



+ serving God and community +

Parish Magazine

St. Luke's Church & Cronton Mission

Owing to the present situation our church building will be closed until Sunday February 21st.

So worship together on Zoom.



Morning Prayer on Sundays & Wednesdays
see Page 19 for details on how to Zoom.



Alpha course to explore life and the Christian faith in a relaxed, friendly environment. See Page 10 for invitation from Reverend Bob.

February and March 2021 £1



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St Luke's Farnworth Parish

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**SUNDAY CLUB, CHOIR PRACTICE and
BELL RINGING PRACTICE CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

Sunday Club 1030am in the Bridewell most Sundays

Sunday Club Leader Lynn Keeling 01514243142

Director of Music Paul Delaney 07778042553

Choir Practice usually Monday 6-7pm in church

Tower Captain Nigel Goulding

Bell ringing practice Tuesdays 7.30pm

Schools Farnworth C.E. Primary 01514243042

Cronton C.E. Primary 01514243881

Editor Philip Lacey 07710030973

Kebbs Farm Clock Face Road Bold Widnes WA8 3XH

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

Deadline for articles noon on 18th March 2021.

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

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Dear Friends,

We are all familiar with the cycle of the Christian year as it ebbs and flows. But sometimes we can be tempted just to slip along from season to season as the well-known pattern unfolds without particular reflection and meditation on the 'reason for the season'. May I take this opportunity for a reminder about the reason for LENT, its origin and purpose (with apologies to those who feel they've heard it all before).

Lent, as we all know, is a time of preparation: preparation for Easter – the most important festival of the Christian Church. Every Sunday is a 'little Easter', celebrating Jesus' resurrection and its meaning for our lives today. Sundays are always days of celebration, never days of fasting – not even during Lent. The English word 'Lent' comes from the word 'lengthen', because, in the early history of its development in the Northern Hemisphere, Lent coincided with the springtime lengthening of daylight hours after the dark days of winter.

In the early centuries of Christianity the focus of the Christian community was very much upon Easter Day, with no special emphasis on Good Friday such as we know now. Christians would meet on Easter Eve and observe a time of fasting and meditation until the dawning of Easter morning when the Eucharist was celebrated with great joy. The fasting period later extended backwards to include Friday and a period of 40 hours, to remember the time Jesus' body lay in the Sepulchre. Later still the period was further lengthened to the beginning of what we now call Holy Week, but it wasn't until around 600AD that the fast extended to include 40 days prior to Easter (excluding Sundays remember) from Ash Wednesday on, corresponding to the time of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

The season originated as a time of final preparation for those seeking membership of the church through baptism at the Easter Festival. In those days candidates would spend up to 3 years in preparation and then be baptised at Easter – the only day on which baptisms took place. Imagine the chaos if that was still the case! Soon after it became the custom for all members voluntarily to observe the Lenten 40 days of fasting and prayer.

Many still associate Lent with a period of 'self-denial'. For some it is a gloomy time, partly because this period of almost enforced self-examination and penitence lends itself to such feelings. It may be more than just an amazing coincidence that psychologists reckon that the minimum time to either break a bad habit or begin a good one is exactly 40 days. If you can do something good each day or refrain from doing something bad for this period there is a very good chance that you will keep it up afterwards.

In recent years we have been encouraged to look upon Lent in a more positive way – not necessarily by giving up little luxuries as a token gesture, but rather by giving more time to God in bible reading and prayer; making a conscious decision to share more regularly in public worship and by committing ourselves to acts of Christian caring towards our neighbours and friends.

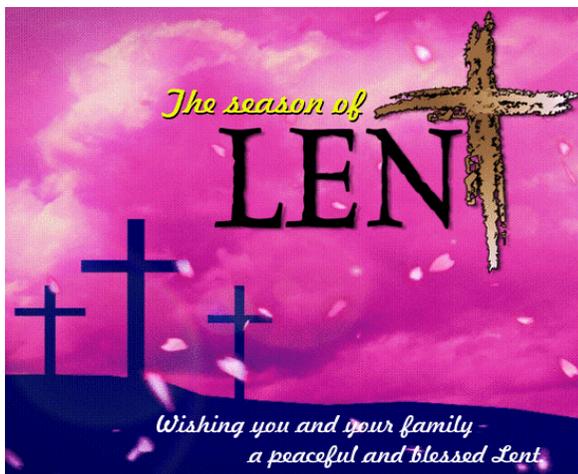
We are all challenged in Lent to give a little more time to God that his Holy Spirit may renew and transform us. We need Lent, especially during the current, unprecedented 'lockdown' restrictions, to grasp the opportunity which the Church offers us for spiritual uplift and renewal.

