

The Log

Isaiah 55:12

*You will go out in joy and be led
forth in peace;
the mountains and hills will burst
into song before you
and all the trees of the field will clap
their hands.*

St. Lawrence with St. Paul Longridge - July/August 2026

The Parish Magazine
www.stlawrencewithstpaul.org.uk

Following Jesus
on Mission

£1.00

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The Log

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Please contact Naomi Pinder
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The Log Team

EDITORIAL

Dot Little | dotlittle003@gmail.com | 01772 783998
Gillian Whalley | gillian.whalley@icloud.com | 01772 783262

ADVERTISING

Naomi Pinder | naomi.pinder63@gmail.com

DISTRIBUTION

Judith Kaye | judithkaye@sky.com | 01772 785114

PRODUCTION

Michael Dawson | michaeld068@gmail.com | 01772 652370
Lawrence Ingham | lawrenceingham@yahoo.com | 07503 210 206



Vicar's Notes

In the Apostle Paul's first letter to the church he founded in Corinth he writes, '*I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.*'

Paul didn't adapt his gospel, but he did adapt his manner depending on the situation before him. Sometimes we can do the same with our church buildings. For instance, in June the Welcome Café which was originally set up to be a warm space for people to gather in winter became a lovely cool space for people to find rest from the rising heat. In our worship, the addition of Messy Church which starts up again in September means we can now offer a range of different worship experiences for people of different ages, backgrounds and circumstances to discover who Jesus is in ways that work best for their stage of life. And then at the Longridge Band concert we found ourselves singing along to hymns accompanied by a range of different instruments all working together to make a beautiful sound.

To live well we have to adapt, that doesn't mean every adaption is good or necessary, for instance the decision by FIFA to have an additional water break in each half of every football world cup game is clearly a complete nonsense because it's put advertising revenue ahead of the flow of the beautiful game! But overall, and especially when it comes to sharing the love of Jesus, let us remain true to Jesus' original message of salvation but adaptable in the range of ways God calls us to share it.

Dot Little and Helen Clements Licensed as Churchwardens

I'm delighted to report that on Monday 15th June, Dot Little and Helen Clements were licensed at St Cuthbert's Church in Fulwood to be our Churchwardens until June 2027. They are ably supported by Dorothy Laver and Mae Heys as deputy Churchwardens. Please pray for all those who take on local positions of leadership in our church because it is a very different experience when you're focussed on trying to help everything run smoothly (services, buildings, people), rather than being fully able to engage with the worship yourself.

'Almighty God, you have called Dot Little and Helen Clements to be our churchwardens for St Lawrence with S Paul. May they be filled with your Holy Spirit, guided by your wisdom, and strengthened by your grace to fulfil their duties with diligence and love. May they be a blessing to our parish and a beacon of your love in our community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

Parish Garden Party – 2-4pm, Sunday 5th July

We're looking forward to our wonderful annual parish garden party which is taking place once again at The Old Vicarage, Lower Lane. There will be Tea & Cakes, Ice Cream, Pimms etc., plus a Bouncy Castle and lots of fun and games for the children (and adults) to enjoy. Do come along and bring a friend too.

Vicar's Notes continued**Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Show - Saturday 11th July**

Aunt Daisy's Tent will be open again for some scrumptious cake and drinks. Then in the tent next door the Churches Together team will be hosting a range of children's church activities for families to enjoy. We also have the facilities for parents who need baby changing and baby feeding areas. None of the above will be possible though without the help of volunteers so please do let Becky Filder (becky.ignitelongridge@gmail.com) know if you can help support the children's activities and Dot Little if you're happy to sell coffee, tea and yummy cake.

**St Lawrence Voices – Sundays in the School Summer holidays,
19th July – 30th August, 4.30-5.15pm**

If you're a child aged 8-12 who loves to sing, then you're invited to St Lawrence Church to learn to sing even better and play some musical games. Please contact kauorganist@gmail.com to sign up or if you have any questions.

Exciting Parish Mission Weekend Plans – 11th to 13th September

As part of the 100-year anniversary celebrations of the Blackburn Diocese we're joining in with the bishops' invitation to every church across the diocese to hold a weekend of mission where we'll be able share the joy of following Jesus in our own loving community. We've been gently gearing up for this since January when we launched our vision emphasis for the year, '*Following Jesus on Mission*' and now September is fast approaching. The overall theme for the weekend comes under the banner of '*Come and See*' which is based on John 1:46 when Nathaniel doubts the credibility of Jesus or that anything good coming from Nazareth. In response Philip says, 'Come and see' and the rest is history!

My prayer is that you'll want to get fully involved in sharing that 'come and see' invitation with your local friends and family to one or more of the brilliant events we've got planned so far:

Friday 11th September – Come and Quiz: 7-10pm at Longridge Civic Hall, a family friendly interactive quiz suitable for all ages with hotpot and dessert too.

Saturday 12th September – Come, Chat and Eat: 9-11am in St Paul's Centenary Room, a women's breakfast to enjoy and inspire.

Saturday 12th September – Come and Laugh: 7-10.30pm at Longridge Cricket Club. A night of comedy with comedian Andy Kind (<https://www.andykind.co.uk/>). Suitable for ages of 14+.

Sunday 13th September – Come and discover: 10am at St Paul's Church. A relaxed morning service of worship with a talk by Andy Kind.

Sunday 13th September – Come and See, Messy Mission: 4-5.30pm at St Paul's Church. Our fabulous Messy Church starts up again, interactive crafts for children and families to enjoy together followed by an entertaining short talk and food for the kids.

Sunday 13th September – Come and Sing: 6.30-7.30pm at St Lawrence Church. A songs of praise style evening singing some of our favourite hymns.

Please note that while all events will be free, for catering and capacity planning, some of the events will be ticketed and more details will come out shortly. Plus, we're going to need a team of people to be involved with praying, advertising and helping in front and behind the scenes. Please do speak to me, Rev. Jesse or Becky Filder if you're up for helping make these wonderful events extra special.

