Parish Magazine

St. Luke's Church & Cronton Mission

+ serving God and the community +



Christmas Eve Christingle services 3pm & 5pm. See Page 13 for details

Sunday December 15th 10.30am Holy Communion & Sunday Club Nativity.

Sunday December 22nd 10.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Nine Lessons & Carols



Christmas Eve
Holy Communion 11pm
Christmas Day
10am Holy Communion
December 29th Sunday
10.30am Holy Communion

January 1st New Years Day NO 9.30am service NO Open Door. Church CLOSED.

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Choir Practice usually Thursdays 6pm-7pm

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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 January 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.

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

Contact David Steadman 07551399631 dwandc.steadman@virginmedia.com



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Dear Friends,

I want to start off by saying a big thank you to everyone at St Lukes and Cronton Mission for the warm welcome that you have given me since I arrived in the Parish, especially those who had the responsibility of running the church during the interregnum. I wonder what you are feeling, as we journey through Advent to Christmas and then into the New Year? For the young – it is a time of great expectation – will they get the gift that they asked Father Christmas for? As we get older, it can be the gift of just spending time with our loved ones. Of course, for those who are grieving it can be a difficult time – the gift of memories of past Christmases can be a bitter-sweet experience. But no matter how old we are, Christmas is a gift.

Christmas is about God becoming human – just like you and me; not born in a palace or a Maternity Hospital, but in stable behind an inn – not the place you would expect to find the Son of God – but there he is - wrapped up and placed in a feeding trough for cattle. Why? Because God loves you so much that he sent his Son into the world for you – so that we can have a real relationship with God. This is the greatest gift of all.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was visited by magi – wise men – who brought him special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Our carols tell us that the shepherd brought a lamb. But the question for us is, 'what is our gift to him'?

In the words of Howard Thurman,

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

This is what he wants us to do.

May God bless you, and all those that you love, this Christmas time and forever. Peter.

Widnes Babyloss Awareness

Linda and I, along with Nikita and Lucy, formed the Widnes Babyloss Awareness group six years ago after we had all lost a child and wanted to do something positive by raising awareness about this often hidden and taboo issue.

Every year, during Babyloss Awareness week (9th – 15th October), Halton MBC has allowed us to decorate the bandstand with blue, pink and white ribbons, many of which



have the name of a much loved and sorely missed child on them. For the last three years we have held a lantern walk around the park on the Friday evening of Babyloss Week – we hoped that some people would join us; around 100 people turned up! This last year there were about 300 people – it continues to grow year on year. It is a very powerful and emotional event, which touches everyone who attends. Some people's loss is recent – in the last year or so – some people have been carrying their loss for a lot longer and we hope, by allowing them the space to come together that they can share with others so that they know that they are not alone. We hold a service in St. Michael with St. Thomas Church on the Sunday during Babyloss Week which many have valued. We hold another service in the run up to Christmas so that we can remember the little one that will be missing our Christmas celebrations this year.

Linda and I lost our baby, Sam, 14 years ago; we believed that he was born a healthy, 9lb baby – he died, unexpectedly, 7 days later due to a severe heart condition that nobody knew about; we will always carry him in our hearts and miss him terribly; but we all look for a glimmer of hope in the darkness and we managed to find that as we journeyed with others who are part of the Babyloss community. We do believe that God gave us the strength to reach out in our vulnerability, to share our story, so that others may find hope and light in the darkness of grief. If you want to talk further about Babyloss, then please, do let us know. Peter



In Luke's Gospel, we hear the request by the disciples that the Lord teach them how to pray. The Lord's Prayer was originally a gift from Jesus to his disciples and to us.

We are so used to these words that we can fall into the trap of saying the words parrot fashion, without paying attention to their true meaning. We have known the words perhaps since we were taught them by our parents in our homes, but almost certainly since our early school days, and for some that might be getting on for almost 90 years...that's a lot of prayers and praying! Here are a few prompts that might help you think differently about the prayer.

Our Father in heaven,

Remember that the God, who created everything, loves you like a parent and wants you to know and love him.

Hallowed be your name,

Take a moment to thank God for the world, for God's unconditional love, for Jesus and all that he taught you, for your family, friends, fellowship and your home.

Your kingdom come,

Pray that God might heal the world and make things right. Pray for peace, justice and an end to hunger and sickness, and that is such a big ask. Name before God people whom you know to be in special need.

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

An opportunity to pray that people do what God would want them to, to love, care, respect and forgive others. Ask God to help you understand what you should do and for the help to enable you to do it.

Give us today our daily bread.

Take a moment to pray for your own needs, as well as the needs of your family, friends, your local community and, of course, our church family.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Ask God to forgive you for the ways you don't love him or other people as you should and for his help to be more patient and forgiving. Perhaps there is someone you need God's help to forgive?

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

Jesus knew that it wasn't always easy to do the right thing, to follow the right path. So, he taught his disciples to ask God for his help to live in a way that pleases God. As Christians, we believe that God's Holy Spirit lives within us, helping us to do as God asks. This is where the listening and waiting comes in...we need to learn to wait for God's response to anything we may ask of him. So, ask for God's help with things that upset you, ask him to remove obstacle that make it hard for you to do what's right. God is always willing to protect us, and others, if we ask. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

As is only right, the prayer ends where it begins: with God. Jesus reminded his disciples that day, and us today, that everything we do is to honour and praise God and to share God's message of his unconditional love and care for us with others.

