the crowd
Power to ignite some danger
They bear a humble truth unbowed
To render *self* to you a stranger
Read and read and read each day
Until your heart and soul emit:
Strait is the gate narrow the way
And few there be that find it

Covet by Steve Bretherton

I had a chance to live again
On *Resurrection Road* ahead
Soon at a junction met a sign
That bade a choice for my undead
One turning left to soccer star
And glory in the game of men
One turning right to rock guitar
And daily cranking up to ten

As in life distant dreams bespoke
Of self-styled title and triumph
A power of perfection bloke
Life of laurels and other bump
The moment passed (and soon the thought)
For I had lived a perfect life
Without regret for all I caught
Through web of days to still the strife

So with a simple bow I turned
And to the *Realm of Repose* made
My final lesson duly learned
And blessings all in love now laid

The winner is Covet chosen by Paul Delaney, our Director of Music and poet. Steve will receive a copy of Paul's book.



Thank you to everyone who entered the competition.

ANNUAL MEETINGS on Sunday May 11th

At the Meeting of Parishioners wardens Barry Horabin, Pat Johnson and Rob Leech were re-elected. Colleen Harper had decided to step down after 5 years to look after her grandson Stevie 2 days a week. Colleen is still involved reading, intercessions, counting the money and delivery to Foodbank to name but a few. Rev Peter wished her well. Looking after Stevie may be more demanding than being a warden!

Rev Peter welcomed Ray Roberts as a warden.

The wardens are ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Margaret Campbell stepped down as Deputy warden after many years as a deputy and before that as a warden. Rev Peter wished her well and was relieved to know that Margaret will continue in her role as Safeguarding Officer.

Rev Peter welcomed Laura Watkin as a deputy warden. The next meeting is the Parochial meeting. The Deanery Synod

representatives were appointed - Barry Horabin, Yvonne Horabin, Pat Johnson and Lesley Runcorn who are ex-officio members of the PCC. The Lay Ministers Clare Liptrott and Lesley Firth are also ex-officio as is Helen Lane, our ordinand.

The following members were appointed to PCC - Sandra Vanezis, Margaret Campbell, Jeff Evans, Owen Mullarkey, Lynn Keeling, Sue Smither, Deborah Doyle, Dorothy Lightfoot, George Telfer, Gail Beswick and Sandra Lacey. Laura Watkin (Deputy warden) will be on PCC and Pam Roberts was also appointed.

Rev Peter welcomed Pam.

Rev Peter's closing remarks included

'We are people who have found God. So can we do more? Yes we can. Let God guide us to use our skills so other people can find what we have found.'

Early Summer by Ellwood Roberts



Full of joy is early Summer, growth and warmth and golden light;
every day is crowned with beauty, full of loveliness the night.
Dazzling sunshine brings the roses, fills the whole bright world with bloom;
day and night rejoice together, banished now are doubt and gloom.



Earth a veritable Eden in the glowing sunlight gleams,
life a grand and noble epic, viewed from such a standpoint seems.

Gladness reigns the wide world over, early Summer's golden
light
fills each bosom with thanksgiving for the season's blessings
bright.
Happy harvest days are coming, full of joy, throughout the land;
where the fields of grain are waving, full-eared wheat in stacks
shall stand.



Perfect days that pass too quickly, one by one they come and
go,
each in turn reveals rare blessings, beauty passing all below.
Joyous time to him that loveth growth and warmth and golden
light;
day is full of blessed beauty, full of peace the dewy night.



Early Summer! Time of roses, all the earth is filled with bloom;
every heart in thee rejoices, banished now are doubt and gloom.



SCHOOLS REPORTS



Farnworth C of E
Primary School

It has been a busy time in school. There have been huge changes in all the corridors where displays of favourite books now adorn the walls...they look fantastic. The Cross Country Team were

recently crowned Champions at the Halton Primary Schools Cross Country Championships held at St Peter and Paul High School. This is just one of their sporting achievements in recent months.

The children enjoyed dressing up in red, white and blue to celebrate VE Day.



Events in the calendar for coming weeks include the Y6 Children attending a special service at Liverpool Cathedral to celebrate their time in school; they will also be visiting their chosen High Schools for Taster Days. As they leave, a new cohort of children will start and so the parents of the children joining school in September will attend the Intake Evening to learn more about what it will mean to belong to Farnworth CE School.

Mrs Anthony will soon be going off on Maternity Leave, we hope that she and her husband have a lovely time getting ready to welcome their new little one into their home but there is some exciting news to close this report! Mr and Mrs Houghton, welcomed their new, long awaited baby boy into their family on May 11th, we send them our love and wish them every happiness and blessing for the future.



