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Parish Magazine

St. Luke's Church & Cronton Mission

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

Sunday Club usually 1030am in the Bridewell Sundays

Sunday Club Leader Lynn Keeling 01514243142

Director of Music Paul Delaney 07778042553

Choir Practice usually Thursdays 6pm-7pm

Tower Captain Nigel Goulding

Bell ringing practice usually Tuesdays 7.30pm

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Cronton C.E. Primary 01514243881

Editor Philip Lacey 07710030973

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

Deadline for articles noon on 18th January 2024

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

THERE WILL BE 6 EDITIONS IN COLOUR with price increase to £1.25, SO £7.50 per year. The subscription will be collected in January 2024.

The Sanctuary

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

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

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

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Dear Friends,

This has been quite an eventful year but here we are entering the season of Advent, a season when we, as a church, prepare for that time of great celebration, a time to open our hearts ready to



experience God's love and his forgiveness afresh, as he comes to us in the Christ-child. Advent is a time for quiet reflection, a time to clear away all that clutters our minds, and make space for God's love in Christ to come to us in a new and fresh way, not exactly knowing what lies ahead for us. During 2023 one of the saddest things we have had to do is say our Farewells to Bob, Alison and Alison's Mum, Bez. Bob took the decision to take early retirement so that he could spend more time with Alison, their four children and two grandchildren, all of whom can't wait to have him nearby in their new home in Wigan. We offer them all our very best wishes and Blessings for a wonderfully long, healthy and happy retirement.

As another year is drawing to a close, I want to just say also how very blessed we have been during 2023. For a significant number of you there have been such difficult times and we so appreciate your faithfulness and commitment to St Luke's. ZOOM is still available to those unable to make their way to church and It is always lovely to have people join us virtually. THANK YOU to those who facilitate this and those who take advantage of it.

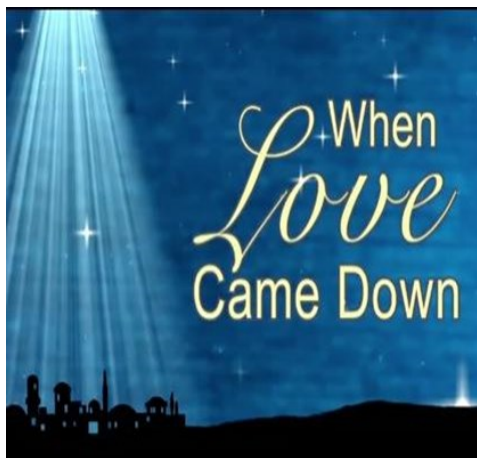
As a church, it is important to emphasise how blessed we are to have children involved in our worship. Delightful Sunday Club and JAM Club are regulars and over the year we have been delighted to open our doors to both Farnworth and Lunts Heath Schools for visits and for worship.

We are looking forward to the groups unveiling their 2023 Christmas window displays and joining us for their Advent and Christmas presentations.



Fresh in people's minds will be the incident on the evening of October 27th when a speeding car crashed through the church boundary wall and smashed into the 9th century Anglo-Saxon Preaching Cross. It was both shocking and devastating to see all the damage; restoration will be super expensive, it has to be done correctly by specialist contractors. It was said, 'The cross saved the Church again'. How true that was. We thank God that no-one was hurt.

So now, we move on to what we do best: serve the people in our Church family and Community. We have so many exciting events booked for December, details of which you can find in this magazine and on our church website and social media pages.



George F. McDougall said this, "Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God."

In today's broken world I like that very much.

On behalf of everyone at St Luke's, may I offer you and yours every blessing for this Christmas time and beyond. Sue

PCC is delighted to announce that Archdeacon Simon has granted Sue permission to administer Communion by Extension for the whole of the Interregnum.

Sixth Form Christmas concert

We are delighted to once again welcome the students from Cronton Sixth Form College Performing Arts Department.

A mini Dickens Christmas Carol in words and music.

This special one-off performance will take place in church on **Thursday December 7th starting at 7pm.**



It is our opportunity to support these super talented local young people as they use our amazing church as a performance venue. **We really need your support;** the students are giving freely and generously of their time at a busy time in their academic year and they deserve a good audience. I can guarantee that you won't be disappointed.

This will also be an important Fund Raising event for us as we try to raise money for our next building project: toilets and kitchen area, both much needed facilities in church.

Tickets £5 per person will include a drink on arrival. Tickets will also be available on the door.