The Covid-19 pandemic will eventually ease and life will eventually return to something like normal but, in the meantime, I pray that we will all have a prayerful and purposeful Lenten season.

May God walk with you each step of your journey through this life and may you know his constant presence this Lent and beyond.

Your friend,

Revd Bob





St Luke with Cronton Mission is excited to be joining with other churches across Widnes for a Deanery-wide online Alpha Course using Zoom.

Many of you will have already heard of Alpha as it has been enjoyed by almost 30 million people across many Christian denominations worldwide since it began in 1977.

It is a chance to connect with others to explore life and the Christian faith in a relaxed, friendly environment. There are 10 sessions and each session includes a short film and a discussion via an online small group. Free of charge. All from the comfort of your own home.

When is it?

Each Wednesday at 7.30pm-9pm from 27th January to 31st March.

Who's it for?

Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The videos are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. What have you got to lose?

How do I sign up?

There's an online sign-up form at www.tnw.church/alpha (it asks which *church* has invited the guest, so we'll know which group to put them in).

Have a think whether this might be something for you, or maybe for you to invite someone else that you think might enjoy or benefit from it.

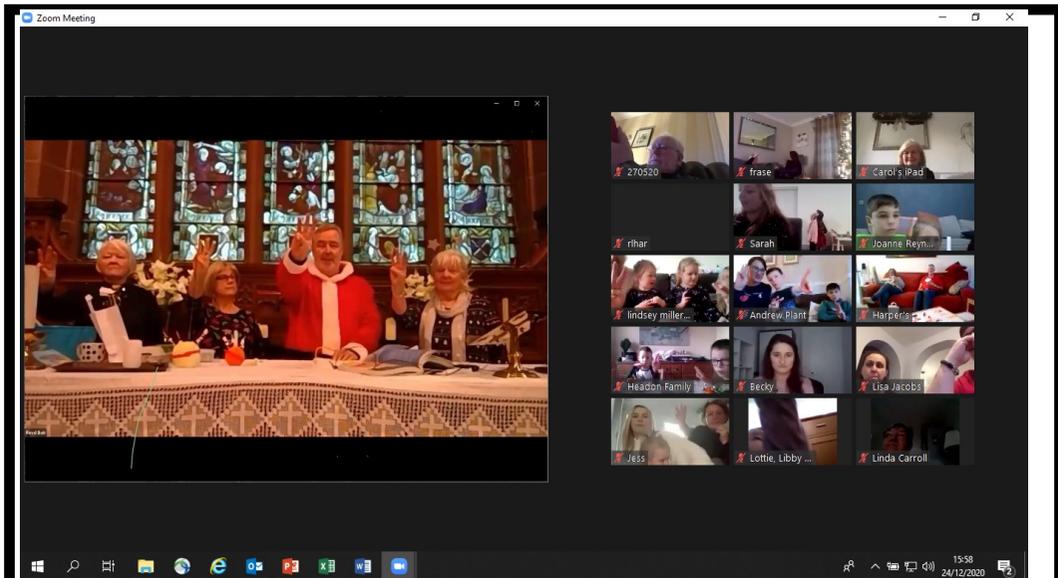
God bless, Revd Bob



Christingle 2020

It seems there is no such thing as 'normal' anymore and this goes for how we are able to worship at St Luke's church just now too. Covid has forced us all to do things in different ways and learn and develop new skills – even those of us who are 'traditionalists' or 'old fashioned' and prefer a piece of paper rather than a computer screen have been dragged kicking and screaming into the computer and technology age. But in the end we have discovered that technology is our friend, it has been a blessing to be able to continue to share worship via Zoom services, with people joining us on their computers, mobile phones and even home (land line) phones, as well as from in church (when it has been safe to do so). In fact we have been able to use these alternative approaches to connect with more people and new people and our church family has grown and developed. We have many new families with young children joining us via Zoom and people from further afield, from Liverpool to Wigan, to London and as far afield as New Zealand have been joining with us to share worship with us.

And our Christingle Service in December was one of the services that ended up being lead in a new and exciting way. Christingle Services at St Luke's Church have always been popular with our regular church congregation as well as more widely across the area, in fact in recent years we have had to increase the number of Christingle Services we have held just to accommodate everyone safely in church! And so as we approached Christmas this time round and began organising and preparing, we realised that we would need to do things differently this time to ensure that we were still able to celebrate Christingle.



And we achieved it! It has to be said that this service has been our biggest challenge so far but we are blessed to have some very gifted people within our church family who have used their God-given talents to support to make the best use of technology to deliver this service, and all our services via Zoom. The service was led by the ministry team of Rev'd Bob, Rev'd Lyn, Sue and myself, with Rob and Sandra hosting the service on Zoom. We didn't quite get as far as needing to shout "lights, camera, action" but we did have our various ipads and other devices set up at strategic angles around the church chancel to capture everything whilst complying social distancing requirements.

