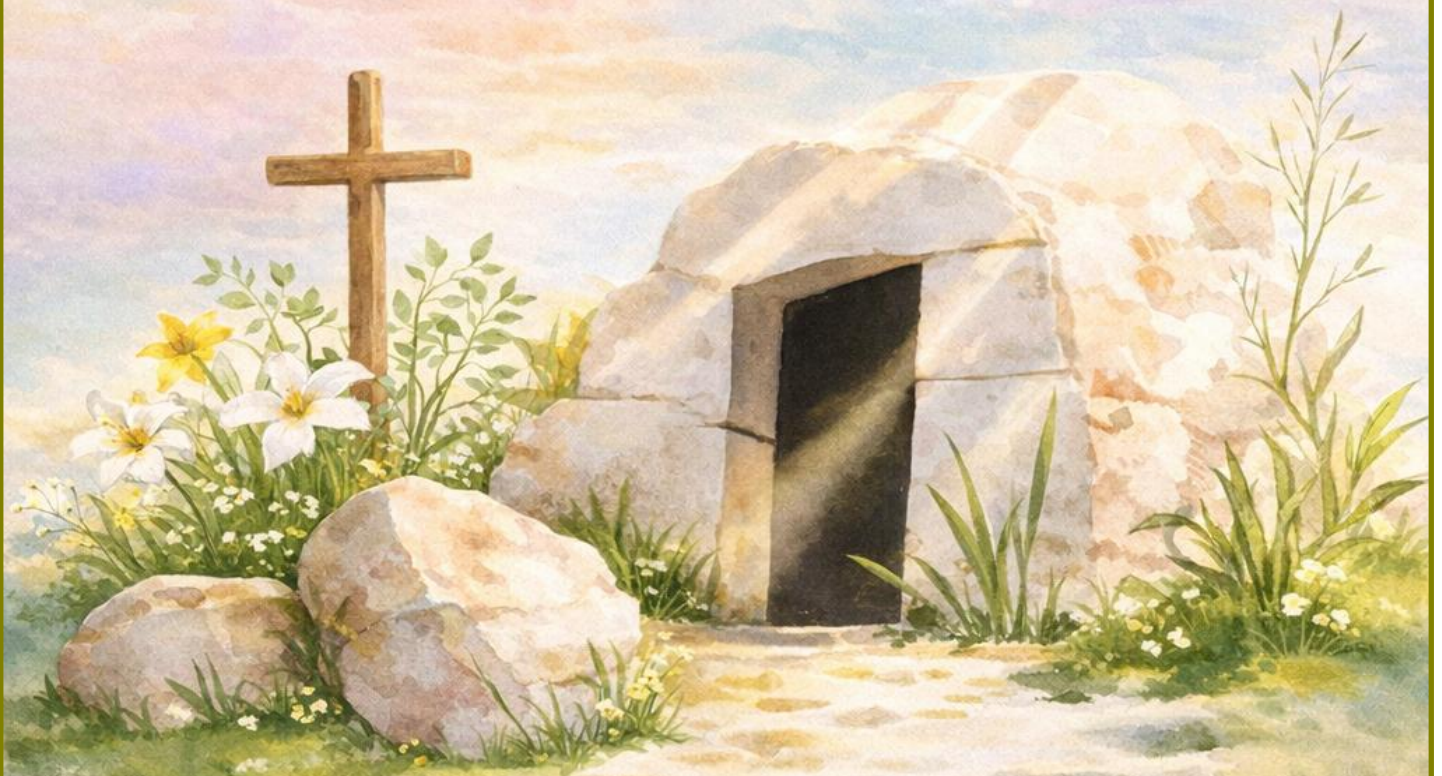


The Log

The Hope We Profess



*“He is not here; He has risen,
just as He said.”*

— Matthew 28:6

St Lawrence with St Paul's

Following Jesus on Mission

The Parish Magazine - April 2026

www.stlawrencewithstpaul.org.uk

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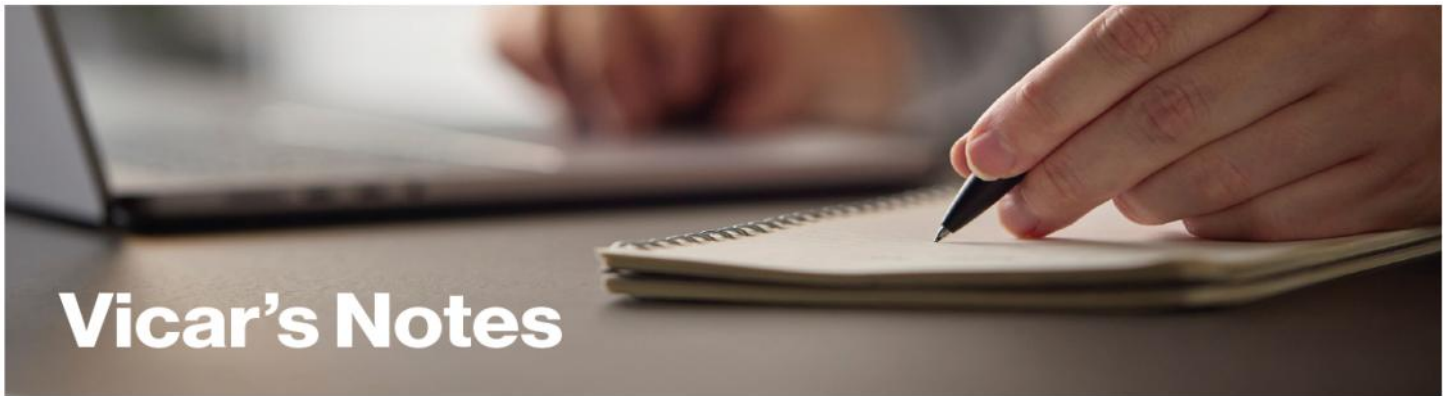
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Vicar's Notes

Maybe you've heard on the news of a quiet revival in the number of people attending church, particularly among the younger generation who are seeking spiritual answers to life's big question in a world where a few powerful but unchecked people can cause such disruption and instability.

Various biblical authors have ways of describing times of political upheaval, for there is nothing new under the sun. For instance, Isaiah talks about the sun being darkened and the skies rolling up like a scroll. Daniel talks about four beasts representing different kingdoms rising and falling. In Joel, the earth shakes and the heavens tremble. All these are ways of saying something about the world we know is not right, and it causes alert people to stand up and take notice.

Yet the Bible never leaves us only with images of chaos and uncertainty. Running alongside these warnings is a persistent thread of hope—one that finds its fullest expression in the Easter story. In the face of injustice, suffering, and apparent defeat, Easter proclaims that death and darkness do not have the final word. The resurrection of Jesus speaks into every age of instability with a quiet but unshakable assurance: renewal is possible, and life can emerge even from the most unlikely places.