For further details, contact Sue: 07962012916

'Help wanted' by Timothy Tocher



Santa needs new reindeer.
The first bunch has grown old.
Dasher has arthritis; Comet hates the cold.
Prancer's sick of staring at Dancer's big behind.
Cupid married Blitzen and Donner lost his mind.
Dancer's mad at Vixen for stepping on his toes.
Vixen's being thrown out —
she laughed at Rudolph's nose.
You must know how to fly!

Time for Remembering.



The All Souls service can be an emotional time and for some families even to step inside church is daunting; hopefully people found comfort in gently coming together with others who were also feeling anxious and sad. Love and loss united us and it was powerful. People took home a copy of this beautiful poem that I used in the service, 'Still' by Char Marks, it certainly struck a chord with me when I first read it. Sue

Listen. There is this silence now. This stillness.

Gradually we will get used to it.

But, for now, it is so strange.

You have left such a gap.

Our world is in shock, holding its breath,

but listen closer – all your laughter,

all your love is still ringing out.

Still holding us.

All our memories of you are still with us.

All the love we shared is still in every one of us.

And although we ache from this loss of you,

you will always be here – as still and steady

and fierce, as any star. Look.

You are shining bright through all our skies.

We thank you for sharing your life with us.

I attended a very special, tender and moving service honouring the memories of loved ones lost. The music was so lovely and the choir sang beautifully. We were invited to light a candle and float a rose petal on water, so beautiful. We chose a pebble of "remembrance" to keep and touch to remember our loved one.. Special thanks must go to Sue Smither who led this service so thoughtfully and beautifully. The words she used were wonderful, caring, thoughtful and heartfelt, they certainly came from the heart. Thank you. Lynn Keeling

Safeguarding Sunday

On a wet and windy Sunday morning, a really good number of people came to St Ambrose Church for our monthly East Widnes Team Service when we acknowledged and celebrated Safeguarding Sunday. We were warmly welcomed by the people of St Ambrose on what was a miserable day. Each church's Safeguarding Officer played a significant part in the service and they were thanked for the time they devoted to their important roles in keeping our churches places where people are made to feel welcome and safe.



Everyone was invited to read and commit to the Safeguarding Pledge which reminds us that we each have a responsibility to keep our churches, homes and work place safe for all. It was wonderful that every single person stayed afterward to enjoy the tea, coffee and biscuits and to continue conversations about the importance to recognise and celebrate this important aspect of our church work. Sue

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY PLEDGE

We commit to share responsibility for Creating an environment that is safe for all.

We commit to pray for our Safeguarding leads and those working with children and adults.

We commit to respect the boundaries that are in place to protect others.

We commit to support those in our Church who have been hurt or abused.

We commit to provide on-going safeguarding training for all our workers.

We commit to allow sufficient time and resources to make our recruitment of workers safer.

We commit to maintaining an open culture where people are encouraged to share concerns.

We commit to not taking offence when Challenged about our presence or behaviour.



Christingle services

December 24th at 3pm and 5pm

Doors will open 30 minutes before each service. No tickets needed.

Please note that tickets are not needed but we do have a maximum number of people that church can SAFELY accommodate, please be aware of this. To ensure that the porch, aisles and doorways are kept free we ask that there are NO PRAMS. This is for everyone's safety.

Please bring your own Christingle, candles will be available in church.

Fasten a piece of red sticky tape or ribbon around the middle of an orange. Cut a small cross in the top of the orange

Lay a square of silver foil over the cross.

Make a hole into the orange using a pencil

Place a candle in the hole and wedge it firmly into the orange.

Thread sweets or sultanas onto 4 cocktail sticks

Put in the sticks into the orange and you are all ready!

Please take your Christingle and candle home to light on Christmas Day.

As you enter and when leaving there will be baskets for a collection for the Children's society, a Christian organisation who work tirelessly with children and young people to improve their lives. Please support them if you can, they do amazing work. We look forward to welcoming you on Christmas Eve. **Clare and Sue**

FLOWER LIST 2024		
ADVENT	NO	FLOWERS
January	7	
	14	Mrs J Edwardson
	21	Mrs S Smither
	28	Mrs O Wilde



Harvest 2023

Harvest seems to be part of our distant past now but I am confident that won't be the case for the Widnes Foodbank and its clients. We delivered almost 500kgs of food to their receiving centre at St Bede's Church. This huge amount was generously donated by our own congregations and also the pupils and parents of Farnworth School. Lunts Heath School had requested donations of toiletries and again the number of items collected was fantastic. Both schools came into church for their Harvest services. The Value Ambassadors from Farnworth lead both of their services with great confidence; Lunts Heath Y3 classes beautifully lead the service and Y4 children helped swell the singing. Proud parents, carers and grandparents supported the children.