In advance of the service there was opportunity for families to collect Christingle Bags, containing everything they would need to take part in the service (except an orange) and these bags proved to be very popular. The service started with Sue telling a story, 'The Shepherd Who Couldn't Sing' from a beautifully illustrated book, with everyone having the opportunity to joining from home and sing along with the various Christmas Carols interspersed through the story. Then it was time for me to lead the Christingle making – the aim was to have this a bit like a cookery programme on the TV, where they demonstrate making the item in front of you, but instead of making a cake I was making a Christingle.

And so with apron and chef's hat donned I began with everyone at home making their Christingles at the same time.



First the orange to represent the world, although any spherical fruit or vegetable could have been used, Sue had a head of cauliflower, Bob had a potato, whilst Lyn was more traditional with an orange – I too had an orange but also a cabbage (which meant I could make double!) Then the red tape was wrapped round - a big hug of Gods' love round the world; then the 4 cocktail sticks adorned in their raisins and marshmallows were added - symbolising the 4 seasons and all the good things God has made and finally the candle – the symbol of Jesus as the light of the world – was added to top off our Christingles.

Not content with just a 'cookery lesson', I then moved on to a 'science experiment', using 'special dust' to represent the dull dusty earth and how when it comes into contact with a flame a.k.a. Jesus, Light of the World, something special happens – the dull dustiness is transformed into bright shining sparks of God's love in the world. Well, it seemed to work out ok and hopefully it demonstrated Jesus as the light of the world AND I didn't burn the church down (which was a good thing). We 4 in church plus everyone joining the service via Zoom, from all round Widnes and further afield, all lit our Christingles too and sang together 'Away in a Manger'. It was a powerful and emotional moment - we were all separate, yet all together in our singing and our worship.



Then Lyn and Sue got to share our beautiful nativity crib scene with everyone and Lyn blessed the crib and Bob led our special Christingle prayers as well as doubling as an extra camera man during the service. During the service everyone could see each other on their Zoom screens in the corner, families waved and smiled, joined in with the singing and activities, left Christmas messages in the chat box and so although we were not in church together we certainly shared worship together in a meaningful way.

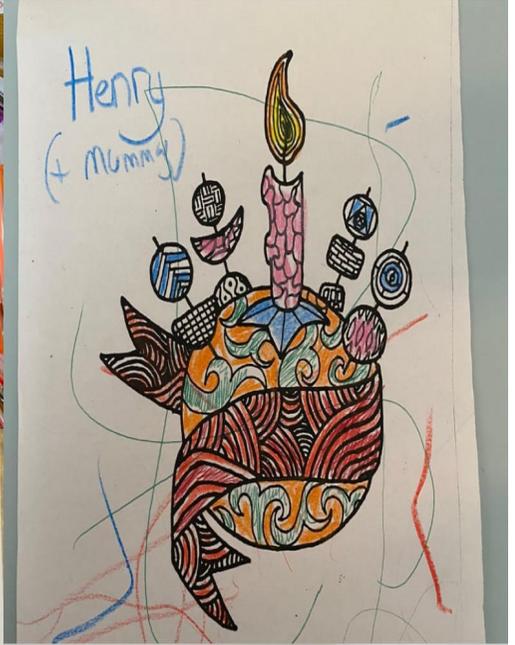
Now we find ourselves in 2021 and still things are still not 'normal'. We hope and pray that the worst of the Covid pandemic will be over soon and that we are able to meet and share worship in church again. But even when we are able to do this, sharing our worship on Zoom will continue alongside, as we are able to reach people and share the Good News with them, worship with them, even though they might never be able to join us in church.

Worshipping together is important for our faith and to keep us strong, especially during difficult times, and now definitely classes as a difficult time so please consider joining us via Zoom. We know for many it's not the same as being in our beloved church building together but it is better than not sharing worship at all. However, if you do not feel that Zoom services are for you but you like to keep contact with us and have someone to pray with you or just talk to you please let us know – help us to help you. God bless. Clare xx

Enjoying Christingle on Zoom



Colouring Christingle pictures and doing the Word Search.
Thank you for the Christingle goodie bags.



Dates of services for February and March

Due to the extremely high rates of Covid19 infections in the Halton area St Luke's church will be closed for Sunday services until February 21 so please join us on Zoom. Details on Page 27. The latest information will be circulated through emails, texts, WhatsApp groups, phone calls, notice on the church gate and notice board as well as on our website st-luke.co.uk. We hope that you understand and we all pray that the situation will greatly improve soon.