One writer said to remember the 3 R's

Rejoice Request Receive

Prayer is so important and God promises that he will always listen to us. Prayer allows us to worship, praise, confess our sins and make requests to God. It definitely strengthens our relationship with God and praying with others can be empowering and strengthen bonds between us.

To be on the receiving end of prayer is special comforting, that you are on the receiving end of prayer and love and the support of others is very special. Amen. Sue

Cronton Mission and school by Debbie Doyle

As you can see from all Clare's reports on recent services, Cronton Mission Church continues to extend its unique style of worship. We continue in our attempt to live out the Bishop's vision of asking God for a Bigger Church, and making a Bigger Difference in reaching out to children and young people, families and our community. Last month, this included a family friendly Baptism service, where Sienna, Isla and Lottie-Rya formally became members of our church family and a short informal Remembrance service after the village Cenotaph, in addition to our usual monthly café worship on a Sunday and during the school day.

As foundation governors at Cronton, nominated by St Lukes PCC, along with the other governors, and staff, we prioritize that all aspects of school life are driven by our Christian values, and a

distinctly Christian vision which focusses on relationships, and the qualities of character which enables the children to flourish. School have chosen to use the Windows, Mirrors, Doors concept as a reflective structure for spirituality. Spirituality is the way in which we combine our thoughts and emotions to reflect, respond to, and seek to give meaning and purpose to the experiences that we encounter in life. We gaze out through windows onto the world, responding with our emotions and trying to make sense of what we see. We use mirrors to reflect on our thoughts and feelings, and how what we see through the window connects with our inner selves, and how we connect with what we see and understand. This becomes a spiritual experience when it transforms us and so we walk out through the door into life differently from before. New wall displays in the hall allow the congregation at Cronton Mission to understand and support school approaches to wellbeing and learning.

WINDOWS · MIRRORS · DOORS

LOOK OUT INTO THE WORLD, REFLECT AND 'GO AND DO LIKEWISE'



WINDOWS

What are the important facts?
What is challenging to me about this?
What is inspiring to me about this?



MIRRORS

What is my view on this?
How do I feel about it?
How does my worldview affect my opinion
about this?
What can I learn from others about this?



DOORS

What can I learn and take away
with me today?
How can I respond to this matter?
Where can I find more information
about this?
What can I take in order to
'Go and do likewise'? in the week ahead?

St Luke's Sunday Club

The children have taken part in few services already since September. The first service they took part in 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 so funny watching them try to get into the right place with their letters but they loved it and did very well. I was very proud of

them considering we only had one little practice.

In Sunday Club the children have been learning about Jesus the servant and how He wants us to be good servants just like He is to us. He helped others always. He fed thousands, healed the sick, He dedicated His life to setting people free. We've been asked



to decorate a window in church again ready for the beginning of Advent. This year our theme is 'bells' and the children have been busy making various bells out of paper cups, paper plates and designing their own bell on paper. It is going to look beautiful, please take a look if you get chance.

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 15th December. Please try and join us if you can. But before that we will be having our annual Christmas party on Sunday 8th 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 2025. Lynn, Lynsey, Hannah and the children at Sunday Club



CIVIC CAROL CONCERT: 6pm December 8th 2024

We were delighted when the Mayor of Halton, Cllr Kevan Wainwright and the Mayoress, Mrs Andrea Wainwright, asked if St Luke's could host the 2024 Civic Carol Concert and we were delighted to oblige!

Everyone is welcome. It is not a ticketed event but people will be asked, if they are able, to make a donation to the Mayor's chosen charity.

Throughout their year of office, they are fund raising for The Halton Foundation. They aim to raise funds to help young people in Halton realise their vocational or academic potential, through offering opportunities for bursaries to help those who need a helping hand into higher education or vocational apprenticeships. They may be care leavers, or from financially challenged families; they might have disabilities or learning needs — anything that presents a possible hurdle to them continuing on their learning journey to achieve their full potential. This is such a tremendous charity and I am sure that people will be more than willing to donate.

The local H'arts and Voices choir will be singing, as will choirs from Farnworth CE and Lunts Heath CP schools. There will also be some congregational carols for people to join in.

It promises to be a lovely service, we will be serving refreshments afterwards. Please do come along and support the Mayor and Mayoress and the three choirs involved. Sue

Clock Face Miners Heritage Brass Band

Present their Amazing Christmas Concert in church

Saturday December 7th 7.30pm

Tickets £7pp will include a welcome drink and shortbread.

Sue 07962012916







Thursday December 12th at 7pm in church with students from Cronton 6th Form Performing Arts and Music Departments
Tickets £5 Drink and biscuit on arrival
Details from Sue:
07962012916

An evening NOT TO BE MISSED

CHRISTINGLE

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.

Christingles celebrate the birth of Jesus and Jesus as the Light of the World. The word Christingle means 'Christ's light'.

Each element of a Christingle orange has a special meaning.

