The Log



St. Lawrence with St. Paul Longridge - November 2026

The Parish Magazine
www.stlawrencewithstpaul.org.uk

Following Jesus
on Mission

£1.00

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The Log

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In October you most likely heard the government's advice to prepare a three-day emergency supply of the critical items you might need to withstand potential power cuts, cyberattacks, or severe weather events that could disrupt basic utility networks and digital payment systems.

Such an announcement is certainly a sign of the times we're living in, and one hopes just a precautionary warning rather than a portend of the future, but it leads me to think what other items we might consider essential for living? Most of us have recent experience of thinking like this after dealing with the Covid 19 outbreak in 2020, but it's also a reminder for me to remember Jesus' powerful words in Matthew24:42, '*keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.'*

Thanksgiving for the Harvest

It was such joy to see this year's Harvest Festival displays in St Lawrence Church, all celebrating God's faithfulness. Much thanks need to go to the many people of all ages, who put so much time and energy into creating the beautiful pieces. Then, ably led by our organist, Karen Au, the School Choir together with the Church Choir did the most amazing job of singing 'Look at the World'.



There were many other highlights during the day, including the delightfully warm weather for the harvest walk and the delicious refreshments afterwards. Thank you also for your Harvest gifts, the extra food was very gratefully received by the Foodbank, as were the donations to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal to support health care centres in the Diocese of Liwolo, South Sudan.
Pictures of the day, kindly taken by Fred Little can be seen on page 10.

All Souls Service



This will take place on Sunday 1st November at 6.30pm in St. Lawrence's Church. This is a reflective service giving you the chance to remember loved ones who have died and remain close to your heart. Each year we invite those families who have suffered a bereavement over the last twelve months, but the service is open to everyone in the parish.

St Paul's Cleaning

It's a great joy to see St Paul's Church used so frequently for church services, activities and other groups. This does however mean that it requires both regular cleaning and an extra special spruce up from time to time. This means that on the morning of Saturday 7th November, 9am – 12 Noon we're hoping for 'all hands on deck' so the church looks clean ready for our Civic Remembrance Service the next day. Bacon butties halfway through shall be the reward! If you have any cleaning equipment you could bring with you that too would be appreciated.

If anyone thinks they might be able to help keep the main body of St Paul's Church tidy on a more regular basis then we'd also love to hear from you. Please speak to myself or one of our Churchwardens, Dot Little and Helen Clements.

Remembrance Sunday

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on 8th November and the following services will be taking place:
10.45am – Community Remembrance Service including 2 minutes silence at the Longridge War Memorial.
11.20am approx. - Longridge Town Civic Remembrance Service at St Paul's where we will be joined by the Mayors, Town Councillors, uniformed organisations and Longridge Band.
4.00pm – Our normal 4pm informal service.
6.30pm – Parish Communion Service with act of remembrance at St Lawrence Church
Please do come and join us.



Winter Fair

"Please Sir, can I have some more?". Well yes you can if you come to St Paul's Church on Saturday **21st November, 11am-1.30pm** for our Dickensian themed Winter Fair. There will be food and other treats in store as we warm our hearts ready for the Advent and Christmas season. Any donations of good quality soft toys and items that we can sell on the various stores will be gratefully received.

Blue Christmas

The start of the Advent Season into the Christmas period brings with it a lot of joy, but for many it can be a difficult time when we especially miss those who we love but no longer see because of bereavement or other reasons. For this reason, we will be hosting a comforting and reflective 'Blue Christmas' Service on **Monday 7th December**, 7pm start at St Paul's Church followed by refreshments afterwards. Please do join us and bring with you others who may find this service helpful.



The rest of our Christmas services will be listed in the December issue of The Log.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU – Kelly Grogan



Hello, I'm Kelly Grogan .

I've been asked to write a few words so that I can introduce myself and so everyone can get to know me better.
I'm married to Nick and we have lived in Longridge now for almost 17 years. We moved here when our eldest daughter Olivia was just three, and have since gone on to grow our family with the addition of Lucy (15) and Austin (10). Olivia is now all grown up and has recently secured a new job as a Teaching Assistant at a Church of England Schoolchool in Broughton. Lucy is studying for her GCSE's next year, and Austin is preparing himself for the transition from primary to high school next September, so as you can imagine, that keeps me super busy! All of our children attended Longridge CE School (Austin still does!) and so our links with St Paul's church date back quite a while. You'll find us at church most Sundays, where I usually help out with Children's Church and more recently, Nick and I have helped operate the television screens and Broadcast together.

In addition to my duties in the children's church, I have recently taken on the role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer. This is a role I am enjoying and I hope that I can add value to everything that we already do at church to make it a warm and welcoming environment for everyone.

My day job sees me working in Blackburn as part of the finance team for a design company. My job is fast paced and varied but something I really enjoy!

In our spare time we enjoy days out, and can sometimes be found taking on the challenge of a long walk. We're so fortunate to have the beauty of the Ribble Valley on our doorstep, and are really spoilt for choice when it comes to scenic walks. I love travelling with my family and we have had lots of adventures!

We also love being a part of St Lawrence with St Paul. Everybody is always so warm and friendly, and it's been really nice getting to know some of you. So, if you see us around, perhaps in the Children's church or operating the screens, come and say hello, it'd be great to meet you!

Kelly

Churches Together in Longridge & District.

During 2026 Revd. Mike and St. Lawrence with St. Paul have chaired the Churches Together meetings and this year Friday morning prayers at 7.45am have been in St. Paul's.

That honour will now go to Christ Church for 2027 but before the change-over takes place we look forward to welcoming our friends from the other churches to share in the Advent Carol Service to be held on Sunday evening 29th November at 6.30pm in St. Lawrence's.