As part of the KS1 work on 'getting to know our area', the children from Lunts Heath Reception classes recently came into church. I have been given permission to 'publish' the letters that were exchanged.

Dear Mr Paton,

What a joy it was to welcome the two EYFS classes from Lunts Heath CP School to St Luke's Church on Thursday of last week.

They were amazing, such excellent ambassadors for your school and you would have been very proud of them. The children were super respectful of everything in our church. Before going off to explore on their own, they sat beautifully, listened carefully, answered so politely and asked such sensible questions. A real bonus was that they learned some new 'red words' such as aisle and altar! We look forward to seeing them on future visits.

Yours most sincerely, Sue Smither

***Received from Mr Paton, Head Teacher**

Thank you Sue, that's so kind of you. I will share this with the staff. Kind regards, **Dave Paton**

***Received from Miss Molloy, Reception class teacher**

Dear Sue,

Thank you so much once again for welcoming us to St Luke's last week. It was great to see the awe and wonder among the children and invaluable for them to experience first-hand what we had been discussing in their RE lessons. I do love our church visits!

Hannah Molloy **Assistant Head**

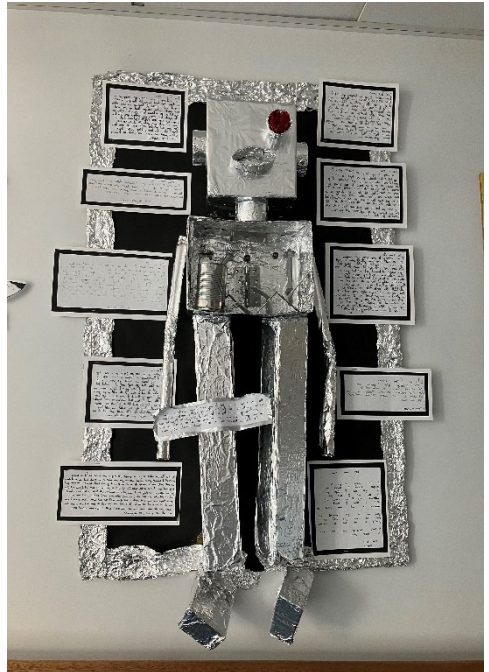
We are blessed that both schools are super supportive of events that we hold in church and they were more than happy to send out information about our ECO DAY in their Newsletters. Sue

The Main corridor in Farnworth School always looks amazing but at the moment the displays look absolutely stunning. Each year group has written about and done artwork to match their favourite book. With so much wonderful children's literature being published it must have been hard to choose their favourite read.



This is a new one on me! Hattie Peck one day leaves her coop to go out into the world to find all the abandoned eggs. It is a tale of love, family and triumph over adversity. She is described as a 'determined heroine'. It was written by Emma Levey. The children in the Reception

No mistaking, 'The Iron Man', the 1968 science fiction book written by Ted Hughes. It was once described as 'a modern day fairy tale', it has become a firm favourite with children. The story tells of the unexpected arrival in England of a giant 'metal man' of unknown origin who rains destruction on the countryside by eating industrial farm equipment before befriending a small boy and defending the world from a dragon from outer space! There are many twists and turns along the way; it is a super read for people of any age. Classes love it.



THANK YOU's from Sue on behalf of the congregations. Aren't we blessed that so many people at St Luke's, our 'unsung heroes', give freely of their time and God-given talents? These are just a few of many.



Our Parish Church Council is made up of men and women who chose to give generously of their time to serve God by attending meetings, having an overview of our church and contributing to the daily smooth running.

We welcomed several new members to our PCC at the Annual Meeting held on May 11th. A list of the PCC membership can be found on Pages 37 and 38. **THANK YOU!**



Often, visitors who come into church comment on how beautiful it looks and this is, in no small part, down to those who help keep the church clean and tidy. After every Wednesday midweek service, Stephen Rawlinson, quietly and efficiently sets to tidying, hoovering, cleaning the brasses, ensuring that the Sanctuary Light is replaced and all the oil-filled candles are topped up ready for the coming week's services. Thank you Stephen for all you do so quietly and thoroughly.