A huge thank you to the generosity of everyone who supported the work of Food Bank with their donations for these special Harvest services, with an extra thank you to those who donate items on a weekly basis.
Sue

Sunday Club Children and pupils from Farnworth helped Sue in the service.



A VISIT TO ST MARY'S CHURCH, GRASSENDALE



A group of 16 visited the church on 5th October as part of a regular tour of churches which will continue in 2024. St Mary's church is a Victorian building and is styled decorated, Gothic revival and has been a place of worship since 1853. A youngster compared with St Luke's.

It has a north-west tower with a broach spire. It is built mainly of sandstone and the roof is covered by hexagonal slates.

It's a grade 11 listed building designed by the architect Arthur Hill Holme and was built to serve the residents of the private estates of Grassendale Park and Cressington Park where there are some fine dwelling houses round about.

The church has many fine stained-glass windows see the photos below, together with plaques to recognise those folk who have supported the church in many ways over the years and we often find this.

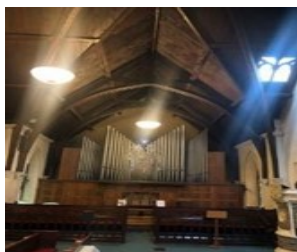
There are also side chapels. The Garnett Chapel built in one of the transepts was dedicated to Theodore Garnett a church warden for over thirty years. Other notables were A. D. Watts born in New York but a British citizen. Hugh Gaskell Sutton, a significant figure in the Garston community has a window dedicated to him.

There are war memorials commemorating those who lost their lives in The Great War and were pupils of St Mary's C of E School. The school closed in 1990 due to lack of teachers.



This picture shows the chancel that has a canted (oblique-angled) apse. The altar windows depict Christ the King and also commemorates John Evans the first vicar of Grassendale.

The original organ has long gone. The present organ, which has 1100 pipes, was rebuilt and moved to its present location by Rushworth and Drapers of Liverpool in the late 1960s.



In the early days of the church, families could rent their own pews which had doors and were numbered and this practice did not cease until 1920.

The new pulpit is quite grotesque poorly designed and an anachronism (not my words but I do agree it is a very poor example).

We enjoyed our visit having been warmly welcomed with tea and biscuits rounded off with a meal at the Britannia Inn on the river side.

I will be arranging more visits, probably every six weeks or so on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday and anyone interested should let me know. If there is somewhere you would like to visit please let me know as nothing has yet been organised.

Geoffrey Poole

THANK YOU FROM



We are extremely grateful for all your donations of food which helps us to put food on the table.

We now need UHT milk, UHT juice, coffee, tinned soup, meat, vegetables and potatoes, custard and desserts please.

Beatitudes

On Sunday 5th November at Cronton Mission it was Café Style Worship. And we started our service by making yummy treats – Rocky Road Clusters. The first thing we needed was a recipe - a set of instructions, including a list of all the ingredients.

We worked together and weighed out the ingredients melted and mixed and then spooned into paper cases. Then the important job of sharing out the various mixing bowls and spoons to be licked! Why were we doing this at church you might well ask? Well, the Bible reading for the day was taken from Matthews Gospel (5:1-12), The Beatitudes. I am sure you know the passage I am referring to: “Blessed are those who ...” Some translations of the Bible use the word “happy” instead of “blessed”.

I like that the word “beatitudes” has two parts to it: be and attitude. The Beatitudes are ways that we can ‘be’ and ‘attitudes’ we can have. Another word for attitudes, is behaviours, how we should behave, what we should do.

Basically, this is Jesus’ recipe for us to be happy. Let’s look at a few of these ‘be-attitudes’. Jesus said to:

Be kind when people are sad or hurting

Be peacemakers when people are fighting

Have an attitude of pure thoughts (think nice things)

Have an attitude of wanting to do right.

Jesus also said that when we are sad, God comforts us and then we are happy.

Just like when we made the Rocky Road Clusters, we followed the recipe to ensure we had the right ingredients and mixed them together in the right way to produce yummy treats that definitely made us happy. We can follow Jesus’ recipe

– The Beatitudes - a recipe for how to ‘be’ and what kind of ‘attitudes’ to have. And if we do this, Jesus says that we will be happy.

Amen.

Clare



CRONTON CE School and Mission

Almighty God, you delight in growth,

Fill us with your Holy Spirit,

So that our church may grow spiritually and in numbers.

Give us confidence to reach out to others

***So that the communities in which we live and work
may know the power of your transforming love.***

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One of the most important priorities in line with the vision of St Luke's church and Cronton, is to deliver mission in collaboration and partnership with the local community.

