

ANNUAL REPORTS 2026

Treasurer's Report presented by Graham Kelsall

Graham opened his remarks by thanking both Jacqui Taylor for acting as Gift Aid Secretary, and Dorothy Laver for her assistance with year-end. He then proceeded to talk through the 2025 year-end figures.

In 2025 the total receipts were £199,072 of which £52,032 was received as restricted funds, £2,141 was designated funds and £145,899 was received as unrestricted funds. This represented a decrease in total income of £48,802. Planned giving, however, remained flat, with collections at services rising by £1,664. The PCC continues to promote the Parish Giving Scheme alongside 'card machine' giving, and Clergy will continue to promote 'giving through grace'. Other voluntary receipts fell, mainly due to donations received for the Audio-Visual project at St Paul's, and the Lychgate fund at St Lawrences in 2024.

Gift Aid claims were higher than in the previous year at £21,703 compared to £19,219 in 2024. We continue to promote the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), where eligible donations through this route automatically have Gift Aid reclaimed by PGS, and is received in the same month as the donation. Several Gift Aid claims were outstanding at the year end and will be received in 2025.

Fundraising revenue remained roughly the same at £11,772 and facilities rental income increased from £4,613, to £6,579 – this is in part to the allocation of the rental from the Bowling Green being allocated here in 2025 (historically it has been credited to the Youth Fund), to offset some of the cost of the repairs needed to the boundary wall between the school and the bowling green.

Fees for weddings and funerals remained roughly the same at £21,610. Investment income fell by £2,414 mainly to a decrease in the Haighton Dividend.

We were in receipt of several grants from the Diocese towards the cost of improved access (hand rails inside St Paul's, and in the Churchyard at St Lawrences) as well as towards building works at St Paul's, these totaled £14,488.

£218,134 was spent in total, to provide the Christian ministry from St Lawrence with St Paul, including the contribution of £94,760 to the diocesan parish share which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

Expenditure was down on 2024, by £5,975. This reduction is due to less being spent on Repairs and Maintenance in 2025, £29,970 as opposed to £60,056 in 2024. (Included within the 2024 expenditure is the Audio-Visual Project at a total cost of £34,182).

Expenditure on energy was up by £6,541 in 2025. Churchyard expenditure also increased re works done to trees and the new handrails (the cost of the new handrails was covered by a grant). Clergy and staffing costs were up by £3,543, mainly due to agreed increases in pay rates.

The net result for the year was deficit of £19,062 for the year – a position that meant we could not meet our reserves policy. Income from regular giving going forward will need to increase if we are to maintain the same level of Mission.

The value of a Central Investment Fund (CIF) share decreased over the course of the year, reducing the value of our holding from £272,264 to £263,071.

The United Utilities shares showed an increase of £4,818 following an increase in the share price. This is a paper gain only, as the shares are Endowed.

It is PCC policy to maintain an unrestricted reserve of £20,000 (in cash or unrestricted investments) in the event of needing to cover future shortfalls in income over expenditure. We failed to meet this policy in 2025 due to an excess of expenditure.

Fabric Report presented by Dot Little on behalf of the Churchwardens

Firstly I would like to thank Dorothy Laver – its been a pleasure working alongside you Dorothy as warden for the past three years and it's a relief, certainly to me, that you will continue to deal with the weekly Service rotas and other forms and figures required by the Diocese in your role as Deputy Warden. Dorothy and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Deputy Warden Mae Heys and indeed all the Duty Wardens and Sidespeople for their support Sunday by Sunday over the past twelve months. I know that same support will be appreciated by Helen as she starts her Churchwarden journey.

We feel enormously fortunate as Churchwardens that we can call on so many people to help with day to day issues that may arise and we would like to thank everyone who has offered that support over the last twelve months, be it repairing vacuum cleaners, changing light bulbs or undertaking the not so pleasant jobs like unblocking toilets and on this we must thank David Hartley who so willingly responds to such emergencies.

This will be the fifth annual report I have given and it remains a frustration that the churchwardens report must deal only with fabric matters. Yes the fabric of our two church buildings is vitally important but for most of us it is the commitment of being part of a Worshipping congregation and the value we place on the fellowship we share together through the various organisations and social events that sustains and encourages us. A church family and parish I have always felt privileged to be part of.