Vicar's Notes continued

Alpha Course 2026 – beginning Thursday 17th September, 7.30-9.15pm

Hot on the heels of our Parish Mission Weekend this extremely popular 8 session course will run on Thursday evenings in the Autumn. It's for everyone and provides the perfect opportunity to test the claims and ask questions about the Christian faith. A simple meal is provided and it's a brilliant opportunity to meet some new people as well – what's not to like! See Revs Mike or Jesse for more details and to register interest.

School Uniform Fund.

Recently there has been a much a better awareness of the importance of recycling good quality second hand items of school uniform so that other children can benefit from reusing it. However, I'm also conscious that sometimes such necessary items aren't always available in the sizes that are required and families can struggle to afford the higher value badged items like blazers and sweatshirts. For this reason we have a voucher scheme set up with local supplier Mary Francis which is both simple and confidential and it is a privilege to offer the School Uniform Fund to those who may need it in either Primary or Secondary School. Please do contact me on 01772 389837 if you would like any help in this matter.

Additionally, some of you may wish to contribute financially to this important sign of community generosity. If this is the case, please either speak to our Treasurer, Graham Kelsall, or post an envelope labelled 'School Uniform Fund' through the vicarage door if you'd like to donate. Thank you ever so much.

Community Foodbank @ Longridge (www.longridgefoodbank.co.uk)

In a similar fashion to the School Uniform Fund, the Churches Together Foodbank which operates out of St Paul's Church Centenary Room every Friday, 11am-1.30pm is likely to see a higher demand than normal during the school holiday period when the children are at home. Any nonperishable items you can donate such as pasta sauce, tinned meat, long life milk, sponge puddings, tomato ketchup and toilet rolls, nappies etc. will be much appreciated.

You can also financially support the Community Foodbank @ Longridge using their Business Account – Account Number: 12833754, Sort Code: 01-00-53 and for more information you can contact the Foodbank team on their telephone number: 01772 355731.

Wishing you a happy Summer, Rev. Mike.

The Library is Open for You to Use

There is now a library of Christian books in the Tower Room, just through the entrance via the steps from Church Street. There is a wide range of books to capture your interest including - Gospel and Bible Studies, books about Baptism, guides to living a Christian life, books about particular times of life such as aging and bereavement, as well as more humorous books about a vicar's life. All the books have been very kindly donated and thank you again for your generosity. There is space for more books and we would love to see more children's books, so if you have any Christian books you think would benefit others, please consider bringing them for our library.



The library is informal, just browse and borrow, return when you have finished your book and borrow another.

Please take 5 minutes to have a look, and we think you'll find a book to borrow.

New Churchwarden - - Helen Clements.

Hello all, I'm Helen Clements, newly elected Churchwarden at St. Lawrence with St. Paul, taking over from Dorothy Laver. I'm married to Philip and we have two grown-up daughters, Sophie and Izzy, who both still live in Longridge. The journey to this new position at church looked like this

- 2003 Moved to Longridge and joined the congregation at St. Lawrence with St. Paul
- 2006 Joined the Sidesperson Team
- 2010 Sang with choir just 'to make up numbers' at one service; I'm still in the choir!
- 2022 Elected to PCC
- 2026 Elected Churchwarden



Getting involved has been a pretty gradual process as you can see, but I'm looking forward to the new experiences the next year will bring.

The first of these happened on Monday 15th June, when Dot, Mike and I attended the Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St. Cuthbert's, Fulwood. The Visitation is a special service held annually at which Churchwardens make their Declaration before the Diocesan Registrar. We were honoured that, as well as the Archdeacon and Registrar, Bishop Philip was also in attendance.

For me, as a first time Churchwarden, having this array of Diocesan dignitaries present certainly reinforced the responsibility of the role and its associated duties. It was lovely to hear Bishop Philip thank those taking on the position of Churchwarden and encouraging us to be guided by three things, Jesus, gentleness and joy. I will certainly keep his words in mind as I take on this important role.

As a parish, we are blessed with so many wonderful people sharing their talents and sustaining the life of our churches. I feel fortunate to be working alongside Dot and being supported by Mae and Dorothy in Churchwarden duties; their experience will be invaluable.

If you have ever wondered what a Churchwarden's duties entail, here are a few nuggets of information I have picked up

- Churchwardens represent the people of the parish and are officers of the Bishop.
- Wardens support the parish priests and their families, relieving the priests of administrative functions and assisting their ministry.
- Wardens must keep the church Log book, inventory and property register up to date
- Services only run efficiently with the help of others – thank you to all sidespeople, sound and vision assistants, readers, tea/coffee makers, flower arrangers and everyone who keeps things running smoothly
- And finally – in extreme circumstances to maintain order in the church and churchyard wardens have the authority to effect citizen's arrests (I'm hoping never to need to exert this particular authority...!)

My contact details are in The Log, and I can usually be found descending from the choir loft after Sunday morning services. Do come and say Hello and let me know if there's anything you would like help with, to help with, to discuss or suggest. I'm always interested to hear what you think we are doing well and anything you think could be improved.

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Vicar	Rev. Mike Barton	The Vicarage, Church Street	01772 389837	revmikebarton@gmail.com
Curate	Rev Jesse Adesina		07776 750695	revjesseadesina@gmail.com
Retired Clergy:	Rev. John Ball		07754 771220	
	Rev. Adrian Mairs	8 Hacking Drive	01772 356015	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
	Helen Clements	30 Kestor Lane	07864 574945	hrclementd61@gmail.com
Deputy Wardens	Dorothy Laver	19 The Pastures, Grimsargh	07719 389529	dorothylaver@gmail.com
	Mae Heys	29 Fell Brow	07740 068099	
PCC Secretary	Barbara Burton	7 Chaigley Road		brbrbrtn6@gmail.com
PCC Treasurer	Graham Kelsall			graham@oaktreehouse.net
Safeguarding Officer	Vacant			TBC
Parish Administrator	Michael Dawson	See hours below	01772 783281	secretarystandplongridge@gmail.com
Health & Safety Officer	Caroline Wilson			georod4658@gmail.com
Electoral Role Officer	Michael Dawson			
Ignite-Children & Youth Leader—Becky Filder				becky.ignitelongridge@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

Chairman	<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, Ellen Dawson, Andrew Filder, David Hartley, Mae Heys, Philip Jones, Vernon Kinrade, Rosemary Lyons, Barbara McCormick, Annamarie Rogers-Waterman, Val Wardley, Stephanie Willan.

