

The Log

FAN INTO FLAME



THE GIFT OF
GOD



The Parish Magazine

June 2025

£1.00

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Vicar's Notes

May was a very busy month in the life of St Lawrence with St Paul's Church. Full of fairs, farewells, celebrations and annual governance meetings, and a lot of people working very hard behind the scenes to make sure all these events were well organised and ran smoothly – a huge thank you to all involved. Just possibly we've broken our church's record for the amount of cakes baked and consumed in any one month...

As you'll see from the front cover and my Annual Parochial Committee Meeting (APCM) address on the back pages, the theme of **'Fanning into flame the gift which is in you' (2 Timothy 1:5)** has been on my mind as being an appropriate guide to the transitional season ahead. One of the reasons for this (and if Revd Simon will forgive the analogy) is that if you consider a successful fire with some big pieces of wood burning to keep it aglow, then with the departure of the King family in preparation for their new start, we've now lost a big log to Penwortham! - And may the 'Kings' remain full of the Spirit of God as they seek to set a fire of faith there.

However, this gap creates the space for others in our own congregation to burn brightly and for us to welcome our new curate Revd Jesse Adesina along with his family in late June. You can read a little introduction from Jesse on page 5 Below are some of the other notable dates and events to be aware of in the coming summer months.

Ecumenical Pentecost Service

Members of Churches Together in Longridge and District look forward to hosting an Ecumenical service for Pentecost at St Wilfrid's Church, Longridge as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit being poured out on believers of many tribes and tongues.

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Vicar's Notes continued**Rev'd Simon King's Induction**

Simon will be inducted as the new Vicar of St Leonard's Church on Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm.

It would be wonderful to have as many of us there as possible to give him and Tracy the best possible start. Please do speak to myself or Dot Little for more details.

Welcoming Revd Jesse Adesina to Longridge

In his leaving speech Revd Simon said that his four years in Longridge had been the happiest in his life and wouldn't it be amazing if Revd Jesse along with his wife, Tosin and son Eric were able to say the same thing. This of course starts with an amazing welcome. For this reason, it would be wonderful if as many of us as possible could come to his licencing as our new Curate at Blackburn Cathedral at 10.30am on **Saturday 28th June**.

Further to this we look forward to welcoming Jesse and his family with, you guessed it, cake etc. at our services on Sunday 29th June when Jesse will be sharing his first message, and then an official welcome at our Annual Garden Party on **Sunday 13th July** at the Old Vicarage, Lower Lane 2pm-4pm.

Longridge Field Day – Saturday 14th June

Come and support the various different floats and especially the children from Berry Lane Primary School – can you guess the theme of their float? In addition, John Spencer would appreciate some help putting up the Churches Together tent on the recreation ground at 9am.

Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Show - Saturday 5th July

There will be a Churches Together tent where people can come and find shade (or shelter depending on the weather!) with activities for children as well as this year baby changing and baby feeding areas. Please let me know if you're able to help.

SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

You will read in the APCM fabric report, included in this Log, that we have been successful in obtaining grants linked to a Disability Project Parish Grant Scheme which both churches will benefit from.

At St. Lawrence this will cover handrails to enable safer access to the Garden of Remembrance and at St. Paul's handrails on the dais, which when in place, will more safely enable us to use the high altar.

We now have a faculty for the work at St. Lawrence but one is still awaited for the work at St. Paul's.

To learn more about the parish finances and all the work on fabric which has gone on over the past twelve months do take the opportunity to read the reports including those from the many parish groups and organisations.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU Rev'd Jesse Adesina

Introducing Myself and My Family

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

My name is Jesse Adesina, and I am delighted to be joining you this June as your new curate. It is with great joy and anticipation that my family and I look forward to becoming part of this wonderful church community.

I was born and raised in Nigeria in a Christian home, the second of four children. My father is a priest in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), and my mother is a dedicated nurse who is still actively serving. Growing up in a home shaped by both ministry and care gave me a strong foundation in faith and service.



I studied Microbiology for my first degree and worked for several years as a laboratory analyst in a multinational company. Although I found the work rewarding, the call to ordained ministry grew steadily stronger. I eventually trained at Bishop Crowther College of Theology, where I earned a degree in Theology. I was ordained deacon in 2020 and priested in 2021 in the Diocese of Kwara.

In 2022, my family and I moved to the UK. Since then, I've served in various roles in the Diocese of Blackburn, including as a youth worker and assistant curate at The Parish of Preston, Risen Lord. These experiences have deepened my understanding of parish ministry in a new context, and I'm grateful for the opportunities to grow and serve.

I am married to Oluwatosin, a compassionate and resilient nurse whose faith and support have been a constant source of strength. We are proud parents to Eric, our lively young son who brings joy and energy into every room. As a family, we enjoy nature walks, music, storytelling, and spending quality time together—especially when it involves laughter and good food!

I'm passionate about worship, discipleship, and helping people grow in their relationship with God. I especially love music-led worship and encouraging others to discover and use their gifts in the life of the church.

Thank you for your warm welcome already—we have felt embraced even before our arrival. Please keep us in your prayers during this time of transition, and know that we are praying for you too. We look forward to settling in, getting to know you, and sharing in the life and mission of the parish in the months and years ahead.