But we must now turn to fabric and the major work carried out in 2025 was of course the restoration of the Lychgate at St. Lawrence, made possible through an appeal and the generosity of both the church family and the wider community. The new wood will this Summer need a further coat of preservative and this is in hand.

St. Lawrence Church had its five yearly Quinquennial inspection in 2025 and although a number of issues were raised, including the damp walls in part of the building and the lack of ventilation in that church, the report was in the main a positive one.

Topple testing of headstones in the churchyard is carried out regularly and monitored and in 2025 a number of the older headstones and crosses were made secure. There are currently several headstones laid down which we would like to address if money can be found.

Meanwhile our thanks to Terry Lewis for maintaining the churchyard to such a high standard. Terry's decision to stave off his planned retirement this year was met with some relief by the Vicar and Churchwardens.

Through the encouragement of the PCC Fabric and Eco group we will continue to leave areas of the churchyard unmown to encourage nature and wildlife and we are looking to start preparation work in the new area of the churchyard which, it is anticipated, will be needed within the next two years.

Funding was found through a Disability Project Parish Grant Scheme for handrails to be installed to enable safe access to the Garden of Remembrance at St. Lawrence and through that same scheme handrails have been fitted to the dais steps at St. Paul's. An additional faculty has recently been applied for to enable handrails to be fitted down the vestry steps and at the lectern in that church.

During the year repairs were carried out to the North Porch roof and stonework at St. Paul's thanks to a partial grant from the Diocese and as a matter of good practice the PCC continues to approve annual maintenance checks at both churches to ensure gutters, pipes, drains etc. are running freely. It would be a great help if it were possible to get a voluntary team together to undertake the small maintenance jobs Rosemary Lyons keeps adding to her list and we are grateful to John Collinson who has indicated his willingness to be part of that team. At this point we must thank Rosemary for all the work she does on behalf of the PCC – her expertise in writing schemes of work, preparing faculties and meeting surveyors and contractors is invaluable.

Speaking of inspections Ecclesiastical Insurance completed a thorough inspection of St. Paul's Church in August 2025 and made various recommendations including the need for fixed electrical testing which was carried out just prior to Easter 2026. Servicing checks to the boilers, fire extinguishers, the clock on the tower at St. Lawrence and the Willis organ at St Paul's are all scheduled in the calendar and at this point we would like to mention our Organist and Choir Director Karen Au who has not only highlighted the importance of those regular maintenance checks to our magnificent organ but also arranged events to help cover those maintenance costs and to promote the organ which is under threat in so many churches – thankfully not in Longridge. We feel blessed to have you Karen.

Going forward storage space, especially at St. Paul's will need to be addressed as will parking, where groups using the Centenary Room often struggle to find adequate parking spaces. Improved signage will hopefully help this. The re-surfacing of the carpark was highlighted at the last Quinquennial inspection but still requires funding.

The cleaning of the two church buildings is again something we would like to address more – we continue to pay for the Centenary Room to be cleaned weekly at St. Paul's but rely on volunteers to clean the main body of the church and that's the same at St. Lawrence. Our thanks to those who answered our call to help clean St. Paul's recently – you made a tremendous difference and our thanks also to the people who voluntarily, when time allows, do some cleaning at St. Lawrence. We remain grateful to the people who enable us to keep St. Lawrence Church open each day for visitors and prayer.

We have two wonderful church buildings in which to Worship and accommodate groups and organisations but now through our Ignite Worker have the chance to invest in the future by embracing new opportunities in children and young people's work. We pray that with God's help and guidance we will meet those challenges able to look to the future with confidence and hope.

Preston Deanery Synod presented by Dorothy Laver

The Diocese of Blackburn is divided into 14 areas (Deaneries), ours being Preston Deanery. Each Deanery Synod is a meeting of elected representatives from every Anglican church in that area. Representatives are elected by each church at its Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and serve a term of three years.

The Deanery Synod representatives were elected by the APCM in 2023 to serve until 2026 and our representatives for those three years are now Dorothy Laver and Graham Kelsall. Graham is also a Member of the Diocesan Synod. Karen Boardman as the Vision Champion can also attend meetings of the Deanery Synod. New representatives will be elected at our 2026 APCM. The number of representatives depends on the size of our electoral roll. We have been informed by the Diocese that we can elect three representatives at the 2026 APCM. The Deanery Synod Representatives are automatically members of the PCC.