The orange represents the world

The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ

The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations

The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

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 the sticks into the orange and you are ready! Please take your Christingle and candle home to light on Christmas Day.

As you enter and exit church 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.

Christingle Prayer

Lord Jesus, light of the world. As I hold this Christingle and think about Your great love for me and for those especially in places of darkness at this time, give me strength, give us all strength to take this light into the world, to share your love with others, especially vulnerable children and young people.

FABRIC REPORT

GREAT NEWS WE WILL HAVE TOILETS IN SPRING 2025

I am pleased to say that we have received a generous donation of £25,000 and also have had three of the loans, totaling £9,500 to the church, transferred as gifts, which together with further small donations brings the total raised as at 31st October to £183,147.60 for the installation of the toilets. The cost of the project is £202,041 excluding Vat, leaving a balance still to be raised of £18,893.40, of this £18,367 is the 10% contingency fund, allowing for increased or unforeseen cost. We do have a backup in place, in case some or all of it is required, but your donations are welcome, there are quite a few events in church in December please support them. Once the only money to be raised is this contingency figure, and I am pleased to say that we were able to contact the builder and arrange a start date. The outside work consisting of drains etc. will start at the end of November, so as to avoid any disruption to services, concerts etc. in December, the inside work will commence in January. The project is expected to take about 16 weeks. Leading up to the work commencing on the toilets, the church maintenance team has been busy doing other much needed repairs on the bell tower staircase. We have to thank Ray and Owen for their hard work. Barry Horabin

Treasurer's Report, 01/01/24 to 31/10/2024

	<u>General F</u>	<u>und</u>	Adjust	<u>Total</u>
Receipts	68,0	62	0	68,062
Expenses	<u>(43, </u>	<u>829)</u>	(60,209)	(104,038)
Surplus/ (Deficit)	24,	233	(60,209)	(35,976)
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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 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 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)

Harvest Festival at JAM Club with Clare

At JAM (Jesus And Me) Club in October, we celebrated Harvest. We heard the Bible story of the lady who, even though she only had just enough bread and oil left to make one last loaf of bread for herself and her son, shared this with Elijah when he asked. And just as God had promised there was always enough flour and oil to make bread, and they didn't go hungry. I opened a big pack of chocolate buttons, and we thought about what it meant to SHARE - that sharing means everyone has enough, and no one misses out. There was time for craft activities with paper plates, involving food pictures to colour in and stick to our plates, along with important harvest words. Followed by lots of yummy toast to SHARE.













Celebration of Creation at Cronton Mission by Clare

Each year from September 1st to October 4th, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that sum-



mons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is "To hope and act with Creation" and the symbol is 'the first fruits of hope' based on apostle Paul's writings to the Roman people (Romans 8:23-25).

And as part of our service the young people thought about the Creation Story, in particular how God made all the plants and animals. Then they made collages and pictures using leaves and petals, paint and glue, to represent creation and their favourite animals. The adults took time for prayer focusing on being thankful and having hope in creation, using patterns, such as mandalas to support their prayer time.

So, now let me tell you some more about the theory behind this year's Creation Celebrations.

The theme this year emphasises that creation is not an object that has been created for human use, but rather a subject that we are called to relate to and collaborate with as fellow creatures. By capitalising creation, we refer to both the created order and the mystery of God's continuing act of creation. We acknowledge the whole created order, or the whole cosmos, including all living and non-living parts of God's creation, showing our theological respect, reverence, accountability, and interdependence with the natural world.

Hope is an instrument enabling us to overcome the natural law of decay. Hope is given to us by God as a protection and guard against futility. Only through hope we may realise the gift of freedom in fullness. Freedom to act not only to achieve enjoyment.

and prosperity but to reach the stage in which we are free and responsible. Freedom and responsibility enable us to make the world a better place.

We act for a better future because we know Christ has overcome the death caused by our sins. There is a lot of pain on earth because of our shortcomings. Our structural and ecological sins inflict pain on earth and all creatures, including ourselves. We know that we have caused a lot of damage to creation, and to the world we are living in because of our negligence, because of ignorance, but as well, in many cases, because of our unrelenting wish to satisfy unrealistic selfish dreams (Romans 8:22).

There's a phrase commonly attributed to Saint Augustine that says: "Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are." As we witness the cries and sufferings of earth and all creatures, let holy anger move us toward the courage to be hopeful and active for justice. We believe that the incarnation of God's Son offers guidance enabling us to face the troubling world. God is with us in efforts to respond to the challenges of the world we are living in (Romans 8:23).

There are different forms of hope. However, hope is not merely optimism. It is not a utopian illusion. It is not waiting for a magical miracle. Hope is trust that our action makes sense, even if the results of this action are not immediately seen (cf. Romans 8:24). Hope doesn't act alone. Earlier in his letter to the Romans, Paul the apostle explains the close relationship of hope as a growth process: "endurance produces character, and character produces hope" (Romans 5:4). Patience and endurance are close associates of hope. These are qualities that lead to hope.