Behind the scenes here in Longridge we've had our own little quiet revival. 35 people have taken part in our latest Bible course, an almost doubling in numbers from previous attendance. Clearly something is afoot. So it seems people are returning or coming to Jesus for the first time. Not because the world has become easier, but because the message of Easter offers something deeper than temporary answers—it offers eternal hope. Come and explore this hope with us – see below.

Holy Week and Easter 2026

Date and Time	Service/Event	Location
29 th March, 10am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion Service – with many children and adults starting at Longridge CofE Primary School	St Paul's Church
29 th March, 4.30pm	Palm Sunday Messy Church Service	St Paul's Church
30 th March, 7.30pm	Monday Compline	St Paul's Church
31 st March, 7.30pm	Tuesday Compline	St Paul's Church
1 st April, 7.30pm	For details see page 27	St Paul's Church
2 nd April, 11am	Maundy Thursday Chrism Eucharist All welcome from across the Blackburn Diocese	Blackburn Cathedral
2 nd April, 7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service followed by 'The Watch'. Compline then follows afterwards	St Paul's Church
3 rd April, 10am	All Together Good Friday Service	St Paul's Church
3 rd April, 1.45pm	Good Friday Family Friendly Walk followed by meal at St Paul's Church (approx. 3.30pm)	Leaving from St Paul's Church
5 th April, 8am	Easter Morning Holy Communion	St Lawrence Church
5 th April, 10am	Easter Day Holy Communion Service with Baptisms	St Paul's Church
5 th April, 6.30pm	Easter Songs of Praise	St Lawrence Church

Vicar's Notes continued

Organ Experience

Join our Organist and Choir Director Karen Au and others between 1-2pm on 19th April at St Paul's Church for a fantastic organ experience. You'll be able to look behind the scenes to see how the 'King of instruments' works and if you'd like even try playing it for yourself. Then afterwards at 2.30pm Karen will perform an organ recital followed by refreshments.

Please do contact kauorganist@gmail.com if you are interested in coming to the first part between 1-2pm to help with planning.

Longridge Church Of England Primary School Foundation Governor Required

One of the important ways our church serves our connected Church of England Primary School on Berry Lane is by appointing Foundation Governors of Christian faith whose role it is to support the safe and healthy education of the children and the wellbeing of school staff in such areas as strategic oversight, monitoring performance, school ethos, buildings management, community links and other areas which help a school and everyone involved flourish.

We now have two members of St Lawrence with St Paul whose three-year term has come to an end, so we are seeking two new Foundation Governors. If you care about children's education and are willing to serve by becoming a School Governor, please do speak to me. Let me assure you, you don't need experience of working in education to fulfil this important role, just a desire to see the school succeed.

Church Maintenance Team

St Lawrence with St Paul is an unusual parish in the sense that we have two wonderful buildings to offer a variety of worship and activities in. This also means there is a good deal of maintenance and odd jobs that need doing at different times to keep our buildings looking well and fit for purpose. As a PCC we are therefore appealing for people who are good at practical tasks and would enjoy serving the church in this to help. If this could be you, please do contact me or one of the Churchwardens, Dot or Dorothy – it would be much appreciated.

All Together Service of Confirmation with Bishop Philip North

Our Confirmation Course started in March and we look forward to Bishop Philip joining us for our 10am All Together Service on Sunday 10th May. Also this will probably be followed by a simple lunch for anyone who would like to stay on afterwards as well – more details to come!

As well as there being some young people to confirm this also presents a wonderful opportunity for any adults to be confirmed (or even baptised) as well. Please do let me know if this might be of interest to you. It promises to be a very joyful occasion and even more so if we have some adults able to join the children in this important affirmation of personal faith and prayer for the Holy Spirit's empowerment and filling. Please do let me know if this is of interest to you or someone you know.

Blackburn Diocese Centenary Big Day Out

Blackpool is well known as a place to party and the Bishops of our Diocese are excited to welcome us there to celebrate the Diocese's 100th Year with lots of events for all ages planned on **Saturday 16th May**. For things like the Children and Youth Zones and the Hog Roast booking is essential. Please do scan the QR code on the right to see the full programme and how to book. I hope to see you there.



Foodbank

The 'Community Foodbank @ Longridge' is now well underway and continuing to do a brilliant job of serving some beautiful people who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

If you'd like to know more about how you can help them in their vital work, please do come and speak to me or pop in and see the Foodbank team when they're open as usual every Friday between 11:00am and 1:30pm.

No appointment is needed and you'll also be offered a cuppa and cheese toastie if you wish!

If you know you'd like to financially support Community Foodbank @ Longridge immediately then they have their own Business Account – Account Number: 12833754, Sort Code: 01-00-53.

For more information you can contact the Foodbank team on Tel. 07977 415030

Inspirational Words brought to us this month by Ali Ng.



*Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.**' (Joshua 24:14-15)*

Joshua, now elderly and not long of this earth, has gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem for a farewell meeting. The Israelites have completed the conquest of Canaan and have been allotted their tribal territories. Joshua recounts the story of God's faithfulness to Israel — from the call of Abraham out of Mesopotamia, through the Exodus from Egypt, through the wilderness wanderings, and right up to the conquest of Canaan. The message is clear: everything Israel has received has come from God. Not their own strength, not their own wisdom, but God alone. And so it is precisely because of this faithfulness that Joshua now calls the people to make a choice.

He gives them three options:

1. They can serve the gods of their ancestors from Mesopotamia.
2. They can serve the gods of the Amorites, the native people of the land in which they now live.
3. They can serve the Lord.

Joshua makes it clear that following God must be a willing, conscious decision — not habit, not obligation, not something to be done because our parents did it, but a deliberate and wholehearted commitment.

Then comes one of the most powerful personal declarations in the entire Bible. Joshua does not simply issue a command from a distance. He leads from the front: **"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."** He has made his choice. Now the people must make theirs. And in verse 18, they do — declaring that they too will serve the Lord.

Joshua's ancient challenge echoes powerfully across the centuries, and it echoes nowhere more powerfully than in our own time, especially at Easter. As we remember Jesus's sacrifice on the cross — his death so that we might be saved — we face the very same question Joshua put to Israel: will we choose to serve the Lord?

And if we do, how will that choice take shape in our lives? Perhaps through praying daily — we could use the Office of Daily Prayer or read Scripture each morning. Perhaps through going out into our community — helping at the food bank, or volunteering with those in need. Serving the Lord does not have to be visible or dramatic. We can serve him quietly, in ways that only God sees, and those acts of faithful service are no less valuable in his sight.

But it may simply be that this Easter, we come to the foot of the cross and renew our commitment to God — choosing to follow him daily, and remembering with gratitude that he gave his only Son so that we might live.

So, like the Israelites gathered at Shechem all those centuries ago, we are invited today to make a choice. What will our answer be?

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Our Favourite Hymn Lawrence and Hilary Ingham

We have so many favourites, having been singing hymns for over eighty years, travelling from 'Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam' to the present day as we do our best to learn 'Worship Songs' that are new to us.