With every blessing,
Rev'd Jesse Adesina

The Annual Report from the Neuro Diversity Group

The Thursday group continues to thrive and gives the opportunity for families to play in a safe space meeting other families who may face similar challenges.

We have welcomed new faces over the past 12 months and it's always great to do so.

Some of our older members move onto college in September and will have been with us since we first started around 6 years ago. How time flies!

We are working to have a quieter zone and a more lively zone now both parts of church to meet the need of all our members.

We look forward to our trip to space soft play centre which has been funded by a work raffle that recently took place.

If you or a friend feel you could benefit from our (5-16) after school Thursday Neurodiversity group please get in touch.

Emma , Lucy and Rachel.

I would personally like to thank Lucy and Rachel who have joined the staff here at church from Lancashire County Council to help with all aspects of its running.

Emma Turver

INSPIRATIONAL WORDS by Canon Adriam Mairs**WHAT AND WHO INFLUENCES YOU? WHO DO YOU INFLUENCE?**

In Titus ch2v7 the Apostle Paul wrote to Titus "In everything set them an example to follow". Today in our society there are many influences and influencers competing for our attention. Individuals, social media and advertising to name a few. Alongside this, others speak of the need for good role models in the face of the many issues, especially those our young people face today.

Paul's words may be from the past but they are especially for those of faith, as important today as when he wrote them. God's word is timeless and these words remind us that our calling as Christians is to set them an example they can follow. As Christians we seek to follow the example of Jesus whose lifestyle, words and actions were so attractive that people followed him. I wonder does our behaviour, words and deeds attract or repel others. The following poem by A.S. Wilson I heard years ago at a friend's funeral is challenging....

Not merely in the words you say,
Not only in your deeds confessed,
But in the most unconscious way
Is Christ expressed.

Is it a beatific smile
A holy light upon your brow
Oh no, I felt His Presence while
You laughed just now.

For me 'twas not the truth you taught
To you so clear, to me still dim
But when you came to me you brought
A sense of him.

And from your eyes He beckons me,
And from your heart His love is shed
Til I lose sight of you and see
The Christ instead.

May that be true of me and all who read these words

Blessings, Adrian.



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Curate	Rev Jesse Odisina			
Retired Clergy:	Rev. John Ball		07754 771220	
	Rev. Adrian Mairs	8 Hacking Drive	01772 356015	adrian.s.mairs@gmail.com
			07899 905768	
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	secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com
Health & Safety Officer	Vacant			
Electoral Role Officer	Michael Dawson			

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, Michael 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	Donna Rowe-Green 07880 348597
Choir	
Organist and Choir Director	Karen Au
	karen.au1990@gmail.com
Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade	
Wednesday Nights Berry Lane School Term Times	
Martins 6 pm, Young Members 6.30 pm JTC/Seniors 7.00 pm	
	Olivastewart@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	01772 785114
	judithkaye@sky.com	
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.	Adrienne Atkinson	01772 783091
	adbil1959@gmail.com	
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
	karenburdett@hotmail.com	

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.

Duty Wardens

Ali Ng, Dot Little, Dorothy Laver, Mae Heys, Vernon Kinrade, Barbara McCormick, Kathleen Sturzaker, Nick Gro Kelly Grogan.

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

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Bereavement Group report to the APCM

This year the Bereavement Group has continued to meet on the first Monday of the month including bank holidays 7.30-9pm at St Paul's church. Everyone is welcome and not just people who attend church. The numbers have varied but we have had a core of nine who have met together in a safe space. This has enabled them to share their bereavement experience if they have wanted to and discuss how they are feeling.

We have enjoyed some interesting discussions, some tears and lots of laughing. We have drunk tea, coffee and eaten lots of cake. We have supported each other through difficult days such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, individual tough times and anniversaries. The support from the group to each other has developed from day one, the ability to listen, acknowledge and to offer unconditional support to those through their difficult days.

Grieving is a very individual experience, but members of the group have expressed that they feel the group is supportive of its members and that they enjoy the group as they are with people who have some understanding of what they are going through. Members keep coming and they say it's because they always feel better after they have attended the group. That they feel cared for and supported. Some people are very quiet at first and say nothing and that's ok, some just want to be there, others slowly feel they want to take part in discussions and that's ok too.

The group has welcomed new members, some coping with traumatic and sudden deaths but there is no competition in grieving and the support is equal to all. As for the future the hope is that the group continues to develop and grow. The main aim of the group is to help people beyond the initial reaction to loss and to enable individuals to get to a place where they are living with their loss in a healthier way and not just existing.

A Message from Peter & Lib Turver

On behalf of 'Team Turver', Lib & Peter would like to thank the clergy, Mike, Simon and Adrian and all of our church family for their prayers, their love and their support after the death of their son Simon. Knowing we had this has made us more resilient and our faith has become stronger and deeper.

Log Distribution

We have to say a big thank you to Harry & Eileen Coar for their years of distributing and delivering the church magazine. Between them they have delivered both to other people who deliver to our homes and have taken magazines direct to people's houses. Thank you to you both.