Looking back over the past 2 months, we have achieved this in abundance. Let me share with you some of the services and opportunities we have had to deliver and experience worship with our school, the East Widnes team, and wider community in Cronton.

School assisted Lesley and Clare in leading 2 services in October – the Y5 “gardeners” introduced their Reception “seedlings” on the first Sunday, children were presented with seeds or a bookmark to remember the occasion. Key stage 2 children lead Harvest on the second Sunday. Donations, as at St Luke's church, were to Widnes Foodbank.



The East Widnes TEAM SERVICE took place at Cronton on the 5th Sunday in October, led by Arch Deacon Simon Fisher. St Luke's church and St Ambrose, came together with Cronton for a service of Holy Communion. It was lovely to welcome the Archdeacon and show him our use of the school building for worship.

The whole village community including the 3 churches, Parish Council, 2 schools, businesses, police and local organisations came together on Remembrance Sunday. We met at the War Memorial with a further short service at the Methodist Chapel. The Ecumenical service preparations for Christmas are already underway,



Rev'd Bob's last service at Cronton took place on the 24th September. One of the lectionary readings for that week, the 17th Sunday after Pentecost, was the Parable of the worker (Matthew 20 1-16). This, to me, seemed very apt, at a time when Bob's retirement as a worker in the formal sense, was so imminent. Wendy, Sue and Hannah processed the crosses to open and close worship, and we sang

one of Bobs favourite hymns, "My song is love unknown", which was also included in his final service at St Luke's church on 15.10.23. School celebrated collective worship with Bob for the final time on the 9th October where the children were excited to present Bob with gifts to furnish his "Man shed" which he had often talked about. We thank Bob for his leadership at St Luke's church with Cronton Mission in worship and organisation, and for his inclusivity of our children. Both Cronton Church and the School family wish Bob and Alison, a happy, heathy, and fulfilling retirement with their wider family.

We must also give thanks to God that Rev'd Ray felt well enough to lead us in Holy Communion at Cronton. With the assistance of Lesley, he led his first service in over 3 years on the 22nd October. Debbie Doyle

Fabric report

Since my last report we have received a quote from our Contractors for the toilet project of £188,000 plus Vat. We still need to confirm the direction of the drains to avoid any graves before work can begin in the New Year.

On Friday 27th October in the early evening, a speeding car, coming up Farnworth Street, hit the last speed bumps which caused the driver to lose control and the car ploughed into the church wall to the right of the main gates, between the lamp post and a sign post. It demolished the 15th century sandstone wall,



The driver of the car ran off into the churchyard, but was later arrested by the police. As the car belonged to the driver, the police were able to access his details quite quickly. The whole incident was captured on the CCTV cameras at the corner shop. It was very fortunate that no one was walking near the church or any cars parked by the shop at the time. The car was finally removed by the police just after midnight. The area was made safe by Geoff and I on Saturday morning.

Hopefully an Insurance claim will cover the majority of the damage, but the repair to the Celtic cross will be expensive, as it will require a specialist stone mason to do the work. A repair to one of the gargoyles recently cost £8,000, so this repair will possibly be double that amount.

The next day the clean-up operation began and I was helped by Geoff Poole and Stuart Anderson plus a passer by Dave who had been concerned at the damage that had been caused. This offer of help was most uplifting as was the concern expressed by the people of Farnworth as they went about their daily business. The accident had gone viral on social media which was picked up by the local and national papers as well as the BBC news. I was asked to give a report which appeared in local papers and media news.

On the 7th November I met with one of the Stone masons with regard to the restoration of the wall and cross which was quite pleasing as the work would be pretty straightforward from their point of view. This alleviated my concerns as I thought some of the stones would prove to be unusable. The following day I met with another Stone mason whose findings were similar to the previous findings. I now wait for the quotes from both companies before deciding which one to use. It was agreed by both companies that work on the restoration would be curtailed as all parties had no clear dates until the New Year.

This will enable us to work on the strength of feeling and raise some funding ourselves as there will be a substantial excess payment to be made to the Insurance company.

Hopefully I will be able to report better news for you in the New Year.

If you would like to make a donation to restore the cross and the wall please go to our website st-luke.co.uk or contact me,

Barry Horabin

**WISHING BOB and ALISON
A HAPPY and HEALTHY RETIREMENT**





A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!





THANK YOU FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHS COLLEEN




Christmas

Raffle

Tickets £1 available in church and from
 Yvonne 01514249887

If you could take books of 5 tickets to sell to your
 friends that would be much appreciated.

Draw on Sunday 17th December
 after 10.30am service.