'Brother, sister, let me serve you'

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

As we jointly helped train servers in both Blackburn Cathedral and in St Paul's Church this was an ideal verse to encourage them to help and support each other in their serving ministry.

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

This verse has such a wide compass. It covers our 'Companionships' with our own family, our church family, wider friendships and our own faith journey. St Paul tells us to 'Carry each other's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ' (Galatians 6: 2)

**I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

As the moon reflects the light of the sun to overcome the darkness of night, so we can only offer to hold the 'Christlight' to others by reflecting the 'Light of the World' who is our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**I will! weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**

This verse is relevant to all relationships, situations and encounters in our lives. At a recent wonderful family wedding we had tears of joy at the beauty and sanctity of the occasion, along with tears of sorrow for members of the family who are no longer with us. Sharing joys alongside sorrows gives pleasure and comfort to others as well as ourselves.

**When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

Singing together within our church family is where we find such harmony and we thank God for the excitement within our church that is so evident at the moment. The last two lines are so relevant as we journey through Passiontide, Holy Week and the glory of Easter contemplating the amazing love Jesus has for us.

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

The final two lines of this verse remind us that we are inclined to assert our independence by not accepting the help of others. Our pride may well be to our disadvantage and we may rob others of their blessing.

There are many wonderful hymns we shall be singing in the coming weeks so let us join the choir in offering our voices in love and praise to the Lord.

Clergy & Church Officers

Vicar	Rev. Mike Barton	The Vicarage, Church Street	01772 389837	revmik Barton@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	adrian.s.mairs@gmail.com
			07899 905768	
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
	Dorothy Laver	19 The Pastures, Grimsargh	07719 389529	dorothy.laver@gmail.com
Deputy Wardens	Graham Kelsall			graham@oaktreehouse.net
	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	Elizabeth Hemingway			psostlandplongridge@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Michael Dawson	See hours below	01772 783281	secretarystandplongridge@gmail.com
Health & Safety Officer	Vacant			
Electoral Role Officer	Michael Dawson			
Ignite-Children & Youth Leader—Becky Filder				becky.ignitelongridge@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

Chairman	<i>Rev. Mike Barton</i>
Hon. Secretary	<i>Barbara Burton</i>
Hon. Treasurer & Stewardship Recorder	<i>Graham Kelsall</i>
Members:	Clergy and Churchwardens Amii Bateson, Karen Boardman, Helen Clements, Ellen Dawson, Andrew Filder, David Hartley, Mae Heys, Philip Jones, Vernon Kinrade, Terry Lewis, Rosemary Lyons, Barbara McCormick, Annamarie Rogers-Waterman, Val Wardley, Stephanie Willan.

Organisations

Parish Administrator	<i>Michael Dawson</i>
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
	karen.au1990@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	<i>Carolyn Barton</i>	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	
<i>Muriel Anderson</i>	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.	<i>vacant</i>	
Walkie Talks	<i>Hannah Green</i> 20 Darwen Close	01772 783558
Bereavement Group	meets on 1st Monday of the month including Bank Holidays	
	<i>Karen Burdett</i>	07712 440135
	karenburdett@hotmail.com	

Longridge C of E Primary School	www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk
Headteacher	<i>Mrs Catherine Parkin</i>
	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.	<i>Katie Keighley</i>

Sidesmen and Sideswomen

Karen Boardman, Bev Keating, Janet Heap, Peter Turver, Lib Turver, Graham Kelsall, Val Wardley, Dianne Sanderson, Muriel Anderson, Marilyn Kinrade, Barbara Burton, Ian Cookson, Ruth Buckley, Jennifer Sturzaker, Kai Ng, Helen Eccles, Keith Thompson, Judith Singleton.

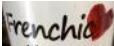
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Memory Café.

One in eleven people aged over 65 in the U.K. have a diagnosis of dementia but there are many more people with memory loss conditions who are not diagnosed. Over 540,000 people care for loved ones with memory loss and living with someone with the condition has a profound effect on the carer and the wider family. As one carer said, "It can be very isolating."

With these facts in mind we are hoping to establish a café style space where anyone over 60 years old with memory loss and their carers can meet, relax and, if desired, take part in activities. The café will be called St Paul's Place and meet every Tuesday afternoon 1.30- 3pm in the Centenary Room. But to do this we need people to help make and serve drinks, chat with attendees and help run activities.

If you feel you would like to be part of this very rewarding venture please speak/ contact

Marian Scarborough Tel: 07775 895942 or Naomi Pinder

Or email ma.scarborough@sky.com

THE WELCOME CAFE

The Welcome cafe has been running for over three years on a Wednesday from 3 30 -5 pm at St Paul's church.

The numbers have been increasing and there is often over 40 attending.

There is always a hot meal choice, jacket potatoes with various fillings , toast , a variety of cakes and biscuits tea coffee and juice.

There is no charge, but donations are welcome

On the craft table the children have been very productive We have sent birthday cards to Amelia who was ill in hospital. We learnt about St Valentine and made cards for Valentine's Day. They have decorated gingerbread people, learnt how to weave making colourful fish and chickens popping out of eggs for Easter.

On the other tables adults and children make use of the games set out and the domino table gets quite noisy.

There is a good atmosphere and regardless of faith you are all welcome

Look forward to seeing you there



Steph, John & Karen

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Centering Prayer, Prayer of the Heart – Naomi Pinder

This year at Whalley Abbey, there is a series about different types of meditative or contemplative prayer. I had the joy of participating in a day about centering prayer, and I would like to share my experience and thoughts.

Centering prayer is a contemplative prayer between self and God, it is silent and spiritual. It was developed by Father Thomas Keating in the 1970s, as a response to people seeking a deeper and more spiritual Christian relationship with God. It is based firmly in Scripture and focusses on deepening and strengthening our relationship with God.



“When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret, and your Father who sees you in secret will reward you,” (Matthew 6,6). For me the inner room is analogous to my heart. It is in our heart that there is the intimate interface of God’s love giving us life in Him, (John 10, 10). God knows our heart, (Luke 16, 15), He indwells within our heart, (John 14, 16-17) and He knows us better than we know ourselves, nothing is hidden. God knows what we need without us asking for it, (Matthew 6, 8).

“It is knowing that God can be held fast by means of love, but by thought never,” (The Cloud of Unknowing). I love these words, God is love and we live in His Vine being obedient to Jesus Command to love one another. As St Paul says, what we see now is but a dim image in a mirror, and all will be made clear when we meet face to face (1 Corinthians 13,12).

Centering prayer is also called Prayer of the Heart; I like this description because its meaning is clear and true.

There are various mystics who have practised the Prayer of the Heart over many centuries and it draws upon the classic text called The Cloud of Unknowing, and upon the teachings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers. I digress slightly, I have only recently heard about the Desert Fathers and was introduced to them through Lectio 365, a daily Bible and prayer app. I have rather tuned into the Desert Fathers and am studying a very good book about their history and sayings. I’d be very pleased to chat further about them, just let me know if you’d like to join me.