This, of course, means that we are looking for someone else to take on this work. The door-to-door deliveries are on Higher Road, Market Place and the top end of Berry Lane, the drops to others who deliver are from Mersey St down to Hollin Hall Drive. The Log production team would be very grateful for any offers of help.

Judith Kaye



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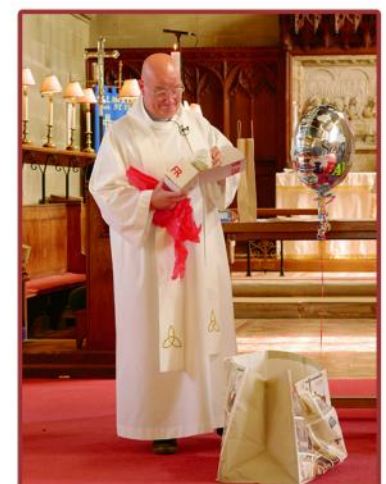
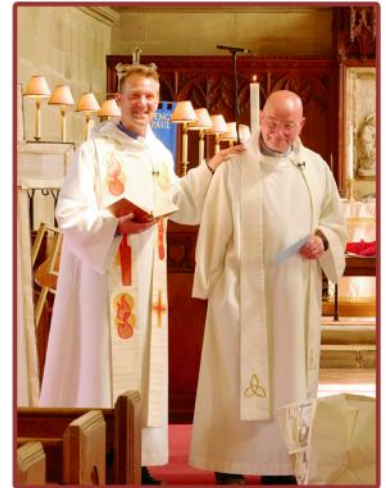
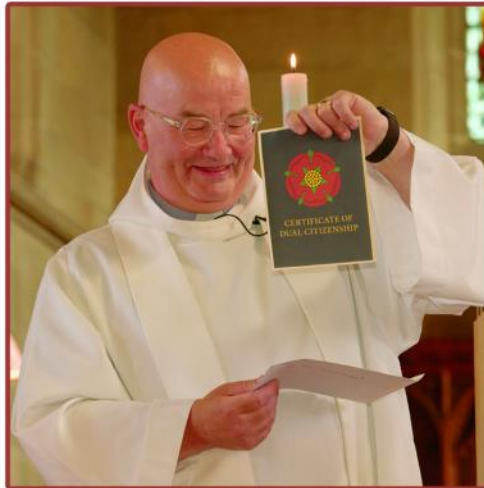
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WHAT A SEND OFF!



You can see from the montage of pictures that we had a bit of fun at the end of both Services on Revd. Simon's last Sunday with us. For much of the past four years Simon carried his robes and other paraphernalia in a large B & M bag which, it has to be said, had seen better days and we had thought about buying him a posh leather bag but then realised that just wouldn't be the same -

so we bought him a new B & M bag for £1.50 and put inside it some interesting bits and pieces – photographs of the two churches to put on his new office wall, a new swimming cap linked to the sponsored swim he did for us; a new mug for his brews, an official looking document which from henceforth gives Simon and Tracy joint citizenship of Penwortham and Longridge; a bottle of Simon's favourite red wine – a lovely arrangement of flowers for Tracy but perhaps more important Graham Kelsall was able to present a gift of money donated by the church family which Simon and Tracy can use to buy something for their new home.



It was emotional but we still had the tea party the following Saturday to look forward to with 120 people having put their name on the list to come and what a brilliant job the FF & F Group and helpers did. Particular thanks must go to Graham Kelsall who masterminded the seating arrangements and to those who prepared and served the food.

Of course, there had to be a bit of 'home spun' entertainment, including a poem in Lancashire dialect and a specially prepared chant by choir members Ann Golding and Wendy Smyth but then a wonderful tribute from the Brigade – the event concluding with the singing of 'Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye' – a lovely finale after four very special years.

We now wish Simon and Tracy every happiness in their new home and parish. How fortunate the people of St. Leonards, Penwortham are – a wonderful next chapter awaits them.

Simon's induction as the next Vicar of St. Leonard's is on Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm. .



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Ruth Buckley's Walk in the Dark challenge April 26th 2025

(for Rosemere Cancer Foundation Preston)

Having completed my chemo treatment in February for bowel cancer I signed up for this walk to thank the team at Rosemere, for their support and the care and treatment of all cancer patients. A big thank you to everyone who sponsored me.

It was a fun night with 500 other walkers joining in the challenge of walking from Rosemere Cancer Centre in Chorley to the Preston Centre, a route of twelve miles along the A6. The weather was dry and calm, thankfully, with lots of excitement at the start with a Samba band and an energetic warm up routine then. We were off!! My group of 7, didn't hang about!

The teenagers were determined to get to the end of the walk as quickly as possible to claim their jacket spuds! The walk was completed in under 4 hours; no comfort stops were allowed!! (A couple of essential sit downs on convenient walls for drinks were permitted)

My granddaughter gave me a very welcome arm (dragged me?) up the last four long miles up the hill from the Capitol Centre, through Preston Centre then continuing along the A6, Blackpool Road, then left turn into a never-ending St. Vincent's Road onto Sharoe Green Lane to the welcome site of the hospital and the finish line at the Rosemere Centre and the jacket spuds!! A great night for a very vital charity.