We also give advance notice that the Blessing of the Town Crib will take place at 11.00am on Saturday 12th December.

OUR FAVOURITE HYMN – brought to us this month by Andrew Burdett



One of my favourite hymns is Jerusalem. Although not the school hymn, we sang it a lot at morning assembly, the reason being it only had two verses. I like it because it is patriotic and can be sung with gusto.

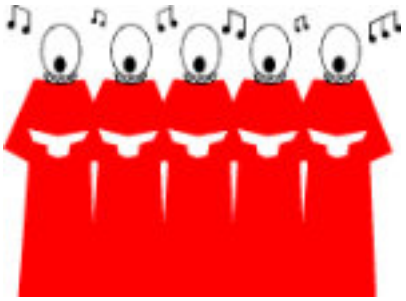
The words are by William Blake (1757-1827), and the piece is from the preface to his epic *Milton: A Poem in Two Books* (1804). The words that resonate with me are *"Countenance divine, shine forth upon the clouded hills"* and "*Dark satanic mills".* The former because I saw that happen many times when walking, and the latter because I went to Bradford when many of the sandstone mills and their chimneys were black.

Blake's poem suggests that a visit by Jesus would create heaven on earth in contrast to those 'dark satanic mills' of the Industrial Revolution. There was a legend that Jesus may have travelled here with Joseph of Arimathea, to Glastonbury in Somerset.

The music is by Sir Hubert Parry, and written in 1917, after seeing the words in a 1916 collection for a country at war. The poet Laureate, Robert Bridges, suggested he set it to music. And so 'Jerusalem' was born.

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountain green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.



Choir News - from Ann Golding

What a joy it was to sing John Rutter's anthem "Look at the world" with Berry Lane School choir at the morning service for our Harvest Festival celebrations last month. The anthem is written to be sung with an SATB choir and children so it worked beautifully. We hope the children enjoyed the experience of singing with us as much as we enjoyed singing with them. In the evening we applied ourselves to a more traditional "Songs of Praise" service.

As a choir we have a significant and varied workload over the next couple of months. Preparations for Christmas for the choir start in June or July but we also need to make sure we are well prepared for a number of very important services. These include the "All Souls Service" at the beginning of November which is closely followed by Remembrance Commemorations, the Advent Carol Service and then all the usual Christmas services. So far, so good, progress is being made!

Clergy & Church Officers

Vicar	***Rev. Mike Barton***	**The Vicarage, Church Street**	01772 389837	revmikebarton@gmail.com
Curate	***Rev Jesse Adesina***		07776 750695	revjesseadesina@gmail.com
Retired Clergy:	***Rev. John Ball***		07754 771220	
	Rev. Adrian Mairs	**8 Hacking Drive**	01772 356015 07899 905768	adrian.s.mairs@gmail.com
Licensed Reader	***Janet Mortimer***	**8 Tootle Road**	07734 475762	jan.mortimer1958@hotmail.co.uk
Churchwardens	***Dot Little***	**26 Hoghton Road**	01772 783998	dotlittle003@gmail.com
	Helen Clements	**30 Kestor Lane**	07864 574945	hrclements61@gmail.com
Deputy Wardens	***Dorothy Laver***	**19 The Pastures, Grimsargh**	07719 389529	dorothylaver@ gmail.com
	Mae Heys	**29 Fell Brow**	07740 068099	
PCC Secretary	***Barbara Burton***	**7 Chaigley Road**		brbrbrtn6@gmail.com
PCC Treasurer	***Graham Kelsall***			graham@oaktreehouse.net
Safeguarding Officer	***Kelly Grogan***			psostlandplongridge@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	***Michael Dawson***	***See hours below***	01772 783281	secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com
Health & Safety Officer	***Caroline Wilson***			georod4658@gmail.com
Electoral Role Officer	***Michael Dawson***			
Ignite-Children & Youth Leader — Becky Filder				becky.ignitelongridge@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

Chairman *Rev. Mike Barton*
Hon. Secretary *Barbara Burton*
Hon. Treasurer & Stewardship Recorder *Graham Kelsall*

Members: Clergy and Churchwardens
Amii Bateson, Karen Boardman, Ellen Dawson, Andrew Filder, David Hartley, Mae Heys, Philip Jones, Vernon Kinrade, Rosemary Lyons, Barbara McCormick, Annamarie Rogers-Waterman, Val Wardley, Stephanie Willan.

Organisations

Parish Administrator
Michael Dawson
Parish Office Monday and Wednesday 9:30—12:30
Friday 9.30—15.30 01772 783281

Altar Flowers
Hon. Sec. St. Lawrence Dot Little 01772 783998
Judith Kaye 01772 785114

Hon. Sec. St. Paul Ellen Dawson 07487 741745
ellendawson7@gmail.com

Choir
Organist and Choir Director Karen Au kauorganist@gmail.com

Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade
Wednesday Nights Berry Lane School Term Times
Martins and Y-Team (Reception-Year 5 6.15-7>30pm
JTC and Seniors (Year 6 and Above) 7-9pm
Oliviastewart@clcgb.org.uk AmiiBateson@clcgb.org.uk

Crafty Café
Last Monday each month, Centenary Room 1.30 - 3.30pm also:
Contacts Helen Bailey 07891 075023
Bev Keating
Jean Saunders 01772640146

Handbell Ringers
Leader *Judith Kaye Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED*
judithkaye@sky.com 01772 785114

Children's Church
Carolyn Barton *carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk*

Mothers Union 7.30pm on 1st Tuesday
Enrolling Member *Judith Kaye* Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
judithkaye@sky.com 01772 785114