Organisations

Parish Administrator	<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
	judithkaye@sky.com
	Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
	01772 785114

Children's Church	
Carolyn Barton	carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk
Mothers Union	7.30pm on 1st Tuesday
Enrolling Member	Judith Kaye Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
	judithkaye@sky.com 01772 785114
Prayerline	If you would like our prayer team to pray for you e-mail
Muriel Anderson	12 Plessington Court, Brewery Street, Longridge
	Murielanderson33@gmail.com 07823 762089
Tuesday Club	7.30pm on 2nd Tuesday
Chairman	Fred Little 26 Hoghton Road 01772 783998
Hon. Sec.	vacant
Walkie Talks	
	Hannah Green 20 Darwen Close 01772 783558
Bereavement Group	
meets on 1st Monday of the month including Bank Holidays	
	Karen Burdett 07712 440135
	karenlburdett@hotmail.com

Longridge C of E Primary School	
www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk	
Headteacher	
Mrs Catherine Parkin	
	head@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk
Clerk to the Governors	
Val Morris	01524 581136 c/o the School Office
School Office	01772 782378
	bursar@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk
Pre-School	01772-780078
PTFA Hon. Sec.	Katie Keighley

Sidesmen and Sideswomen

Bev Keating, Janet Heap,
Peter Turver, Lib Turver, Graham Kelsall,
Dianne Sanderson, Muriel Anderson,
Merilyn Kinrade, Andrew Filder, Philip Jones,
Ian Cookson, Ruth Buckley, Jennifer Sturzaker, Kai Ng,
Helen Eccles, Keith Thompson, Judith Singleton, Steph Willan.

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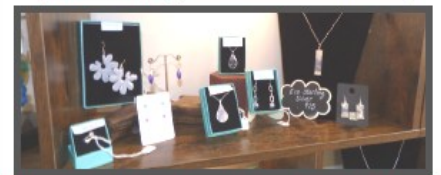
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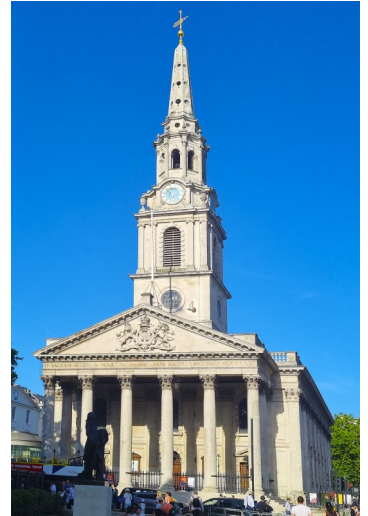
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Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir Brian Clarke, stained glass artist - 26 May 2026, Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London

Readers may remember the Log article in September last year reporting the death of Sir Brian Clarke, internationally renowned stained glass artist and designer of the gallery windows at St Lawrence's Church. Here in Longridge we have always been proud that we played a key part in his early career by commissioning him to design the St Lawrence's gallery windows. They hold an important place as Brian's first really original works. From his early roots in Lancashire, he then went on to become one of the greatest stained glass artists in the world.

Unexpectedly in April an invitation to Sir Brian's Memorial Service in London arrived at the Vicarage. Revd Mike passed the invitation on to me as my dad Peter Furness, then Vicar, had commissioned the windows back in 1974. Since then I have always followed Brian's career with great interest, and more recently Brendan and I have visited some of his work and exhibitions. Delighted to receive the invitation, we took the opportunity to travel down to London.



We duly arrived at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square on the hottest day ever recorded in May! The church was full, but luckily relatively cool. The service, organized by his family, brought together figures from the arts and entertainment world, including his friends Sir Paul McCartney and Jools Holland. There were several eulogies, with friends and family reflecting on the fun, colour and vibrancy of his life, and how he elevated stained glass from a traditional craft into a radical form of contemporary fine art. This earned him a knighthood for services to art, the first ever awarded specifically to a stained glass artist.

The service had been planned by Sir Brian himself and included an uplifting mix of traditional hymns, magnificent organ accompaniment, and contemporary music. We were pleased to note the nods to his Lancashire roots in references such as the 'dark satanic mills' in the hymn *Jerusalem*.

The congregation was treated to live performances by Jools Holland and Ruby Turner, alongside a moving rendition of *Now is the Hour* sung by Louise Marshall and the St Martin's Voices. The Rt Revd June Osborne in her address said that Brian had wanted to go out with a laugh, and the service ended with Jools Holland leading the congregation in a rousing rendition of *Enjoy Yourself*.

What a fitting end to a life lived to the full.

Rosemary Lyons



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A Year in Longridge – A Reflection

Someone asked me a few weeks ago how long I had been here. My immediate response was, "About eight months." Then I stopped and realised—wow, it's been a whole year already!

As I look back on my first year of ministry in Longridge, my heart is filled with gratitude to God for His faithfulness. It has been a year of learning, growing, and discovering what God is doing in this wonderful parish and community.

Coming to St Lawrence with St Paul's was both exciting and humbling. Every parish has its own story, traditions, and rhythms, and I arrived knowing that I had much to learn. From the very beginning, however, my family and I were welcomed with incredible warmth, kindness, and generosity. The welcome we received was second to none. I still remember people coming to the cathedral for my licencing service to support and encourage me. It was a beautiful expression of love that I will never forget.

One of the greatest joys of this past year has been getting to know the people of this parish. Whether through Sunday worship, home visits, school assemblies, baptisms, weddings, funerals, community events, or simply sharing a cup of tea after a service, I have been reminded time and again that the Church is not primarily a building—it is a family of people seeking to follow Jesus together.