We know bold action to restrain the climate and ecological crises is needed, and we also know that ecological conversion is a slow process as humans are stubborn to change their minds, their hearts, and their ways of living. Sometimes we don't know what our actions should look like. As we journey in life, every day we get new ideas and inspirations to find a better balance between the urgency and the slow rhythm of long-lasting change. We might not fully comprehend all that is happening, we might not understand the ways of God, but we are called to trust and follow with concrete and sustained actions, following the example of Christ, the redeemer of the whole cosmos (Romans 8:25). For further information https://seasonofcreation.org/

Prayer

Isla & Lottie-Rya Doughty

(with a little help from our mummies)

myself Our children Siblings our parents Our Grandparents Aunties & Undes Work Jamily Church jamily Neighbours Our community

We are Praying for Health, wealth @ Lappiness &

Dots represent the patience we have for people making mistokes & our forgivners Solid colour represents our love and trust we have in eachother Squiggler represent - The journey we are all on together Stripes - diversity

arches - we are all linked together









Cronton School Welcome Service

We have been celebrating creation over the last few weeks at Cronton Mission Church, and we continued with this theme as we welcomed the new Reception Class children (the 'Seedlings') and the Year 5 children (the 'Gardeners') to church on Sunday 6th October. The theme for this year's celebrations is to 'hope and act with creation' and this felt very apt, for our 'Seedlings' and 'Gardeners'.

The service was a variation on our usual Café Worship and during the service the Gardeners got to introduce their Seedlings to us all, which was delightful! And we thought about the Bible passage in which Paul tells the Roman people that God made everything, he created the world in which we live, he created us too. And even though things in the world are not perfect and we are not perfect, it is ok because God sent his son Jesus to earth to live with us and die for us, so now we can have hope, hope and faith in God, in life and in creation.

Hope is not something we can see; it is about something we don't yet have but we'd like to have. it is about what we want to happen, what we need to happen. We thought about what we hope for, for us and our families and what we hope for, for the world we live in. And I know that in the service there was much hope, hope that the children are going to grow, to learn and develop, and become well rounded, happy loving individuals.

We learn that hope on its own isn't enough, that we shouldn't just sit and do nothing we need to act on hope. Action is important! Action helps to make things happen. And so as much as we hope that our young people are going to grow, to learn and develop, and become well rounded, happy loving individuals, the likelihood is, that for this to happen, it will require action from them, from all their family, from friends, from teachers, from us all.

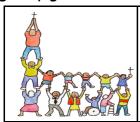
The same factors apply when we think about the world, the world that God created, God's world, the world in which we live. We hope for a sustainable environment in which to live, we hope for peace, we hope for so many things, but the likelihood is that for this to happen it will require action from all of us.



Farnworth School Reception Welcome Service



On Tuesday November 12th, this year's new intake of Reception children, along with their Y6 Buddies, came to St Luke's for the special service when we welcome them into our church family. It goes without saying they were AMAZING! Parents, carers and grandparents lined the route from school all the way up Pit Lane as the Y6 children walked their Buddies up to church and gently guided them into the pews.



This was an important day for them and for us; they now belong to THREE families, their family at home, their school family and now they are very much part of our St Luke's family and we are delighted to have them join us.

I welcomed everyone on behalf of St Luke's, Mr Tucker thanked the adults for coming and told us how wonderfully the children had settled into school then they sang us a song called 'One, two, three, it's good to be me'. Some children told us what they liked about school after which Mrs Whitby led us in a very special prayer. The Y6 Buddies sang the Bruno Mars song, 'Count on me', I can remember them being welcomed into our church family and now six years on they have become Buddies themselves. They have already developed wonderful, really special relationships with their new little friends. We all sang, 'Our God is a great big God' before Mrs Kidd spoke about how proud she was of the children who had been fantastic and confident in new surroundings and actually, it was also HER 'Welcome to St Luke's family' as well! Welcome Mrs Kidd! We very much look forward to working with you to develop and strengthen our school church links.

THANK YOU EVERYONE! It was a very special service and we hope to see the children and their families at St Luke's very soon. Sue

Air Cadets from 310 Squadron by Clare

I am the Chaplain to the 310 Squadron Air Cadets and I usually go to the Squadron on the last Friday in the month to spend some time with them, but this month (October) I invited them to come and visit St Luke's Church. They had a tour round and learnt lots about the building and its history and there was also time for them to explore and for them to ask lots of questions!



Café Worship at Cronton School by Clare

On the last Friday afternoon of October, we held our monthly Café Worship in Cronton School.

The children and families listened as I told them a story called 'The Pumpkin Parable'. This story was about a farmer who nurtured and grew the pumpkins from seeds. He picked a pumpkin, cleaned it, carved a face, and put a light inside it. The light shone brightly, and everyone saw it and smiled.



The story then went on to explain that in the same way, God nurtures us and watches us grow. He has chosen us, changed us so that we shine and reflect the light and love of God. Our light shines brightly and everyone sees it and smiles. Photos on next page.











Baptisms at Cronton Mission Church by Clare

Today was a very special day at Cronton Church as we welcomed 3 of our youngest congregation members, Sienna, Isla and Lottie-Rya, into our church family as they were baptised. The church was full, with family and friends, as well as our regular congregation.