Also involved in the cleaning are just a few of the men and women from the Pay Back Team. They come into church on Saturday morning; they brush and mop all the floors, reaching right into all the corners and meticulously polishing every inch of the pews. They enjoy and take pride in the work they do and we are indebted to them and their leaders. **THANK YOU!**



What a difference the beautiful new red pew cushions have made. We can now sit far more comfortably in our pews; we will be much warmer on chillier days and make savings on our heating bills. Our thanks go to Ray Roberts who saw the opportunity to apply for an Eco Grant where pew cushions were 'eligible' for funding as a means of saving on heating. With the permission and support of the PCC, Ray started the process. It was no mean feat. When Ray and Owen came to measure the pews, every single pew was a different length. Thank you to those

people who have donated towards the shortfall in paying for the cushions. Ray, Owen and Baz also spend a couple of precious hours every Thursday evening doing 'little jobs' to keep our church safe and tidy; this has recently involved installing a hand rail, restoring some cupboards and making sure that various areas of flooring are level and clearing the porch of material left by the contractors. **THANK YOU!**



Lesley, Viv and Joy currently make up our Team of Flower Arrangers and I am sure that they would welcome anyone who would like to 'have a go' and learn some new skills. Lesley spends hours every week, planning displays, ordering and 'conditioning' the flowers and foliage that she, Viv and Joy then transform into the

beautiful arrangements in church. Watering, spraying and tidying the flowers several times during the week to keep them looking in tiptop condition for us to enjoy also takes time. We also appreciate those people who donate to the Flower Fund, often in memory of loved ones. **THANK YOU!**



St Luke's has a wonderful team of campanologists led by Tower Captain, Nigel Goulding. Now that they ring from the mezzanine floor above the new toilets, we not only hear them but also see

them; it means that we can fully appreciate their skills and commitment and actually how complicated and strenuous bell ringing is. In recent weeks, they have been very busy. Nigel and his team were involved in the recent national VE Day Celebration Ring. On the evening of June 8th, we opened church and served refreshments as they rang out the various peals. That evening, 34 people came into church, some of whom were just passing, heard the bells and wandered in. It was a wonderful evening, a great way for them to showcase their talents, an appropriate way for us to remember VE Day and to show our appreciation of those who have given their lives in wars and conflicts. After some of the ringers had finished ringing for us, they drove to ring in other churches. That is dedication for you! **THANK YOU!**

What a difference our new 'servery' has made. A huge thank you to everyone who, over the years, supported fundraising events or made donations. Thank you to Baz and Yvonne who 'oversaw' the work on behalf of the PCC and to the fantastic team of builders, each of them highly, multi skilled craftsmen. Every person who serves refreshments in church, now holds a nationally recognised Certificate in Food Safety and Handling. We thank them that they have given freely of their time and diligence to complete the online training. The Certificates are on display in a folder at the back of church. Here is Gloria, our Tea Bar lady busy serving drinks and cakes at Eco Day. **THANK YOU!**





After our midweek service on Wednesday June 7th, we had a little VE Day celebration with the group of ladies we call our 'Golden Girls', Audrey Davis, Joyce Marshall and Dorothy Humphreys.

None of them remembered much about the celebrations in 1945 but each of them spoke about being relieved that Rationing would soon be ending and there would be oranges and bananas to eat.

Midge Baker, who worships with us on Sundays, is also a Golden Oldie; she had a memory she shared with me and she gave me permission to share it with people at the Wednesday service and with you in the Magazine!

Apparently, Midge's Mum had been given a jelly, a very precious treat in those war years; she put it safely in the sideboard ready for the party they were planning once war was over. However, Midge found this jelly and took little bites out of it so that when her Mum came to make the special jelly for the VE Day street party, there was less than there should have been! Midge also remembered going from West Bank, where she and her family lived, all the way up to Victoria Park where the children were all presented with commemorative medals. They all expressed the fact that they felt blessed to have survived the war unscathed.

I also remember a special War memory shared with me by the late Edna Hutchinson, Lynne Taylor's Mum. Edna and her sister were due to be evacuated to Blackpool and their Mum told them that they could each take ONE toy, just the one. Edna chose her doll's pram; you can imagine that this caused quite a few problems on the journey as they had to change trains several times. Sue



June 2025	EWT Rota		
Date	St Ambrose	St Luke	Cronton Mission
Sunday 1 st	10.30 TEAM HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE at St Luke's church		
Wed 4 th		09.30 HC	
Sunday 8 th		08.00 HC	
PENTECOST	10.30 HC	10.30 JOINT MP at St Luke's church	
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 11 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 15 th	9.00 HC		
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	
		12.30 Baptisms	10.30 Café Worship
Wed 18 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 22 nd	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		12.30 Baptisms	
		18.00 HC	
Wed 25 th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Friday 27 th			2.30 School worship
Sunday 29 th	10.30 TEAM SONGS OF PRAISE at St Luke's church		

PENTECOST

commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. This important event in the Christian faith is described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31), the fifth book of the New Testament of the Bible.