The Deanery Synod considers items of concern to the wider church and members then share these ideas with their own PCCs. The Deanery Synod is also the group that elects members to the Diocesan Synod :the collection of representatives of the Deaneries throughout the Diocese of Blackburn. The Diocesan Synod then debates items that are under consideration by the General Synod. The Deanery Synod can also be asked by the Diocesan Synod to consider matters and report back to the Diocesan Synod. Deanery Synod may in turn ask PCCs to consider these issues. In turn, a PCC can ask the Deanery Synod to debate a motion that can then be debated by the Diocesan Synod and ultimately by the General Synod.

Our meetings include any necessary business but also provide an opportunity for churches to hear from each other about various ministries being offered by churches across the deanery, which we have called the 'Big Parish Share(ing)'.

There was a Special Meeting with Bishop Philip and Carolyn Barton on 1 April 2025. Dot Little and Dorothy Laver attended the meeting where Bishop Philip looked at the effectiveness of Vision 2026 in preparation for the development of Vision 2033. Bishop Philip explained that we need a Vision to provide a framework for parishes to inspire and plan. There was a group discussion about what are hopes are for the new Vision.

Preston Deanery Synod met twice in 2025. The area Dean is Father David Craven from St George's Preston.

On 14 May 2025 the Synod met at Ingol St Margaret. The Diocesan plans for mission events to be held in all parishes throughout the Diocese over the weekend of 11 to 13 September 2026 to mark the centenary of the Diocese were introduced. Parish groups discussed potential activities in their own areas

There was a further meeting on 21 October 2025 at St Martin's, Fulwood. The theme was connected to Carbon Net Zero 2023 and was an open Synod to which members of our church involved in Eco Church were invited to attend. Graham Kelsall attended the meeting. The meeting discussed issues of attitude, behaviours and culture which impact on the willingness of people to consider the impact that they have as individuals and what churches can do to mitigate the effects of climate change. Information on tools and resources available for churches was provided

No other items were passed to Longridge PCC for consideration by Diocesan Synod. There were no further meetings in 2025.

There was a meeting on 3 February 2026 at St Christopher's at Lea which Dorothy Laver and Graham Kelsall attended. The main discussion was around the planning for the Diocesan Centenary Mission Weekends in September 2026. The Church of the Ascension in Ribbleton shared their experiences of a parish mission weekend they had held in 2025 together with their plans for the 2026 centenary mission weekend. There was a group discussion and sharing of ideas.

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be held on 25 June 2026. The first meeting of the new Deanery Synod will be held on 19 October 2026.

Organist & Choir Director by Karen Au

I think on the whole it has been a satisfactory year in terms of music making. Starting with the most significant achievement: we gained Ray, Andrea and Doug as dedicated new members. Ray, Andrea and Doug joined as a result of the August Open Choir scheme and have since hardly missed any services or rehearsals. We also welcomed a returning member - Chris Nick Hyde, who rejoined shortly after Christmas, after hearing us at the Nine-Lessons and Carols. Nick is a real asset to the choir, and particularly useful to me as he can switch between singing tenor and bass; therefore reducing the impact of absences in the tenor/bass section. In addition to his voice and musical abilities, he is also very dedicated, hardly missing any rehearsals or services.

I would also like to mention the commitment of all choir members who continue to sing two services most Sundays. However, for various reasons (family commitments/ prior arrangements), Holy week and Easter were not as well supported as Nine-Lessons and Midnight mass. Due to the uncertainty in choir numbers in the soprano section, I invited Oliver Hunt (an excellent singer and a personal friend) for the Songs of Praise service on Easter day. She sang "I know my Redeemer Liveth" from Handel's Messiah beautifully and supported the soprano section throughout. Inviting soloists is something I am likely to consider for future important services to enhance worship and as a fail-safe in case of choir illness or absences.

Another particular high has been the amount of support I received, both for the Hymnathon and also for the Organ exploration and recital afternoon. In all we raised enough money (£535 from the Hymnathon and £475 from the Organ recital) to entirely cover the cost of organ tuning this year.