The service was Café Worship with Baptism, and as part of the service we played 'Baptism Bingo', looking out for the various symbols used in the service:

White garment - often those being baptised wear white as a symbol of new life, it expresses the purity of the soul returned without stain after a baptism.

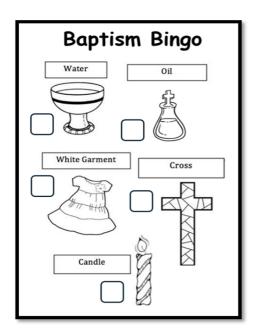
Water - purifying the baptised, of washing from his or her body and from his or her soul, every sign of sin.

Oil - used to consecrate and sanction the entry of the baptized into the great family of the Church, it is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Cross - symbolises the sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the cross, he died so that all our sins would be forgiven, and we can have eternal life.

Candle - which is handed over to the parents or to the godfather of the baptised symbolises Christ, the light of the world, in the hope that He will enlighten the child and allow those who love him and support him or her to accompany him in the faith.







People checked off the symbols on their bingo cards and once they had seen all of them in the service and they had a full card they shouted out "Bless You!" This was a fun way for everyone to be fully involved in the service and hopefully to gain a better understanding of what was happening in the service too.







All Souls Service Sunday November 3rd A Time to Remember

More than 100 people came to our St Luke's All Souls service held at 3pm on November 3rd. This service offers people to chance to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones who have departed this earthly life; it can be, and often is, an emotional time and for some families even stepping inside church is daunting.

Our service is intentionally gentle with time to pray and to reflect in our wonderful church, a space that is safe and with people that understand.

Peter and I hoped and prayed that those who attended would find comfort in gently coming together with others who were also feeling sad and anxious.

I overheard someone say, 'It feels good in here,' and since then people have rung to say, 'Thank you, the service helped'.

That was good to know.

Love and loss united us that afternoon and it was tangible. Peter and I assured people that our ministry does not end with a funeral service but that we are there for people whenever they need us. That, of course, is true of anyone who needs to talk. Sue

OPEN DOOR - First Saturday of each month, 10am and 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 teacakes 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.



Baptisms at St. Luke's church



6 Oct George David Robert Bowe 20 Oct Leo Charlie Davies, Mia Patrice Donohue and Molly Iris Donohue

17 Nov Harry George Charnley and Elliot Tickle



Heavenly Father, grant that these children grow in grace and love. May they learn to follow Jesus through the influence of the Holy Spirit. They are children of yours, and we pray they serve you faithfully all their days. We pray for guidance and strength for the parents and families of these children.

Service of Remembrance



One Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, wrote this:

'When day comes we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade? When day comes, we step out of the shade, for there is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it.'

Soldiers of the past and those who serve today, put their lives on the line by bravely stepping out into unknown and potentially dangerous situations. Our dignified Remembrance Sunday Services gives us the opportunity to thank all those who put their lives at risk for our sake in times gone by and those who continue to do so today.

This year's St Luke's congregation wreath was presented by Pat Johnson; it was more than appropriate that she did so. Tragically, her dad was one of those brave soldiers killed on D Day and she has never forgotten that; it was also in acknowledgement of her personal, unwavering commitment and loyalty to the Guiding movement and to top that she also celebrated a milestone birthday this year. She may have lost her birth-dad in WW2 but when her mum remarried and Charlie Smith became her dad, she could not have wished for more or better; their relationship as father and daughter was very special.

Joseph Mullarkey presented the wreath on behalf of the young people of our parish'. Joseph and his parents, Owen and Charlene, worship with us every Sunday morning; Joseph was confirmed by Bishop John earlier this year. Joseph is wonderfully gentle, polite, kind and thoughtful; he is growing into an amazing young man before our very eyes. He is gaining confidence week by week in helping Rob project the services on the screen. He represented our young people with dignity beyond his years.

Every year it is our privilege to honour those brave local soldiers, airmen and seamen from Farnworth, Bold Heath and Cronton who lost their lives in past conflicts but we have never presented a wreath specifically on behalf of Bold Heath and Cronton Mission.

This year we have rectified that and Sandra Lacey was delighted to be invited to present the first wreath on their behalf. It felt right for her to do so as she had kept the community of Bold Heath very much to the fore in our church life and she and Betty Owen always take on the task of decorating Bold Chapel for Festival services. Pupils from both Farnworth CE and Lunts Heath CP were once again involved in the service; they brought beautiful handmade wreaths. The children, dressed in their school uniforms, were wonderful, proud ambassadors for their schools: thank you to them and to the staff, parents and grandparents who accompanied them. Lastly, a huge 'Thank you' to all who played their part in this poignant service, to Lesley and her team of flower arrangers who, as ever, did us proud with the beautiful displays of poppies both in church and in the porch and to close, thank you to everyone who came to worship with us on that day. We, as a St Luke's Church family, are determined never to forget. Sue





POPPIES IN THE PORCH

A huge thank you to the Farnworth Craft Group for producing the beautiful poppy display and to Val Anderson

for erecting the display.





The talented ladies also made post box toppers for Remembrance and the MacMillan Coffee morning.





