

# The Log

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DAY**

**80**

**8 MAY 2025**

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**The Parish Magazine**

**May 2025**

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## VICAR'S NOTES

Doubtless many of you will be familiar with the words 'All change' that echo around train stations when a train reaches its final destination. Well here at St Lawrence with St Paul we're entering a time of significant change which will include feelings of loss as we say goodbye to our dear Curate Simon King who over four years, along with Tracy and the rest of the King family, have made such a positive impact on our church and in Longridge.

On Easter Sunday we also said farewell to Paul Warren performing in his official capacity as our Organist and Choir Director. I am however hopeful we'll see Paul and his wife Kate worshipping with us in the weeks to come. At this time though I'm reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:4 which says there is a time to weep and mourn as we give voice to loss.

Yet in the connected breath of God's ways, Ecclesiastes 3:4 also states there is a time to laugh and dance. This is part of the Gospel's grand narrative. That in giving away your best you also receive. This pattern is also true of the Good Friday to Easter Day journey.

In this regard you can read an article on page 12 introducing our new Organist and Choir Director Karen Au. Then in some other significant news I can announce we are anticipating the arrival of Curate, Revd Jesse Adesina whose licensing will take place at Blackburn Cathedral, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am. Revd Jesse is already a priest having been ordained in Nigeria and has lots of experience in Youth Ministry and leading worship.

I'm delighted to say that just like Revd Simon, Revd Jesse also has a wonderful pastor's heart and I know he'll be a true blessing to us. Jesse will be joined by his wife Tosin and three-year-old son, Eric. We'll introduce the Adesina family to you more in the next edition of The Log.

And so, after a brief refuelling I can assure you the St Lawrence with St Paul train will continue on as we seek to serve the unique purposes of God to which we're called, holding dear those who've travelled with us for a time, while opening our hearts to new passengers who for this next part of the journey have come to live, love and serve alongside us.

## A Delightful Easter

After some deeply moving services in Lent it was a delight to be able to share the celebration of Easter Day with many of you. Thank you to all those who contributed to the services over the period, including members of the Junior Choir, Annette Walker our Junior Choir Director, the Worship Group, the Senior Choir, and as mentioned above Paul Warren.

I'd also like to express my sincere thanks to all those who decorated both churches with flowers and the many others who I know worked so hard behind the scenes to facilitate things like the Good Friday Parish walk and meal. Pictures are on page 6.

## Lychgate Appeal

Some very good news! Thanks to your generous donations we've reached our Lychgate Appeal target. You can read the article on page 15 for more details about what this means.

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## Vicar's Notes continued .....

### VE Day Themed Spring Fair and Other Celebrations

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and Longridge Town Council already has some fun things in mind. For our part we want to contribute to this important time of reflection, remembrance and celebration over the weekend of 10-11<sup>th</sup> May.

This means from 11am-2pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May we'll be holding our Annual Spring Fair at St Paul's Church where we hope to be joined by the Longridge C of E School Choir who will open the occasion. If you can help us by donating raffle and tombola prizes - bottles for the bottle tombola, books, etc. we'd be most grateful. Then we'd very much welcome cakes, biscuits and produce to be brought on the morning of the Fair for those who are able to contribute in this way.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May there will be a VE Day themed All Together Service at 10am at St Paul's Church and 6.30pm Parish Communion at St Lawrence Church. We hope you can join us to pray for the peace of the world in what seems like fractious times.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm at St Paul's Church

Every six years Church of England churches are obliged to renew their Electoral Roll and 2025 is one such year. Lots of you who wish to remain on the Electoral Roll for St Lawrence with St Paul have already filled in new electoral roll forms and while the deadline to be able to vote at our APCM has now passed, you can still fill in a form should you wish to become an official member of St Lawrence with St Paul's Church. The names of those on the new Electoral Roll will be published in both churches on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025. Please email Michael Dawson:

[secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com](mailto:secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com) if you have any questions or require more details.

As well as conducting the official business of the church, the APCM gives me the opportunity to share some of the highlights of the previous year and prayerful hopes for the future. I hope you might join me for this important evening.

### Revd Simon King and Family Leaving Plans

We now have an official date for Revd Simon's last Sunday services with us which is 18th May.

This will give him and Tracy time to transition into their new Vicarage home in Penwortham ready for Simon's Induction as the next Vicar of St Leonard's Church **on Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm**. I know Simon will very much appreciate as much support from Longridge at this service as possible so please do come along if you're able. We are looking into the possibility of hiring a coach to take us to Penwortham, confirmation of this will be in the June Log.

To ensure we say an appropriate farewell, after the 10am and 6.30pm church services on 18<sup>th</sup> May there will be some celebratory cake, biscuits and drinks to suit all palates. At this time we look forward to sharing some suitable leaving gifts with the Kings (Please note it's not too late to leave any cash donations with me or one of the Churchwardens).