Thank you again for your support.



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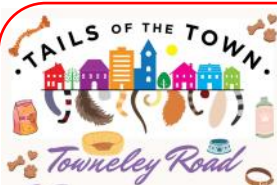
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CHILDREN'S CHURCH

This month we have finished our Easter series looking at the wonder of Easter, we finished with a session called Jesus is gone but he is still with us. We explored Ascension which involved building towers as high as the children could, and a wonderful craft representing Jesus moving up into heaven.

We've now moved onto a new series called 'Good News Jesus is Here!' this focuses on who Jesus is through the first part of the book of Mark. In our first session called Jesus Arrives the children spent time exploring more about Jesus. The children had fun playing games and exploring the person of John the Baptist and his important role in baptising Jesus. They also created a wonderful card for Revd. Simon's last service for him to take with him so he knows how much we have valued him within the Children's Church community.

We look forward to continuing our series together over the next few weeks.



A THANK YOU FROM REV'D. SIMON

By the time this is published, Tracy and I will have moved into the vicarage in Penwortham. However, before we start with the ministry at St. Leonards', we wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone in Longridge.

In the last month we have experienced the most moving and humbling expression of love. It is not something that we ever expected nor can hope to ever repay, thank you all so much. Thank you for kindness and generosity, for the gifts, the cards, the notes, the hugs and the touching comments, the truth is we are still totally overwhelmed.

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SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin**Time to Get Out and About**

The sun has been shining on us recently and that has meant perfect weather for all kinds of class visits. You don't always have to travel very far for an amazing day out and we have certainly made the most of the local area recently.



Class 5 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to UCLan. This science-based trip introduced them to a whole range of scientific fields and areas of research. They learned about the scientific facts that were the basis for many dinosaur films such as the Jurassic Park series. They also had the opportunity to find out about the importance of chemical engineering in our daily lives.

Our Class 4 children had a wonderful day of outdoor and adventurous activities at Hothersall Lodge. The range of activities meant that everyone was challenged in some way. The individual challenges of the zip line, canoeing and climbing were new experiences for many - but something they'd love to do again. The team challenge gave them the opportunity to work together and have fun with their friends.

Definitely a day they won't forget!



SCHOOL NEWS continued

Class 3 also stayed in the locality, visiting Ribchester and the Roman ruins. There was time to play team games in the park and have a treasure hunt too! We are very grateful to our friends at Longridge High School who provided minibus transport for us and particularly Miss Stemp who gave her time to take us.



VE Day Celebrations

We celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a picnic lunch on the playground, followed by a PTFA disco in the evening. Classes 3 and 4 and our school choir have also been learning some popular songs from the war era which they were delighted to perform at St Paul's to open the Spring Fair. Many thanks to Mr Nixon and Mrs Ingram for organising this.

Learning about Baptism

Thank you to Rev'd Mike for allowing Class 1 to visit St Paul's recently. This visit really helped the children to understand what happens at a baptism and why Christians believe it is so special.



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.

Kath, Jacqui, Bev and John.



**Church Lads'
& Church Girls'
BRIGADE**

We've had another busy month at brigade and certainly taken advantage of the improved weather!

Martins/Yteam



Our first week back was spent outside in the sunshine completing a scavenger hunt followed by creating rainbow wind chimes for craft.

We've also been looking at the parable of the lost sheep and talking about how some people lose their way or go down the wrong path in life, however God is there to guide us through it. We made some wobbly head sheep in our craft to bring the story alive. We have also looked at the parable of the great feast which Rev'd Simon kindly read to us. We then made our own sandwiches and decorated cupcakes to create our own feast.



JTC/Seniors

On Saturday 26th April our JTC/Seniors hosted our Annual Afternoon Tea event. This is the 3rd year running and was another huge success. We provided food and drink for 60 guests along with

a raffle and guess the weight of the cake. It was a fabulous afternoon and we are grateful for all those who purchased a ticket and attended. Our members worked hard to plan the event, organise and decorate the room and learn the art of hospitality. We were able to raise over £700 for our funds which will fund providing a summer trip for our members.



Brigade Notes Continued



Our JTC and Seniors have been busy preparing for this year's Festival of Music and Drill which is one of many National events for the organisation. They are creating a complex drill piece to a well known ABBA song- we look forward to seeing the output.

Our National Band members participated in the Annual Band concert which was this year in York on the 4th May. It was a great event followed by a presentation evening where our very own Amii Bateson was awarded 'Drummers Drummer' and achievement award which we are so proud of.

Dates for your Diary:

On **Saturday 16th August** we will be hosting a Bingo Fundraiser Event at the Civic Hall in memory of Janet Redding. We will be raising funds for Brigade and for St Catherine's Hospice. The event will be family friendly and open to all. We ask you to save the date and come along for an afternoon of fun! More details to follow.

Olivia Stewart

For our May meeting it was lovely to welcome Nicola Green to talk to us about her amazing Rosy Goat ice cream.