It has also been encouraging to see new opportunities for ministry develop. Watching our work with children, young people, and families continue to grow has been a particular joy. Through Messy Church, our school ministry, Alpha, the Bible Course, and the Foundations Course, it has been exciting to see people of all ages asking questions, growing in faith, and discovering more of God's love.

I've also enjoyed becoming part of the wider Longridge community. From the Agricultural Show and Field Day to the Soap Box Derby, Longridge Does Christmas, and the many fairs and community events, it has been wonderful to experience the life of this town. More importantly, it has been a privilege to get to know people personally, to pray with them, to share in their lives, and, for many, to become friends.

I would also like to say a special thank you to Rev Mike. He has been an outstanding mentor and Training Incumbent. I thank God for his support, encouragement, leadership, and wise guidance throughout this year. I am also grateful for the trust and confidence he has shown in me as I have grown in ministry.

Sharing in the occasional offices has been one of the greatest privileges of priestly ministry. Whether through baptisms, weddings, or funerals, it has been an honour to walk alongside people at some of the most significant moments of their lives—celebrating with them in times of joy, supporting them through times of sorrow, and pointing them to the hope we have in Christ.

This year has also brought a very special blessing for our own family with the arrival of our daughter, Mirabel. We are so thankful to God for His goodness, and we are grateful for the love, prayers, and kindness so many of you have shown us.

Finally, thank you to everyone at St Lawrence with St Paul's, to the people of Longridge, and to the wider community. Thank you for making my family and me feel so loved, welcomed, and at home. You are a truly wonderful community, and it is a real joy and privilege to serve both the church and the town.

My prayer is that the Father of all blessings will continue to pour out His grace upon our church, our community, and upon every person in Longridge. May He continue to draw us closer to Himself and use us to make His love known to all.

With every blessing,

Rev Jesse Adesina



A Wonderful Uplifting 'Brass on Sunday' Concert.

To welcome Longridge Band to St. Paul's is very special – the Band always comment on the stunning acoustics and obviously enjoy playing in that wonderful building just as much as we all enjoy listening to them.

For the 'Brass on Sunday' concert, Musical Director Mark Peacock chose to play rousing hymns with many in the audience joining in the singing – these were interspersed with other uplifting sacred music and works from the Salvation Army repertoire. This 'Songs of Praise' style concert perhaps one Mark had wanted to do for some time and following its success there are thoughts that this could become an annual concert. Let's hope it does.



Eco Corner – Barbara Burton

It's the height of summer and a good time for getting out and enjoying our beautiful local area. If you want to help our environment to be preserved for future generations, here are two ideas that may interest you.

People's Emergency Briefing Community Screening

On Wednesday 3rd June, I went to Christ Church along with about 50 other people, to watch a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing, a film about how climate change will affect every aspect of life in the future. During the film, experts in their fields each gave a short talk about how climate change will affect the weather, nature, our food supply, human health and our national security. Between each talk, Chris Packham interviewed members of the public about their reaction to what they had heard. The final speaker talked about the solutions which are already available to us which could reverse this process, with the overall message being that the government knows about these risks and how they can be averted but they need to share these with the public and address climate change with far more urgency.



The screening was organised by Longridge Environmental Group, but there are screenings being held all over the country. I thought that I would not learn anything new or that it would be a depressing subject, but actually, I found out a great deal, and the ending, which covered ways that further climate change can be avoided, was very encouraging. If you are interested in seeing this film for yourself, use this link to find a showing: [National Emergency Briefing](#) or search for *National Emergency Briefing Screening Map*.

Blister Pack Recycling

The blister pack recycling collection box was very popular with the congregation and it was filled very quickly. However, the scheme turned out to be quite expensive, so there are no plans to repeat this. However, you can take blister packs from your own household to Superdrug, in St. George's Shopping Centre (or to any other Superdrug with a pharmacy). They will not accept bulk donations, so unfortunately, we cannot collect as a church.

This is the best option in our area at present, and it isn't ideal. If you feel that recycling of these widely used items should be made easier, such as through local recycling centres, you might like to contact your councillor so that they are aware of the demand for this.

Looking Forward to the Parish Garden Party Sunday afternoon 5th July, 2pm – 4pm.

The Garden Party at The Old Vicarage on Lower Lane has become an annual event and one we very much look forward to. This year the bouncy castle, fun and games, cake and tea, ice cream, Pimm's etc. have been planned for the 5th July from 2pm – 4pm. and we are extremely grateful to Graham Kelsall for once again allowing us to use his home and garden. Last year you may recall the weather was scorching and we were thankful for the large gazebo which gave us some much needed shade. In anticipation of another good day Graham has a gazebo at the ready but we do have a Plan B and if it rains will retreat to the Pavilion on the Showfield.



In 2025 the Garden Party officially welcomed Revd. Jesse, Tosin and Eric and this year Mirabel will be attending her first garden party. Just a warning Revd. Jesse last year you were spared the dreaded wet sponges but you may not be as fortunate this year – all in good fun of course!!

The good thing is there will be lots of space and activities for young people to burn off some energy but also an opportunity for the less energetic among us to sit and chat and enjoy each others company. Whatever the weather do come along.



Looking Back to a Breezy Longridge Field Day

Compared to the heatwave at the end of June – the weather was chilly for this year's Field Day – the wind so strong that we wondered whether it was safe to even put up the Churches Together tent on the rec. We were pleased we did because we had a constant flow of visitors. Well done to everyone who took part in the procession and sincere thanks to the volunteer Field Day Committee who work so hard to keep this important date in the calendar going.



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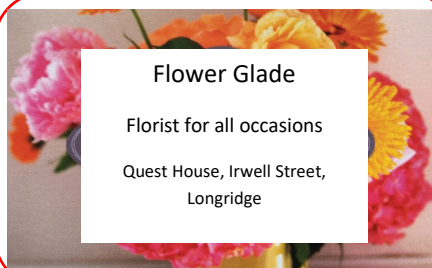
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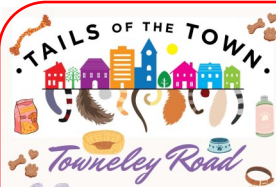
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MY FAVOURITE HYMN brought to us this month by Janet Heap.