The Organ and Scholarship scheme which I presented to PCC in February has been put on hold, since there is currently no suitably convenient time slot when I can teach them on a regular basis at St. Paul's. On reflection, I think it would be more expedient to start a youth choir which would benefit a far greater number of young people and form a pathway into the scholarship scheme. I am hoping to explore options with Rev. Mike to see if this is a possible option to preserve the future of our Anglican choral tradition at St. Lawrence with St. Paul.

The Bereavement Support Group by Karen Burdett

The Bereavement support group meets at St Pauls church on the first Monday of the month, including bank holidays 7.30 -9pm. It is open to anyone who has had a bereavement this may be recent or some time ago.

The aim of the group is to ease the process of grieving and strengthen the ability to cope. It offers emotional support and validation from others who are experiencing similar feelings. The group varies in size 8-12 people. Some chat some listen. We enjoy refreshments and cake in a safe and relaxed environment.

For more information please contact Karen Burdett 07712440135.

Brewtime by The Brewtime Team

Brewtime continues to run every Wednesday from 8.50am to 11am in the Centenary Room, serving tea, filter coffee, toast and crumpets and often homemade cakes kindly baked by one of the team. Brewtime provides a midweek opportunity to enjoy the company of others and we know how valued that social time is for many of us.

Sadly in March Kath Cowell and Jacqui Laker decided that it was time to hand over the Brewtime baton to a new team. Kath had been involved with Brewtime for 14 years and Jacqui for 10 – an extremely long shift, always ensuring there was a warm welcome and a cheerful smile to everyone who came. This report is an opportunity to offer a sincere thank you to Kath and Jacqui from everyone involved in Brewtime, not least for the continuity they provided and for the time and generosity they gave, ensuring Wednesday mornings always ran smoothly.

We can confirm that new people have come forward to help on a rota basis and we are grateful to John & Bev Keating, Judith Kaye & Ruth Buckley, Mae Heys & Caroline Wilson and Dot Little & Ann Golding who will be manning the tea and coffee pots and looking forward to welcoming you.

Brewtime has never been a fund raising activity but we are grateful for donations which are passed to the Church treasurer for General Church Funds.

Brigade

St Lawrence with St Paul's Longridge Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade continues to thrive, with a current membership of 47 young people. This includes 12 Martins, 14 Y-Team members, 14 JTC members, and 7 Seniors. They are supported by a dedicated team of 16 officers and helpers, to whom we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation.

The Company remains strong and continues to benefit from an excellent and growing relationship with the church. Both the Martins and Y-Team sections are operating at full capacity, and it has been particularly encouraging to see a significant increase in JTC membership over the past year.

A varied and engaging programme has been delivered across all sections, including badge work, trips, and participation in national Brigade events. This year, we are especially pleased that two of our Senior members are taking part in the Brigade's Junior Leaders programme.

Music continues to be an important part of Brigade life, with nine of our members participating in the Brigade's National Band. We are delighted that they will be performing their annual concert in Longridge this May.

Financially, the Company remains in a strong position and continues to benefit from the generous support of the local community. Key fundraising activities have included the annual Afternoon Tea event and the "Eyes Down for a Cause" bingo fundraiser, held in memory of Janet Redding, which is intended to become an annual event. The Company has also supported local community events, including Chipping Steam Fair.

Children's Church by Becky Filder, Children's Church Leader

Over the past year, Children's Church has continued to be a joyful and encouraging part of church life, providing opportunities for our children to grow in faith, friendship, and understanding of God's love.

We have been greatly encouraged by the number of children attending regularly, including throughout the summer months when attendance is often quieter. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and engagement of the children week by week.

During the year, we have followed a variety of teaching series, including exploring Paul's letters to the Ephesians and Thessalonians, the life and ministry of Jesus, His parables, and seasonal themes such as Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Christ the King. More recently, we have linked our teaching with the Blackburn Diocese Centenary theme, "All for Jesus," alongside our church vision of "Following Jesus in Loving Community on Mission."