Tuesday Club

She and her husband Matt came from a dairy farming family but in 2007 decided to go into goats' produce, and started by getting 250 goats from Germany. In 2012 they moved with now 500 goats to their farm near Goosnargh and by 2018 had their ideal target of 1000. The milk then went off to nearby Butlers to be turned into goats' cheese.

The goats are housed in large sheds and are free-range there all year round. They have white, black and brown goats that give good quality milk. They are milked 60 at a time and it takes 3.5 hours to milk the herd.

In 2022 the ice cream making came about because Nicola's daughter was found to be lactose intolerant and so the brand is named Rosy after her. At first they sent the milk off to be made into ice cream but by 2023 had invested in their own dairy and all the ice cream is now produced on site. The farm is open at weekends for the sale of ice cream and it can be also bought from Mrs Kirkham's Farm Shop. They have a range of 20 flavours of which 10 can be bought in tubs. They include vanilla, raspberry ripple, chocolate, honeycomb, mint, strawberry, Toffee Crisp and even Christmas pudding.

We were all treated to a sample of vanilla and raspberry ripple which was so tasty. I will certainly be having a trip to Throstle Nest Farm, Stanalee Lane, Goosnargh PR3 2EQ to try some more flavours.

The Tuesday Club will now take a break over the Summer, returning on the 9th September when we will welcome Bill Nelson telling us about the 1818 Auctioneers in Cumbria and giving us a few tips about antiques on the way.

Before the meeting closed Adrienne Atkinson was thanked for her hard work as Secretary since 2001 and we hope to see her and Bill in the monthly meetings as a member. Many thanks once again Adrienne.

Jean Saunders.



Spring Fair 2025



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPRING FAIR

We feel that having a Spring Fair theme has made a real difference to what had previously been quite a traditional event. Last year you may recall we had 'Old McDonald had a Farm' but as this year's date coincided with the 80th Anniversary of VE Day we were delighted to take that as our theme. Not surprisingly there was lots of Union Jacks and bunting as well as ration books and a specially created air raid shelter on the dais, centred around 'Digging for Victory'. Near that area was a teddy bear and other soft toy stall, all with evacuee labels and looking for a good home. We have certainly come a long way from the old 'Sale of Work' days with St. Paul's Church transformed for the day with colour and interest.

Berry Lane School Choir got the event off to a lovely start with some old wartime favourites and then everyone was able to visit the stalls or make a beeline for the Centenary Room to enjoy lunch. As you can see from the photographs crossover pinnies made a comeback and we do thank Ann Golding and Judith Kaye for making those for the catering team. Rie Waterman and Barbara McCormick made superb land army girls and of course the 'digging for victory' fit in beautifully with the wonderful display of bedding plants that were on sale. The Spring Fair café was kept busy and with it being such a lovely Spring Day, Vernon and Marilyn Kinrade did brisk trade with the BBQ outside.

The big Spring Fair raffle with a superb first prize hamper was well supported as not surprisingly was the cake stall but above all there was a lovely warm, friendly atmosphere with people simply enjoying coming together and sharing in what was a very successful event with £3,134 being raised – that money going to General Church Funds to help with the day to day running costs of our two church buildings and the work of the parish.

Note: One raffle prize was unclaimed – the ticket number being 00829. The prize can be collected from the Parish Office.

The Social Committee (FF & F Group) are now looking forward to the Garden Party at the Old Vicarage on Sunday 13th July which will be an opportunity for us to welcome and to start getting to know our new Curate Jessie, his wife Tosin and son Eric. but more information on that event will be in the July Log.

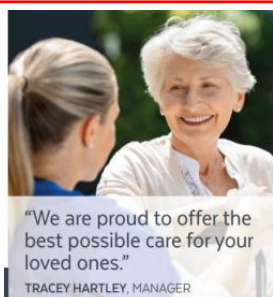
Goosnargh & Longridge Show. 5th July.

We have once again been asked to help man Aunt Sally's tea tent which proved so successful last year and as the church benefitted from half of the money raised was well worth supporting. If you can give some time throughout the day to help, please sign the rota sheet which will be at the back of St. Paul's Church.



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The Mothers' "Away from it All" programme is one of its longest-running projects and supports families through the provision of holidays and trips, offering much-needed respite to families who are unable to afford or access trips and holidays due to difficult circumstances. Some families may be facing adversity, health problems, economic hardship, bereavement, health issues or other life-changing circumstances.

Through these trips, priceless memories are created, giving people a break away from it all, improving mental well-being and physical health, contributing to creating stronger family bonds and relationships. For some participants, these are the only holidays they have been able to have. It can allow for grandparents to go on holiday with their grandchildren, for people with non-traditional family dynamics to spend quality time together, and for families to celebrate treasured moments and cherish new experiences.

There are countless stories of families benefiting from AFIA, and it is thanks to the work of all dioceses and members gifting these incredible experiences to families who need them most. MU recognises and celebrates the vital role families play in nurturing communities and shaping societies. Through prayer and advocacy, MU is committed to supporting and empowering families through our worldwide movement, reaching out with compassion and action. Today, we give thanks for families, praying for their protection, unity, and well-being. (Full article on [mothers' union.org](http://mothersunion.org))

JAK

Dates

June 3rd meeting 7.30pm

July 1st meeting 7.30pm

ANIMAL CORNER!