Prayer of the Heart is centred upon surrendering to God, completely and resting in the intimacy of His Divine Love. It is modelled upon Jesus coming to serve and not to be served, (Mark 10, 45, John 13). A Greek word is used to describe the servanthood, “kenosis”.

We discussed the practical technique for this type of prayer.

1. Prepare yourself by conscious decision, find a quiet place, sitting comfortably, gently becoming conscious of where your feet are placed and of your physical arrangement and breathing. Close your eyes gently, bringing your attention into the present moment and into the presence of God in your heart.
2. The prayer is gentle, what matters is your intention to seek God, in your heart and in love and surrender.
3. It is recognised that your mind will become distracted during the prayer, and there are Helps suggested for us to use.
 - a) Sacred Word, this may be a one or two syllable word such as God, peace, trust, peace; or Jesus, Yahweh, Father, Abba; or it can be a short phrase such as My Lord. Different words can be used until you choose your own.



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Centering Prayer, Prayer of the Heart continued

- b) As our mind wanders during the prayer come gently back into God. You could imagine standing on the towpath and watching narrowboats passing on a canal, the narrowboats are carrying cargo, you are aware of them but they are simply present and separate from your active attention.
 - c) Or you could imagine clouds moving across the sky carrying whatever may be distracting your attention from resting in God, be aware of them passing simply in the background, in the distance.
4. The only intention is to surrender to God and meet with Him in the time of prayer. There are no words of supplication or thanks, no words are needed in the total reliance and trust in God's love for us.
 5. When the prayer is finished, take a few moments to return to reality. Start with small gentle foot movements, spreading upwards and opening your eyes, all gentle.

I found this prayer to be wonderful. I came to the day pretty exhausted as I sleep little, I found that I relaxed physically during the prayer and the muscular tensions we carry without realising had melted away. The narrowboat image helped me to return to God as my mind wandered and I felt the real presence of God in my heart. Afterwards, I no longer felt exhausted but refreshed.

Perhaps it's connected to undoing the layers of earthly things we carry - from what to have for tea to the world situation. God indwells within our heart but if it's full of the cares and worries of this earthly life (Matthew 13, 22), His still quiet voice cannot be heard, (1 Kings 19,12), God is gentle and humble, His yoke is easy and His burden is light, (Matthew 11,30).

I found this really beneficial and will be practising it as part of my daily rhythm. I'd love to expand further and let me know if you would like to chat about it, perhaps set up a group, just let me know.

Whalley Abbey, <https://www.whalleyabbey.org/events>

Lent Booklets.....Daily Bible reading notes..

Dear readers and congregation members - from using the Lenten book personally with Dorothy and from comments received it has obviously been much appreciated and a real blessing during Lent.

Each quarter I receive 15 copies of small print and 15 large print DAILY BREAD BIBLE READING NOTES. (each lasting for three months). They are usually available as you enter St. Paul's Church or on the Centenary Room book table.

There are also some undated monthly ones to try out. Following on from Lent studies please feel free to pick up a copy at no cost. If none are available do please see me and I will order some more.



Blessings **Revd. Adrian Mairs.**



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Mothers' Union



Mothers' Union is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. As a branch we are having a special tea at our May meeting; the deanery are having a trip on the canal from Barton Grange and there is to be a service at Blackburn Cathedral later in the year as well as other events nationally and globally. Mary Sumner, our founder, felt overwhelmed at the responsibility of motherhood after her first child was born. She wasn't worried about providing material things but how to cope with the moral and spiritual development of children.

The aims and objectives of MU are set out in the royal charter granted by Elizabeth II -

1. to uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
2. to encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
3. to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
5. to help those whose family life has met with adversity.

These sound a little dated now, but the meaning is the same as Mary Sumner's initial thoughts, to promote family life and care for children. If you look at the Mothers' Union website (www.mothersunion.org), on the home page it says "our three pillars of impact are, ending injustice, ending violence and ending poverty" challenges that are deeply interconnected. Using "asset-based community development" the approach being taken encourages local potential rather than imposing external solutions, this encourages self-sufficiency and ensures that the action taken is driven and sustained by the local people and hopefully bringing about change that lasts well into the future.

In Longridge we joined with the rest of Preston Deanery to provide some Christmas cheer for the women's refuge in Preston, and I have a similar idea for somewhere nearer to home, but my plans aren't fully developed yet. Watch this space!

Dates

7 th April	John Spencer with an update on the project he has worked on in Sierra Leone	
5 th May	Anniversary tea 6.30pm start	
6 th May	Preston Deanery canal trip from Barton Grange	JAK

Tuesday Club

'30 Years on the Beat'

On the 10th March, Jose Gouldson gave an interesting talk '30 years on the beat' on her career in the police force. She joined the Merseyside Police in 1977 at the age of 18 when there were very few police women and they were treated differently to nowadays as there was discrimination in the police force at that time. They were used mostly to assist the men in looking after women and children. There were quite a few female characters that she told us about, and things did improve for women in the police force with Jose rising to the rank of Sargent. After retirement she returned to help with police recruitment for 5 years. Because her duties were in Liverpool and the surrounding area, she was involved in many notable occurrences, which included the Toxteth Riots (1981) and the visit of Pope John Paul in 1982. She also had some more unusual and amusing stories about her day-to-day life, although this usually amounted to a very small percentage of her varied career, but could be quite shocking at times.

Next month on the 14th April is our 'Party Night' when we will start with a buffet meal at 6.30pm followed by entertainment from folk duo Bernadette & Graham Dixon's 'Trouble at Mill' – it's an evening when we invite members and friends – everyone is welcome but you do need a ticket - £12 available from Dot Little.



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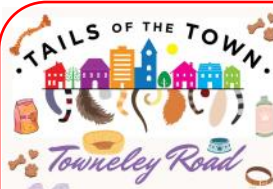
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FLOWER TEAM—Donna Rowe Green



As I write this we are approaching Passion Sunday, Lent is well underway and Easter is in our sights. It is a time of very mixed emotions, both reflective and celebratory. This is echoed in our floral displays here in church, after weeks of no flowers, we will soon have a grand display of striking flowers throughout the church. White Easter lilies representing Christ's resurrection and purity, white tulips for forgiveness and daffodils celebrating spring and rebirth.

One time that we do not mark with flowers is Passiontide, that time when we start to prepare for the suffering of Jesus. One flower, suitably named the Passion flower, helps us to focus on this beautifully. It is full of metaphorical meaning –

The 10 petals and sepals together represent the 10 faithful disciples, not including Peter or Judas.

The 5 stamens represent the five wounds Jesus suffered – his hands, his feet and his side.

The 3 stigmas are for the three nails that held him to the cross, where he died a painful death for us.

These are surrounded by something called a corona – the fringe of filaments, which symbolise the crown of thorns thrust upon his head.

