

Parish Magazine

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



Thanks to Phil Harper for this photo of our church looking beautiful in the snow.

Send your photos of the church - inside or outside and the churchyard and they may be featured on the front cover.

February and March 2025 £1.50



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

Deadline for articles noon on 18th March 2025

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 10:30am-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.

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Dear Friends,
We are fast approaching the season of Lent,



Lent used to be seen as a period of 'Self-denial' but now people prefer to talk about "taking up something for Lent", however that means that we have to lay something else down. I personally think that needs to be something 'good for the soul' rather than just a means to take an inch off our waistlines!

Did you manage a Lenten challenge last year? It is so very easy, in the busyness of our lives to allow Lent to pass us by thinking I will do better next year. I read a lovely article written by Michael Holtz called, '**Forty days of love for Lent**';

I loved what he advocated for Lent.

He writes, 'It's a weird confluence of events that Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall in the same week this year....Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent, the 40-day period before Easter during which many Christians give up treats like sweets. Valentine's Day, the commercialized celebration of love, is actually the largest chocolate-giving-and-receiving day of the year.'



Ash Wednesday remembers and anticipates the crucifixion of Jesus....that is how much God loves us that he sent his son to die for us, not to condemn us but to bring us closer to Him. [For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16, 17]

However, Michael goes on to say, 'What if we changed the Lent paradigm this year and instead of giving something up we take something on? What if we celebrated Valentine's Day for the entire season of Lent?'

So, for 40 days,

why not challenge ourselves to give love?

With a sense of belonging, our lives are stronger, richer and more joyful. ALL people need love, now more than ever. Look around you. Who haven't **you** seen or heard from in a while? Could you make time to check on them? Where could you spread a little joy by committing a random act of kindness? Make time to do it. When was the last time you sent a card or a note? Make time for it. When was the last time you told someone close to you that you are thinking about them and you love them? Voice those words, don't just think them. Do it now! There is no time like the present.

Forty Days of Love for Lent sounds like a brilliant idea to me.

In the news this past year, we have seen the unimaginable suffering of the people of the Ukraine, Gaza and Egypt, unprecedented storms, flooding and wildfires. Perhaps you have struggled yourself? We all grapple with our own problems and can be affected by those of families and friends. Sharing and investing our God given blessing of love with and in others seems to me to be the perfect way to focus on Lent 2025.

May we each find the best way we can to do that, remembering that Jesus came into the world to bring light and love and hope. May God grant to each of us a prayerful and blessed Lent. Sue





THANK YOU on behalf of St Luke's Church to the children and staff of **Farnworth CE Primary School and Lunts Heath CP School** for their wonderful Advent and Christmas Services. On each of the four evenings, the church was filled to capacity with parents and grandparents who were delighted with children's performances. Sue



CONGRATULATIONS! How do they do it? Year on year they improve and give us the most fabulous, off-the-scale performances. I am talking about the students from

Cronton 6th Form College Centre of Excellence for Performing Arts who, along with a number of other students, gave us a unique taste of their amazing production of Oliver.

What is amazing is that these performances sit entirely outside of their normal college timetable. Matt Plant, their Artistic Director, narrated the show and Lucy Myers, Head of Music, brought some A-level music students who performed for us.



We were spell bound from start to finish; what those young people gave us that evening was unbelievable, worthy of any stage in the country! The students are super talented and when you think that all performances are extra-curricular in amongst their busy lecture and demanding exam timetable.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

YOU ARE INVITED

On Thursday February 6th, students from the 6th Form College who are studying A level music will be coming to St Luke's to showcase their talents as part of their practical exam preparation. They have to perform in a setting other than the one they are used to and St Luke's is of course ideal with its wonderful acoustics. There will be no charge; it would be wonderful for the students to have a good number of people in the audience to support and encourage them. Tea and coffee will be served beforehand, doors open at 6.45. Sue

ADVENT LUNCHEES

Our Lenten soup and sandwich lunches were as popular as ever and were attended by good numbers on each of the three Wednesdays. People enjoyed both the food, the fellowship and the fun quizzes...and yes, I did double check that there are two z's in the plural of quiz! A huge thank to you to everyone who helped with the catering and the quizzes!

Sue



Halton BC Mayor and Mayoress' Civic Carol Concert 2024

On Sunday December 6th, St Luke's were delighted to host the Halton BC Civic Carol Concert that was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Kevan and Mrs Andrea Wainwright.

A collection was made for their nominated charity, Halton Foundation. Apparently, 1 in 3 young people in Halton live in poverty, 384 children are in care. During their year in office Kevan and Andrea are raising funds to offer bursaries to young people in Halton to help them realise their potential and achieve their ambitions including offering financial support with higher education or vocational apprenticeships, with money to purchase tools, tech, books or even help with transport costs.



That evening we were joined by the Y3/4 choir from Farnworth CE Primary School, members of the H'Arts and Voices Community Choir and Paul Delaney, our church Director of Music.