Prayerline If you would like our prayer team to pray for you e-mail
Muriel Anderson *12 Plessington Court, Brewery Street, Longridge*
Murielanderson33@gmail.com *07823 762089*

Tuesday Club 7.30pm on 2nd Tuesday
Chairman *Fred Little 26 Hoghton Road 01772 783998*
Hon. Sec. *vacent*

Walkie Talkies
Hannah Green 20 Darwen Close 01772 783558

Bereavement Group
meets on 1st Monday of the month including Bank Holidays
Karen Burdett 07712 440135
karenlburdett@hotmail.com

Longridge C of E Primary School

www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk

Headteacher
Mrs Catherine Parkin
head@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk

Clerk to the Governors
Val Morris 01524 581136 c/o the School Office
School Office 01772 782378
bursar@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk

Pre-School 01772-780078
PTFA Hon. Sec. *Katie Keighley*

Sidesmen and Sideswomen

Bev Keating, Janet Heap,
Peter Turver, Lib Turver, Graham Kelsall,
Dianne Sanderson, Muriel Anderson,
Merilyn Kinrade, Andrew Filder, Philip Jones,
Ian Cookson, Ruth Buckley, Jennifer Sturzaker, Kai Ng,
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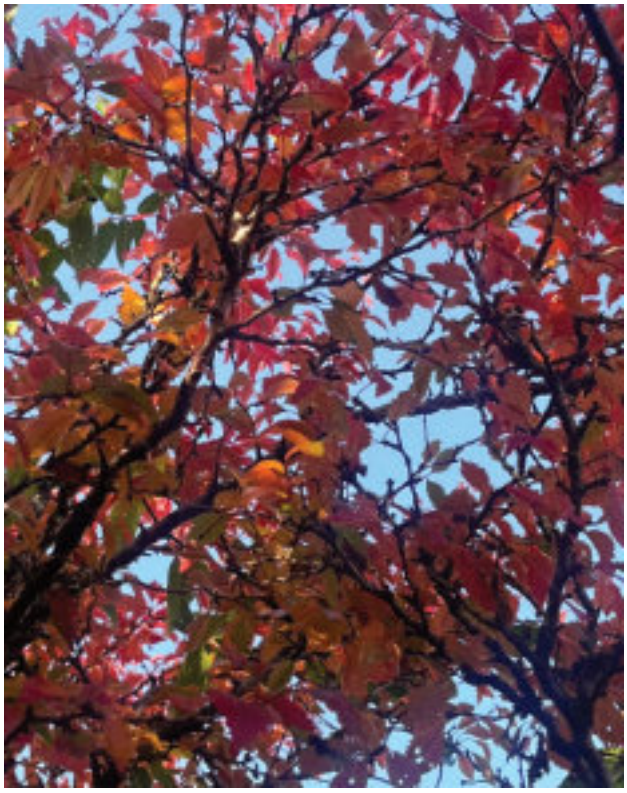
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Eco Corner November



This year, **Buy Nothing Day** takes place on **Friday 27th November**. It's a 24-hour break from consumerism and an opportunity for us to think about the impact we have on the environment through shopping.
As consumers, we need to consider the products we buy and challenge the companies that produce them about how they are produced and how they are managed at the end of their useful life. We are beginning to witness the true risks of over-consumption to the environment and developing countries.
As a church, we are trying to reduce the number of resources we consume by buying items that can be utilised many times rather than disposed of after a single use. Buy Nothing Day is a way that individual members of the congregation can begin to move in the same direction.
Recycling is great, but reducing is better. If we all take simple steps to cut down on what we consume, then collectively we will change our attitude towards single-use packaging, fast fashion and our throwaway culture.
If you would like more information, use this link: BUY NOTHING DAY - NOVEMBER 27th 2026 or type www.buynothingday.co.uk into your browser.

FILM SCREENING of THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING
Thursday 19th November 7pm in the Caton Room at Alston Lane Church

This film aims to inform the public about the climate and nature crisis.
It is currently being shown across the country in community gatherings.
The UK faces a growing climate and nature emergency. Yet most people have never been fully briefed on what it means for our lives, our economy and our future.

Background to the film:
In November 2025, a National Emergency Briefing was held in Westminster.
It brought together leading experts to present the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis to politicians and other influential people.
Following on from this, The People's Emergency Briefing film, was made available so that people in local communities across the UK could hear the evidence and discuss how to respond.
The organisers recommend the film for age 16+





Harvest 2026











ANOTHER WONDERFUL HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Harvest remains a special festival in our church calendar and this year we took the words of the hymn 'Great Is thy Faithfulness' as our theme, the hymn being sung with gusto at both the morning and evening services.

Not surprisingly some of the displays incorporated verse two of the hymn which mentions the seasons, nature and sun moon and stars but in the Lady Chapel we chose to look back on Gods faithfulness during all the changes Longridge has seen over the years from predominantly farming, to quarrying, the coming of the railway and the four cotton mills. Our thanks to Longridge Heritage Centre for the loan of some really meaningful artefacts – none more so than the dress worn by the first Rose Queen in 1925. That honour went to Muriel Croasdale who on marriage became Muriel Sharpe a longstanding member of the PCC and St Paul's Choir.

The windowsills in St Lawrence Church are a perfect height and because each windowsill is allocated to different people the result is their individual interpretation and therefore wonderfully different and interesting. The Mothers Union members once again created an amazing display in the remembrance chapel and this year the tower area was beautifully decorated by Donna Rowe Green and Ellen Dawson. Stunning harvest pedestal flower arrangements were also a lovely feature – arranged by Judith Kaye and Dorothy Woods. Our sincere thanks to everyone who put time and thought into creating those displays not forgetting the Primary School, Brigade and Children's Church for their amazing and imaginative artwork, which had pride of place at the front of the church.