Join us for mulled wine and mince pies.

Raising funds for toilets and kitchen area in church.

£100 first prize	
Christmas hamper	Port and cheese
Baileys and chocs	Wine and nibbles
Osprey purse	Family board game
Nativity Scene	and more

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE



The Association of Church Editors gave the magazine the Clarity of Christian Message award.

As Editor I take no credit for the award as I just put the magazine together. The award is for everyone who inputs to the magazine.



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Treasurer's Report, 01/01/23 to 30/10/23

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjust</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts	69736	0	69736
Expenses	<u>(42512)</u>	<u>(55770)</u>	<u>(98282)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>27224</u>	<u>(55770)</u>	<u>(28546)</u>

The initial surplus before creditors of £27,224 has been used to pay the outstanding parish share of £26,000 from 2022. By the end of October 2023 £4,500 has been paid to the dioceses for the 2023 parish share, with £55,700 outstanding to them. By the end of the year I would estimate the Parish share creditor for Parish share to be around £60,000. This creditor will be carried forward to 2024 and will NOT be written off by the Diocese. The Diocese is now asking me on a regular basis, as to how and when these arrears can be paid, and this is a question that I cannot answer. Can You? The Covid Pandemic had a detrimental effect on church funds, and since 2020, quite a few of our regular givers have died, All of your donations help, so please give what you can afford either in church or as below.

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 **220622101**. One off donations can also be made this way, pick up a leaflet in church or as below
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 For donations towards fundraising for the Toilets in church, please state that it is for the Fabric fund

Thank You Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)

BRING CHURCH INTO YOUR HOME

Sundays 10.30am (60 mins)

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Meeting ID 5095149528

For the password please contact Sue
07962012916 or Clare 07976549410

To listen to service with Zoom from landline or mobile dial
02036950088 enter password



Remembrance Sunday 2023



The wet and windy weather did not deter people from leaving their cosy homes to come to St Luke's for our Remembrance Day service that was held on November 12th.

Entering into the porch they were faced with the beautiful poppy 'waterfall' created by the ladies from the Farnworth Arts and Craft group; we are indebted to them that they allowed us to display it.



Thanks to our amazingly talented CEFAA ladies, the church looked stunning with several arrangements of bright red poppies and foliage. We are so blessed that week upon week they give freely of their time and talents. Sue



Poppy with her dad on 'Poppy Day'



Sunday Club were with us for the whole service and as usual, they were fantastic. They worked away so respectfully and quietly in Cuerdley Chapel making individual poppy wreaths.



For the very first time, pupils from Farnworth CE School and Lunts Heath CP School joined us. Proudly dressed in their school uniforms, they sat with their parents and were totally engaged with the service. The names of all those who lost their lives in World War I and II

from the Parishes of St Luke's, Cronton and Bold were solemnly read out, and then wreaths were processed to the altar. On behalf of our church family and the local community, Deputy Church Warden Margaret Campbell presented a Royal British Legion wreath. Our Rose Queens, Cara and Charlotte, presented a wreath made by a congregation member that is decorated with hand crocheted poppies. Each school had made their own beautiful poppy wreaths. These were proudly processed to the altar by Poppy, Hudson and Bodhi from Farnworth and Piper and Henry from Lunts Heath. Mr Redman and Miss Fazackerly must have been so proud of their pupils.

St Luke's Sunday Club

The children have taken part in several services since September. The first service they took part in was the Harvest Festival, in which the children held up the word Harvest and created a poem from the letters in the word. This is their poem.

“The farmer HE plants the crops
So we can HAVE food to SHARE,
then HE can rest at the end of the HARVEST”.

It was a bit crazy with them trying to get into the right place with their letters but they loved it and did very well.

The following week the children wore their Rose Queen outfits and took part in Bobs leaving service, once again they did themselves proud.

On Remembrance Sunday our Rose Queens Charlotte and Cara represented Sunday Club by laying wreathes in Remembrance of all those who fell. As the names of the fallen servicemen and woman were read out Charlotte and Cara dropped poppy leaves from the pulpit. They carried out their duties with dignity and pride.

Thanks to Jeff, Cara and Charlotte who picked up all the poppy leaves.



The rest of Sunday Club were in church making Poppy wreaths they all did so well. Thank you children so much, very proud of you all.

We will soon be in the throes of getting ready for our Christmas Nativity, which the children will perform at the morning service on Sunday 17th December. Please do try and join us. But before that we will be having our annual Christmas party on Sunday 10th December at which we are hoping to get a visit from Father Christmas himself if he's not too busy. So very exciting and busy times ahead for us all.