An Unusual Visitor



It was Revd. Mike who brought to our attention the fact that Pat Hewitt has a pet donkey, mainly because he found its antics so amusing. Apparently, the donkey is now almost 30 years old and called Ola Brown. Given the chance she likes to pay Pat a visit and soon makes herself at home!



An Unusual Occurrence

Back in April, Kathleen English sent us this remarkable picture of five lambs born to one mother on their farm. The chance of five healthy lambs born to one mother and all surviving is apparently one in a million and Kathleen and husband Pat had never witnessed it before. At one week old three of the lambs were put in the pet lamb pen so the other two could be let out with their mother but all thrived and at 4-6 months the lambs will be ready for market.

OUR FAVOURITE RECIPE ALMOND AND APPLE SLICE

We are fortunate in having so many good bakers in the Parish because so often we mark an occasion with cakes as we did after the Services on Revd. Simon's last Sunday with us. The almond and apple slice Marian Scarborough brought and baked by husband David was a real hit and we thought Log readers may like to try the recipe.

Happy baking!

Ingredients

250gm SR flour
1 tsp baking powder
225gm caster sugar
2 eggs beaten
1tsp almond essence
150gm soft margarine or plant based baking spread (I find baking spread works better)
100gm chopped almonds
100gm chopped apricots or sultanas
2 medium dessert apples chopped into small pieces
1-2 tbs milk
Flaked almonds

Method

Combine the SR flour, baking powder and caster sugar in a large bowl.
Melt the margarine/ baking spread allow to cool a little then add to the above ingredients mixing well
Gradually add the beaten eggs and almond essence
Add the chopped almonds, dried fruit and chopped apple. Fold until well combined adding the milk to soften the mixture if too stiff
Place in a greased and lined baking tray approximately 7"x 12"
Sprinkle well with flaked almonds
Bake at 140 degrees fan oven for about 50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean from the centre.
Allow to cool then slice.

For variation I have made it with an added 50gm of dried cranberries alongside the other dried fruit.

FLOWER ROTA

ST. LAWRENCE FLOWER ROTA.

8th Terry & Eileen Lewis Wedding Anniversary
15th In memory of Ian Taylor
22nd Vacant
29th In memory of James & Nancy Procter.

ST. PAUL'S FLOWERS FOR JUNE

Bev Keating

OUR WORSHIP AND READINGS

Following Jesus in Loving Community

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 June - Easter 7

10:00am St Paul's Holy Communion with Children's Church

Revelation 22 : 12 - 21

John 17 : 20 – 26

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 39

Revelation 22 : 12 - 21

John 17 : 20 – 26

8th June - Pentecost - All Together Service

10am St Paul's and live stream

Acts 2 : 1– 21

John 14 : 8– 17

6:30pm St. Wilfrid's, Church, Longridge

Ecumenical Service

No Service at St Lawrence's

15th June - Trinity Sunday

10:00am St Paul's Holy Communion with Children's Church

Psalm 8

John 16 : 12– 15

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 52

Psalm 8

John 16 : 12– 15

22nd June - Trinity 1

10:00am St Paul's Holy Communion with Children's Church

Galatians 3 : 23-29

Luke 8 : 26– 39

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 57

Galatians 3 : 23-29

Luke 8 : 26– 39

29th June - Trinity 2

10:00am St Paul's Holy Communion with Children's Church

Galatians 5.1 : 13-25

Luke 9 : 51– 62

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 60

Galatians 5.1 : 13-25

Luke 9 : 51– 62

6th July - Trinity 3 (Chosen for Reconciliation)

10:00am St Paul's Holy Communion with Children's Church

Ephesians 1 : 1 - 14

Luke 10 : 1-11, 16–20

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 65

Ephesians 1 : 1 - 14

Luke 10 : 1-11, 16–20

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. Simon know so that they may be visited.

BAPTISMS

We congratulate and pray for those who have been recently Baptised into our Church family:

Jake Henry Ian Cooksley-Whalley on the 4th May 2025 at St. Paul's Church

Vinny Kerigan on the 4th May 2025 at St. Paul's Church



FUNERALS

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

Kathleen 'Kath' Bretherton

Marian Helene Hargreaves

Frederick Wareing

Simon James Turver



Please turn to the last page for the beginning of the Vicar's address to the APCM

Secondly, the celebrations of Easter Day also marked the last official services for Paul Warren as our Organist and Choir Director. He's been a real blessing to our church, and I'm delighted that he continues to ring the handbells and remains a worshipper with us at our evening service at St Lawrence. Paul was very gracious in giving us enough notice so that we've been able to seamlessly recruit the extremely capable Karen Au who it's also been an absolute pleasure to welcome among us. Blessed by an active Senior Choir we find ourselves in an ideal position to fan into flame the gift of our sung worship.

There are just a few more hot coals of ministry I want to mention but before that I'd like to speak about an area which I fear risks going cold - this concerns the strength of our corporate prayer life.