It was lovely to have the school choir with us for the morning service – how much we enjoyed their singing, along with Karen and the church choir leading us in some traditional harvest hymns.

As you can see from the Harvest montage a good number enjoyed the afternoon harvest walk led by Peter and Lib Turver and returned to some much enjoyed refreshments – our thanks to the soup makers and the cake bakers.

On the Monday morning the decorating team returned to dismantle everything and by lunchtime St Lawrence Church was back to normal, the Foodbank team gratefully taking all the donated produce – an amazing amount.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving – a very special day.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER.

Please make a note in your diary that on Sunday afternoon, 6th December The Valley Singers will be giving a Christmas Concert of well known popular Christmas time carols and songs in St. Lawrence Church at 2.00pm Admission is free but donations will be welcome for the St. Paul's Organ Maintenance Fund. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available.

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Mothers' Union - from Judith Kaye



As we approach Prisons Week (starting 15th November), I thought it would be good to describe how Mothers' Union has sponsored the event for 40 years. About 45% of prisoners lose contact with home. Maintaining family ties is strongly linked to better outcomes, including reduced reoffending, improved resettlement, and greater emotional stability for both prisoners and their families. Mothers' Union members have helped with guiding visitors through the process of visiting, especially the first time. Members have led parenting, cooking and awareness workshops & donated books & puzzles to help with language development. They have led craft workshops and led creches. They have provided reading glasses, birthing bags, release bags and many more practical requirements. In partnership with the "Angel Tree" project children of prisoners have received Christmas gifts. In general, trying to improve things for the time when the prisoners can rejoin their families.

As a long-standing sponsor of Prisons Week for the past 40 years, we share campaign materials within our churches and communities to raise awareness of this vital initiative that seeks to end the human suffering caused by crime and imprisonment.

In Preston Deanery we have contributed to several initiatives to support prisoners with providing toys for play areas for visiting children, ready readers to enable clients to read with visiting children, easter eggs have also been collected. All these efforts are aimed at making life a bit better for the families, they also must live with the consequences of those who have committed a crime.

Dates

Nov 3rd	**Janet Mortimer**
Dec 1st	**Christmas meal 6.30pm start**

TUESDAY CLUB

The meeting on 13th October was a talk, entitled Life on the River.
Andy McLaughlin of Be Brave Film Production gave us a talk about the Be Brave Film production that will eventually be a 90-minute illustrated journey along the river from the source of the Ribble River in the Yorkshire Dales to the Estuary at Lytham. They are also making educational films for schools to tie into GCSE Geography. He spoke about how this project came about and then we had a 15-minute taster of the film showing what the completed one will look like. It is hoped that the film will be shown at the Harris Museum, Preston on 4th February 2027. I look forward to seeing this in all its picturesque glory next year.
Our next talk is on 10th November and is all about Poinsettias.
Duncan and Jean Taylor (associated with Arden Lee Nurseries) will give a wonderful and enlightening illustrated presentation on how these plants are grown for the Christmas market. We are sure that you will learn many facts and myths about these plants and how to choose and look after them.
Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

GG's Craft and Prayer

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FLOWER GROUP - Donna Rowe Green (donnarowegreen@gmail.com)

As Dot will tell you, I am a last minute kind of girl. It is just after 6.00pm on 23rd October as I start to write this, and yes, 23rd of each month is the deadline for submitting articles for The Log.

Normally, I have an idea before I sit down, so can just put my words onto paper and send it through. Somehow, this month has been a bit of a blank for me. Harvest of course is a good thought, but I am sure someone will have done a fabulous coverage of the lovely harvest festival that we enjoyed.

Being a lass born in November I thought I would look into the Birthday Flower for November. Seems it is a Chrysanthemum. I will admit I was a little disappointed to begin with. They can be seen as quite boring, good background flowers to show off the more delicate or exotic blooms, and let's be honest, it rarely appears in a person's list of favourite flowers. It is no rose or sweet pea. But here is what I learned.



It would seem that Chrysanthemums represent longevity, friendship, loyalty, joy and optimism. Google also told me "The name comes from the Greek *chrysos* (gold) and *anthemon* (flower), reflecting their original yellow hue. In China, they represent a long life, good fortune, and rebirth. In Japan, the flower is an imperial emblem of the Sun and perfection."

Put this all together and we are reminded that Jesus is perfect and our loyal friend, a relationship with Him brings joy and hope, and His rebirth brings us eternal life. Not such a boring old flower after all!

So, if you happen to notice an arrangement in November that is predominantly chrysanthemums, please don't think we are being boring. We are celebrating a fabulous range of flowers that bring such optimism and joy in the darker, shorter days and to remind ourselves of, as the hymn says, what a friend we have in Jesus.

One final thing to mention is that chrysanthemums are often referred to simply as mum's. What a great opportunity to honour all those ladies that are our actual mothers and those who are maternal in so many other ways. My Mum is certainly a loyal and joyous friend.

On a different note, November is of course a month for Remembrance and our flowers will reflect this. As the wife of a veteran, I do understand the importance of this time for so many. To all of you that find this time emotive, please know you are in our prayers and in our hearts as we arrange our poppies.

St. Lawrence Flower Rota for November

1st	Vacant
8th & 15th	Remembrance Flowers
22nd	In memory of Wynne & Dorothy Lewis
29th	Advent Sunday



St. Paul's Flower Rota

November Donna Rowe Green & Ellen Dawson



BREWTIME

Wednesday's from 8.50am-11am
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The Brewtime Team


St Lawrence with St Paul Longridge
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Our fair will be opened by the wonderful school choir!
21st November 2026
at St Paul's Church
11am to 1:30, when the raffle will be drawn

Winter Fair 21st November, from 11am.