The service began with the traditional carol 'Once in Royal David's city'. I was delighted that Kian Karawski, a former pupil of Farnworth who is currently studying at Cronton 6th Form College, agreed to sing the opening verse of the carol for us; it was a wonderful start to the evening. The Farnworth choir, led by Mrs Hanley, overcame some technical issues with their music and Paul, ably stepped in and

accompanied them on the organ. The children were fantastic; they sang with such confidence and received a huge round of applause for overcoming their difficulties. It was the first time that Jay and the H'Arts and Voices choir had performed in St Luke's and we were delighted with their upbeat choice of carols and Christmas Songs. The Mayor presented framed certificates to the choirs. Paul played a medley of Christmas Carols, asking us to count how many different ones there were, an amazing 27 in total! Thank you to all concerned. Sue

To end the evening, everyone joined in with a rousing rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Afterwards there was a raffle and refreshments were served. The Mayor and Mayoress were delighted that the evening raised over £500 for The Halton Foundation.



WE ARE GETTING PEW CUSHIONS

Following a successful request for a grant of £5,000 from the Liverpool Diocese, we have ordered pew cushions for all our pews. The pew cushions will make sitting in the pews more comfortable, but the main reason we were awarded the grant was to save energy as heat is lost through cold wooden pews.

They are due to be delivered by the end of March, however, we need to fund the excess cost of £1,676 which we are hoping to raise through donations.

If you would like to donate, this can be done either by cash in the box marked "Pew Cushions" at the rear of the church, by cheque (made payable to St Luke's PCC) or by money transfer using the following:

- Barclays Account name: Farnworth St Luke Parochial Church Council Sort code: 20 91 48
- Account no: 30369292
- Reference: Your name along with (Pew cushions)



Thank you!



Thank you to all those people who came to church between Christmas and New Year to help get ready for the builders to come to start work on January 2nd.

Tables and chairs, cupboards, numerous kneelers and cushions were moved to be stored safely in Bold Chapel whilst the contractors get on with the building work. Many hands made light work and we were more or less done within couple of hours. Thank you so much to those involved...you know who you are!

Also, a huge 'Thank you' to Baz and Yvonne and the team from Community Payback who took down all the Christmas decorations and then did a deep clean. We so appreciate all their hard work.

The Payback team are also going to go into church each Saturday so that when we go in on Sunday the pews will be clean and we won't come home covered in a layer of dust. Sue

Galyna [but Halyna to us!]

Very few people in our church family were aware that Halyna had actually been unwell for some time. She was determined not to let her illness affect her. Following a spell in Warrington hospital, she was transferred to Halton Haven, where sadly she lost her hold on her earthly life, her son, her partner and a couple of friends who knew her best were by her side. Yonne and I were privileged to spend precious time with her earlier that day; I read Psalm 23 and prayed for her as her life gently ebbed away.



Halyna came to the UK as a refugee, fleeing Ukraine leaving family, friends and everything else behind in order to find a safe refuge where she and her son Max could live in peace. She lived with a wonderful local Farnworth family who did much more than just host and sponsor her and Max; they were kind and caring and invested much of themselves into looking after them and getting them settled.

Her faith was so important to Halyna; prayer and quiet meditation were an integral part of her daily routine. In her inimitable way, with her gentle smile, she brought a sense of peace, contentment and calm to us at St Luke's, even though she herself had witnessed such horrific events and known such sadness and turmoil. She came with very little but she was so generous in her giving and often fetched little handmade gifts or she would bake little treats; one of the last was Paska, the special Ukrainian Easter bread she shared with us all. It was my privilege to conduct her funeral service at Widnes Crematorium Chapel. Family and friends, many of whom were from the various Ukrainian and Refugee groups that supported Halyna, plus a good number from our own St Luke's family attended. It was wonderful that a group of 'bikers' made an escort for the hearse; these were a group of men who had been involved in the Emergency Aid for Ukraine initiative, men who had risked their lives to take supplies to those in most need.

Sharron, her Widnesian sponsor 'host' in Widnes, wrote this: Galyna was a mother, a partner, cousin, colleague, friend. She was our fearless Ukrainian warrior princess, tougher than Uysk, she fought long & hard, stronger with Yarik by her side, never once giving up hope. It was not her time to go. She was gentle & kind, a lover of animals, a collector of waifs & strays. She had little but gave freely to those in need. As beautiful & colourful as the flowers she adored, a dancer, an artist, a free spirit, the 'hair up queen'.

Proudest mum ever watching Max collecting his award, Yarik's partner and soul mate, adoptive mum & partner in mischief to Thomas, our friend and forever a part of our family, sleep well Galyna, we miss you already.

Halyna loved to be out in nature, often picking wild flowers that she made into little posies and forget-me-nots were her favourite. It was more than appropriate that another friend chose a poem to be read out, written by Gaby Compres it was called, 'Wildflowers'. I made prayer cards to be given out afterwards. Much can be read into these very poignant words. Halyna was our brave, gentle Ukrainian angel; she is now at peace in God's safekeeping. God bless Halyna. Sue

In memory of Halyna



Wildflowers by Gaby Compres

let's be wildflowers,
let our souls be scattered by the wind.
let us grow, wild and free, tall and brave,
in the places that we dream,
in the places where our longings are filled
let us grow between the cracks of brokenness,
and we will make everything beautiful.