Sunday Feb 7 th	10.30am
Wed Feb 11 th	9.30am
Sunday Feb 14 th	10.30am
Wed Feb 18 th	9.30am
Sunday Feb 21 st Ash Wednesday	10.30am
Wed Feb 25 th	9.30am
Sunday Feb 28 th	10.30am
Wed March 3 rd	9.30am
Sunday March 7 th	10.30am
Wed March 10 th	9.30am
Sunday March 14 th Mothering Sunday	10.30am
Wed March 17 th	9.30am
Sunday March 21 st	10.30am
Wed March 24 th	9.30am
Sunday March 28 th Palm Sunday	10.30am
Holy Week Monday and Tuesday Compline	7pm
Wednesday service Compline	9.30am 7pm
Maundy Thursday	7pm
Good Friday Messy Easter Last Hour	10.00am 2pm
Easter Eve	10 to 12
Sunday April 4 th Easter Day	10.30am

Mothering Sunday 14th March

Sunday Club will take part in the service hopefully in church but otherwise just on Zoom. They will write poems and prayers, sing and sign songs.

Mothering Sunday is the fourth **Sunday** of Lent. Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. Mothering Sunday began as an explicitly religious event of the 16th Century, with no connection to mothers at all. The word "mothering" referred to the "mother church", which is to say the main church or cathedral of the region. It became a tradition that, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, people would return to their mother church for a special service. This pilgrimage was apparently known as "going a-mothering", and became something of a holiday event, with domestic servants traditionally given the day off to visit their own families as well as their mother church.



One of the tastiest traditions of Mothering Sunday was the baking of Simnel cake. Often regarded as a purely Easter-related confection, this rich fruit cake is also tied to Mothering Sunday, as a bit of indulgence to make up for the general austerity of Lent (and a nice home-baked present to take home to your mother). Consisting of layers of cake and marzipan, a traditional

Simnel cake also reflects the religious overtones of the event by being adorned with 11 balls of marzipan, representing all the disciples of Jesus, minus Judas.

Despite its long existence in British culture, Mothering Sunday eventually fell out of fashion at the dawn of the 20th Century. This is where a lady named Constance Penswick-Smith enters the picture. The daughter of a vicar, she thought the loss of Mothering Sunday was a great shame, and worked hard to rekindle interest, even writing a book whose title clearly laid out her ambition - it was called *The Revival of Mothering Sunday*. As if that wasn't enough, she also founded the Society for the Observance of Mothering Sunday. Her determination paid off, and the fading festival was restored to the culture of the country, only with much more of a focus on celebrating motherhood.



On Good Friday 2nd April

10am

Join Clare for fun and fellowship whilst worshipping together.

**More details on our website
st-luke.co.uk**

CRONTON MISSION

May I encourage you to please join us at St. Luke's church when church is open again or on Zoom until we can return to having our services back in the school building? To keep in touch and so I can quickly share any developments with you join Cronton WhatsApp group just text your mobile number to me 07904320542. Rev Bob



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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

Payment of £5 subscription for 6 magazines in 2021

A huge thank you to the small band of people who deliver the magazines especially during these un-precedented times. It is not possible for them to collect the money this year so please make a payment of £5 online to Friends of St Luke Farnworth account number 401011818 sort code 209148 with reference Magazine and your name. If you do not do online banking please drop off a cheque rather than cash if possible at our Treasurer Yvonne's house 12 Buckingham Avenue, Widnes WA8 9EP in an envelope with your name. Thank you.

Any queries contact Yvonne 01514249887 or Sandra 07761672030

Our first online QUIZ

Stephanie from Cronton hosted the quiz on Saturday January 16th on Zoom. 13 teams took part playing 6 rounds -