Before the Christmas preparations start in earnest do join us for fun and fellowship and help raise much needed funds for the work of our parish. You will recall that last year's fair took us to the magical world of Narnia and this year Rie Waterman and her creative team are planning to transport us back to Dickensian times. One thing we can be sure of is that there will be lots of interesting crafts and activities for the children to enjoy and we are delighted that the School Choir will be with us to open the Fair.

Around the church will be interesting stalls and sideshows including a pop up Christmas jigsaw sale, not forgetting the Grand Raffle with the superb first prize hamper worth in excess of £100. We will ensure there are also quieter spaces to enjoy a mince pie and some mulled wine.

In "A Christmas Carol" following Scrooges transformation and newfound generosity after the Ghost of Christmas present you may recall that he gave the Cratchit family an enormous turkey and turkey balms will definitely be on the menu as well as sausage buns and warming soup, not forgetting a variety of desserts.

So between 11am and 1.30pm on the 21st November St. Paul's Church will definitely be the place to be. We look forward to seeing you there.

Leading up to the fair we would really welcome raffle prizes, tombola prizes, bottles, good quality soft toys plus any new items you feel would be appropriate.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop with Kay Lomax



Please book your ticket in advance by emailing Graham Kelsall – graham@oaktreehouse.net or telephone Dot Little 783998.

Date: Thursday 3rd December
Venue: Longridge Cricket Club
Time: 7pm – 9pm.

The cost is £40 and includes all materials, including the wire frame, moss, backing, wire, pins, glue, greenery, ribbon and a selection of natural decorations such as pine cones, oranges/limes/cinnamon sticks etc.
(Simply bring gardening gloves, apron, scissors and/or secateurs and battery lights if you want lights on your wreath)

Mulled wine/tea/coffee and mince pies will be included.

SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin



Celebrating Harvest.



Harvest is the first major Christian festival we celebrate each academic year. This year it was an absolute pleasure to get together in St Lawrence's Church and celebrate with the parish. Each class had made paper fruits for the 'Fruits of the Spirit' display. The highlight for me had to be our Junior Choir joining with Senior Choir to deliver John Rutter's 'Look at the World.' It was absolutely beautiful.



In school we collected donations of dried and tinned foods, toiletries and cleaning products for the Longridge Community Foodbank. Following our Harvest Assembly this was taken to the foodbank by Mrs Dewhurst and Class 3 so that it could reach those who needed it as quickly as possible. Thank you to all our families for their kind donations.







Autumn Fruit

Class 3 have made some delicious fruit tarts recently. They used local and seasonal fruit to design their own tart which they could then take home to eat. Our Design Technology curriculum has food technology running through it so children learn food preparation and cooking skills as well as learning about nutrition and healthy eating. Thank you to Mrs Birch and Mrs Clements for helping with this.

Food and Farming

Year 3 have been learning about where food comes from in Geography and Design Technology and the children were delighted to be visited by local young farmer, James, recently. James talked to them about his job and allowed them all to sit in the tractor. This was a great opportunity to think about the world of work and possibly even their own aspirations for the future.

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School News continued .....



Food and Farming
(continued)



Cricket

With the help of Longridge Cricket Club, we were fortunate to be able to offer lots of opportunities for our children to participate in cricket last year. Miss Boardman organised a club for our Key Stage 1 children as well as a KS2 girls' club.



Although the warm days of summer are definitely over, the cricket continues indoors. Some of our Year 6 girls are joining with St Wilfrid's at Longridge High School for winter cricket.

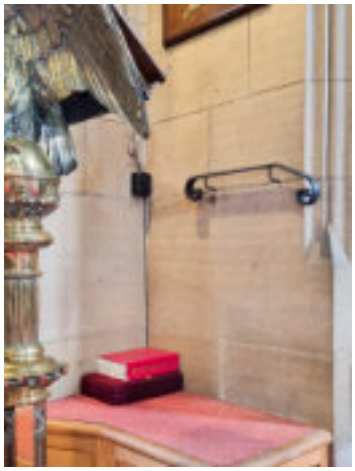


Two more handrails to improve safety at St Paul's - by Rosemary Lyons

Twelve months ago we were fortunate to receive some grant funding for two handrails to provide easier and safer access onto the dais at the front of St Paul's. These have subsequently fitted in very well, and the safer access has allowed Holy Communion to be distributed from the high altar once again. Following on from this, many of the congregation and particularly sidesmen and sideswomen, have seen how handrails can make a real difference to mobility, and therefore improve safety and confidence moving around the building. As a result, there have been requests for two additional handrails to be provided. The first of these was to help with the high step up to the lectern which has been challenging for some of those who regularly read prayers and lessons. A short handrail has now been fitted to the adjoining stonework to provide a welcome option for support for those using the lectern. A second handrail has been fitted next to the two steps that lead up to the vestry door. This is particularly useful to help those who set up and clear away after services.



The new handrails have been designed to reflect the existing style, quality and detailing of the building. Once again, we were very pleased to work with local blacksmiths Carter & Duck, who forged the rails in black wrought iron and fitted them in October. They are proving to be another successful addition, not only in providing easier and safer access for users, but also in aesthetic terms. We are extremely grateful that this work has been made possible by generous donations from our Parish community.