July 2025	EWT ROTA		
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Wed 2nd	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 6th	10.30 MP	10.30 JOINT HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE with CROWNING of ROSE QUEEN followed by AFTERNOON TEA	
Wed 9th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 13th		08.00 HC	
	10.30 HC	10.30 JOINT MP at St Luke's church	
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 16th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sunday 20th	09.00 HC		
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Worship
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 23rd	10am Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sunday 27th	10.30 HC	10.30 JOINT HC FAREWELL SERVICE for Headteacher Mrs Thomson at Cronton Mission	
		12.30 Baptisms	
		18.00 HC	
Wed 30th	10am Sanctuary	09.30 MP	



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Clare 07976549410

Fabric Report

Now that we have our toilet project up and running there only remains some minor adjustments to complete what has been a tremendous effort by all concerned.

We now have to work out how those amenities will benefit the finances of the church. By this I mean a programme of having an open church which will require members of the congregation stepping forward to make it possible.

For the future we have other projects that need to be discussed and implemented. At present we are receiving grant information to install Solar Panels on some parts of the church roof. Eco Grants from the Diocese are available so we need to explore this possibility.

Our final large project will be the Nave roof which will require removing the existing roof membrane and replacing it with a more up to date membrane which will allow it to breathe. If we don't replace it eventually it would cause rot in the wooden supports and it would be an even bigger job. Although it sounds a simple job it would require the slates being removed and the new membrane attached. The slates would then be replaced to complete the job. A scaffolding roof would be essential while work is carried out so the services could possibly carry on. There are generous grants available but it would require a sizable input from the church as well. To this end we will need to start a Roof Appeal in the coming months which could possibly take a couple of years to reach our goal. But it is not unsurmountable as we have done it all before. I hope you will join us in this endeavour which will be essential if this church is to be preserved as a beacon for Christianity for another thousand years.

Barry Horabin

Could you spare an hour or two just once a month to help keep our church clean and tidy...spick and span?

The 'CLEAN TEAM' meet on the last Wednesday of the month, from 10.30 to 1pm. Tea, coffee, polish and dusters provided.

This is in addition to the wonderful job the Pay Back team do on Saturdays.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our meeting on 9th April was led by Sue Connolly. She started the meeting with prayers from the MU book and Sue said a special prayer for the passing of Gladys Holland, a former Deanery President. Thank you, Sue, for bringing along prayer cards from the Cathedral.

Our speaker was Rev Canon Peter Dawkin, telling us of his journey to St Luke's. Peter was born in Liverpool and has a brother, Leslie. His infant school was St Michael's and after passing his 11+ he went to Prescot Grammar School. He was in St Michael's Church choir from the age of six until, at the age of 14, he drifted away from church, like so many teenagers do, sadly. At 16, Peter took a 4-year apprenticeship with a telecommunications company which included day release at college. He became a lecturer, and a friend got him back involved with the church. He had no intentions of going into the ministry but if God has a plan for you, then things happen.

Events are presented to you, and it becomes clear what you are to do. He studied theology at the age of 23 and went before the selection committee. He was grilled for 1½ hours, all the time thinking he was not going to get through – but he did! There was additional training which sent him to different churches. At Wigan, he met our previous minister, Rev Bob Pearson.

Peter was given the Parish of Christ Church in Norris Green, a very difficult place to minister. He learned that teaching Love was the answer, as sin was something everyone knew and faced daily. He stayed for 10 years and during that time was married and fathered two boys. However, living in such a difficult place took its toll on his marriage and they divorced. He is now married to Rev Linda, who leads the congregation at St Michael's and St Thomas's Church in Ditchfield Road in Widnes. They first had twins, followed by Sam who sadly did not survive, and then later Ben arrived. Ben is healthy and a blessing to them all.

For 18 months, Peter filled in wherever he was needed. His mother moved in with him and Linda after she was attacked in her own home. He was vicar of St Basil's & All Saints in Hough Green when the vacancy at St Luke's came up. He applied and was successful – and knows he must be staying with us, as his name is now on the noticeboard! We are all pleased to have him with us.

He accepts he does not know all the answers to everything, never will and does get things wrong. So, very human.