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard My people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear My light to them – whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart*

I the Lord of snow and rain I have borne My people's pain
I have wept for love of them; they turn away
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak My love to them – whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them; My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give My life to them – whom shall I send?



I, the Lord of sea and sky is a modern hymn, written by Dan Schutte in 1979, while he was studying at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, USA. It takes its inspiration from Isaiah 6, where the Lord calls Isaiah and Samuel 3 where the Lord calls Samuel.

The lyrics allude to the wonder of God's creation and how Jesus will bring light to people. In verse 1, God acknowledges the suffering of His people and promises to save and bring light to those in darkness. In verse 2 God recognises the pain, wandering and rejection He experiences from humanity. He promises to soften hardened hearts and share his word. In verse 3, God promises to care for the vulnerable and provide spiritual nourishment to satisfy their souls, highlighting Jesus' message of serving the needy.

I have chosen this hymn because it is cheerful and uplifting and carries the message of hope and God's promises. I like to go out from Church at the end of a Service feeling better than I did when I came in and its hymns and worship songs like this which always lift my spirits

I have recently enjoyed watching The Other Bennett Sister. I smiled when I heard Mary Bennett's dreadful rendition of Begone Dull Care, I Pristhee Begone from Me. I remember singing this awful dirge many decades ago at school and I am thankful that songs like this never feature in the wonderful repertoire of hymns and worship songs that we sing at St Paul's and St Lawrence.



BREWTIME

Wednesday's from 8.50am-11am
In St Paul's Centenary Room.

We serve tea, coffee, toast, crumpets and cakes!
And there's always a warm and friendly welcome.
Do join us we would love to see you.

The Brewtime Team

SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin



Water Safety Week



Last summer saw our first ever week-long focus on water safety. Following the tragic events we all heard about in the news over May half term, it was more important than ever to make sure our children understand about keeping safe in and around water. Classes 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed their swimming taster sessions at Gorlands, learning important personal survival skills, and Class 5 had a fantastic day working safely in and around the River Brock. All the children benefitted from Miss Boardman's assembly on water safety. This is something we will be doing every year to ensure water safety is at the forefront of everyone's minds.



'Bug Busters'

All of KS2 had a visit from Nurse Catherine who taught them about hand and respiratory hygiene. This added to the 'Healthy Me' work that we learn about in Personal, Social and Health Education. PSHE is all about keeping ourselves safe and well. A special gel and ultraviolet light were used to reveal the germs hiding on our hands.



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SCHOOL NEWS continued



Samba



The noisiest day we have had in school for some time was definitely this musical event organised by

Mrs Ingram. Longridge School of Samba treated us to an assembly and then delivered workshops for every class. As our Music Lead, Mrs Ingram is very keen that children have opportunities to listen to live music and make their own music. Everyone got involved and learned lots about rhythm and beat while having lots of fun!



Year 4 at Hothersall

As an introduction to our programme of outdoor and adventurous activities, our Year 4 children have a full day of activities at Hothersall Lodge. Each year we try to let the children experience a range of challenges which include a water activity, a challenge at height and a team-building session. Thank you to our lovely volunteers who accompanied Miss White and Miss Boardman.



Lancashire Mind

Lancashire Mind are currently working with our Year 4 and 5 children. They are learning to 'Bounce Forward' when friendships and relationships get difficult. James has worked with our school before and this term he did an assembly on the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing.' We should all remember:

- Connect with other people
- Be physically active
- Keep Learning
- Give to others
- Pay attention to the present moment



SCHOOL NEWS continued**Diary Dates for the end of term**

KS2 Sports Day –	Wed 1 st July 1.15pm
Y6 Induction Day (LHS & St Cecilia's) –	Thu 2 nd July
Y3 to Blackpool Circus and Lytham Park –	Tue 7 th July
Y4 to Brockholes Nature Reserve –	Wed 8 th July
Y2 to Blackpool Zoo –	Thu 9 th July
Trophy Assembly – St Paul's Church –	Fri 10 th July 9.15am
Y6 Leavers' trip to Level in Preston –	Mon 13 th July
Y5 to Liverpool Museum –	Tue 14 th July
Y6 Leavers' Assembly - St Paul's Church –	Fri 17 th July 1.30pm
School Closes –	Fri 17 th July 3.30pm

School reopens for the new academic year on Wednesday 2nd September 2026

THANKFULNESS – Revd. Adrian Mairs.

This month and next will bring a change in routine for many. For some no school runs, no early morning car journeys, for others it will be calmer for different reasons, or perhaps not, as holiday preparations kick in. Times of change in routine can be difficult but also an opportunity to pause and reflect.

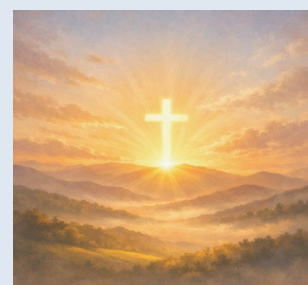
Most of us find life hectic, which causes us to take not only life for granted but those around us. And most importantly God. One of my favourite hymns by Stuart Townsend...is "My heart is full of thankfulness"...I pass it on hoping it will inspire you in this time of change and holiday to realise how much we have to be thankful for and perhaps use part of this time to say Thank You to those we take for granted and also God.



*My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness,
And clothed me with His light,
And wrote His law of righteousness
With power upon my heart.*

*My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.*

*My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth
Is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all,
To love and follow Him.*



"A sunrise of thankfulness —
reflecting the light of God's grace."