Children's Church – Becky Filder Ignite Children & Youth Leader



October was another lovely month at Children's Church, full of creativity, fun and opportunities to explore our faith together.
We began the month by preparing our Harvest display, celebrating the beauty of the four seasons. The children enjoyed working together to create a colourful display showing how each season brings something special. We talked about how God gives us good gifts throughout the year, from the new life of spring and the warmth of summer to the harvest of autumn and the beauty of winter. It was a wonderful reminder to be thankful for all that God provides.
Throughout October, we continued to follow the Church's lectionary, exploring the Bible readings through stories, discussions and creative activities.
We explored the story of Jesus and the question about paying taxes to Caesar. The children thought about Jesus' words, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God." Through our activities, we reflected on what belongs to God and how we can give ourselves to Him through the way we live, love and care for others.
We also explored Jesus' greatest commandment – to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. The children thought about what it means to love God and how we can show kindness, care and love to the people around us in our everyday lives.
It has been lovely to see the children sharing their thoughts, asking questions and growing in their understanding of God's love. We look forward to continuing our journey of faith together in the coming months!

Ignite Update -

October was a busy and exciting month, with lots of opportunities to connect with young people, explore faith together and continue learning and growing in ministry.

One of the highlights last month was the start of Youth Alpha. Together, we began exploring some of the big questions of life and faith, creating space for honest conversations, questions and reflection. Although we are a small group, this has been a real positive, allowing the young people to feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and exploring what they believe. It has been lovely to see the conversations beginning to develop, and I am looking forward to seeing where the journey takes us.

We have also been spending time at Longridge High School, going in during lunchtimes to meet and chat with young people. These visits are a great opportunity to begin building relationships, getting to know the young people and simply being a friendly, familiar face. It is still early days, but these small conversations and connections are an important starting point.

Our Messy Church in October focused on prayer, using the word PRAY to help us think about different ways we can talk and listen to God:

- P – Pause: Taking time to be still with God.
- R – Rejoice and Repent: Giving thanks and saying sorry.
- A – Ask: Bringing our hopes, worries and needs to God.
- Y – Yes to God: Being open to what God might be asking of us.

Through our usual mix of creative activities, worship and time together, we explored how prayer doesn't have to be complicated and can be part of our everyday lives.

Ignite Update continued .....

Alongside the practical ministry, October was a valuable month for my own study and formation. I spent a weekend at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire with Emmanuel College. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, share experiences and build connections with others on similar journeys. One of the biggest highlights for me was the Great Silence on Saturday. In the midst of what often feels like a very busy life, having the opportunity to properly slow down, be still and listen for what God might be saying was incredibly valuable.

I also attended a conference at Blackburn Cathedral as part of the Tyndale 500 celebrations, exploring how we can help young people engage more deeply with the Bible. It was a thought-provoking day, full of ideas and conversations that have given me plenty of food for thought about how we share Scripture with young people in ways that are meaningful, accessible and relevant to their lives.

As I reflect on October, one thing that stands out is the importance of creating space – space for young people to ask questions, space for relationships to grow, and space for us all to pause and listen to God. Not everything in youth ministry happens through big events or large numbers. Sometimes it is the small conversations, the questions asked and the relationships slowly being built that matter most.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support and pray for myself and the young people we are connecting with. Please continue to pray for the relationships being built, for our Youth Alpha and Image groups and for the opportunities ahead.







Funerals

We commend to God those who have died recently and pray for those who mourn their loss



Kenneth (Ken) Wylie

Patricia Ann Davis

Weddings

Many congratulations and our very best wishes to:



Edward Robert Ian Callum Salisbury & Danielle Jane Harriet Radcliffe

who were married on the 23rd October 2026

at St. Lawrence's Church, Longridge.

Men's Fellowship – More Than Just a Sunday - by Andrew Filder



Hello! For anyone who doesn't know me, I'm Andrew Filder. I've been coming to St Lawrence with St Paul's for around seven years now. You'll usually find me at church most Sundays with my wife, Becky, who is our Children and Youth Leader, and our three young children.

I'm really keen to help build up men's fellowship within our church here in Longridge, creating more opportunities for men to get together, develop friendships and enjoy spending time with one another.

Life can be busy, and between work, family commitments and everything else, it can sometimes be difficult to find time to simply meet up, relax and enjoy good company. Yet friendship, fellowship and a sense of belonging are so important.

As a church, I believe we have a wonderful opportunity to bring men together, build friendships, support one another and enjoy spending time together.

The Bible reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 to *"encourage one another and build each other up."* Fellowship is an important part of church life. It's about more than meeting on a Sunday; it's about getting to know one another, sharing life's ups and downs, having a laugh and building genuine relationships.

With this in mind, I'm hoping to establish a monthly Men's Fellowship social evening at St Lawrence with St Paul's.

The idea is simple: an opportunity for men of all ages to get together in a relaxed, friendly environment. There won't be a formal programme or any pressure – just good company, conversation and a chance to make new friends.

Whether you're a regular churchgoer, haven't been to church for a while or have never stepped through the doors, you are very welcome! Please do invite friends, neighbours, colleagues or family members along too.

Coming Up – Our First Two Events!

Saturday 7th November – Curry Night

Hamadan Curry House, Longridge. Meet at 7:00pm

We're kicking things off with a curry night! A chance to enjoy some delicious food, catch up with familiar faces and hopefully meet some new ones too.

Thursday 3rd December – Quiz Night

Wilfrid's Club, Longridge. Meet at 7:45pm | Quiz starts at 8:30pm

Join us for a drink, a chat and a bit of friendly competition as we put our general knowledge to the test. Don't worry if quizzes aren't your strong point – it's all about taking part and having a good evening together!





Looking Ahead to 2027

I'm hoping to make Men's Fellowship a regular monthly event, with something different to enjoy each time.

I'd love to hear your ideas! Whether it's a walk followed by a pub lunch, bowling, darts, a games night, a barbecue, a sporting event or simply meeting for a drink, I'm open to suggestions. Most importantly, I want this to be something shaped by the men who come along, with activities that everyone can enjoy.