WORK ON THE TOILETS HAS STARTED AND WILL BE READY BY EASTER

The work started on 27th November- see Baz, Audrey and Joyce with the contractors. The outside drainage work was completed before Christmas and the contractors started work inside on 6th January. The work is progressing well and going to plan.

The decision was made not to have any services in the week, including funerals, for the month of January, so that the contractors can get on with their work without having to stop,

clear up and vacate the church. If they had to stop it would add to the cost of the project and delay the work. **Wednesday 9.30am services will commence on 5th February.** We will review the position for March, as the work progresses. Thank you for your understanding. Unfortunately, there is an additional cost for liability insurance of £3,000 and local council fees for building regulations and inspections £1098 so please keep donating towards the toilet project. Thank You.

Barry Horabin

Clock Face Miners Heritage Brass Band

Due to adverse weather warnings for storms and high winds, Will, the Musical Director of Clock Face Miners Heritage Brass Band, [formerly known as Greenalls Brass Band] had to cancel the planned concert at St Luke's that was due to take place at St Luke's on December 5th. It was absolutely the wisest, safest action for all concerned.

The date is already in the diary for their traditional Christmas Concert in church on December 6th 2025; we are going to look at the possibility of a Summer Concert....a Summer Treat! I am sure that like me, you wish the band every success in their forthcoming competitions. **Sue**



Justice Department Community Pay Back Scheme.

We are so fortunate that St Luke's church has been chosen by the Justice Department as a venue for this scheme and we have seen the benefit to the churchyard with the hard work they have done. At the end of November I asked Sandra, their supervisor, if they could help with putting the church Christmas tree up. Obviously, her answer was yes, as it gave the men involved in the scheme something different to do, and out of the cold weather too. The "church" tree, which stands by the altar, is twelve feet tall and every branch is put in separately, all are colour coded. The lower branches are 3' long and have to be connected by lying on the floor. In the past it has mainly been erected by myself and Baz, but our, 'lying on the floor' days are over, we can get down, but not back up, so we are grateful to them for their assistance this year. They cleaned up after too, as the loose needles were everywhere. We treated them to lunch of sandwiches and mince pies, which they appreciated. They also volunteered to take it down too, which they did on that very cold snowy Saturday 11th January, glad to be in the warm church. As well as taking the tree down they cleaned the rest of the church, polished the brasses etc .as well as clearing the paths round the church. Thank you.

The contractors do keep the church tidy and clean up on a Friday evening as best they can, we have arranged for the pay back team to come into church on a Saturday morning to Hoover and dust the church and mop floors as required. Our grateful thanks, yet again. Yvonne Horabin



Treasurer's Report, 01/01/24 to 31/12/2024

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjust</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts	91,133	2,000	93,133
Expenses	<u>(54,415)</u>	<u>(72,251)</u>	<u>(126,666)</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit)	<u>36688</u>	<u>(70,251)</u>	<u>(33,533)</u>

The above figures are purely for the General Fund of the church, which covers the day to day running costs, just like your own household expenditure. The first column doesn't include Parish Share costs, and even though there is a surplus of funds, it helped to pay some of the arrears of parish share for 2023. Nothing has been paid for 2024.

2025, New beginnings!

We start this New Year with a new vicar Rev Canon Peter Dawkin. At long last work on the much needed toilets has begun, and we have a completion date of April, just before Easter. Thank you all for your donations for this project.

We must now turn our attention to the General fund. The expenditure for heating & lighting, insurance, salaries, upkeep of services, maintenance etc is £10,500 per month, however the largest proportion is for Parish share at £6,020 per month. **This has to be paid.** It covers clergy salaries, housing pensions etc, otherwise we will lose our vicar, and the church could be in danger of closing. It is like any business, if you can't pay your bills then it closes. We need to raise a further £3,000 per month just to cover costs.

PLEASE pay your Parish Magazine subscriptions this month, at a cost of £7.50 for the year for 6 magazines. Please give your money to the person who delivers your magazine or by cheque or cash to me or pay online. The subscriptions just about cover the cost of printing now it is in colour. I know a lot of you pay £10, donating the additional £2.50 to church funds, Thank you. We have 250 magazines printed each month, and another 30 receive it via email, which is fantastic. The magazine is also available on website st-luke.co.uk.

However, of those **280** people only **55** are "regular givers" **37** by the Parish Giving Scheme, and gift aiding their donations, bringing in approximately **£25,000** in year.

12 by Standing Order, mainly people who are not tax payers or don't want to gift aid their donation. Total donations in this year **£6,789**. The final "giving" is via the Envelope Scheme, this having less than a dozen people giving this way by the end of the year, as

most of them have changed to the Parish Giving Scheme. A total of **£2,582** was donated this way.

If you are one of our regular givers thank you.

If not, could you please consider donating on a regular basis to church funds, preferably by using the Parish Giving Scheme (details below). The scheme can also be used for a one off donation and gift aiding it too. **100** of you donating just **£10** a month would add **£12,000** a year to our funds, and if it was gift aided too that would add a further **£2,500**.