Mothers' Union—Judith Kaye



June 17th saw members from the deanery gather at St Paul's for our annual Festival Service. The service this year was in the form of songs of praise with the hymns chosen by the 4 branches in the deanery plus the Mothers' Union hymn. As we began our first hymn the banners were processed down the aisle and each of the banner carriers then lit a candle which along with a deanery candle burned throughout the service, the deanery one will go to the service in the Cathedral on August 8th which is a Diocesan celebration of the 150th Anniversary. The whole evening

was a celebration of the work Mothers' Union does with short explanations by section leaders Jane Cairns (Action & Outreach), Janet Adams (AFIA Caravan), Lucille Porter (MU Worldwide) and Margaret Sims (Faith & Prayer) Jane explained about projects such as supporting prisoners with reading glasses and gifts of chocolate for their children visiting at Christmas and Easter. Janet spoke about how the caravan is used by people who need a change from, sometimes desperate, situations at home. Lucille talked of the importance of not only looking at the work of MU in our linked Diocese but that carried out in 84 countries around the world. Margaret made us aware of the work prayer groups do in supporting people who need a helping hand. In the second reading there is a sentence that reads "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." As members we perhaps need to look more at where we need to go in the future not always doing what we have done in the past. Rev. Andy (MU Deanery Chaplain) reinforced this thinking in his thought provoking and positive talk. Mary Sumner's personal prayer should inspire us all to support our organisation.

**"All this day Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee:
And every life I touch do thou by thy spirit quicken,
Whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen"**

All in all I think it was a great evening rounded off with refreshments in the Centenary Room – even the weather favoured us. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to this joyous event.



Dates

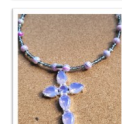
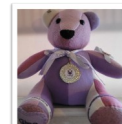
July 7th Social evening
August 4th No Meeting
Sept 1st Service with Kathleen Sturzaker

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From our Organist & Choir Director – Karen Au

August Open Choir

The time has come again for me to invite you to join us on a Sunday morning for our August Open Choir. Most of you already know that the choir has a very well-deserved break during August, and during this break they will not be required to attend the Friday practices or sing for the Sunday services. If you have ever been at all interested in singing in a choir, this is the perfect time for you to try it out. There is no commitment, simply turn up on any Sunday morning in August and sit yourselves in the choir stalls. It will be fairly informal with no procession or robing up. There is no expectation or commitment during August, it is simply an open invitation for you to “try it for size” with no strings attached. Last year, we managed to gain a few valuable new members (Doug, Ray and Andrea) through the August Open Choir who have since continued to enrich our Sunday worship by their voices and dedication. If you enjoy singing but are unsure of the commitment or feel shy about singing in public, please talk to me or one of the choir about the reality of being part of a choir.



St. Lawrence's Voices.

On a similar note, I'm also starting a children's choir (St. Lawrence's Voices) during the summer holidays. This will take place at 4.30pm to 5.15pm at St. Lawrence's Church from 19th July to 30th August. This is mainly targeted at children from the age of 8 to 12 (inclusively), however if you know of a child/children outside the prescribed age boundaries who are interested, please do not hesitate to have a conversation with me (kauorganist@gmail.com) regarding joining St. Lawrence's Voices. The aim of the group is really just to learn the very basics of vocal technique and musical notation, through various musical games. There is no requirement for any prior musical training or experience, although I will tailor the sessions so that more experienced voices will be challenged as well. This is an excellent opportunity for any child who wants to sing or learn any sort of musical instrument to receive free musical tuition.

Stop Press: As this Log is being printed and distributed we are very much looking forward to the concert by The Valley Singers on Sunday afternoon 28th June in St. Paul's. Full report in the September Log.

St. Bartholomew's Chipping – Organ Recital Series.

Over the Summer our friends at St. Bartholomew's, Chipping are celebrating 150 years of their Father Willis Organ with a series of recitals. Entry is free and everyone welcome.

Friday 26 th June, 7pm	James Robinson
Sunday 26 th July, 2pm	Paul Warren
Sunday 2 nd August, 2pm	Karen Au
Sunday 23 rd August, 2pm	Nigel Spooner

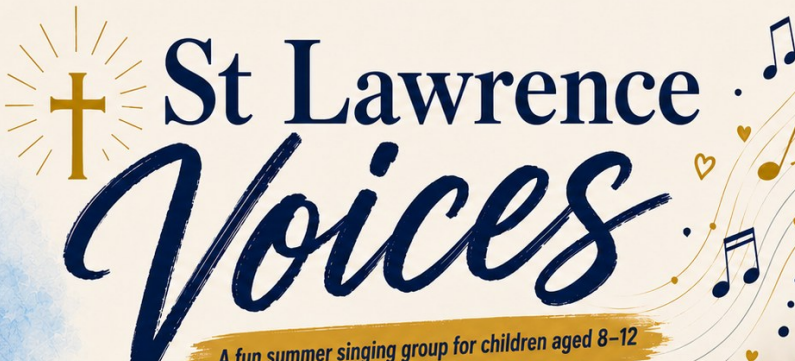
The Tuesday Club is having a Summer break but will return in September with a full and interesting programme. Copies of this are available in both churches, please take one and see what delights are on offer for 2026/2027.

Tuesday Club

The first meeting on 8th September at 7.30pm will be an illustrated talk by Brambles Wildlife Rescue, a local voluntary organisation caring for injured birds and wildlife, with refreshments as usual afterwards.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and the modest annual subscription can be paid then.

Enjoy the Summer!



St Lawrence Voices

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- ♥ Like having fun and making others feel welcome



♥ If you'd like to find out more or volunteer, please speak to Rev. Mike Barton or Marian Scarborough at the Church.

Thank you! ♥

Ignite Children and Youth Update—Becky Filder

I can hardly believe that I have now been in the role of Ignite Children and Youth Leader for nearly six months! It has been such an encouraging start, and I have loved seeing how God is at work through our children, young people and families.



On Sunday we held our latest Messy Church. Despite the sunny weather and it being Father's Day, we were delighted to welcome a good number of families. Together we explored the love of Jesus through a range of activities, including biscuit making, a "storm in a jar" experiment, and crown-making crafts. We also enjoyed a wonderful talk and song from Rev Jesse before finishing the afternoon with hot dogs and ice lollies for tea.