Interested in coming along?

Please contact me, Andrew Filder, on 07572 153329 to let me know, or simply to find out more. All men are welcome, whatever your age or connection to church. Bring a friend, come along on your own, and help us build a welcoming community where friendships can grow.

I hope to see you soon!

Andrew



GraceNotes

We're now nearing the end of our delayed Summer/Autumn programme, having visited six residential/care homes in and around our locality and with just two more to go.

As usual, we've been well received wherever we've "performed" and residents are often keen to join in enthusiastically with the mostly familiar songs that make up our repertoire.

Our last outing of the season will be to Bushell House in Goosnargh on 9th November and more or less straight after that we'll start practising our Advent/Christmas selection.

As always, we welcome new members. If you enjoy singing in an informal way (and witnessing the positive effect it can have on others) we'd be very pleased to have your company. Just have a word with any GraceNotes member or

contact Carly, our illustrious leader and accompanist, on 07972 548684.

BRIGADE NEWS

It has been a fantastic and very busy start to the autumn term at Brigade, with lots of familiar faces returning after the summer break as well as some lovely new members joining us. We began the term by sharing our favourite summer memories through games and crafts, before moving on to a variety of themed evenings across all sections. Martins and Y Team have enjoyed learning about stories including Noah's Ark and Daniel and the Lion, with lots of animal and insect-themed games and crafts along the way. We have made caterpillars, snails and bug boats, played plenty of energetic games and even headed outside to see what insects we could find.

Harvest has also been a big focus this term. All sections worked hard creating decorations and crafts for our Harvest display at St Lawrence's Church. Martins enjoyed harvest-themed games and biscuit decorating, while JTC and Seniors created Hama bead crafts and other decorations for the display.

JTC and Seniors have also been busy with drill and marching, team games, Taskmaster-style challenges and lots of fun problem-solving activities. Across all sections, drill practice has become an important part of our evenings as we prepare for Remembrance Sunday.



It has been wonderful to see everyone taking part with such enthusiasm and enjoying time together each Wednesday. We are also pleased to say that we currently have no waiting list, so new members are very welcome to come along and join us.

We are looking forward to another busy and enjoyable half of the term after the break!









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Travels with Dorothy Laver
The Menin Gate in Ypres and Talbot House in Poperinge

I was only small when my Granny Alice passed away. She had been widowed in the First World War when her husband, Robert Maharry, was killed on the Western Front. My chlldhood memories were of a grey haired old lady who lived in a small terraced house on Walney Island with no indoor bathroom and few home comforts. I was upset when she died but was too young then to really appreciate what a hard life she must have had living through two world wars.

My Granny was left with three young boys to bring up on her own all aged under five: Bill, Ben (my Dad) and my Uncle Bob. I think my Uncle Bob was only born after her husband had been killed . Conscription for married men was only introduced in May 1916 so despite having two young boys, Robert must have volunteered for military service enlisting as a Private in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI).. He was only 31 years of age when he was killed on 2 June 1916.

In 1975 my parents and I had a holiday to France and Germany and went to Arras in North West France where my Dad mistakenly thought his father had been killed. We visited several cemeteries looking at many graves. It was only later that I consulted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Index and found that Robert's name was actually recorded on the Menin Gate in Ypres (Ieper) in Belgium.



Robert Maharry inscription



The Menin Gate

The Menin Gate is one of the most significant First World War memorials commemorating over 54,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave like my grandfather. Their names are carved into panels on the Memorial which is a large arch located on the Menen road along which Allied soldiers marched out to the battlefields. At 8.00pm every evening the traffic is stopped and buglers from the local fire brigade sound the "Last Post" under the arches to honour the fallen .

in October 2009 my youngest son ,Dominic, and I went to Ypres. On the way to the ferry at Dover we met with my cousin John, Uncle Bob's son, and his wife Sue at their home in Margate, Kent. John had researched the history of the KSLI and believed that Robert had been killed near Mount Sorrel outside Ypres. On our trip we went to the Menin Gate and attended the "Last Post" ceremony which was quite moving and also went to Mount Sorrel.

We stayed in a town called Poperinge about 6 miles from Ypres. In the First World War Poperinge was a garrison town for the troops from the British Empire with camps, field hospitals and railway stations. We actually stayed in Talbot House (Toc H in army signal code) which had been established in 1915 by two army chaplins: Reverend Philip "Tubby" Clayton and Neville Talbot.

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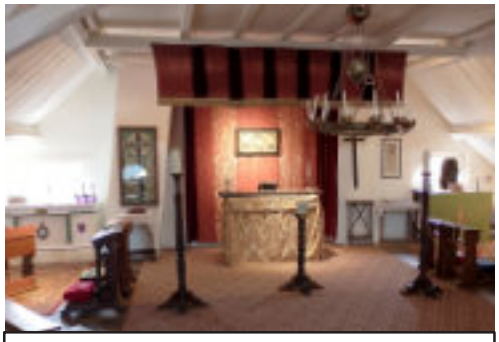
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Travels with Dorothy Laver continued .....

It offered soldiers, regardless of rank , the opportunity to relax and gave a brief respite from the trenches. In the loft there was also a simple chapel . It was a unique experience to stay in a house which breathed history in every room. There was also an interesting museum attached to the house.



Chapel in Talbot House

While staying at Talbot House I was chatting to another visitor and I said that sadly the family had no photograph of my grandfather, Robert. The visitor suggested looking in the local newspaper where there would have been a tribute to local soldiers who had been killed. After the trip I did locate a newspaper article in the Barrow News from June 1916 recording Robert's death with a very grainy photograph of him in uniform. The article said he had been sent out on a night patrol to cut barbed wire and had never returned to the trenches.