I recently had the honour of returning to the garden where I started my career in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture. Thrive, the charity who run this project had invited me to be part of the teaching team on their Diploma course. Gardening and its value for our wellbeing, and our environment, is my passion and I was thrilled to be back and to be given the opportunity to share this enthusiasm with a group of students eager to learn. What thrilled me even further was to see the passion flower that had been well established when I was working there some 25 years ago, was still flourishing. It reminded me of a bible verse that is very special in my family, Hebrews 13.8. "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and for ever."



So as we make our way through all stages of Easter, take some comfort from that passion flower, all it represents and its steadfast presence. And maybe find joy in taking some time to do the things you are passionate about.

Just a reminder that if anyone would like to join our team, please do get in touch. You truly do not need any experience – simply the enthusiasm to have a go. If you do not fancy arranging the flowers but would like to sponsor an arrangement in celebration of a loved one or an event – this would be equally valuable. Thank you.

St. Lawrence Flower Rota.

- April 5th **Easter Day** -
Altar pedestal arrangement in memory of Lilian Hodgson
and pedestal arrangement in memory of Muriel Barker
- 12th Easter flowers
- 19th Vacant
- 26th In memory of Stephen & Annie Kenyon

St. Paul's Flowers

- April 5th **Easter Day**
- 12th Easter flowers
- 19th In memory of Daphne Nelson
- 26th Vacant



Ignite Children and Youth Update — Becky Filder

It continues to be a really encouraging and exciting time in my role as Ignite Children and Youth Leader, with lots of opportunities to connect with children, young people, and families both in church and in the wider community.

Over the past few weeks, I've begun running lunch clubs at Longridge C of E School twice a week. These have been a great way to spend time with children from across the school in a relaxed and fun setting. We've been enjoying games, crafts, and plenty of creativity with Lego and magnetic bricks. It's been wonderful to see friendships growing and to create a space where children can come, have fun, and feel welcome.

At Welcome Café, it has been lovely to see families continuing to gather each week. More recently, I've introduced a short "Lego Bible Time" towards the end of the session. The children have been coming together to listen to a Bible story and then responding by building something with Lego to represent what they've heard. It's been fantastic to see their imagination and understanding come to life in such creative ways.

There is also a real sense of anticipation as we look ahead to our first Messy Church. As I write this, we are just two weeks away, and I'm really excited to see who will come along—both those who are already part of our church family and those who may be joining us for the first time. Please do come if you can! And if you're not able to make it, we would really value your prayers for this new venture as we step out and try something new.

Alongside all of this, I continue to spend time building relationships, supporting existing groups, and planning for what's to come. I'm also so grateful for the ongoing support, ideas, and encouragement I receive through the Ignite training programme and from other youth leaders.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers—it really does make a difference. And as always, if you would like to be part of the Children and Youth Team, whether helping regularly or occasionally, please do come and chat. It would be great to have you involved as we continue this exciting journey together.



Children's Church Update – Exploring the Life of Jesus

In Children's Church, we have continued our series exploring the life of Jesus, focusing on the period between his early ministry and the events of his final week in Jerusalem. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged with the stories and keen to learn more about Jesus and what he did on Earth.



We've explored stories such as the healing of the paralysed man, the feeding of the 5,000, and Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus. The children have responded thoughtfully and creatively, choosing from a range of activities that help them understand and reflect on each story. Crafts, games, and discussion all provide opportunities for the children to connect with the Bible in ways that are meaningful to them.



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Children's Church Update by Becky Filder continued

Some weeks, we've been able to split into two groups, allowing the older children to dive a little deeper into the life of Jesus and ask questions that help them explore the stories in more detail. It's been exciting to see their curiosity and faith growing.

After the busy Easter period, we'll be moving on to explore the teachings of Jesus through his parables. We look forward to discovering together what lessons these stories hold for us today and how they help us live out our faith in practical ways.

It's always a joy to be part of this journey with the children, and if you feel called to join our team and help share these stories, we would love to hear from you



Youth Band Concert Success

It was a delight to once again welcome Longridge Youth Band to St. Lawrence's for their annual concert on the 8th March and good that an appreciative audience, including the Mayors of Longridge and the Ribble Valley came along to encourage them. It is testament to Longridge Band that there were so many senior band members there, some playing alongside the young players in the various sections, others in the audience enjoying the concert. Jonathan Ford, a senior band member himself, is to be congratulated for the Youth Bands growing achievements.

Our thanks to St. Cecilia's for allowing us the use of their carpark that afternoon.

We are now looking forward to Sunday afternoon 7th June when Longridge Band will give a concert in St. Paul's at 2.00pm but much more about that in the May Log.



SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin

History is brought to life in Years 3 and 4

History is a very popular subject with many of our children so it was a real treat when Heritage Learning from Lancashire County Council visited both Mrs Dewhurst's and Miss White's classes. Class 3 got to look at some prehistoric artefacts and had lots of fun guessing what they were used for and what they were made from. They were particularly interested to find out that prehistoric people were often buried with their favourite possessions!



Class 4 are studying Anglo-Saxons, learning about their way of life – the houses they lived in and the games they played.



Girls' Cricket

I think it was the very first day we had a glimpse of the sun that our cricket season started. As Longridge Cricket Club are currently trying to recruit more girls to play the sport, we started with some sessions after school for KS2 girls. There was a great turn out and everyone got some fantastic tuition and skills practice before trying a game.



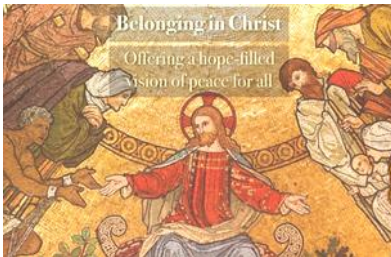


Our Reception Children and Parents Together

It was wonderful to see our Reception children working alongside their parents again recently. Mrs Carr held the latest of her 'Come and Learn' sessions where the children welcome a parent into the Reception classroom. As usual, there was lots going on. Thank you to Class 5 who also supported their buddies on this afternoon.



Our Lenten Worship Continues



This Lent we started our search for peace in Jesus Christ by thinking about how we can build bridges to others, instead of putting up barriers. Week by week our journey has continued and we went on to consider the importance of belonging. The story of Zacchaeus taught us that, not only did the corrupt tax collector turn his life around and make amends, Jesus brought him back to being accepted and belonging in the community.



Following this we thought about the wide diversity of people and how we can ensure that all are welcome in our school and our local community. Finally, we considered the importance of listening to God. In a noisy world, where we are used to moving and talking most of the time, we usually say our prayers aloud too. For a change we tried sitting quietly in God's presence and listening for Him.



Following this we thought about the wide diversity of people and how we can ensure that all are welcome in our school and our local community. Finally, we considered the importance of listening to God. In a noisy world, where we are used to moving and talking most of the time, we usually say our prayers aloud too. For a change we tried sitting quietly in God's presence and listening for Him.

A GOOD DECISION – DOUG WALL

One of the best decisions I made in my senior years was to take the opportunity to sing with the choir last August. After the first Sunday Service I experienced, I knew that I was in a special place and from that moment on I wanted to become a full member of the choir.