All of your donations help, so please give what you can afford. It is so easy to set up a payment with the Parish Giving scheme, you only have to pick up the phone and call: **0333 002 1260** and Quote our unique church code **22062210**. One off donations can also be made this way, and you can gift aid it too.

By transfer. Barclays Account name:- Farnworth St Luke Parochial Church Council Sort code 20 91 48 Account no 30369292. Your name as reference. By cheque payable to St Luke's PCC c/o Mrs Yvonne Horabin, 12 Buckingham Avenue, Widnes WA8 9EP, or hand to me or a Warden in church.

Thank You Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)

QUIZ in November

Huge thank you to Alan, Lynn and Beth for a great night.

The winners were the 49ers, congratulations to them.

Here are some sample questions from the quiz.



1. Where would you find the Ethelfleda Bridge?
2. Which film won the most oscars in 2024?
3. The Vatican and the Swiss flag have what special feature in common?
4. Which supergroup opened the first Top of the Pops and is still performing today?
5. What does a warm wind in the Sahara and Volkswagen have in common?

Answers on Page 31

Christingle Services 2024

Christingle is always a special service for us at St Luke's Church, and December 2024 was no exception. We held two services on Christmas Eve and across both services approximately 700 people joined us, many bringing their own home-made Christingles with them. We thought about the symbolism involved in each element of the Christingle as we searched the church to find my Christingle. And then to help us fully understand that Jesus Christ was born to be the Light of the World, we undertook a very successful science experiment involving iron filings (the dust of the earth i.e. us), exploring what happens when these ordinary 'dust particles' come into contact with the Light of the World – leading to an impressive display, highlighting (no pun intended) that our lives are brighter and more impressive with Jesus. We got to light our own Christingles and as the lights were turned out we sang Away in a Manger and Silent Night by candlelight. Clare.



CRONTON MISSION

Sunday 19th January, second Sunday of Epiphany

Miracles of Christ

Today's Gospel reading is John 2 1-11, and it tells of Jesus and his mother Mary attending a wedding in Cana, describing how, when the wine ran out, Jesus turned water into wine. This is the first of Jesus' miracles.

The miracle stories of the Gospels can be divided into three groups:

- Healing miracles (curing of physical impairments and illnesses) including exorcisms (casting out demons and unclean spirits)
- Nature miracles (calming storms, feeding multitudes.)
- Restoration miracles (raising the dead, restoring to life)

We use the word "miracle" freely, even casually, in modern English: "What a miracle! My son tidied his room!" "Will miracles never cease." "It was a miracle how she suddenly recovered." We ascribe different levels of meaning: from a great surprise, to something unexpected, or a remarkable human skill, or a highly efficient product, or an amazing healing.

Miracle comes from the Latin word "mirare", meaning "to wonder at something", and so "miracle" means something extraordinary which leaves us wondering because we do not understand how it happened.

We find miracles of Christ described in all four Gospels, and there are so many of them! In fact, if we were to remove all accounts of miracle from the Gospels, much of the narrative would vanish. Jesus would be left as a moral or spiritual teacher, revealed to a degree in his words but not in his deeds.

The miracles come from eyewitness accounts, retained in the excellent memories of people in ancient times, not distracted by information overload. Therefore, accounts of Christ's miracles should not be described as "stories" as they are not made-up myths invented to convey a moral message or make Jesus impressive but real events that were so well-remembered in the decades immediately after Pentecost and carefully passed on in oral and written traditions.

"Miracle", however, is an incomplete description of Christ's healings and inexplicable acts, as when we read accounts of these events, we find that they are not usually called "miracles". They are called "

“signs”. “Miracle” is our way of looking at a wondrous event. “Sign” is God’s way of looking at the same event. What we see as “something to wonder at”, God offers as a sign, a revelation. Just as Christ’s parables reveal the Kingdom of God, so his miracles proclaim the coming of the Kingdom. Miracles are signs of who Jesus really is, the divine and human natures in one Person, Jesus Christ. They support that the Jesus of history is the same person as the Christ of faith.

Each miracle has its own meaning and value. But they reveal the true God. Christ’s healing miracles tell us that God is active in our world, involved in our troubles and limitations. God is compassionate and loving, close to people in their suffering. Christ’s nature miracles (multiplying food, walking on water etc.) show us God in control of nature. Whilst the restoration miracles show us God’s eternal power over life, with the resurrection of Jesus Christ being the most significant of all Jesus miracles. Miracles are also a revelation of who we are. Christ does not hesitate to ascribe the power of some miracles to the faith of those involved. Miracles underline the need for faith, the power of faith. They reveal our need for a personal relationship of faith in God.



So, as we move through the year reading our bibles and once again reading about the miracles of Jesus, maybe we can take the time to pause and reflect, and think a little deeper about each miracle.

What sign does it give?
What is its meaning?

Clare

St Luke's Sunday Club

The children were asked if they would once again make things for a window display in church. This year we decided our theme would be 'Bells'. So the children set about creating bells from paper cups, paper plates and designed their own onto card. It was great fun and the finished display was lovely and the children quite rightly were very proud of what they produced. Well done to them all.