In 1922 my granny received the 1914-1915 star , which would have been awarded to Robert had he lived , together with the victory medal commemorating The Great War for Civilisation 1914-1919 which has Robert's name on the rim. I now have these two medals.

In memory of Robert Maharry (1885 to 1916) and Alice Maharry (1888 to 1965) and my cousin John Maharry who died earlier this year.

This poem was written in 1943 by Frances Angermayer and frequently found in the pockets of fallen soldiers during World War II.

Conversion – A Soldiers Poem

Look, God, I have never spoken to You.
But now — I want to say, "how do you do."
You see, God, they told me You didn't exist.
And like a fool — I believed all of this.

Last night from a shell-hole I saw Your sky —
I figured right then, they had told me a lie.
Had I taken time to see the things You made,
I'd known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if You'd take my hand.
Somehow — I feel that You will understand.
Funny, — I had to come to this hellish place,
Before I had the time to see Your Face.

Well, I guess there isn't much more to say.
But I'm sure glad, God, I met You today.
I guess the "zero hour" will soon be here.
But I'm not afraid since I know You're near.

The signal! — Well, God, — I'll have to go.
I like You lots. — This I want You to know.
Look, now — this will be a horrible fight.
Who knows — I may come to Your house tonight.

Though I wasn't friendly with You before
I wonder, God — if You'd wait at Your Door.
Look — I'm crying! Me! — Shedding tears!
I wish I'd known You these many years.

Well, I will have to go now, God — goodbye.
Strange — since I met You — I'm not afraid to die.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them

OUR WORSHIP AND READINGS

Following Jesus on Mission

Our regular Sunday 'in church' services are as below.

St Paul's Holy Communion Service with Children's Church at 10:00am (arrival from 9:30am)

St. Paul's 'All together' Service 10:00am on 2nd Sunday of the Month

St Lawrence's at 6:30pm (arrival from 6:00pm)

The readings that will feature in these services are listed below.

Our regular mid-week Holy Communion Service takes place on Thursday at St Paul's at 10am

1st November — All Saints Day

10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church
Revelation 7 : 9-17
Matthew 5 : 1-12

'The 4'
St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:00pm

All Souls Service
6:30pm St Lawrence's
Psalm 23
John 5 : 19-27

8th November - Remembrance Sunday

11.25am St.Pauls Service of Remembrance
1 Thessalonians 4 : 13-18
Psalm 70

'The 4'
St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:00pm

6.30pm Holy Communion
St Lawrence's
1 Thessalonians 4 : 13-18
Matthew 25 :1-13

15th November - Second before Advent - (Ignite Sunday)

10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church
Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18
Matthew 25 : 14-30

'Messy Church'
St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:30pm

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong
Psalm 89 v19-37
Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18
Matthew 25 : 14-30

22nd November — Christ The King

10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church
Ezekiel 34 : 11-24
Matthew 25 : 31-46

'The 4'
St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:00pm

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong
Psalm 93
Ezekiel 34 : 11-24
Matthew 25 : 31-46

29th November — Advent 1

10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church
Isaiah 64 : 1-9
Mark 13 : 24-37

'The 4'
St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:00pm

6:30pm St Lawrence's Church
CTLD
Advent Carol Service

6th December — Advent 2

10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church
Isaiah 40 : 1-11
Mark 1 : 1-8

'The 4'
St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:00pm

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong
Psalm 40 v12-17
Isaiah 40 : 1-11
Mark 1 : 1-8

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptisms, Marriages

Arrangements for these should be made with Rev. Mike or via the Church website

Do you know anybody who is in hospital or ill at home?

If so, please let Rev. Mike or Rev. Jesse know so that they may be visited.

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The Last Word

From the Curate Rev. Jesse Adesina



If you have watched the popular television series Game of Thrones, you may remember one of its famous sayings: "**Winter is coming."**

Throughout the series, winter was something people dreaded and prepared for. Their fear was not simply about the cold or darkness, but also the terrifying threat of the Night King and his army. When winter eventually came, they faced an intense battle, but emerged victorious.

Well, winter is coming for us too!

Already, temperatures are dropping, days are getting shorter, and nights are drawing in. For some, winter is a wonderful season of cosy evenings, warm drinks, Christmas lights and family gatherings. But for others, it can be particularly challenging.

Some worry about rising energy bills and keeping warm. Others face health concerns, loneliness, financial struggles or the painful absence of loved ones at Christmas. The shorter days and longer nights can also affect our mental wellbeing.

And perhaps, for some of us, the real winter is not the weather outside, but the difficult circumstances of life.

Yes, winter is coming.

But as we enter this season, I want to leave us with these reassuring words from Isaiah 43:1–2:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

What wonderful words of reassurance!

Notice how God reminds us of who He is and who we are to Him. He created us, formed us, redeemed us and calls us by name. Then comes this beautiful declaration: **"You are mine."**

Whatever this winter brings, we belong to God. We are known, loved and precious in His sight.

Notice also that God does not promise we will never face difficulties. Rather, He promises, **"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."** He is with us through difficult days, uncertain moments and even the darkest nights.

So, whatever this winter holds, go with the assurance of God's presence. When you feel overwhelmed or lonely, remember that He is with you. Cast your cares upon Him, because He cares for you.

And let us show that same love to others. A phone call, a visit, a kind word or a helping hand can make a difference.

Winter is coming, but we do not face it alone.

You are honoured and precious in His sight, and He loves you.

May we know the warmth of His love, the comfort of His presence and the peace of Christ throughout this season.

Remember, whatever the season, **God is with you always.**

Every blessing.

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