The children have enjoyed engaging with Bible stories and themes through discussion, drama, games, crafts, prayer activities, songs, and creative play. Highlights from the year have included:

- Exploring the Armour of God and creating shields and prayer crafts
- Learning how to put others first through practical activities and teamwork games
- Harvest preparations and creative displays
- Advent and Christmas sessions focusing on the story of Jesus' birth
- Exploring the miracles, ministry, and teachings of Jesus

Beginning a new series on the parables of Jesus

It has been especially encouraging to see the children growing in confidence, asking thoughtful questions, participating in discussions, and reflecting on how they can live out their faith in daily life through kindness, generosity, prayer, and serving others.

We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers and helpers for their faithful commitment, creativity, and care throughout the year. Their support makes this ministry possible, and we appreciate all the time and preparation they give so generously.

We also thank parents, carers, the PCC, and the wider church family for their encouragement, prayers, and ongoing support of Children's Church.

As we look ahead, we pray that Children's Church will continue to help our children grow in faith, deepen their understanding of Jesus, and know that they are loved and valued members of our church family.

Ignite Children and Youth Leader by Becky Filder

I began my role as Ignite Children and Youth Leader on 12th January, although I was already part of the church community before taking up the post. It has been a privilege over these first few months to build on the strong foundations and relationships that were already established within the church, schools, and wider community.

Since starting the role, I have spent time supporting many of the groups and activities already taking place, helping to encourage and strengthen the excellent work that has been ongoing for many years. A significant part of my time has been spent at Longridge Church of England Primary School, where the church already had an active presence before my appointment. I have been continuing to build on those existing relationships through leading assemblies, supporting Open the Book, running lunch clubs, and helping with the school choir. These opportunities have allowed relationships with pupils and staff to deepen further and have helped maintain a positive and visible Christian presence within the school community.

Within church life, I have also helped to lead this year's confirmation classes, supporting four candidates as they explored and developed their faith. It has been encouraging to journey alongside them during this important stage of their Christian life.

One of the new initiatives this year has been the launch of a relaxed youth drop-in on Tuesday evenings. The aim is to create a welcoming and informal environment where young people can spend time together, develop friendships, and build relationships with church leaders in a safe and supportive setting. Although still in its early stages, it has already begun to provide valuable opportunities for connection and conversation.

Another exciting development has been the introduction of a new alternative worship service for families in the form of Messy Church. Our first session in March welcomed 46 children and 29 adults, which was an incredibly encouraging start. It was wonderful to see families engaging together through worship, crafts, activities, food, and conversation in a relaxed and accessible environment. The positive response from those who attended has been very encouraging, and we look forward to continuing to grow this ministry.

I also regularly attend Forge days with other Ignite leaders, which provide valuable opportunities for encouragement, support, training, and the sharing of ideas and experiences with others involved in children's and youth ministry.

Over the past few months, I have spent time reflecting on how we can better support children and young people as they grow in faith. After listening to the experiences and ideas of other youth and children's leaders, I independently developed pathways for children and young people to help map how we can support them in growing as disciples and becoming more involved in church life over time.

Although I have only been in post for a short time, it has already been a very encouraging and exciting beginning. I am extremely grateful for the support, welcome, and encouragement I have received from clergy, volunteers, parents, schools, and the wider congregation.

There are many more exciting opportunities and plans ahead, and I look forward to continuing to develop this ministry in the coming year.

Mothers' Union by Judith Kaye

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for over 140 years. Started by our founder Mary Sumner in 1876 in her local parish, we have grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries.

As a Christian membership charity, we demonstrate our faith in action. This happens as we work towards stopping poverty, inequality and injustice. Our members work at grassroots level around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

More locally we meet on the first Tuesday of each month except January and August and try to arrange a varied programme of speakers that will interest our members. We have deanery events such as the annual Festival service and also each year there is a Quiet Hour, these are held at different branches in the deanery on rotation.

Our branch membership had remained stable but this year we have lost 2 members so we are now 13.

Handbells by Judith Kaye

The parish has a very valuable asset in a set of handbells which are over 120 years old. It is believed that Miss Turner (former choir mistress and music teacher) was in some way responsible for bringing these lovely instruments to Longridge. The bells were used for some years before being mothballed, then the Mothers' Union concert party, taught by Miss Turner, used them for a few years before they were put away again. The bells were then refurbished and re-tuned and for over twenty years now a group of us have been learning to ring all sorts of tunes ranging from hymns and carols to TV theme tunes. We have great fun and try to ring in church and local venues when the opportunity arises. Christmas is a favourite time as carols sound so good on the bells. We try to meet every other week during school term times but are flexible to meet the other demands of the ringers, the availability of the Ecton Room and invitations to perform.