So it just leaves us to wish you all an early happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2023.

Lynn, Amanda and Lynsey & the children of St Luke's Sunday Club



Congratulations to Robert Colebrook and Nicola Jackson who were married on 30th September.

Baptisms

1st Oct Benjamin Declan Rooney
and Zahra Pamela Jean Leek
19th Nov Frankie Evelyn Vick



OPEN DOOR WEDNESDAYS

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

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

'GAMES GALORE'

Grosvenor Women's club host & provide refreshments

1.30pm to 3pm Wednesday

Men welcome.

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



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

Sunday Club

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

10.30am in the Bridewell

For children aged 4 to 11.

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

Please come and join us.



Sunday School
FOR ALL!



Please contact Lynn 424 3142 for further details

Summer aged 7 says "I like Sunday Club because we do fun activities and learn about God"

Alexis aged 5 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 11**

"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 11**



MOTHERS' UNION

Our meeting on 11th October was led by Christine. We started with prayers. The prayer for peace was very poignant because of the trouble in the Middle East. Paul Delaney, St Luke's Director of Music, came to talk to us about music at St Luke's. Paul has many hats as he puts it. He is a performance poet, organist, composer, teacher and author having 8 books published. Before he came to us, he had taken 4 pupils for piano lessons. He started playing fairly late at the age of 12. His interest was sparked when he found an old organ in his uncle's house in Rainhill. His first public performance was at the age of 14 playing at a wedding. His first job at 17 was playing the organ at Our Lady in Hough Green. The priest was a very loud Irishman that reminded him of the Father Ted programmes. Paul was taught the organ by Ian Tracy in the Anglican cathedral. His family is Catholic and his father said his mother would be turning in her grave knowing he was playing in an Anglican Cathedral. He did think she would be pleased he was talking to the Mothers' Union. In 1999 he started work at St Pauls West Derby as they needed an organist. They averaged 45 weddings a year. It was a 9mile trip each way but he didn't mind it. He stayed there until 2018 when he received an E- Mail from St Luke's who were looking for an organist. When starting work at St Luke's, he found it wasn't so different from the Catholic church with the same Gloria and the Holy Holy. Paul has played in many venues including the Cathedral and St Georges Hall. He explained why he sometimes played the piano instead of the organ. Some music is written for the guitar some for piano and others for the organ. He has his own unique way of playing by improvising. He played 'Be Still' just as it was written, then he played his version improvising. The members liked Paul's version. Some of the old hymns written for the organ he doesn't change because it doesn't sound right. He demonstrated on the organ and yes, the hymn is better played how it was written. He definitely has a gift and is the only member of the family who plays music. His elder sister is good at knitting and as all knitters know it's a skill in itself. Paul gave us a card with the pupils of St Georges Catholic Primary school in York on the front. On the back were comments from some of the schools he has performed in Hungary, Czech Republic, Italy, Germany, Bahamas, California as well as England in Knightsbridge no less.

The comments were wonderful, he was funny, engaging and inspiring and the children were buzzing for days afterwards. Paul has a stutter and some of the heads of schools looked a bit doubtful but while singing and performing in different voices the stutter goes and afterwards the heads were amazed and full of compliments. Paul told us a bit about the organ. Organs have 2 or 3 keyboards and pedals as well. Everyone agreed that Paul was very talented. We all enjoyed Paul's talk. We would like him to return with some of his poetry.

Our meeting on 8th November was led by Colleen. She read prayers from the MU prayer book written by MU members in Africa. Prayers that were honest and uplifting. The MU is world wide and it's good to hear prayers from other countries. Colleen introduced Vicky, who is the Public Co-ordinator for the Foodbank. Vicky is lovely, open, cheerful person who is ideal for the job. The foodbank has been going for 4 and a half years. They have 200 volunteers and they couldn't deal with the 44thousand meals handed out without these valuable helpers. Vicky sings their praises whenever she can. The number of clients who need help has increased but with everyone feeling the pinch the donations have dropped and they are having to buy in food. Even people working still count on the foodbank. The foodbank comes under the Trussell Trust, working to stop UK hunger. There are 80 referral agents. The agencies give out vouchers for 3 days of food. Pets At Home donate animal food. The vouchers are for emergencies and they do forward clients to other organisations that maybe able to help them long term. Some members said it was hard for many families during and after the war but women learnt to cook to make meals out of just a few ingredients. I don't think schools teach domestic science now like they used to. Maybe that is something schools should look at. Vicky enjoys going into schools and one child thanked her because her family had to use the foodbank, she was quite moved by this. The harvest festival brought in a well needed boost as the schools and churches gave a lot of food and toiletries. Runcorn and Widnes are run separately but they both help each other. Vicky will send Colleen a list of things they need and also look in the magazine. Colleen thanked Vicky who was pleased to join us. She left with a bag of winter coats that they need for their clients she was delighted to receive them.