It's Christmas

MAY I ask the following

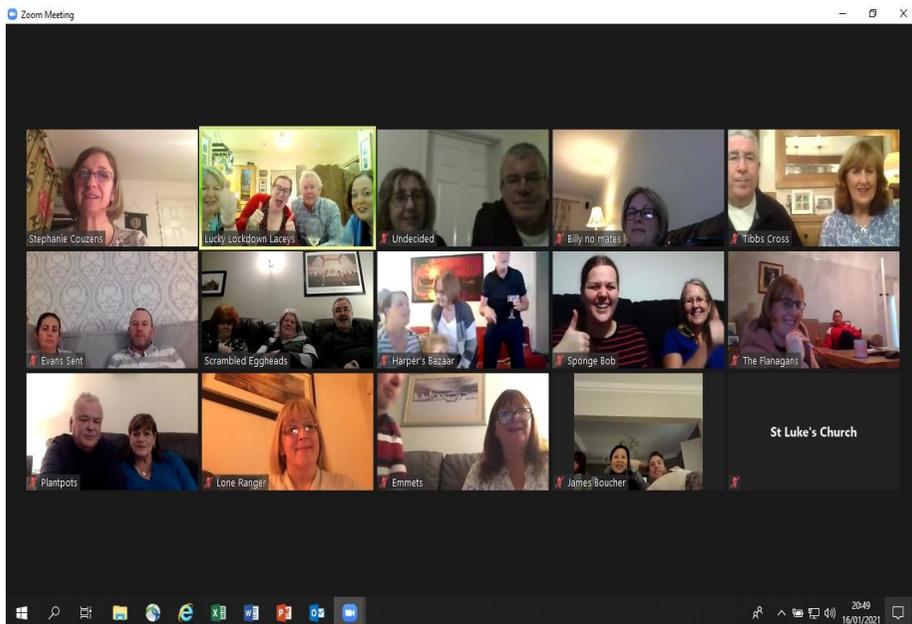
It's a puppet

Following the Science

Music

Pot luck

A selection of questions to give you a taste are on the next page. Answers on page



There were some good team names—Scrambled Eggheads (Bob, Alison & Beryl) and Evans sent (Evans family). The winning team was Emmets (name of tourists who visit Cornwall) Lynn and Alan Keeling who were delighted to take part in a quiz as they having been running quizzes for church funds at the Cricket Club for years!

Harper's Bazaar team was runner up. Thank you to everyone who took part, especially the teams of 1– the Lone Ranger and Billy no mates. Lastly a huge thank you to Stephanie who set the quiz and kept track of the scores. It was a wonderful evening of fun with lots of laughter, which is needed!

Stephanie has very kindly offered to host another one - Saturday 20th February 7.30pm on Zoom. Hope you can join us.

Taster of the quiz

Round 1 It's Christmas

What did Tom Smith invent?

Round 2 MAY I ask the following?

In which month in 2019 did Theresa May announce she was stepping down as PM?

Round 3 It's a puppet

Who had Gordon the Goffer as a partner on a BBC children's programme?

Round 4 Following the Science

Which bone is a baby born without?

Round 5 Music

Which Sir had hits in 50s, 60s and 70s?

Round 6 Pot luck

Which is the tallest - Eiffel Tower or the Shard?



Prayer from Colleen on Sunday 17th January

Here in Farnworth and Cronton we are blessed to have people who are able to operate systems whereby we can still meet, albeit virtually, to praise your name and be reassured of your love, Lord.

Social media, like many areas of life, can work for both good and evil but please remind people to simply be kind, maybe asking, "What would Jesus do?" before they act or speak.

He showed how we should live during an era where life was far more difficult than today. Although we may recognise that lockdown is necessary, we know that it can also feel very oppressive to some.

You kindly led me to an item on social media which may be helpful to others, in that it reminded me of the things that haven't been locked down and which we can still enjoy.



You provided us with a beautiful earth, where sunrise (for the early risers) and sunset (for the night owls) can be beautiful, and we have fresh air to breathe. These aren't locked down.

Families at home can enjoy their time together or people may be able to enjoy conversation and friendship by phone, WhatsApp or over the garden fence. These ways are not locked down.

You gave humans creativity, imagination and enjoyment of hobbies. These are not locked down. Most of all, we can cherish what we have because you provide hope and prayer. These are not locked down. Please, Lord, encourage people to look up to you in Heaven to help them survive and thrive, no matter the problems.



MOTHERS' UNION

Happy new year to you all and I hope it will be a brighter year for everyone. I hope you were able to spend Christmas with some family members. We did have a little snow. Snow is not for everyone I know but at night seeing soft flakes gently drifting down in the glow of a street lamp is magical. It's the one time everyone's garden looks the same. Even an old discarded sofa has a certain charm about it draped in snow.

We were unable to meet up in January and it's difficult to know when we will be able to. I'm pleased to say Mary Westbury is back home in her bungalow with her daughter and the dog. Colleen has asked us to remember in our prayers Sally Sharp, area president in Toxteth, whose husband has the virus and is in The Royal Hospital. Sally also has the virus but is feeling better.

Our subs were to be collected at the January meeting. Our subs of £23 and £17 for indoor members can be sent to Colleen at 251 Lunts Heath Road WA8 5BB, cheques made payable to Mothers' Union St Luke's Widnes Branch. Thank you.

Colleen has sent all members a newsletter written by Chris. I know members have enjoyed the letter and the sweet quiz was great fun.

Even in lockdown MU has been busy. In the last 18 months, 2,490 people enjoyed AFIA the away from it all breaks. 77,988 people are currently learning to read and write in Burundi. 1,1 million people around the world were supported to improve their livelihoods. In Britain and Ireland members produced hundreds of scrubs and masks.