Recently, I shared a survey to gather feedback about our new style of service, and I have already received some lovely comments. One parent wrote, *"I love how much my children enjoy every Messy Church experience, and everyone there is really friendly!"* Another simply said, *"A big thank you... it's brilliant."* Feedback like this is incredibly encouraging and reminds us of the impact that these events are having on families.

We will be taking a break over the summer as many members of our team are busy or away, but we are excited to be returning in September. Our next event, **Messy Mission**, will take place on **Sunday 13th September from 4.00pm–5.30pm**.

It is wonderful to see new families engaging with church in this way, building relationships and exploring faith together. If you would like to be involved, we would love to have you join the team. Whether it's helping children with crafts, chatting with parents, baking cakes, serving refreshments, or—most importantly—praying for this ministry, your support would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to find out more, please come and speak to Becky.

Thank you for your continued encouragement, support and prayers for our children, young people and families.



Children's Church Update —Becky Filder

Over the past few months in Children's Church, we have been exploring some of Jesus' parables and discovering what they teach us about God's Kingdom and how we live as followers of Jesus.



This month we explored the Parable of the Sower, thinking about how we can grow in our faith as we listen to God's word. We also explored the Parable of the Mustard Seed, learning how God can use even the smallest beginnings to do amazing things. The children enjoyed planting their own seeds and taking part in a sensory story to help them understand just how tiny a mustard seed is.

We also explored the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant and what it means to forgive others as God forgives us. Through water play activities, we explored the idea of forgiveness washing things clean, and we built bridges to symbolise restoring relationships when they have been broken.

It has been wonderful to see the children engaging so enthusiastically with these stories and making connections between the Bible and their everyday lives. We have also started learning memory verses together. Each week the children take home the verse we have been exploring, along with a simple challenge to complete with their family, helping faith conversations continue beyond Sunday mornings.

As we look ahead, we are excited to begin a brand-new series in July. The children will become detectives as we investigate the clues Jesus gave about who He is through His famous "I Am" statements in John's Gospel. We are looking forward to uncovering more about Jesus together and discovering what these statements mean for us today.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our children and families as they grow in faith and friendship together.

WELCOME CAFÉ — *Steph, Karen and the team*

The Welcome Cafe continues to operate on a Wednesday afternoon during term time 3-5pm.

We welcome around 46 people each week and offer a light meal of jacket potatoes or toast with a third option varying weekly, plus cake and a drink for which we have now started to charge 50p per person. We also have a domino table where our older and proud people often play a game with some teenagers that attend. Some of the crafts we have done in the last few weeks are bookmarks, fridge magnets, bees (to acknowledge world bee day) and Father's Day cards. We also have table games. Unfortunately, we have noticed some primary schoolchildren are being sent unsupervised and due to safeguarding concerns we have had to turn some children away. We ask that they attend with a responsible adult please. We have agreed with Reverend Mike that year 6 are welcome to attend alone once their carers/parents have filled out a form which will be available from church. We are an extremely busy (and loud) group but welcome any new people so if you are looking for something to do on a Wednesday afternoon please come and meet us.

WEDDINGS

Many congratulations and our very best wishes to:

David Andrew Harrison and Christina Rachel Collinson, who were married on Saturday 6th June 2026 in St. Lawrence's Church.

Terry Osie Solomon and Carrie Kaunda, who were married on Saturday 20th June 2026 also in St. Lawrence's Church



BRIGADE NEWS— Olivia Stewart

Martins & Y-Team

Over the past few weeks, our younger sections have enjoyed Wednesday evenings full of creative fun! We've made animal masks, played animal-themed games such as animal musical statues, and reflected on giving thanks for God's creation. We've also explored the theme of superheroes—discussing what makes a superhero and enjoying superhero-themed games. To celebrate Father's Day, we talked about those who support and care for us and made cards to take home.

JTC & Seniors

Our older sections have enjoyed a range of team-building activities, including scavenger hunts and challenges to build the tallest towers using only what they could find.

Eyes Down for a Cause

This year, Emma, Janet Redding's daughter, will once again be fundraising in memory of her amazing mum. The theme is *Mamma Mia*—a perfect choice for anyone who knew Janet and her love of ABBA! Fancy dress is optional, but everyone is encouraged to join in the fun. Emma is looking for raffle prizes and donations, so please contact a Brigade Leader or Emma directly if you can help. All details are on the poster below, with proceeds being donated to the Brigade and St Catherine Hospice.

National Volunteers Week

During June, we celebrated National Volunteers Week and took the opportunity to thank our amazing leaders and helpers. Week after week, they give their time to provide opportunities, support, guidance and encouragement for our young people. Behind the scenes, they also spend countless hours planning activities, organising trips and camps, preparing crafts, completing admin and undertaking training.

To all our volunteers—thank you for your time, energy, patience, commitment and dedication. We truly appreciate everything you do.

We look forward to finishing for the Summer holidays on 8th July and returning on Wednesday 9th September. We hope you all have a wonderful Summer, enjoy the break, and stay safe.



BINGO NIGHT
★ EYES DOWN FOR A CAUSE ★

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2026
3:30PM – 6:30PM

Mamma Mia! THEMED

FANCY DRESS IS OPTIONAL,
BUT FEEL FREE TO EMBRACE THE MAMMA MIA SPIRIT
WITH YOUR FAVOURITE GREEK-ISLAND-INSPIRED OUTFIT!

LONGRIDGE CIVIC HALL
IN MEMORY OF JANET REDDING

IN AID OF
St Catherine's Hospice

£1 ENTRY

Brigade News continued



FLOWER TEAM — Donna Rowe Green

I am hoping that this article makes it into the Log this month. Why am I not sure? Because I have had the most hectic, busy, and at times, emotional couple of weeks and am already quite late in submitting it. My normal calm and relaxed approach to life has been challenged a little. We all get times like this and have different ways of coping.