You might call prayer the firelighter that enables all Christian ministry to grow and flourish. In my first sermon here eight years ago I spoke from Acts 2:42 about the believers in the early church devoting themselves to four areas, similar to the four wheels of a car that make sure it drives forward in a straight line without swerving off the road.

These areas are the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. During my Sabbatical I reflected that one of the reasons I got so tired was I was trying to do too much in my own strength without asking God who created the universe to help!

In part my own fault, but sometimes I think our church drives too much like one of those three-wheeled Robin Reliant cars from Only Fools and Horses. If we're really to fan into flames the gifts within all of us at St Lawrence with St Paul, we're going to have to get serious about believing in the power of prayer.

My hope was that the launch of the monthly prayer meetings called 'The Well' on Monday nights would begin to address this issue but very few people attended. It could be that the cold winter evenings weren't the ideal time for people to come out but still the priority remains.

For this reason, I'm going to ask Revd Jesse when he comes to help build our expectation in prayer. Why? Because the wind of God's Holy Spirit still mercifully blows among us, but we mustn't take it for granted.

Positively now to close, in the last year I've seen God's Holy Spirit powerfully at work fanning into flame growth in many areas of the varied ministry we're able to offer. Things like Grace Notes, the Bereavement Group and related Bereavement Journey Course. The Wednesday afternoon Welcome Café which on some weeks attracts 45 children and adults of all ages mingling together. And then there is the Thursday afternoon Neuro Diversity Group and Friday morning Churches Together Foodbank, both of which now receive increasing support through partnerships with people from Lancashire County Council. And I've not yet mentioned Brew Time, Walkie Talkies, The Crafty Café, The Mother's Union and The Tuesday Club.

All this is backed up behind the scenes by our Parish Administrator Michael Dawson whose diligence and patience is a blessing to everyone.

By God's grace, we're able to offer so many opportunities for people to interact with our loving community of St Lawrence with St Paul. And as we come together to fan the fire of God's Spiritual gifts within all of us, my prayer for the future is that these interactions will lead to more followers of Jesus both here in Longridge and among those who remain dear to us, like the King family, who are sent out to places like Penwortham.

DONATIONS

In memory of Hilary Hough for church funds £500

Audioworks did a brilliant job of installing the system and I'd also like to pay tribute to Fred Little who has spent many hours behind the scenes working out how the new audio equipment works and Lawrence Ingham who is quietly building up a team of volunteers to help with the visuals and livestreaming of services.

Next, I'd like to touch on our '*Resourcing the Journey*' campaign that with our Treasurer, Graham Kelsall's help, we launched at the start of the year as this directly ties in with some of our ambitious plans for 2026 which also marks the 100th Anniversary of the creation of Blackburn Diocese.

I trust you've already seen the booklet explaining our financial position and I hope you've prayerfully considered how to respond. Simply speaking, we can no longer afford to set anymore deficit budgets and if we don't balance our books we can no longer expect to offer the same level of Christian service to our community. As a congregation, time and time again we've proven our generosity to support individual projects and people, but now we need to fan into flame the gift of our regular giving.

One of the exciting reasons for this is that in August 2025, I'd love us to be in a confident financial position to apply for a Children and Youth Leader as part of what's appropriately called Blackburn Diocese's Ignite programme.

I've every reason to think we can submit a successful application for a Children and Youth Leader to start in January 2026 which would require increasing financial contributions from us at St Lawrence with St Paul, so that by the end of the 5-year project cycle we can pay such a person's full salary.

As I look at our Longridge community a huge area for outreach and growth exists if we partner wisely and appropriately with our local High Schools and I believe this must be one of our major missional priorities moving forward. Like so many Anglican churches in the UK we tend to lose contact with children and their families from about school year 4 and despite extremely good relations with the staff and pupils at Longridge Church of England Primary School through things like Open the Book, we're seeing fewer children coming forward for Confirmation.

Exploratory conversations about what might be possible at Longridge High School have already begun with Headteacher Mrs Green and I'm hopeful that any future support we're able to offer would be a real blessing to them as well.

With this in mind, until a potential Ignite Children and Youth Leader starts with us, I'm going to ask our new curate Revd Jesse to make this a real focus of his initial ministry among us. Revd Jesse's existing youth work experience means he is ideally placed to build on Revd Simon's excellent work so that Revd Jesse can quickly get to know our wonderful Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade and Friday night Youth Group. Thank you to Amii Bateson and others who volunteer locally on the ground to support this and Olivia Stewart who supports the work from her base in Saudia Arabia!

For my part I hope to support the work of our amazing Children's Church Leaders to fan into flame the gifts of their ministry.

None of our ministry with children and teenagers would be possible were it not for the important work of our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Elizabeth Hemingway and our Safeguarding Administrator, Barbara McCormick. In November 2024 we held our first Safeguarding Sunday which was then highlighted in a monthly Diocesan newsletter to all the churches in the Blackburn Diocese. Their hard work and effort go a long way to ensure our PCC complies with our duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

At this juncture I want to acknowledge two changes that have taken place in our sung worship. Firstly, in October 2024 we recruited Annette Walker as our new Junior Choir Director. While our Junior Choir are just a small team of four singers at present, ably led by Annette, they've already enhanced our All-Together Services, and we hope to welcome more young singers as soon as possible.