MU Vicoba Group is a credit and saving programme with 218 groups with 5,000 participants. In Tanzania one such person is Daisy. She used the loan scheme to process flour. From the flour profits she was able to make and sell soap and coconut oil. She can now support her children, to feed them better and pay school fees. Many others have been helped in this way so they can support families and pay for medical care for their children.

A bit of history. Did you know that on January 11th 1569, in Queen Elizabeth 1's reign, the first lottery tickets were sold at the west door of St Paul's Cathedral, each cost 10 shillings, out the reach of most people. Trade was booming during her reign and the money raised by the lottery went towards the mounting costs of building ships and parts. In her reign she had the Black Death with lockdown in place.

Queen Elizabeth 11's reign has the pandemic and lockdown. We have the lottery and now we are forging new trade deals. They got over the Black Death and we will get over Covid, just have faith.

From the Mothers' Union prayer book.

May the guiding light of God rekindle our confidence
to journey forward with others and serve His world.

Amen

Until we meet again stay safe.

Rita Poole



If you can help latest

SHOPPING LIST is

Antibacterial wipes

Toothbrush

Sponge Puddings

Tinned custard

Jam

Rice pudding

Tinned vegetables

Tinned potatoes

A huge thank you for your continued support

Please drop off items at the Warehouse which is in the Lodge at Widnes cemetery whilst church is closed.

Thank you.

Treasurer's Report, January –December 2020

Receipts £89,613.29 Expenses £111,609.27 Deficit £15,995.98

Initially the deficit is less than the previous year's figure of £26,107, however the Parish share for November and December of £13,913.82 is not included, as we had insufficient funds to do so. Adding this figure to the deficit makes an overall deficit for the year of £29,909.80.



 dreamstime.com

ID 125359150 © Maxborovkov

Yes there really is some good news. St Luke's have been fortunate to receive credits from Church Commissioners to cover three months

Parish share of £21,123 These credits will cover the months of November, December and January. As things stand at the end of January, there is just enough funds in the bank to pay the February Parish share, however there are quite a few annual service contracts to be paid in February for the likes of the central heating, Clock, Organ, Alarm etc, so funds will have to be retained for them. Unfortunately with the church voluntarily closing again, due to high Covid 19 numbers in the town, our income will be reduced yet again. The PCC made the decision to pay £5,000 of the February Parish share, with the situation being reviewed each month. 2021 will be a worrying time for all churches and charities, your continued support is appreciated.

If possible, please send cheques via Rev Bob with your regular giving envelopes, rather than cash.

Thank you so much. Stay safe Yvonne Horabin (Treasurer)

St Luke's PCC Barclays Bank details.

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Sort code 20 91 48 Account no 30369292 .Your name as reference or by cheque payable to St Luke's PCC

**c/o Rev R Pearson The Rectory,
10 Hartland Close, Widnes. WA8 9FB.**

LENT 2021



The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday.

The six Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days of Lent because each Sunday represents a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

40

is a significant number in Christian scripture:

In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.

The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.

Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.

Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry. Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

Dates for your diary.

The 40 days of Lent start on

Ash Wednesday on February 17th.

[**Shrove Tuesday** falls on Feb 16th]

[**Mothers' Sunday** falls on March 14th, the 4th Sunday of Lent]

Palm Sunday is March 28th and this marks the start of **Holy Week**.

Maundy Thursday on April 1st

Good Friday on April 2nd

Easter Sunday on April 4th

Lenten Poem by Ann Weems



Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

St Luke's Churchyard

We are so very blessed that nearly every Monday, come hail, rain or shine, faithful members of our churchyard working party turn up to do their bit and work in our churchyard. Though few in number, their enthusiasm and commitment is commendable and few people appreciate just how hard they work. Thank you to them for all they do. They would definitely welcome help from anyone who can spare an hour on a Monday morning. Sadly, litter picking takes up so much of their time as thoughtless people passing through drop wrappers, bottles, cartons and so much more. Soon however, the churchyard will burst into a riot of colour from the primroses in the front border to the spaces between the gravestones which will become a golden sea of swaying daffodils. In years gone by, daffodils were called 'lenten lilies' as described here in a rather sad poem written in 1986 by Alfred Edward Housman.

Sue

The Lent Lily



'Tis spring; come out to ramble
The hilly brakes around,
For under thorn and bramble
About the hollow ground
The primroses are found.
And there's the windflower chilly
With all the winds at play,
And there's the Lenten lily
That has not long to stay
And dies on Easter day.
And since till girls go maying
You find the primrose still,
And find the windflower playing
With every wind at will,
But not the daffodil,
Bring baskets now, and sally
Upon the spring's array,
And bear from hill and valley
The daffodil away
That dies on Easter day.

What a great poem by the late Spike Milligan about smiling



Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too



I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin



When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth



A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth



So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.