Neurodivergent Group by Emma Turver, Autism Specialist Teacher

The 'Thursday club' continue to meet each Thursday 3.30pm to 5pm term time only to support families of neurodivergent children.

We have 2 staff from LCC now supporting Emma Turver and Naomi Pinder which has allowed us to open the doors to more children.

Approximately 12 members currently and we are full.

Ranging from 5 -14 years old.

A relaxed, no pressure environment with games, crafts, sensory activities and a place to chat with other parents and have a brew.

Walkie Talkies by Hannah Green

Walkie talkies toddler group has been quiet again this year with a low number of children attending, we are pleased to still have regular child minders every week with a few grandparents and parents enjoying the sessions, the number of children attending on average is between 9 and 10 all enjoying the different areas on offer, from the wooden kitchen in the house to the push a long toys and bikes, the soft play and the area which has different activities including Lego, wooden train set and magnetic tiles, also the baby play mats with mirror which the baby's love to see themselves in and interact with the toys available.

Walkie talkies will still be donating to church funds this year.

We are hoping to improve attendance, the children that come do enjoy the small friendly group we provide.

Worship Group by Carolyn Barton

The Worship Group leads worship at St Paul's on the second Sunday of the month which is the 'All Together' Service. The group includes a pianist, drummer, flautist and a group of vocalists. We are also very grateful to Fred Little who arranges the sound and microphones for when we play.

The group meets to practice twice a month - once to practice for the service and once to try out new songs. We really enjoy playing and singing together and exploring new contemporary worship songs. Whilst we are blessed to have a good number of vocalists, we would be particularly keen to welcome new instrumentalists to the group especially a lead guitarist.

Open the Book by Muriel Anderson

This school year has been a real blessing to our team, as we have shared the following Bible stories with the children. We began with Jesus as a boy in the Temple, then moved to His baptism, the choosing of the twelve disciples, stories of Jesus healing and performing miracles, and three parables. We have, of course, included Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. During the Summer we will hear of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, signalling the birth of the Church.

We now have two more members in our team, a real bonus for us. Welcome to Becky and Naomi. We love to see the enthusiasm consistently shown by the children at Berry Lane School, and their eagerness to take part in it. These are stories they will remember long after they progress to secondary education. We hope we are contributing to the fun side of learning the truth about Jesus.

Friday Friends by Muriel Anderson

Friday Friends is simply an open group of people, with a common cause, who are concerned about the problem of loneliness and isolation in our neighbourhood. It was founded about ten months ago and seems to be proving quite successful.

The group was formed by three friends. We now have an average attendance of twelve, although at a recent birthday celebration we numbered 27!

It is so lovely to welcome new people among us, getting to know each other, and gradually seeing our transformation from acquaintances to friends. Initially we met at the Old Station Café, but later, by popular demand, we changed venues to Sa'ar

Café, Longridge Hub (next door to Anji's). We are open to everyone, both male and female, young or old. It's a great place to stay for a coffee, and/or lunch, on a Friday, from 11 am to 2 pm.

For those who are not familiar with Longridge Hub, it is a building divided into small craft and gift shops, complete with a café that caters for all tastes and dietary requirements. Everyone is friendly and helpful, and nothing is too much trouble for them. A variety of different goods are on display, quite apart from the tasty food and drinks in the café.

Longridge is such a lovely place to live, and no one should feel lonely or isolated. We make everyone feel welcome, and we are just a cup of tea away.

Tuesday Club by Fred Little, Chairman

The Tuesday Club meets in St. Paul's Centenary Room on the second Tuesday of the month between September and May so the 2025/6 programme was completed at the May meeting.

Over the past year membership has increased from 34 – 37 with an average of 30 attending the meetings. Over 40 people sat down for the buffet meal and enjoyed entertainment from Trouble at Mill at the club's party night in April 2026.

Treasurer Keith Thompson is able to confirm that the club has a healthy bank balance, so the annual membership will remain at £5 with £2 payable on meeting nights. These fees are required to cover the cost of speakers and the hire of the Centenary Room. The Tuesday Club continues to support both the Church Spring and Christmas Fair.