I was very lucky to have been born and brought up in a musical family and my early years were a foundation for my love of singing and playing music. My mother was a music teacher and many a Winters' evening on a weekend was spent around the piano with my brothers all singing and/or playing instruments. I now appreciate the basic knowledge of reading music gained and how it has made it all the more enjoyable to feel that I am contributing in some small way to the overall choir performances.

I have always enjoyed listening to organ music and now here I am singing right next to the wonderful instrument. On becoming a member of the choir I was in my element singing with such a group of kind and wonderful choristers who helped me to settle in and still do readily help me when I forget which sheet of music or book I need.

I feel that now I am contributing to the church services by being a part of possibly helping the congregation to sing up and join in thus enjoying the worship even more.

I used to sit in a pew at the back of the church half hidden by a massive supporting pillar and just singing for myself. Now I feel that I am much more part of the church and I experience the comfort and joy I witnessed every Sunday when my late wife came home following her participating in the choir. How I wish I had joined years ago.

To Karen, our Organist and Choir Director and to all members of the choir together with all the church officials and 'backroom helpers' who make the provision of the choir possible – Thankyou

FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (FF&F Group)



Breakfast

Saturday morning 28th February was a particularly busy one and our thanks must go to Tino and Karen who were in charge of the cooking and did such a wonderful job within the confines of the small Centenary Room kitchen.

Social Committee members always enjoy these occasions as there is such a lovely family atmosphere. For many of us a cooked breakfast is a treat and we know from comments received just how appreciative people were for the opportunity to share in food and fellowship. Well done to all who helped in any way.



Good Friday Walk.

We have another opportunity to share in food following the Good Friday Walk on the 3rd April. The walk starts from St. Paul's and will be led by Sheila Roberts – no need to give advance notice that you are joining the walk just be at St. Paul's for a 1.45pm start. For those who wish there will then be the opportunity to enjoy a meal of jacket potatoes and various fillings, plus a dessert and tea and coffee in the Centenary Room. Cost of Refreshments – Adults £6 – Children £3 payable on the day. Please sign the list at the back of both Churches if you intend having the meal.

Organ Recital – Sunday afternoon 19th April at 2.30pm

You will read on Page 21 that our Organist Karen Au is playing a programme of organ popular classics on the magnificent Father Willis Organ in St. Paul's on the 19th April at 2.30pm and following that recital we will be serving scones and drinks in the Centenary Room.



Spring Fair.

This will be in St. Paul's Church on Saturday 9th May from 11am – 2pm and will have a Circus theme which should be colourful and fun. We know Rie Waterman has lots of ideas so the children will be in for a treat with crafts and sideshows and there's bound to be ice cream and popcorn – maybe even a clown or two!

The catering, however will be more traditional with the usual Spring Fair hotpot, sandwiches, desserts and BBQ. We are just about to place the order for bedding plants which will come direct from the nursery at Whitestake and raffle tickets will soon be available.

The Social Committee are meeting in St. Paul's Church on Tuesday 7th April at 7.00pm to get the planning really underway so if you feel you would like to help at the Spring Fair this year why not come along to that meeting – you would be most welcome.

Full details about this important event will be in the May Log.

Brass on Sunday

We are delighted that Longridge Band have agreed to give a concert on Sunday 7th June at 2.00pm in St. Paul's Church. Full details in the May Log.



BREWTIME

Wednesday's from 8.50am-11am
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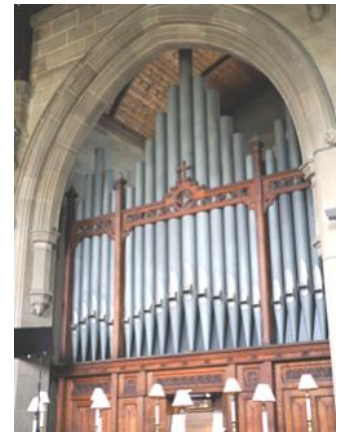
FROM ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR – Karen Au

I'm sure at least some of you watched the bit about "Pipe up for Pipe-Organs" on breakfast news the other day. "Pipe up for Pipe-Organs" is a charity that rescues Pipe-Organs from churches which no longer want their organs and tries to rehome them (many of them are going abroad or to secular venues). The charity claims that one in five organs are being taken out of churches and going to landfill every week, and four organs every week are becoming unplayable from lack of maintenance.



The truth is, there aren't that many of us who can play or maintain the instrument anymore and sometimes it feels like there aren't many people who care either. Just last week I played a concert up in the lakes on a terrible digital organ. I played in the same church last year and folk seemed very appreciative, so I thought, despite the awful instrument, I'd go back. This time the organ completely malfunctioned to the point where it was unplayable and despite alerting the organ builder the week before of the problems, he didn't turn up until 3 hours before the concert to try to fix the issues. In the end, I had to have the organist of the church sit near the organ during the concert, to physically unstick the keys that were staying down whilst I was playing.

Despite people clearly enjoying hearing the organ (evident from the packed church and the overflowing donation plate), absolutely no effort was being made to maintain it to a playable state. It made me realise how fortunate we are here at Longridge that at least enough people still care about the organ that it is well maintained with two tuning sessions a year by a reputable firm. However, a tuning session costs just over £500, which we managed to raise from the Hymnathon in October, so I am aiming to raise another £500 for the pre-Easter tuning session which we just had. On 19th April at 2.30pm, I will be giving a recital, and the programme will be made up of people's requests. Here is how it will work: there is a list of pieces (organ and popular classics) at the back of St. Paul's (right of centenary room door). You can submit a request simply by writing the number of the piece on the note paper provided and put it down the organ pipe (next to the list) along with a suitable donation. On 5th April (Easter Day!), I will draw the pieces of paper out of a hat to decide on the programme. Therefore, the more times you submit a piece/donate, the more likely it will be played! You can also submit a piece by emailing me, and donate on the day.



If you intend coming to the recital on 19th April, please also consider coming for the *Organ Experience* at 1pm, during which you can have a go at our very fine Father Willis Organ, and have a look at the mechanics inside and ask me any questions you may have about the instrument. Email me on kauorganist@gmail.com to register your interest.

Following the recital scones and drinks will be served in the Centenary Room.



BRIGADE NEWS



Martins and Y-Team

Our Martins and Y-Teams evenings have continued to follow different bible stories; this month we have been learning about the 10 commandments and testing our knowledge and memory of them;

- 1) Love God the most- God should always come first in your heart
- 2) Don't make anything more important than God- no toys or games or anything should be more important
- 3) Always speak about God with respect- don't use Gods name in a rude or silly way
- 4) Take one day to rest and remember God- go to church, pray and spend time with family
- 5) Listen to your parents and respect them- be kind and listen to your mum and dad
- 6) Don't hurt anyone- be gentle, kind and caring
- 7) Be faithful and kind in friendships and family- love people and don't treat them badly
- 8) Don't take things that aren't yours- always ask first and be honest
- 9) Always tell the truth- don't lie or say things that aren't true
- 10) Be thankful and don't be jealous- be happy with what you have.