5th December is Christmas meal at Riverside College. 12 for 12,30 and the price is £24. £5 deposit was collected at the meeting and the menu was handed round so we could pre-order. 13th December is our Christmas celebration with mince pies, mulled wine and carols. As Daniel is unable to play for us Lorraine Eldridge has kindly agreed to play.

Our 10 January meeting is TBA.

Tea Rota for December and January is the committee.

I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and peaceful new year from the committee.

Lord, in this holy season of advent our thoughts turn to the coming of the Christ child and to Mary the mother to be. Give us ever thankful hearts, filled with compassion and understanding, that we may in return share these gifts with others. Amen.

Rita Poole

GAMES ROOM at the SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET

On Saturday 18th

November Lynn and Alan Keeling organised games and prizes for this event.

£350 was raised for church funds





A huge thank you to Lynn and Alan, all the helpers, sponsors of games and all who donated prizes for 'Grab a Bag'. Apologies to Pat and Geoff I did not take your photo.

Everywhere was busy but the longest queue was to see Father Christmas.

PCC would like to thank Farnworth School PTA for allowing us to run the Games Room and promote our campaign to raise funds to restore our 9th century cross which was demolished. £65 in our collection tin. Thank you.

Sandra

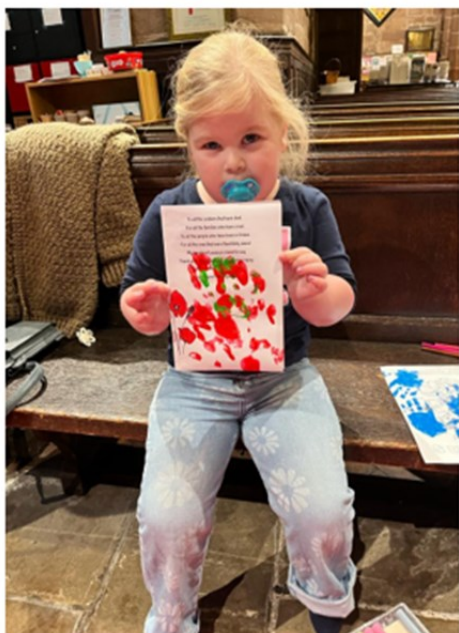
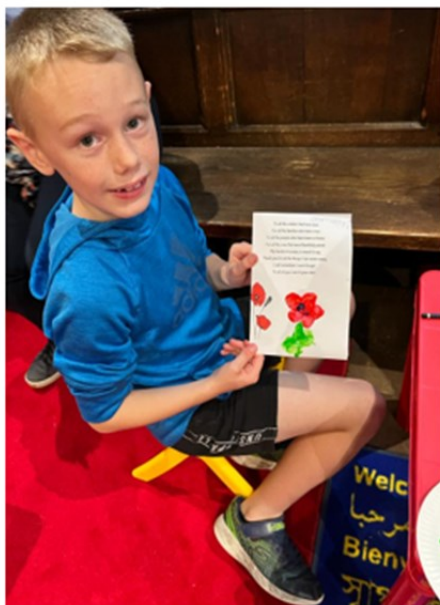
Remembering is important

At JAM Club on Remembrance Sunday we learnt that what happened in the past affects our lives now. It's important because others (those we don't know, like soldiers, and those we do know, like family) have done things for us which have an affect on our lives today, and we need to remember them with thankfulness. And we listened to the Bible story of the Last Supper, when Jesus met with his 12 disciples and He shared bread and wine with them, saying when you do this remember me. The disciples didn't know it then, but Jesus would very soon make the ultimate sacrifice, dying on the cross.



For Christians it's important to remember how Jesus died and in doing so took all the suffering and wrongs of the world. So, when we share bread and wine at Holy Communion and when we see a cross, we are reminded of Jesus who gave up his life for us, and this challenges us about how we live for God and others now.





We had lots of fun making finger and hand painted poppies and shared yummy toast and jam together too.
Join us at our JAM Christmas party on Sunday December 10th 3pm. Clare.


Bible readings

In any Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, we jump all over the Bible to tell the Christmas story. Matthew and Luke are where we read about Jesus' birth but actually we need to delve way back into the Old Testament to get the full story. Here are some beautiful passages you may like to read.