In his letter on the school website Mr Redman says this, 'At Farnworth we want every child to feel welcome, safe and valued so that they can develop their love of learning as part of a nurturing and inclusive community. Our Christian ethos will enrich our children whilst encouraging them to make sensible choices and be respectful for others'. How challenging this has been during the Pandemic but everyone in school has more than risen to that challenge.

Farnworth School is now only open for all vulnerable children and children of critical workers, who need a place for their child, as it is not possible to organise childcare. School has adapted amazingly well to all the many challenges that the Pandemic has thrown at them. Since the beginning of January, teachers have taught live lessons which the children access at home on the Internet. This is no easy task as many of you will have heard reports on the news at 'Home schooling'. Very recently, Mr Redman sent out a message congratulating all the children for engaging so well. He said that he appreciates that it isn't easy to learn on-line and that every child should be so proud of the way they had adjusted to the new way of learning. He also thanked all the parents, carers and staff of course, for their hard work and resilience in helping the children engage with the learning.

Obviously, the first week of term was very difficult following the government's very sudden decision to close primary schools but the staff have done an amazing job with the on-line learning and school has received a number of very positive emails from parents....well deserved!

Mr Redman wrote in a Newsletter, 'I know it is a very challenging time for parents balancing the demands of on-line learning with work and family life. Everyone should be so proud of what they have achieved in such a short space of time. I would also like to thank the staff for their

hard work and resilience to set up the on-line learning so well at such short notice. We realise that technology is so important for high quality on-line learning and we have given out some laptops to families on request over the last two weeks. We have ordered some more and they will be hopefully be ready next week’.

During the pandemic school has been very aware of the impact on the Mental Health and Wellbeing on the children and their parents and carers. They have directed people to Halton’s website

www.halton.gov.uk/mhinfo where’s lots of information including self-help resources. Encouraging families to be active, which of course isn’t just about physical health, helps people of all ages to feel good too, even short walks outside can boost mental health and gives the chance to notice the wonders of nature in our local environment.

Rev Bob and I continue to provide weekly Collective Worship and it really is a such a privilege to support the school in this way.

I have sent an email thanking Mr Redman, the teaching and support staff, children, parents, governors and every member of the school family for their amazing work and resilience in these difficult times.

Sue

Parish Registers	Funerals		
Widnes Crem	3rd December	Kenneth Heapey	88
Widnes Crem	8th January	Robert Trigg	80
Church	20th January	Pamela Helen Kennedy	53
Burial of Ashes	26th January	Alwyn Dean	85
Widnes Crem	27th January	Derrill Ernest Walker	83
Widnes Crem	5th February	Martha Middleton	95

Eternal rest grant upon them ,
 O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May the souls of the faithful departed through the
 mercy of God,
 rest in peace.



Daily Bible readings February and March



Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path' (Psalms 119:105)

Readings in February		Readings in March	
1	Mark 5:1-20	1	John 6:41-51
2	1 Corinthians 13	2	John 6:52-50
3	1 Corinthians 14:1-19	3	John 6:60 to end
4	1 Corinthians 14:20 to end	4	John 7:1-13
5	1 Corinthians 16:1-9	5	John 7:14-24
6	1 Corinthians 16:10 to end	6	John 7:25-36
7	John 1:1-14	7	John 2:13-22
8	John 19:1-16	8	John 7:37-52
9	John 19:17-30	9	John 7:53-8.11
10	John 19:31to end	10	John 8:12-30
11	John 20:1-10	11	John 8:31-47
12	John 20:11-18	12	John 8:48 to end
13	John 20:19 to end	13	John 9:1-17
14	2 Corinthians 3:12 to end	14	John 3: 14-21
15	John 3:1-21	15	John 9:18 to end
16	John 3:22 to end	16	John 10:1-10
17	1 Timothy 6:6-19	17	John 10:11-21
18	John 4:1-26	18	Joh 10:22 to end
19	John 4:27-42	19	Matthew 13:54 to end
20	John 4:43 to end	20	John 11:17-27
21	Mark 1:9-15	21	John 12:20-33
22	John 5:1-18	22	John 11:28-44

	Readings in February	22	Readings in March
23	John 5:19-29	23	John 11: 45 to end
24	John 5:30 to end	24	John 12:1-11
25	John 6:1-15	25	Luke 1:26-38
16	John 6:16-27	26	John 12:20-36a
27	John 6:27-40	27	John 12:36b to end
28	Mark 8:31 to end	28	Mark 15:1-39
		29	Luke 22:1-23
		30	Luke 22: 24-53
		31	Luke 22:54 to end

Beautiful photo of church in the snow from Andrew and Alison



SHOT ON MI 8
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What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday - also called Holy Thursday, is the beginning of the three day celebration of **Easter** - the most important time in the year for Christians. This period ('**The Triduum**') is one big celebration, remembering the last supper, the crucifixion and the death of Jesus, and the Resurrection to new life.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. On this day, Christians remember the Last Supper. During the meal Jesus took bread and wine and shared them with his disciples. Christians continue to share bread and wine as part of their worship in church.