We have also been following the story of Joseph (son of Jacob) and his technicoloured dream coat. The story teaches us important lessons about kindness, forgiveness and trusting God. Joseph's father loved him very much and gave him a beautiful coat. This made his brothers feel jealous, and they treated him very badly and sent him far away. Even though Joseph went through many difficult times, he stayed kind, worked hard and trusted God.

Later Joseph became very important and was able to help many people, including his own family. Instead of being angry, he forgave his brothers and showed them kindness. This teaches us that being jealous can hurt others, but kindness and forgiveness can make things better. It also taught us that even when something bad happens, it doesn't mean life will stay bad forever.

We brought the story to life by playing fun games with the Parachute and during craft. Our Martins and Yteam have also been practicing their drill each week and have started to introduce some new steps- they are now able to turn in different directions. We've also celebrated Mother's Day and recognised the amazing women in our lives- we made cards and key rings for gifts.

JTC and Seniors

Our JTC and Seniors have enjoyed getting busy in the kitchen this month with making Pizzas in Church followed by a Scavenger Hunt. We've also been decorating biscuits and playing many team games such as Bench Ball. Our JTC have been taking part in Journalling with Clare and enjoying personalising their own books and adding new pages each week.

We've also celebrated a very important birthday this month at Brigade- our wonderful Mr Hartley turned 80!! We've celebrated him in true Mr H style- at this month's National Band weekend the evening entertainment was games themed all around Mr H. We had chaotic speed toasting- making sure to butter all the corners or suffer being disqualified and then creating an invention- something Mr H is very good at! We hope Mr H had a wonderful 80th Birthday, we're very grateful for all he does to support us at Brigade and the wider organisation and wish him many more years of happiness.



Dates for your Diary:

25th April Afternoon Tea Fundraiser

This event is nearly sold out- we've had huge demand and feel very lucky for how popular this event has become. Please speak to a Brigade Leader to secure your ticket. We do however still require Raffle Prizes and donations of Prosecco which we'd be very grateful for.

3rd May National Band Concert at Longridge Civic Hall

This year our National Band Annual Concert will be held in Longridge at the Civic Hall- each year the concert moves around the country and in recognition of the large company and number of members who attend Band from Longridge this year it is to be held within our town.

From Longridge we have the following Brigade Members taking part; Laura Salisbury, Rosie Williams and Rhiannon Green- Glockenspiel, Amii Bateson, Ben Smith and Jake Oates- Drums, Lauren Garth- Brass. The Band will be staying locally at Hothersall Lodge for the weekend.

We really want to show our wider organisation how well supported the Brigade is by our Church family and wider Community- and therefore hope to see as many faces as possible, let's see if we can fill the Civic!

Please speak to Brigade Leaders for ticket information or you can purchase online via the QR code.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU – Janet Wilson

News from a newcomer to St. Lawrence with St. Paul.

In January 2024, I moved to Longridge after living in Manchester and Derbyshire all my life. Its very interesting to explore an area which I knew very little about before, apart from going to Blackpool for the illuminations! In Summer last year I started going to Brewtime and I was encouraged to go to Services on a Sunday which I did. It was the first time going to church regularly since I was a teenager as I stopped when I got married. I used to go to Sunday School and Church every week when I was young. My uncle was a Lay Preacher at Methodist and Congregational Churches in Derby and I often went to listen to him, so I was brought up with Christian values and beliefs.



I have met lots of new people at the church and made some friends and there are plenty of interesting activities going on all the time. I go to Friday Friends and the Bible Study and have also joined GraceNotes as I enjoy singing but am not that good at it! In fact there are enough activities at church to keep you busy nearly every day! Before I came to Longridge, I lived in Buxton where my Sundays consisted of going on walks in the countryside and having lunch sitting on a rock with a sandwich and flask of tea. I must have gone up in the world as I am now going to the Morning Service and then for a proper lunch in a local pub or hotel!

I have two sons and a daughter. One son lives in Aberdeen and works in the gas and oil industry and the other lives in Oxford and works at the University. My daughter is an accountant and lives in Sydney, Australia. I went to stay with my daughter and grandson over Christmas and New Year.

Two days before Christmas we went to a brilliant Light and Sound Show at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. The light show was called 'Little Drummer Boy' and the drummer boy with the Nativity was displayed all over the front of the Cathedral in moving pictures, along with the music and singing of the song. It was a very impressive display. The story of the little drummer boy is not in the Bible but it is often used to show that everyone can share in the celebration of Christmas regardless of their wealth or material possessions and it focuses on the spiritual meaning of Christmas rather than commercial. In the song written by Katherine K Davis in 1941 the little boy who had no gold or luxury items to offer gave his love to baby Jesus by playing his drum, in fact offering his own talents. In the words of the song 'I played my best for him' and 'then he smiled at me'. It seems to suggest that bringing one's own presence and heart is more important to God than bringing expensive gifts. There was an open evening in the Cathedral afterwards and it was very beautiful inside as well as outside.

So to finish off. I am looking forward to attending some of the Easter Services as I have not been to church at this time of year for a long time.



Churches Together in Longridge and District

World Day of Prayer 2026

This year, the service was held at Christ Church on Friday 6th March. The service was planned by a group of women who represent the church in Nigeria, and was written in response to the theme 'I will give you rest, come' (Matthew 11 28-30). The service shared the stories of four Nigerian women who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair. As we trust in God, our Burden Bearer, we become one body in Christ, receiving rest and bringing rest to the world.

The service was followed by an excellent lunch.

Thank you to Reverend Jesse and Janet Heap, for representing our church in the service, to the staff and children of Berry Lane school, who provided musical leadership, and to all who attended and helped to make the service such a meaningful part of our ecumenical witness in Longridge.

Lent Lunches.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this year's Lent Lunches held in St. Paul's Centenary Room, St. Wilfrid's Parish Room and Christ Church Hall. It's been really encouraging to see all the tables full and so many people enjoying the soup and sandwich lunch. The final lunch was in the Centenary Room on the 25th March and we can now report that the total amount raised from the five lunches was £1,622.02 which will be split between CAFOD and Christian Aid. Our thanks to the various teams who have provided and served the lunches and for all who have donated towards these worthy causes.

Good Friday

On Good Friday, 3rd April, we are once again invited to meet at the War Memorial at 11.55am for the 12 noon Service. The large wooden cross will be erected with the symbolism of the nails being hammered in – a stark reminder of that first Good Friday. Do join us for this short yet meaningful act of worship.

Log distribution

We are looking for someone to take copies of the magazine to the people who deliver to houses. The area covered is Poplar Drive, Mersey St, Green Lane, Tootle Road and Hollin Hall Drive. There are 2 drops in Green Lane and just one in the other roads. If you feel you could help with this, please let either myself or Dot Little know. Thank you to Shaun Walmsley for covering these deliveries for the last 12 months or so.