We had our annual Christmas party again with lovely food and party games. Big thanks to Jill Tague for making a wonderful pass the parcel again for us, the children loved it. We then had a visit from Santa himself, and he gave all the children a lovely gift. The children were thrilled as always. Thanks to everyone involved.

The children once again did us very proud whilst performing in the Nativity, it was absolutely fantastic, and each and everyone of them did so well. It really is a privilege being with these young children each week. Well done to you all.

Special mention and thanks also goes to those lovely people who agreed to play a part they were Gail Beswick, Colleen Harper, Sandra Vanezis, Jeff Evans and Phillip Harper. Also stepping into the breach was Hannah Tague who played a very realistic Shepherd. Thanks everyone.

Rev Peter suggests an 'All Age Nativity next year

Photos of Nativity on next page.

Lynn Keeling



St Luke's Sunday Club

Greetings from all at Sunday Club at the start of 2025. Time goes so fast once Christmas is over and now it seems so far away.

We were thwarted by the weather for first two Sundays at the beginning of January, so when we did finally meet we did a couple of things to catch up.

The first thing we did was talk about Epiphany and the three Kings arriving with their gifts. The children then made beautiful pictures of the kings just using different shapes from recycled Christmas cards, so a bit of Eco friendly crafting going on.

We then learnt about the wedding at Cana where Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine. They loved joining in with sound effects and Emilia played Mary who told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them, she loved playing her part. Megan played one of the servants and did a great job of pouring water from a great height splashing into a bowl, much to the delight of the littles ones.

A great start to another year with these little people who are always wonderful to be with.

Lynn Keeling

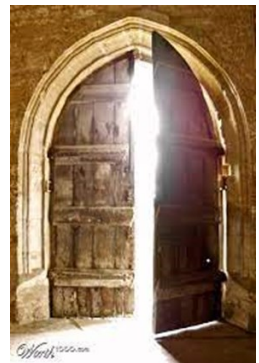




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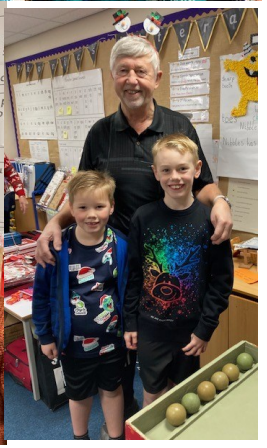
Once again, the people at Farnworth Methodist Church were so very grateful for the number of toys and gift sets that YOU donated the Kings Cross Appeal this year. Pauline and her team of volunteers do an amazing job of sorting the gifts according to list provided by various agencies that support families who are struggling to provide presents at Christmas time. They also send gifts for the young people who have just come out of the care system who otherwise would not receive any gifts. I am sure that at some point I will be sent information about the number families and young people who have benefitted from YOUR generosity. THANK YOU! Sue

OPEN DOOR - 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 is welcome.



School Christmas market in November.

Huge thank you to Lynn for organising the games and everyone in the Games Room also to Jill Tague who provided the prizes and ran a tombola with Julie.



Walk of Light 2024



These were just some of the forms of light that the children, teachers, parents and carers from Farnworth School used as they walked up to church on their Walk of Light on a very cold, wet and windy November evening. I don't think the weather could have been much worse so a MASSIVE thank you to all those teachers and families who came that night.



After words of welcome we heard about the importance of having people in our community to support us in so many different ways.

Cllr Angela McInerney told us about her important work as a Halton Borough Councillor, next Rev'd Peter introduced himself as our new Priest in Charge and he spoke about his work in the Parish and also his role as Area Dean for all Widnes CofE churches.

In a short service, we listened to the Christmas story as told in Luke's Gospel, sang some carols and the children led us beautifully in prayers.

Afterwards we served hotdogs, cakes, biscuits, tea, coffee, hot chocolate and juice...many people stayed afterwards to chat which was lovely.

I want to thank the people from St Luke's who helped that night with the welcome, the serving of refreshments and tidying everything away afterwards. Thank you.

Sue

EWT Service Rota February			
Date	St Ambrose	St Luke	Cronton
Sunday 2nd	TEAM HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE		
Candlemas	at St Ambrose		
Wed 5th		09.30 MP	
Sunday 9th		08.00 HC	
4 before Lent	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM CLUB	
Wed 12th		09.30 HC	
Sunday 16th	9.00 HC		
3 before Lent	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	
		12.30 Baptisms	10.30 Café Style
Wed 19th		09.30 MP	
Sunday 23rd	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
2 before Lent		12.30 Baptisms	
		18.00 HC	
Wed 26th		09.30 HC	
Fri 28th			14.30 School service

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EWT Service Rota March			
	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton
Sunday 2 nd 1 before Lent	TEAM HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE at CRONTON MISSION		
Wed 5 th Ash Wednesday		09.30 MP	
Sunday 9 th		08.00 HC	
Lent 1	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 12 th		09.30 HC	
Sun 16 th	09.00 HC		
Lent 2	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Style
		12.30 Baptisms	
Wed 19 th		09.30 MP	
Sun 23 rd	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		12.30 Baptisms	
Lent 3		18.00 HC	
Wed 26 th		09.30 HC	
Fri 28 th			14.30 School service
Sun 30 th Mothering Sunday	10.30 MP	10.30 HC with children	10.30 Café Style

Quiz Answers

1. Widnes Runcorn train bridge
2. Oppenheimer
3. only square flags
4. Rolling Stones
5. Sirocco

FARNWORTH CE SCHOOL ADVENT WREATH



The children always love to make us something to display in church over Christmas and this year was no exception; they made us a beautiful Advent Ring.