Continued from page 28

Perhaps the first thing to say is a big thank you to the PCC and Congregation for giving me the opportunity to have a three-month sabbatical from June-August last year. I really needed it, and it made a world of positive difference. I'm extremely grateful to Revd Simon for leading the Church during my time away. I know he did a great job which will stand him in good stead as he shortly starts as the new Vicar of St Leonard's Penwortham. Thank you also to Revd Adrian and Kathleen Sturzaker for their extra help with the service leading and preaching.

One of the strategic capacity based decisions we took at the time was to move from having two morning services at St Paul's Church, formal and informal, to one combined 10am service. It's true that this decision meant we lost a few people who prefer a more modern style of worship. It also seems that Sunday morning remains a very contested space for many people, including young families, so when Revd Jesse arrives on 29th June we'll take an intentional look at how we can attract more people in the teen to early fifties age range to worship with us.

In the waiting I'm deeply grateful to our Worship Group who have been very gracious in not being able to play in our services every week.

Interestingly, overall, the numbers at our 10am and 6.30pm services over the year seem to be remaining healthy, and even steadily increasing. This is also true for our 10am Thursday morning Holy Communion service.

I think there are some societal and structural reasons for this. From a societal perspective, there have been two major post-Covid shifts. The first is that the world seems an increasingly fragile and fearful place, and into this the good news of Jesus speaks the greatest message of hope.

The second societal reason is that the once strident new atheism has proved to be vacuous in meaning and promise, and after all its proponents' denigration of faith, the secular project has nothing to offer in return. This means people and especially younger generations are more open to exploring a life of spiritual significance.

This is the societal wind fanning over our hot coals. We now need to prayerfully consider how to increase the reach of our flame.

Looking back, I think the 2024 vision emphasis, '*Following Jesus with the Northern Saints*' really captured people's imagination, especially the trip to Durham Cathedral for those who were able to enjoy it. Then while we're only halfway through 2025's vision emphasis, '*Following Jesus in Reconciliation*', in a time of global upheaval the gospel theme of reconciliation with God and each other feels particularly apposite.

Through the related Difference Course that Janet Mortimer (our new Licensed Lay Minister) and I were recently able to lead, thirty of us have learnt what it means to 'Be curious, Be present and Re-imagine' what's possible in situations of conflict. The weekend before last we held a glorious VE Day themed Spring Fair followed by our Sunday services thinking about those who followed the way of Christ, giving their lives so we could know freedom.

Then shortly, our summer preaching series will be based on the book of Ephesians which at its core has a message of how the cross of Christ destroys dividing walls of hostility, and brings peace between different groups of believers. To top this all off a day trip to Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 15th November is being organised as we consider how reconciliation can be built from the ashes of war.

We've also embarked on some notable projects. The most obvious one being the successful installation of a new Audio-Visual System at St Paul's Church. Thanks to our congregation's generosity in raising £16,000 and a matching £16,000 grant from Blackburn Diocese, we've been able to expand the horizon of our worship offering.

Continued on page 26

The Last Word

From the Vicar, Rev. Mike Barton

APCM Vicar's Address 2025

'For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.' (2 Timothy 1:6)



In the warmth of the ongoing May sunshine, last Tuesday I decided it was time to have our first BBQ of the year. And as you know in England a BBQ is a proper event, not to be entered into lightly!

So I dug out the coals from the coal bunker, arranged them on our makeshift firepit BBQ and set to work starting the fire. The key of course to a good BBQ

is to make sure that the initial fiery flames caused by setting the kindling alight burn long enough for the coals can catch fire, to the point where the flames settle down and the whitening coals exhibit a hot red glow. At this point, you know it's time to put your burgers, sausages and chops etc on the grill, which needs to sit at just the right height above the coals.

Too low and when the fat drops onto the coals – you know exactly what's going to happen – whoosh, the flames will dramatically spark up again and burn the food to a crisp.

Too high and there will be no flame grilling at all; the food won't cook properly, the coals will lose their heat, and oh the shame if you have to retreat into the kitchen to use the oven grill and you're left wondering why you went to all the fuss in the first place!

Makeshift BBQing is a tricky business.

Maybe running a church is too. You need enough hot coals of faith burning to keep the church alive in the present, you must continually add fuel to the fire if the church is to remain hot into the future, and you need good governance structures operating at the right level to make sure everyone involved can properly taste and see the Lord is good.

But over all this, what makes church life a proper event, what makes all the fuss worth it, is seeing the flame of God's Holy Spirit actively revealing gifts and changing the lives of believers at various stages and every generation today.

And here at St Lawrence with St Paul, the year since the last APCM on 23 April 2024 has been no exception and my sincere hope in this time of transition is that we'll continue to fan into flame the gift of God that lives in us for the future.

In what follows I don't want to steal the thunder of the Churchwardens' and Treasurer's reports which cover and give thanks for all the amazing people and work that's taken place in the area of our Church's Fabric and Finances so I'm going to do my best to limit my report to some of the hot coals in our worshipping life as we review the previous period while also looking to the season ahead.

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