Judith Kaye (07769663156)

DONATIONS

In memory of Ian Parkinson for Church funds

£100

FUNERALS

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

Elsie Simpson



Travels with Dorothy Laver

ANZAC Day: 25 April

This time last year I was getting ready to go to my son Alex's wedding to Jess at Stockport Register Office. The next day (Palm Sunday) I flew out from Manchester to Tokyo. After two days exploring Tokyo I met up with old school friends in Yokohama for a cruise around Southern Japan. A lot of the other passengers on the ship were from Australia and New Zealand and on Friday 25 April (a sea day) the Ship's Captain led an ANZAC Day commemoration service which I went along to.

ANZAC Day is celebrated every year on 25 April in Australia and New Zealand with national holidays. It commemorates the landings in April 1915 of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) soldiers on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey. The Gallipoli campaign was the first major military action fought by both countries as a united, independent command. The campaign itself was a failure with 12,000 Anzac deaths and over 24,000 wounded but the bravery shown by the Anzac soldiers is seen as the birth of a distinct national identity for both countries. Originally established to honour the troops at Gallipoli, ANZAC Day has broadened over the years to commemorate all service members who have given their lives in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations since 1915.

I had been interested in the Gallipoli campaign since school and why Anzacs had sacrificed their lives at the behest of Britain,

In the First World War the Ottoman Empire was fighting with Germany and the Central Powers against Britain and its allies. Winston Churchill was the First Lord of the Admiralty and initiated a plan to break the deadlock on the Western Front in Europe by capturing the Dardanelles Straits and Constantinople (now Istanbul) thereby eliminating the Ottomans from the war and opening a supply route to Russia who were fighting with the Allies. ..

With the failure of a naval attack through the narrow Dardanelles, in April 1915 British troops were landed at the southern tip of the Gallipoli peninsula at Cape Helles. They came under heavy fire from the Ottoman troops on the high ground and could not breakout from the beach. The Anzacs landed on the western coast of the peninsula in an area now known as Anzac Cove but were also met with fierce opposition from the Ottoman positions above. The Anzacs too were unable to breakout from the beaches.

Both the British and Anzac troops suffered mounting losses from the suffocating heat and lack of water and thousands died from dysentery as disease spread. In January 1916 the allied troops had to withdraw from Gallipoli. In contrast to the original landings, the withdrawal was a success with little loss of life. Churchill, however, had to resign from government as a result of the disastrous military campaign.

While on honeymoon in Turkey in October 1984 we drove down the Gallipoli peninsular to the Cape Helles memorial. It was very remote, peaceful and quiet. We also visited the memorial to the Turkish troops who had been killed. Unfortunately we did not have time to visit. Anzac Cove. Last November while on a tour of Turkey I stayed in the town of Gelibolu on the Dardanelles but unfortunately the peninsula itself was not included on the tour.

On Anzac day each year remembrance services take place in Australia and New Zealand and on the Gallipoli peninsula at dawn- the time of the 1915 landings.

"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 April —Wednesday Evening

7.30pm St Wifrid's Church, Ribchester

**Eucharist with Passiontide hymns
Bishop Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury) will preach.**

2nd April — Maundy Thursday Evening Service



7.30pm St Paul's Church

followed by 'The Watch'.
Compline then follows.

1 Corinthians 11 :23-26
John 13 :1-17, 31b-35

3rd April —Good Friday All Together Service



10:00am St Paul's and Live Stream

Hebrews 10 :16-25

Part of John 18-19

5th April - Easter Day—Sunday

10:00am St Paul's Church

6:30pm St Lawrence's Church

8:00am BCP—St. Lawrence

All Together Service

Easter Songs of Praise

Colossians 3 : 1-4

With Holy Communion,

Matthew 28 : 1– 10

Matthew 28 : 1– 10

Baptisms.

Revelation 1 : 12– 18

HE IS RISEN !

HE IS RISEN INDEED !

12th April—Easter 2

10:00 am St. Paul's-All Age Worship

6.30pm St Lawrence's Holy Communion

Acts 2 : 14, 22-24

John 20 : 19-31

Acts 2 : 14, 22-24

John 20 : 19-31

19th April — Easter 3

10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Zephaniah 3 :14-20

Luke 24 : 13-35

Psalm 48

Zephaniah 3 :14-20

Luke 24 : 13-35

26th April — Easter 4 (Sharing the Gospel 1 About God)

10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church

6.30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Acts 2 : 42-47

John 1 : 1-5, 9-14

Psalm 29 v 1-10

Acts 2 : 42-47

John 1 : 1-5, 9-14

3rd May - Easter 5 (Sharing the Gospel 2 About Us)

10am St Paul's Holy communion with Children's Church

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Acts 7 : 55-60

Mark 7: 20-23

Psalm 147 v 1-12

Acts 7 : 55-60

Mark 7: 20-23

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.

The Last Word

From the Vicar Rev. Mike Barton



When the disciples saw the resurrected Jesus the bible records ‘they worshipped, but some doubted’ (Matthew 28:17).

This leads me to ask the question, what held the doubting disciples back from worshipping Jesus unreservedly. Were they afraid to commit to believing what they saw with their eyes? Were they worried that by worshipping Jesus, the one they’d previously abandoned they were committing a blasphemy? Or were they just frozen in confusion because suddenly everything had changed and it would take time for them to re-adjust?

Whatever the reason, when the disciples met the resurrected Jesus, some of them were able to bow down in heartfelt worship, while others

held something back.

Many of you will remember the bible story of King David dancing before the Lord with all his might to celebrate the Arc of the Covenant’s arrival in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:14). He worshipped the Lord with freedom and complete abandon, even while some others scoffed.

So this Eastertide, in the light of Jesus resurrection, the forgiveness of sins, and the promise of eternal life, I find myself wanting to create the space to truly worship, to celebrate my Christian faith in a way that delights God.

In the New Testament the word we translate as worship comes from the Greek word ‘proskuneō’, which means to approach with a kiss as an act of devotion. It’s physical and relational and it’s also a sign of deep respect and loyalty such as you might give to an important dignitary. Christian worship therefore involves wholehearted surrender and giving of oneself to the one who gave his life for you - and for this reason it’s powerful.

So to me it seems millions of people are missing out, whether through doubt, unbelief, or never hearing about what Jesus has done.

Yes, sports crowds rejoice to celebrate their teams win with loud chants and arms held high, there’s the praise given to the film and social media stars whose influence spreads far and wide, there’s our adoration of things that lead to a glamorous lifestyle. But ultimately these things seem so earthly, so human, so temporary and there’s no real wonder – no looking up at creation and exclaiming wow and thank you.

So Easter offers each of us an invitation to worship anew, not to need all the answers, but to hold nothing back; to move beyond hesitation but to step forward in trust, even amid uncertainty. Perhaps true worship is not the absence of doubt, but the willingness to bring our whole selves—questions, fears, and faith alike—before Jesus as an act of proskuneō, and in that moment discover a deeper joy, freedom, and life that transforms us from within in order to serve.

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