Johnny Johnson's Ione Spitfire

On the bottom of the English Channel; lies a rusting, wrecked Spitfire.
Squadron leader Johnny Johnson's still strapped in its cockpit's seat.
A handsome chap in those halcyon days, a renowned and excellent flyer.
Brought down by the guns of a German ace, a dashing, formidable feat.





Still tucked inside Johnny's pocket, below his pilot's wings, is an old, damp photograph, of his fiancée, Charlotte Wright. A blushing and beautiful English rose. Oh the pleasures true love brings! But Charlotte's heart was broken forever, on that cruel, summer's night.

On the bottom of the English Channel, lies a mangled Messerschmitt.

Oberleutnant Erich Hauptmann's still strapped in its cockpit's seat.

A brave warrior, tall and blonde, who possessed an inventive wit.

Brought down by the guns of an English ace, an untimely, cruel exit.





Still tucked inside Erich's pocket, sat below his eagle's wings, is an old, damp photograph, of his fiancée, Lara Faust.
Childhood sweethearts, hopelessly in love, two sweet and innocent things.
But Lara's heart was broken forever, on the night of that aerial jaunt.

2016 Paul Delaney (Poem from 'My favourite trainers!' published Sept 2016)

www.pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk

Rev Canon Peter's Licensing Service as our Priest in Charge It is often said, 'If you want to know the truth, ask a child', so I did! This is what some of the Y5/6 Vision Ambassadors from Farnworth CE School said:

It was better than I thought! It felt very special.

The Bishop was lovely; he was friendly and actually spoke to me.

I got to speak to the Mayor. He was nice.

It is 'immaculate' that we can have a new vicar at the heart of St Luke's!

The service was heart-warming and welcoming and a good introduction from Reverend Peter.

I can only agree that the service felt special and I think that St Luke's pulled out all the stops that evening.

We welcomed: Bishop John, Archdeacon Simon and Associate Archdeacon Father Harry, representatives from Liverpool Diocese, a representative from CPAS [Church Pastoral Aid Society], Father Peter Moss, [the new RC priest], Halton's Mayor and Mayoress, Gill Dodd, [Deanery Lay Chair], local councillors, representatives from local businesses, staff and children from Farnworth CE School and importantly Peter was supported by his own close family members and friends, members from his former Parish of St Basil and All Saints, congregation members from St Ambrose, St Michael with St Thomas, St Mary's West Bank, Deanery Lay Readers AND many people from our own Parish of St Luke and Cronton Mission...apologies to anyone I may have omitted!



In his thoughtful sermon, Bishop John referred to aspects of welcoming and the importance of loving others as Jesus loved us; he certainly held a captive congregation with his sincere words.

Huge thanks to everyone from St Luke's who was involved that evening, from the Wardens, to PCC members, to those who welcomed and then later served refreshments. It truly was a joyful service and we pray that it will be the first of many with Peter as our 'new shepherd in Christ'.

Sue













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



...and we ALL know that is so true!

Could you spare and 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.

Next CLEANS December 18th and January 29th



It must be heart breaking to have to leave a church you have come to know and love; a church that has played such a huge part in your life and sadly, that is what has happened to the congregation from St Basil and Saints CE Church in Hough Green. We really do feel their pain. Some have gone to worship with Rev Linda at St Michaels with St Thomas BUT we are very pleased to say that some of them have now come to worship with us at St Luke's. We are enjoying getting to know them and we hope they feel welcome in their new place of worship. It is good to have you with us. Sue.



"O, how shall I keep my Christmas?" by John Westall

The poem touches beautifully on the wonder of God's purpose in sending Jesus as a baby who would grow and live among us and ultimately give his life for us.

Sue

O, how shall I keep my Christmas?

My heart whispered softly to me, for I had been reading the story of the Lord's nativity;

And slowly and clearly before me the words like pictures rise, and the scenes appear in the beauty of the starry Syrian skies.

O cradled He was in a manger!

For lowly and poor was He, Whose throne is the splendours of heaven, whose power is infinity;

And He bore His cross to save us, to save us from death and sin,

and He trod all alone the winepress to make us pure and clean. In glory, the hosts of the angels came singing His song of praise,

filling the heav'ns with their music in those wonderful old days; Singing Glory to God in the highest and peace upon earth, and the mighty chorus of voices pealed forth goodwill to all.

O, how shall I keep my Christmas? As they keep it in heaven above;

O keep it with peace and thanksgiving, and kindliest deed of love:

And share with the poor and needy, the joys the Lord gives thee:

And thy heart shall keep with the angels the Lord's nativity.



A session of fun, faith and fellowship for families and the 'young at heart' Sundays 8th December and 12th January 3pm to 4pm



craft activities & food

Bring your little ones to meet Jack



For more information contact Clare 07976549410

WALK OF LIGHT 2024





Last year we held our very first WALK OF LIGHT and we were delighted by the response. A large number of families processed from Farnworth School to join us in a short Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate Jesus being a light in our world; the service also gave us the opportunity to thank the people in our local community who support and help us.

It was a wonderful time of celebration and fellowship and many people stayed afterwards for drinks and hotdogs.

On FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER children from local schools will process from their respective playgrounds with their lights and lanterns and walk to church where the service will start at 6pm.