EVERY single child in school cut out and wrote their name on a holy leaf, some even embellished the edges with glitter. EVERY adult member of staff wrote their name on and decorated an angel. It was a mammoth task to assemble the wreath and we are indebted to everyone involved.

I look forward to 'unveiling' what they are going to make for us to display for Easter. Sue

FLOWER ROTA	FEB	
No flowers	2	Mrs J Stretch
in March	9	Mrs B Bullock
in church	16	Mrs V Park-Funnell
In LENT		

ADVENT

Thank you to the Flower Arranging group for the Advent Wreath. Also Baz and Yvonne with the help of the Justice Payback team for the beautifully decorated Christmas tree.



Jesus And Me (JAM) Club with Clare December 2024

In December at JAM Club, we heard the Nativity Story and made our own nativity themed Christmas present boxes to remind us of real meaning of Christmas. We celebrated Jesus' birthday with cake, and we even sang 'Happy Birthday' and blew out candles.



January 2025 JAM CLUB with Clare

In January at JAM Club, we heard the story of how Jesus was baptised by his cousin John and how this then led to the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus in the form of a dove and how pleased God was that he spoke from the heavens. We made cup crafts that showed Jesus being baptised, with straws that moved down with a dove and a heavenly cloud. We also thought about what happened at our baptism service and took a look at the font.



MOTHERS' UNION

Happy New Year to you all; wishing you all a peaceful one. What a year 2024 was. Yet again, we have had to say goodbye to another MU and church family member. Pat Beesley was a lovely, caring lady, always having a kind word for everyone. Pat was a loving wife to Norman and a caring mother, grandmother and sister. Not only was she a loyal member of MU, she was also in the church choir where she is sadly missed. Pat was always willing to help out at meetings. She was happy to read, enjoyed the hymns we sang and had a lovely voice.

We heard about Pat's many academic achievements at her funeral. She was a very clever lady and did a lot of things in church behind the scenes that we did not know about. I also had the privilege to join Pat at Farnworth Methodist Arts & Craft Group. She was a talented painter and was always cheerful and lovely to all the art members. She was happy to collect the art money when Heather was unable to attend. She was generous of spirit and of her time. May she rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers go to Norman and the family.

We have also sadly heard about the passing of Irene Hodkin, who was a MU member some years ago, while her late husband, Brian, used to be our organist at St Luke's. Quite a few of us remember Irene and her trusty bike - she cycled everywhere! Some members who would have remembered Irene have also sadly passed away. May she also rest in peace; our prayers go to her family, including those who are bellringers at St Luke's. It is not easy for those left behind but I'm sure they will have many happy memories of her.

Now to more cheerful matters. On 3rd December we enjoyed our Christmas Dinner at Riverside College. The table was beautifully decorated for Christmas. The 3-course meal was mostly delicious (just slightly under-cooked vegetables being the only downside) on what was the first Christmas event for the students. (I did return two days later with the Art Group – and the vegetables were perfect!) The waiting-on students were very attentive. They are, after all, trainees, but did their best to please. The catering staff had cooked everything themselves, including some wonderful bread rolls and sweet nibbles. With good food and great company, it was a joyful meal. It was good to have our fellow members from

St Michael's Church with us as well. Thank you to Chris and Colleen for organising this.

Our meeting on 11th December was Christmas carols and readings. We were pleased Sue Smither was able to join us and grateful for Lorraine's organ-playing. After Colleen's introduction we sang "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks". The poem, "Glory in the night", by Martin Risley, which tells of the birth of Christ, was split into four separate readings. A carol relevant to the reading was sung in between each section. The author told of the angel visiting the shepherds on the hillside, telling of the good news and that they should not be afraid. The sky was filled with choirs of angels bringing good news. They dashed to Bethlehem, their fears washed away. "Let us all fall down and worship Him."

As always, the ladies sang out joyously. Sue Smither read about Christmas traditions, including poinsettias, giving one each to Colleen and Lorraine in thanks for their assistance, which was a lovely gesture. Colleen continued with prayers, remembering old friends we have lost, especially those who were good friends and supporters of MU. She then read out a funny poem by Roy E Peterson called "Christmas Rules and Promises". That set us in a jolly mood for mince pies and mulled wine or fruit juice. Thank you to Colleen, Sue, Lorraine and all the readers for a very enjoyable Christmas meeting.

Unfortunately, our January meeting had to be cancelled so that the workers could continue with our toilets project. As has been said, a temporary "inconvenience" so that we can have conveniences afterwards! As well as a small kitchen, which will also be very welcome. As it turned out, we had a fall of snow that week, which, along with the ice which followed, would have made it difficult to walk anyway. Clare Liptrott, who was due to be our speaker, will hopefully join us later in the year.