<p>1. Micah 5:2-5 <i>But you, O Bethlehem.....</i></p>	
	<p>2. Jeremiah 23:1-6 <i>"Woe to the shepherds.....</i></p>
<p>3. Isaiah 9:2-7 <i>The people who walked....</i></p>	
	<p>4. Luke 1:26-38 <i>In the sixth month.....</i></p>
<p>5. Luke 2:1-7 <i>In those days.....</i></p>	

	<p>6. Matthew 2:1-12 <i>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea.....</i></p>
<p>7. Philippians 2:1-11..... every knee shall bow</p>	

Moorfield School visit to St Luke's Church

	<p>On November 17th, it was my pleasure to welcome for the very first time, three Y1 and Y2 classes from Moorfield CP School to St Luke's church. Initially, the children were really shocked to see the recent damage that had been done to our ancient Preaching Cross and the wall.</p>
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On a walk around the perimeter path, they pointed out features they had been learning about in school such as the stained glass windows and the buttresses, I was very impressed by that, many an adult wouldn't know that term. The children came into church wide-eyed, with a real sense of awe and wonder. They listened really carefully and when exploring they did so respectfully and asked really sensible questions. The time just flew by. I have sent a letter of thanks to their Head Teacher, Miss Hayes; young as they were, they were great ambassadors for their school. Moorfield are interested in using the church as a resource for creative writing and poetry. I love that idea and look forward to forging links with them. Sue

EWT	SERVICES	DECEMBER	2023
	St Ambrose	St Luke	Cronton
Sun Dec 3 rd	09.00 HC		
	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café style
Wed 6 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Sun Dec 10 th		08.00 HC	
	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 13 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 MP	
Sun Dec 17 th	09.00 HC		
	10.30 TEAM Service at St Lukes 9 lessons & carols with Sunday Club Nativity		
Wed 20 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Sun Dec 24 th	10.30 Christingle	10.30 HC	10.30 HC
			
		3pm & 5pm Christingles	
	9pm HC	11pm Midnight HC	
Mon Dec 25 th		10am HC	

No 9.30am service at St. Luke's church on Wed 27th Dec.

EWT	SERVICES	JANUARY	2024
	St Ambrose	St Luke	Cronton
Wed Jan 3 rd	SANCTUARY	09.30 MP	
Sun Jan 7 th	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café style
Epiphany			
Wed 10 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Sun Jan 14 th		08.00 HC	
Epiphany 2	10.30 MP	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM	
Wed 17 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 MP	
Sun Jan 21 st	09.00 HC		
Epiphany 3	10.30 TEAM Holy Communion at St Ambrose		
Wed 24 th	SANCTUARY	09.30 HC	
Sun Jan 28 th Epiphany 4	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 HC 12.30 Baptisms
		6pm HC	
Wed 31 st	SANCTUARY	09.30 MP	

PARISH	REGISTER		FUNERALS
DATE	NAME	AGE	Location
26/10/2023	John Merrick Bailey	89	Widnes crem
26/10/2023	Thelma Bibby	85	Widnes crem
31/10/2023	Jean Frances Thompson	81	Widnes crem
02/11/2023	Katie -Ellen Jones	20	St Luke & W crem
13/11/2023	Diane Daly	82	Widnes crem
28/11/2023	William Johnson	68	St Luke & W crem

OPEN DOOR



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

SATURDAYS
2nd December and 6th January

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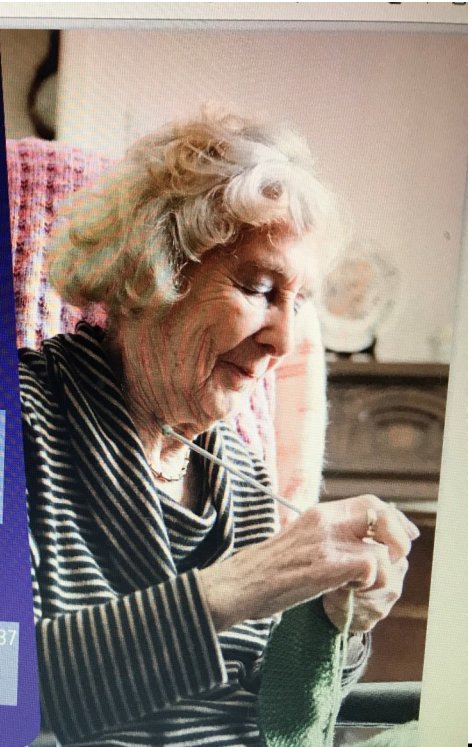
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Contact via Lay Minister Sue Smither
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**Lay Ministers
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Clare Liptrott 07976549410
Lesley Firth 07803148233**

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