Mine is always to spend time outside and reconnect with nature. This helps to put my life into perspective and remind me of God's wonder. Listening to the birds up above, taking in the diversity of colours, textures and forms around me, and then honing in on the details, noticing the individual flowers, the bees and butterflies busy around them, all calms me and makes me feel like God is giving me a much needed hug.

Last week, my colleague and I decided we needed a 'wellbeing day' and took ourselves off to Gardener's World Live in Birmingham, where we were surrounded by the most beautiful plants, vibrant flowers and imaginative gardens. Despite coming home with very tired feet, our minds were refreshed somewhat.

In his gospel, Mark says:

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."

When I am in church, if my head is busy and I am at risk of not hearing the message, I focus on the flowers at the front, calming my overwhelmed thoughts, and prepare to hear God's word.

So, as the summer progresses and you potentially find yourself feeling pulled in every direction, find what makes you calm and give yourself some time to engage in it. If that happens to be the flowers at the front of the church, helping you to absorb God's message, please do thank the team. If it is your garden, maybe consider picking a few blooms for the displays in church, helping us to protect our planet.

The whole flower team hopes you have a lovely summer. A wise man (Simon King) once told me that God loves to hear you laugh, so fill those days with as much laughter as you can.



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

5th July — Trinity 5 John the Baptist — 'I am Not'

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

Malachi 3 : 1-4

John 1 : 19-33

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 56

Malachi 3 : 1-4

John 1 : 19-33

12th July - Trinity 6 — 'Come and see'

10am St Paul's All Age Worship

Psalm 66 : 1-5

John 1 : 43-50

6.30pm St Lawrence's Holy Communion

Psalm 66 : 1-5

John 1 : 43-50

19th July - Trinity 7 — 'I am the Bread of Life'

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

Exodus 16: 11-18

John 6 : 1-13, 35

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 67

Exodus 16: 11-18

John 6 : 1-13, 35

26th July — Trinity 8 — 'I am the Light of the World'

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

Isaiah 42 : 5-7

John 9 : 1- 11

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 75

Isaiah 42 : 5-7

John 9 : 1- 11

5th July — Trinity 5 John the Baptist — 'I am Not'

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

Malachi 3 : 1-4

John 1 : 19-33

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 56

Malachi 3 : 1-4

John 1 : 19-33

FUNERALS

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

Sandra Fenwick

Sylvia Walmsley



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.

OUR WORSHIP AND READINGS.....continued

Following Jesus on Mission

2nd August — Trinity 9 — 'I am the Gate'

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

Genesis 28 : 10– 17

John 10: 1– 10

6.30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 80 v1-8

Genesis 28 : 10– 17

John 10: 1– 10

9th August — Trinity 10 — 'I am the Good Shepherd'

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

Ezekiel 34 : 11– 16

John 10 :11 -18

6.30pm St Lawrence's Holy Communion

Ezekiel 34 : 11– 16

John 10 :11 -18

16th August — Trinity 11 - 'I am the resurrection and the Life'

10am Holy communion with Children's Church

Ezekiel 37 : 1– 14

John 11: 17– 45

6.30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 90 v1-12

Ezekiel 37 : 1– 14

John 11: 17– 45

23rd August — Trinity 12 - 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life'

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

Proverbs 3 : 1– 12

John 14 : 1– 14

6.30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 95

Proverbs 3 : 1– 12

John 14 : 1– 14

30th August — Trinity 13 - 'I am the True Vine'

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

Isaiah 5 : 1– 7

John 15 : 1– 8

6.30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 105 v 1-15

Isaiah 5 : 1– 7

John 15 : 1– 8

6th September — Trinity 14 — 'Before Abraham was, I AM' (Baptism Service)

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

Exodus 3 : 1– 14

John 8: 50– 58

6.30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 108

Exodus 3 : 1– 14

John 8: 50– 58

St. Lawrence Flower Rota for June.

JULY.

5th Birthday memories of Hannah Pye

AUGUST

16th In memory of Christopher Pye

30th In memory of Colin & Sheila Brierley

St. Paul's Flower Rota

July - Donna Rowe Green & Ellen Dawson

August - Barbara McCormick

4th Birthday memories of Keith Rowson



The Log

The Last Word

From the Vicar Rev. Mike Barton



It's been said that *'Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus.'* The suggestion is that men and women are so different they might as well be from different planets. And I was recently with a couple who were bantering about whether one of the household chores was a 'pink job' or a 'blue job'. This was a pastoral situation my accumulated wisdom told me to stay well away from!

Without wishing to play up to stereotypes, in June I had the good fortune to find myself in two very different situations where some of the distinctive gifts that men and women can bring were celebrated.

The first was a service marking the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union. From its humble beginnings in 1876, when Mary Sumner formed a group of mothers to help raise their children, it has grown into a worldwide Christian organisation dedicated to tackling poverty, violence and social injustice. It was a privilege to sing hymns of praise to God while hearing about the big and small differences courageous and dedicated women have been making to improve the lives of people and families in our own county and across the world.

The second came the very next day, when I helped lead a men's gathering called *Man Alive*. More than 250 men of all ages and Christian traditions came together to reflect on what it means to *fix our eyes on Jesus*. At a time when there are so many competing ideas about what it means to be a man, it was wonderfully refreshing to consider the example of Jesus, whose strength was shown in courage, humility, compassion and self-sacrificing love.

Both of these events celebrated the different ways men and women can serve God and others when their lives are shaped by his purposes. One of my favourite verses in the Bible captures this beautifully. The prophet Micah writes:

"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Living this out will look different for each of us, but perhaps we need to move away from the idea that men and women are somehow in competition, as though women succeeding means men must be failing, or vice versa. Nobody wins in a battle between the sexes.

Right at the beginning of the Bible we are told:

"So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

When men and women honour one another, serve alongside one another and use their different gifts for the good of others, they reflect something of the God whose image they both bear. That's a vision of humanity worth celebrating—and perhaps it brings us all back down to earth!



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