12th February: Paul Delaney, Director of Music at St Luke's, will be giving us part two of his Music and Poetry talk. Tea rota: Rita Poole & Val Park-Funnell.

12th March: This will be our Spring Social. Tea rota: Lynne Taylor and Marion Hall

A closing prayer- Walk slowly through the year, for every day is holy. The God of Love be ever near throughout the day and throughout the year. Amen. Stay safe! Rita Poole

November Cronton Primary School worship and Café Worship with Baptism at Cronton Mission Church.

We thought about the importance of preparing for an event, when we prepare for something, the meaning is intensified and the actual event its self is so much better, this is what Advent is all about.

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'coming', and so at this time we prepare for the coming of Jesus, when we will celebrate his birthday on Christmas Day. In church we have an Advent Wreath, which is usually made from a circle of greenery with five candles rising from it. There are four candles on the outside, three purple and one pink, plus the candle in the middle which is white. The evergreens represent eternal life, and the candles represent Jesus as the light of the world. The candles are lit in the same order each week so that by the fourth week, the candles have burnt down by different amounts.

Sunday 1st December is the first Sunday of Advent and so we are lighting the first candle, which signifies hope, the hope we find in Jesus. In the following weeks we will then light candles to signify:

*Peace – the peace we find in Jesus

*Love - the love we have in Jesus

*Joy the joy we find in Jesus.

Each of the four Sundays also reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ, week 1 we think of 'The Patriarchs', and we focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born.

Week 2 we think about 'The Prophets' and this will give us an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold', by those such as Isaiah. Week 3 has us thinking about John the Baptist, who proclaimed the Saviour, and then in week 4, Mary, the mother of Jesus. Finally on Christmas Day we light the fifth candle, a white candle, and we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent is a time to prepare for Jesus coming to earth in human form, this is significant because of what he goes on to do. In his earthly life he taught us about how we should follow God and then he died on a cross, so all our sins could be forgiven, and we could have eternal life. Mind blowing really when you stop to think about it – and that's the point of Advent, it is a time to stop and think, to prepare.

To help explain this to everyone I made a Christmas present that opens out to illustrate the meaning of the 5 Advent candles and also to illustrate the cross. Some of the younger children also made their own Advent Wreaths to take home.
Clare



BAPTISM of Miller at Cronton Mission



Cronton Village tree lighting and ecumenical service Wednesday 11th December. It started at the tree in the memorial garden then moved to Holy Family church where children from both schools led the service.





FIRST PRIZE £100

Wine Hamper

Beauty hamper

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Draw to take place on Sunday
30th March after Mothering
Day service.

Tickets on sale in church and from
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appreciated please give to Yvonne or a
warden. Thank you.

HELP!!! We all know the saying.....



...and we ALL know that is so true!
 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 all provided and no experience is needed!!
 If YOU could lend a helping hand, we would really appreciate that.

	<p>Anyone fancy Sequence Dancing???</p> <p>St Ambrose Hall, Tuesday February 4th 1.30pm to 4pm</p> <p>£3 pp and Everyone welcome!</p>
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FUNERAL	REGISTER		
Date	Venue	Deceased	Age
30/07/2024	Widnes crem	Joseph Horsley	80
15/01/2025	Widnes crem	Galyna Tveritina	51
24/01/2025	St Luke & Churchyard	Irene Hodkin	82

Apologies to the family of Joseph for omitting his funeral in 2024 magazine. May he rest in peace.



**A session of fun, faith and fellowship
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Sundays 9th February and 9th March

3pm to 4pm

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For more information contact

Clare 07976549410

The six senses I love...

I love the sight of magical rainbows,
stretching across the sky,
like walls of colourful graffiti,
dancing on old, weathered walls.

I'm thinking about God's wondrous creation
and so I say this:

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His love has no end! (Ps 118)**

I love the sound of heavy rain,
battering my cosy caravan,
like battalions of wild birds,
skittering across its roof.

I'm thinking about God's wondrous creation
and so I say this:

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His love has no end!**

I love the taste of thick,
milk chocolate, sticking to my mouth,
like rivers of molten bronze,
flowing through a valley.

I'm thinking about God's wondrous creation
and so I say this:

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His love has no end!**

I love the touch of virgin snow,
coating the frozen ground,
like carpets of graceful swans,
cuddling up together.

I'm thinking about God's wondrous creation
and so I say this:

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His love has no end!**

I love the smell of fierce storms,
brewing thunder and lightning,
like fields of fresh firework flowers,
preparing to go off.

I'm thinking about God's wondrous creation
and so I say this:

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His love has no end!**

But most of all, I love this sound: the sound of silvery silence.
For magic and miracles dwell here and spooky mystery.
Some folks say it's 'Intuition' or maybe your 'sixth' sense.
But all I know is this:

The realm of *silence* is a sacred place...

For this is the place where spirits whisper.

This is the place where God resides.

This is the place where you'll find your answers.

This is the place where *nobody* hides.

This is the place where you'll hear your heart.

This is the place where you'll turn your tides.

This is the place where you'll hear your dreams.

This is the place where you'll take your strides.

So go on... Turn to silence, Give thanks.

And there, you'll meet your God.