The Last Supper was probably a Passover meal – the meal which Jewish people share together to celebrate the time when God delivered Moses and the people from slavery in Egypt.

The night of Maundy Thursday is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane.

When is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It is one of the lesser known days of the Christian calendar.

What is the origin of the name Maundy?

The name '**Maundy**' is derived from the Latin word "**mandatum**", meaning a commandment. Jesus Christ, at the Last Supper, commanded:

'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' John 13:34

The washing of feet

During the Last Supper, Jesus washed his disciples' feet. This act has sometimes been followed literally in history as a good way of reminding rulers that they are here to serve their subjects.

What once happened in England on Maundy Thursday?

In England, the custom of washing feet by the Monarch was carried out until 1689. Up until then the King or Queen would wash the feet of the poor on Maundy Thursday in Westminster Abbey. (You should, however, note that the feet were first washed by Yeoman of the Laundry before the monarch had to wash them and kiss them!). Food and clothing were also handed out to the poor.

'All the world's a stage!' (Diversity poem)

Are all the creatures of the sea the same?
A similar size and colour and name?
Dive into the oceans in a yellow submarine.
And discover a world, an incredible dream.

Green Sea turtles and Royal starfish.
Mythical mermaids, granting a wish.
Turquoise corals, clinging to their reef.
Hammerhead sharks sharpening their teeth.

*'All the world's a stage!' said William Shakespeare.
It doesn't matter how you sound or how you appear.
We're all very different, just spirits in disguise.
Sharing Mother Earth, like clouds sharing skies.*

Rise up above, soaring high in the sky.
Do you dream about birds, their ability to fly?
Not every single bird has the power of flight.
Blackbirds are black and pelicans are white!

A woodpecker, a Hawfinch, and a singing thrush.
A timid tree-creeper seeking solace in a bush.
A hungry golden eagle on her evening prowl.
A swan on her river and a wise old owl.

*'All the world's a stage!' said William Shakespeare.
It doesn't matter how you sound or how you appear.
We're all very different, just spirits in disguise.
Sharing Mother Earth, like clouds sharing skies.*

Trek through a rainforest. Those amazing sounds!
Creatures make noises - above, below, around.
Some of them chatter. Some of them grunt.
Some eat plants but most of them hunt.

Marmoset monkeys and cheeky chimpanzees.
Snoozing sloths in tall, emerald trees.
Glass-winged butterflies and tiny tree frogs.
Scarlet Macaws and hungry, hairy hogs!



*'All the world's a stage!' said William Shakespeare.
It doesn't matter how you sound or how you appear.
We're all very different, just spirits in disguise.
Sharing Mother Earth, like clouds sharing skies.*

Walk around a famous city. Look at everybody's face.
They're as different as the planets in deep, outer space.
A palette of colours like shoes on a rack.
Enormous variety, the toys in Santa's sack.

Children from different parts of the world.
Long hair, short hair, straight and curled.
You're 'One of a kind' in your own special way
with your own song to sing and your own words to say.

*'All the world's a stage!' said William Shakespeare.
It doesn't matter how you sound or how you appear.
We're all very different, just spirits in disguise.
Sharing Mother Earth, like clouds sharing skies.*

© Paul Delaney October 2nd 2018 (My mum's birthday!)
For the children of British International School, Budapest
From Paul Delaney's NEW poetry book, 'Get lost!' –
launching at **B.I.S. Prague, Czech Republic, May 2019**

Always remember, there's **NOBODY**
like **YOU** in the whole, wide, world!

An alien spaceship!

An alien spaceship landed on earth,
one cold and windy night.
It crashed in my back garden;
its lights all gold and bright.

'Are all earthlings just like you?'
asked their leader, his face red and green.
'I'll try to explain,' I answered.
'I hope you'll know what I mean...'

My eyes are hot sparklers, all emerald, bright green.
My voice is high-pitched, like a moody teenage Queen.
My skin is brown and smooth, a creamy chocolate bar.
And my legs are as fast as a Lamborghini car.

My hair is countless midnights, long gloss blacks.
My legs are long and thin, high-speed railway tracks.
My lips are wide and full, as thick as a circus clown's.
And my teeth are as white as diamonds in crowns!

*Now go and ask somebody else.
Only then will you find the answer to your question!*



© 2019 Paul Delaney, poem from 'Get lost!



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