If you are free, please come along and join us. Sue



Remembrance Sunday at Cronton Cenotaph

On Remembrance Sunday I had the privilege to co-lead the Remembrance Service at Cronton Cenotaph and then members of the churches and local community came back to join us for a further short service at Cronton Mission Church.



Did you know that in the First World War, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, there were nearly 60,000 casualties, a third of whom were killed – that's equivalent to almost a 3rd of the population of Widnes! The people who were killed or injured were real people – someone's father, brother, husband, and son. In the First World War, some of those fighting were very young – as young as 14 years old.

Remembrance Day is a time to remember and so we took time to think about why remembering is so important. We thought about a time when we had forgotten something and how that made us or someone else feel. We talked about the importance of remembering friends and relatives who have died, and we acknowledged that if we don't remember people, it's as if we're saying they weren't important or that we don't care about the contribution they've made to our lives.

Then we thought about how it is important to remember the people who have died in wars, fighting for things that are important and that how we live today is partly a result of their sacrifice. We also thought about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us all, Jesus died on the cross and in doing so took all the suffering and wrongs of the world. So now when we see a cross it reminds us of Jesus giving up his life for us, and challenges us about how we live for God and others.

Our young people got messy with finger paints, making poppy images for their Remembrance poems.

Later in the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday we held JAM (Jesus And Me) Club at St Lukes Church and here we thought about these same important themes again, but it was followed up with different crafts this time - poppies made from cake cases and decorating paper chains of crosses.

Clare Liptrott













This amazing photo taken by Dave Atherton on October 18th. Send your photos of church and/or the churchyard and if there is room they will be printed.

FLOWER ROTA	JAN	FLOWER ROTA
No flowers	5	
in church	12	Mrs J Edwardson
in Advent	19	Mrs S Smither
	26	Mrs O Wilde

Sunday Club

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

10.30am in the Bridewell



FOR ALL!

For children aged 4 to 11.

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

Please come and join us.





Please contact Lynn 424 3142 for further details

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

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

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

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

Charlotte aged 13





The speaker for our October meeting was going to be St Luke's Musical Director, Paul Delaney, on a return visit as he had entertained so well last year. Unfortunately he was unable to join us on the night but fortunately Chris, our entertainment guru, stepped up to the challenge and came up with two quizzes plus stand-up bingo.

Chris led the meeting with prayers from the MU Prayer Book. Then we were sorted into teams of four and on each table Chris provided sample portions of different chocolate bars. All we had to do was to identify each piece. With a room full of chocolate lovers, we thought it would be easy. It wasn't! We all agreed that the chocolate bars on sale now were much reduced in size, which made it difficult to recognise some of them – our excuse anyway. The scores weren't too bad and we had the pleasure of eating the samples afterwards! This was followed by a "silly quiz", with each question having three options for answers. We were all surprised to hear who Olive Oyl's boyfriend was before Popeye. It was fun with surprising answers. The evening ended with stand-up bingo. Well done, Chris, for coming to the rescue and organising a very enjoyable evening and thank you for providing the prizes too.

For the November meeting we were joined by two of the five Widnes PCSOs who gave us some interesting information about safeguarding ourselves and our families, both inside the home and without. We learned of some common scams received via social media and how to check that any contact was "kosher". Chris and Rachel also provided samples of items that can help people keep safe, including personal alarms to go on our keyrings, tinsel bells to attach to our purses so we know when they are being moved (to guard against thieves), and covers for both glasses and bottles so that drinks can be carried but cannot be accessed by those pleasant creatures who want to add unwelcome chemicals, etc. It is a sad reflection of our times that people want to take advantage but well done to the people who have invented and produced items that can help protect us and thank you to Chris and Rachel for spending some of their precious time with us. There are some of the gadgets and leaflets left in church, if anyone would like to take them.

Our next get-together will be our Christmas Lunch, when we support the catering students at Riverside College in Kingsway. This will be on Tuesday, 3rd December, at 12.00 noon, and tickets for a 3-course lunch and mince pies cost £20.00. If there is still time when you are reading this and would like to attend, please let Colleen know ASAP. We are pleased that the members at St Michael's branch will also be joining us that day. Our December event will be on Wednesday, the 11th, when we will look forward to Christmas with readings, prayers, carols – followed by mulled wine and more mince pies! Please feel free to come along – you may like what you find and decide to join us in the New Year.

We are hoping that Clare Liptrott will be able to join us again on 8th January, for part two of the story of her life, family and journey with Jesus. The Committee is on hot drinks duty in both December and January. We always meet at 7.30 pm in Church and again, do please come along – you can enjoy some taster sessions before making a decision on joining. Membership costs £30 for the year, January to December. Our programme of events for 2025 will be available in January too.

The following is taken from "A Calendar of Prayers":

God, our loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the wisdom of the wise men. May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Rita Poole, Magazine Representative

TOY COLLECTION

IF YOU MISSED THE SERVICE STILL TIME TO DONATE NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS, GIFTS AND TOILETRIES for distribution to local families in need by the Kings Cross Christmas Project

Take to church OPEN DOOR Saturday December 7th 10am to 11.30am or drop off at 3 Farndale

Thank you



CONGRATULATIONS to Kieren and Jennifer married on November 2nd.