Sue thanked Peter for talking so openly to us. It was enlightening to hear all that he has done and the problems he and his family have had to face. Thanks again, Peter.

It was a beautiful day for our coffee morning in church on 7th May, following the morning service. It was our first coffee morning using the lovely new servery, which is very modern and well-equipped.

We are still getting used to it! We had plenty of tasty treats. The bring & buy table was full and there was a lovely selection of raffle prizes to be had. Although we were low in number, we raised £199.67, so well done everyone. The books left over are still available in church, with that money going to St Luke's. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to a relaxing morning.

We met again on 14th May, when, as we do each year, we received an update on the work of Christian Aid. Our speaker was Alastair Johnston, Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer for this region. After we all said the Mothers' Union Prayer, Colleen welcomed Alastair, who then posed the question, "Why am I here?" He said it was because of his faith, and faith is Hope. Christian Aid (CA) is celebrating 80 years this year, the same amount of time that we have been celebrating Victory in Europe. Its origins involved helping refugees at the end of the war. One of his slides showed three pictures: an earthworm, Charles Darwin and Stonehenge. What was the connection? Not obvious at first but apparently Darwin was interested in earthworms. The stones of the henge are now deeper in the ground than they were when first erected. Why? The work of many years of the earthworm working in the soil. So, the point is that even the smallest thing that each of us does can create a big change. Hope is unstoppable.

Alastair showed us how CA has helped people over the years and how they are ready to go into action as soon as disaster strikes. He feels if you stop wars, you will stop poverty. Each year CA concentrates on a particular country. In 2025 the focus is on Guatemala. We watched a video about Aurelia, a mother of eight children and grandmother of five. She is a farmer – the men of the village work away. The land is difficult for growing crops, with heatwaves and storms. With the help of CONGCOOP (The Coordination of NGOs and Cooperatives, of which CA is a partner, supports the organized return and reintegration of civil war

refugees into Guatemala) she is able to grow natural plants that can withstand the harsh climate. This includes cacao, to be made into chocolate that she can sell for a good price. Aurelia is also a leader in her community, helping others. Collecting water for the farm involves four hours of walking every day!

Christian Aid Week is their flagship for promoting CA's work, but fundraising goes on all year round and they also receive money from wills. Alastair's last slide showed the words Give, Act, Pray. Give: through donations and fund-raising.

Act: getting governments to change.

Pray: to remember CA and their work in our prayers.

As he said, "don't be discouraged, small things help bigger things happen."

Colleen thanked Alastair for coming to speak to us and inspiring us to do things to help those in need. CA's mission is similar to MU's: helping people in need to be educated and able to make a living, which helps their families and communities. We are all equal in the sight of God. An envelope for donations was circulated and a total of £238.00 has been sent to CA to help with their work. Thank you to our members and guests.

Forthcoming events:

11th June: "Childcare over the years", with a speaker from the Catalyst Museum. Christine to lead. Tea rota: Linda Brown and Colleen Harper.

9th July: Our Summer Social, also lead by our Funmaker-in-Chief, Christine. Tea Rota: Joy Miller and Shelagh Wareing.

17th July: Afternoon Tea in church 2.00-4.00 pm. £5.00 each. All welcome.

A closing prayer from the MU prayer diary:

Lord, when you seem far away, draw near to us.

When we are afraid, lighten our darkness.

When we are down, lift us up.

This we ask in your dear name.

Amen.

Rita Poole

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.



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**



Journeying with the Psalms
Charles Bell

Psalm 65

- 1 Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.
- 2 You who answer prayer,
to you all people will come.
- 3 When we were overwhelmed by sins,
you forgave our transgressions.
- 4 Blessed are those you choose
and bring near to live in your courts!
We are filled with the good things of your house,
of your holy temple.
- 5 You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,
God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,
- 6 who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,
- 7 who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.
- 8 The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.
- 9 You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.
- 10 You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
- 11 You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.
- 12 The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.
- 13 The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

John 15:1-3,11b-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat

so I could celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Questions for discussion

- Are you worried that there might not be quite enough grace for you?
- Where can you see signs of God's abundance?
- What might be the consequences of believing in an abundant God?
- How justly do you feel the father behaved? Would you forgive the younger son?
- What is the role of compassion in justice?

Prayer

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FLOWER ROTA			
1	JUNE		JULY
8	Mr & Mrs C Burns	6	Miss H Guthrie
15	Mrs L Taylor	13	Miss E Lewis
22	Mrs P Clifford	20	Mrs C Liptrott
29		27	Mrs R Potter

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Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Kate 07931 237062

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