And then, just see what happens...

© 2024 Paul Delaney www.pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk

TRIBUTE for Irene Hodkin

We were so very sad to hear of the death of Irene Hodkin, she passed away in Warrington Hospital following a short illness. One of four sisters, Irene Margaret Powell was raised in the Dingle area of Liverpool and grew up living over her gran's Greengrocer shop that was known as 'Nannie Goggins'. She attended school locally where, by far, her favourite subject was needlework. She went on to study needlework and tailoring at the Mabel Fletcher College before starting work at John Snell's, a gent's tailors that was in the prestigious Garment Quarter of Liverpool. There, her sewing and tailoring skills were developed and honed.

She became involved in the Scouting Movement after moving to Speke and meeting her husband Brian Hodkin. They married at St Luke's in 1963 and so began their very long association with our church as a married couple. Brian of course had been our church organist for many years.

They first lived at number 3, Derby Road and Irene worked from home; She had a steady stream of people wanting her sewing and tailoring skills, from alterations to trousers and skirts to bridesmaid's dresses and everything in between, she was always busy and in demand. One member of our congregation told me that Irene was, 'The best dress maker ever'...quite a compliment. Apparently, Irene took exception to being called a housewife as she considered she was contributing to the household and definitely doing her bit...as indeed she was.

After a few years, there was a house move, just along Derby Road to number 71, where both her children, Val and Colin, were born. Ten years later, they moved again, this time over the Horns Bridge, to number 182, Derby Road and Irene still carried on with her tailoring and dressmaking.

She became involved in many aspects of St Luke's church life. She was a Sunday School teacher, [in the era of Margaret Turton and the Hemmer sisters]. Irene joined the Mothers' Union, for many years she delivered Parish magazines, she loved the Christmas and Summer Fairs and was proud to be one of a small group of ladies who prepared the sandwiches and baked cakes for the Guests and Dignitaries invited to the Fairs.

Val shared with me that she would be ever grateful to her Mum for encouraging her to keep trying to pass her driving test, something she has never regretted.

Like me, I expect many of you remember Irene riding round Farnworth on that trusty bike of hers, the one with the basket on the front, often wearing a headscarf to keep her hair in place. I often wondered how and why Irene didn't fall off; she seemed to turn those pedals in slow motion. Then more recently, whenever I saw her on her mobility scooter, my heart would always be in my mouth as the traffic whizzed past so quickly. On one occasion, she hadn't had it on charge for long enough and the scooter and Irene, ground to a halt on the pavement right outside church; we brought her in, made her a cup of tea whilst she and her scooter waited to be picked up!

Her mode of transport may have changed over the years but two things that did not change were her love for her family and her faith, both as strong as ever.

Dotted around the house, Irene had many versions of the beautiful poem/prayer FOOTPRINTS, which even though it does not directly relate to any one specific Bible passage, does have many parallels in Scripture and spoke volumes about her.

It was my privilege to conduct Irene's funeral service, which was well attended. Some people had travelled in dreadful conditions to be with us, which speaks volumes of just how much she was loved and how highly she was respected.

As a church family, we offer Val and Ken, Colin, Paula and Lou our deepest sympathy and we will continue to hold them in our prayers.
Sue



Footprints –

[author unknown]

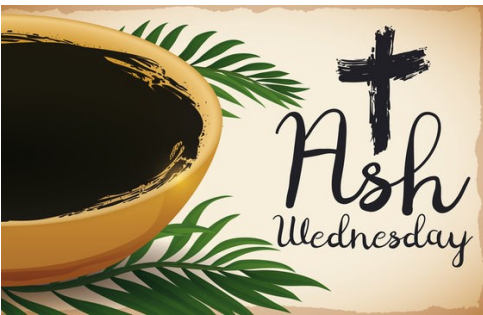
One night I had a dream...

I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and
Across the sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand;
One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of my life flashed before us,

I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
 I noticed that many times along the path of my life,
 There was only one set of footprints.
 I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest
 and saddest times in my life
 This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it.
 "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,
 you would walk with me all the way;
 but I have noticed that during the
 most troublesome times in my life,
 there is only one set of footprints.
 I don't understand why in times when I
 needed you the most, you should leave me.
 The Lord replied, "My precious, precious
 child. I love you, and I would never,
 never leave you during your times of
 trial and suffering.
 When you saw only one set of footprints,
 it was then that I carried you.



The ashes are used to keep us in mind of our humble origin and of how the body of Adam, our forefather, was formed out of the dust of the earth; also to remind us of death, when our bodies will return to dust, and of the necessity of doing penance for our sins.

While the ashes remind us that we will die and return to the ground, if we believe in Jesus, we will be raised with Him in glorious new bodies.

God our Father, as we begin our Lenten journey, help us to see that Your merciful love is always with us. During these forty days change our hearts Lord, so that by our prayer and sacrifice, and above all the deep well of Your grace, we might greet one another transformed as an Easter people.

Sunday Club

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10.30am in the Bridewell

For children aged 4 to 11.

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FOR ALL!



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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**



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Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Kate 07931 237062

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Thursday 7.30am & 9am
Joanne 07816 542755

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