'Protect them and grant that their love may be in the image of the devotion and love of Christ for his Church. Grant them a long and fruitful life together, in joy and in peace, so that, through your Son and in the Holy Spirit, their hearts may always rise to you in praise'.



Thank you to the people who distribute the magazine locally and by post. Without them this valuable outreach within the community would not be possible.

If you have a magazine delivered would you please pay the person who delivers it £7.50 in February for 2025 or drop off the money with

Yvonne at 12Buckingham Ave or give to a warden in church. If you would like to be added to the distribution list it is £1.25 per copy so £7.50 paid in January please contact the Editor Philip 07710030973 and farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk Also thank you to everyone who inputs to the magazine.

The Editor would like to wish you all a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

EWT	Service	Rota	
DEC 2024	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Sun 1st ADVENT 1	10.30 MP Donation Kings Cross	10.30 HC	10.30 Café style with Baptism
Wed 4 th	Sanctuary	11.00 MP	
Sun 8 th		08.00 HC	
ADVENT 2	10.30 HC	10.30 HC	10.30 MP
		15.00 JAM	
		6pm Mayor's Civic Carol Concert	
Wed 11 th	Sanctuary	11.00 HC	
Sun 15 th	09.00 HC		
ADVENT 3	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café Style
Wed 18st	Sanctuary	11.00 MP	
Sat 21st	10.30-12noon Blue Christmas		
Sun 22 nd ADVENT 4	10.30 Christingle with carols	10.30 MP	10.30 HC
		6pm 9 Lessons & Carols	
Tues 24 th Christmas	9am HC	3pm Christingle	
Eve		5pm Christingle	
		11pm HC	
Christmas Day		10.00 HC	
Sun 29 th Christmas 1	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	

EWT	SERVICE	ROTA	
JAN 2025	St Ambrose	St Luke's	Cronton Mission
Wed 1 st		NO SERVICE	
Sun 5 th	10.30 MP	10.30 HC	10.30 Café style
Epiphany			
Wed 8 th	Sanctuary	09.30 HC	
Sun 12 th		08.00 HC	
Baptism of Christ	10.30 HC	10.30 MP	10.30 MP
		15,00 JAM	
A15			
Wed 15 th	Sanctuary	09.30 MP	
Sun 19 th	Sanctuary 09.00 HC	09.30 MP	
		09.30 MP 10.30 MP	10.30 Café Style
Sun 19 th	09.00 HC		
Sun 19 th	09.00 HC	10.30 MP	
Sun 19 th	09.00 HC	10.30 MP 12.30 Baptisms	
Sun 19 th Epiphany 2	09.00 HC 10.30 MP	10.30 MP 12.30 Baptisms 18.00 HC	
Sun 19 th Epiphany 2 Wed 22 nd	09.00 HC 10.30 MP	10.30 MP 12.30 Baptisms 18.00 HC 09.30 HC	Style

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Advent refers to the four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. It's a time to reflect on the unexpected nature of Jesus' humble birth and join in the anticipation of when he will come again to reunite Heaven and Earth once and for all.



Sunday 15th December 6pm. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings (lessons) interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and anthems.

Christmas cards and other Christmas items for sale in our church shop

Perhaps you would like to buy one card for our church family and donate the money saved on buying them and postage to church or direct to a charity. The cards will be displayed in church.





ADVENT LUNCHES 4th 11th and 18th December 12noon in church

MORNING SERVICE 11am NOT 9.30am

Booking essential Contact Sue 07962012916

A New Year's Poem by Mary Fairchild

Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken
But God's Word transforms the soul
By His Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within

	FUNERAL	REGISTER	
Date	Name	location	Age
22/10/24	Kenneth Rylan	St Luke & crem	79
07/11/24	Anita Bond	St Luke & crem	92
28/11/24	Graham Osborne	St Luke & NW crem	95

Right now I'm in a different place And though we seem apart I'm closer than I ever was. I'm there inside your heart. I'm with you when you greet each day And while the sun shines bright I'm there to share the sunsets, too I'm with you every night. I'm with you when the times are good To share a laugh or two, And if a tear should start to fall I'll still be there for you. And when that day arrives That we no longer are apart, I'll smile and hold you close to me, Forever in my heart.

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.





St Basils Club Saturdays 8am & 9.30am Becci 07887 525589

Parklands Sports & Social Club Wednesday 7.30am & 9am Peter 07762 194165

Cronton Methodist Chapel
Tuesday 7.30am 9.30am 5pm & 6.30pm
Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Kate 07931 237062
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St Ambrose Church Hall Friday 7.15am & 9am Joanne 07816 542755

Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm Thursday 7.30am & 9am Joanne 07816 542755

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St. Luke's church and Cronton Mission

Priest in charge
Area Dean, Rev Canon Peter Dawkin
01514204963
peter.dawkin@btinternet.com

Lay Ministers
Sue Smither 07962012916
Clare Liptrott 07976549410
Lesley Firth 07803148233

www.st-luke.co.uk

Team Administration Lesley Howell

07399784219

eastwidnesteam.2942@gmail.com
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Weddings and Baptisms
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