Despite the Club Secretary post officially remaining vacant, Jean Saunders with a little input from Dot Little put an excellent programme together for 2025/6 and Jean has confirmed that speakers for the 2026/27 programme have now all been booked and printed programmes will soon be available. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Jean and are looking forward to the new programme which will commence on Tuesday 8th September when we hope to see both old and new members returning.

GraceNotes by Vernon Kinrade

GraceNotes continues to be a blessing, both for we who participate (18 of us in total) and for those whom we seek to entertain.

At present we're on a self-imposed "go-slow" while Carly, our leader, takes time to recuperate from an ankle injury sustained earlier in the year. We're meeting to practice just once a month and hope to be out entertaining again in September and October and then again in the run-up to Christmas.

Over the past year, and two "seasons", we've brought music to residents in five care homes around Longridge and two a little further afield. Music has a powerful capacity to awaken memories and it's a pleasure to see residents smiling and joining in with the songs, using the booklets we compile for them.

We're always pleased to welcome new members and value enthusiasm above musical experience; so do have a word with any of us if you feel you'd like to join in.

Crafty Café by Helen Bailey

This is a drop in social gathering held once a month on the last Monday of the month. It's open to anyone wanting a brew and biscuits with a natter, along with time to progress any portable crafty project. We look forward to meeting regulars and visitors at any of our Monday meetings (except December) 1.30 - 3.30 including bank holidays. Discussion is wide ranging and may include ideas and advice on crafty problems. It's lovely to see how projects develop.

The Welcome Café by Steph Willan & Karen Burdett

The Welcome cafe continues to meet during term time on a Wednesday between 3pm and 5pm. We are now getting around 45 people attending weekly, where we provide drinks cake and a hot meal to all ages. There are table games, a domino table for the more senior members and a craft set up each week. We have recently reviewed our situation and starting after half term we are charging 50p per person, however if anyone is struggling please have a quiet word with Karen or myself so that we can waive the fee. We are also lucky to have Becky our Ignite worker helping and she often does a short religious based activity in church with the children. Lastly, we would like to thank our volunteers who help run the cafe and to let them know that they are very much appreciated.

The Log by Dot Little On behalf of the Log Team

We continue to produce, print and distribute our 28 page church magazine ten times a year and thanks to our advertisers and subscribers have been able to keep the cost to £1 per copy or £10 for the year. We print 'in house' around 350 copies every month and these include complimentary copies to the businesses who advertise with us. Please do support those local businesses when you can. At this point we would like to especially thank Naomi Pinder who took on the advertising role last year and did such a splendid job and also Jean Saunders who delivers those complimentary copies each month.

The job of the production team is to put an interesting magazine together and very rarely are we short of news. We do enjoy regular features like 'Getting to Know You' and 'Inspirational Words' but what makes the Log such a good and interesting read is the variety of articles and we are grateful to everyone who is willing to share their thoughts, views and interests with us. We are particularly grateful to all our regular contributors and always appreciate receiving news about our young people from the C of E Primary School, Brigade and from our Ignite Worker, Becky Filder and Children's Church.

We have noticed that an increasing number of people are picking up their copy of the Log from church which is fine but we do actually prefer to deliver Logs and have a 30 strong team of distributors to do this. If you would like your copy putting through your letterbox each month then do contact Judith Kaye on 785114 and this can be arranged. If you don't currently read the Log please consider doing so – you can access it on line as well as the printed copy.

Perhaps one thing we overlook is the wonderful snapshot of parish life back editions of The Log give us. We have copies going back at least 70 years and every twelve months have the year's Logs bound and added to the library. Log readers may find it interesting if we did a series looking back at some of the past parish milestones and events – something we will consider in the future. Our role, however is to keep looking forward ensuring that dates and times of Services are included and details of other important parish dates in the calendar are reported on. Month by month the Log team do a brilliant job, not least Michael Dawson and Lawrence Ingham who typeset the Log and oversee the Risograph printer for us. This report is an opportunity to sincere thank everyone who is part of that Log team - you do a splendid job – THANK YOU..

**You will find Revd. Mike's report to
the Annual Parish Church Meeting
on the back four pages of the June Log**