Then on the following Saturday, 24th May at 3.30pm in St. Paul's Church there will be what has been described to me as a 'full blown afternoon tea party' with sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes and fizz etc. **to which everyone is invited**. If you're thinking of slimming in time for any summer holidays, then these few weeks will not be the moment to start! To help with catering numbers do add your name to the list in both churches.

## Vicar's Notes continued .....

### Welcoming Revd Jesse Adesina

As indicated above, this time for goodbyes is also a time for hellos and in this spirit it would be wonderful if we can have a good gathering of congregation members at Blackburn Cathedral at 10.30am on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June for Revd Jesse's licensing as our new Curate. Further to this we look forward to welcoming him, his wife Tosin and son Eric with cake etc. at our services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Then at our Annual Garden Party on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July we'll host an official welcome at the Old Vicarage from 2pm – 4pm.

### Confirmation Course 2025

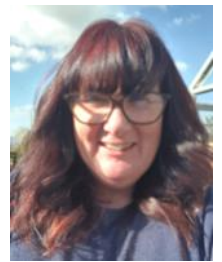
The recently installed new Bishop of Burnley Joe Kennedy is due to lead a Confirmation Service at St Paul's Church on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm. This means this year's Confirmation Course for Year 6 School Children will take place over six Thursday afternoons starting 5<sup>th</sup> June, 3.30-4.45pm at Longridge CofE Primary School.

In addition, if you are an adult who would like to confirm your baptismal vows please do let me know and we can organise for this to happen.

### New Beginnings



Spring is such a beautiful time in nature, with green shoots, yellow daffodils and an overwhelming feeling of a fresh start. As the team gathered to fill the church with flowers in preparation for the Easter service, it certainly felt like a new beginning to me. For the first time we decorated both the Easter Candle and the Font without using any oasis – a product we are phasing out due to its harmful plastic content. We also used tied bunches of locally cut greenery to decorate the pillars rather than the oasis filled 'spades' traditionally used.



It is so important to our team to reduce the impact of our floral decorations on our planet. We have more to do and we will tackle that as the year goes on. In the meantime, we hope that you enjoyed our displays this Easter time.

If anyone would like to join our team, please do get in touch. You truly do not need any experience – simply the enthusiasm to have a go. If you do not fancy arranging the flowers but are a regular user of the church during the week, maybe you would like to help us maintain them by watering them – this would be equally valuable.





***Easter 2025***

## Clergy & Church Officers

<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Rev. Mike Barton</b>	The Vicarage, Church Street	01772 389837	revmikebarton@gmail.com
<b>Curate</b>	<b>Rev. Simon King</b>	9 Willows Park Lane	07789 645138	revsimonking@gmail.com
<b>Retired Clergy:</b>	<b>Rev. John Ball</b>		07754 771220	
	<b>Rev. Adrian Mairs</b>	8 Hacking Drive	01772 356015	adrian.s.mairs@gmail.com
			07899 905768	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Dot Little</b>	26 Hoghton Road	01772 783998	dotlittle003@gmail.com
	<b>Dorothy Laver</b>	19 The Pastures, Grimsargh	07719 389529	dorothy.laver@gmail.com
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	<b>Graham Kelsall</b>			graham@oaktreehouse.net
	<b>Mae Heys</b>	29 Fell Brow	07740 068099	
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	<b>Barbara Burton</b>	7 Chaigley Road		brbrbrtn6@gmail.com
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	<b>Graham Kelsall</b>			graham@oaktreehouse.net
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	<b>Elizabeth Hemingway</b>			psostlandplongridge@gmail.com
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<b>Michael Dawson</b>	See hours below	01772 783281	secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com
<b>Health &amp; Safety Officer</b>	<b>Chris Martin</b>			
<b>Electoral Role Officer</b>	<b>Michael Dawson</b>			

## Parochial Church Council

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

## Organisations

<b>Parish Administrator</b>	<i>Michael Dawson</i>
Parish Office Monday and Wednesday	9:30—12:30
Friday	9.30—15.30 01772 783281
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	
Hon. Sec. St. Lawrence	Dot Little 01772 783998
	JudithKaye 01772 785114
Hon. Sec. St. Paul	Donna Rowe-Green 07880 348597
<b>Choir</b>	
Organist and Choir Director	Paul Warren
	<i>paulbionicears@gmail.com</i>
<b>Church Lads &amp; Church Girls Brigade</b>	
Wednesday Nights Berry Lane School Term Times	
Martins 6 pm, Young Members 6.30 pm JTC/Seniors 7.00 pm	
	<a href="mailto:Oliviastewart@clcgb.org.uk">Oliviastewart@clcgb.org.uk</a>
<b>Crafty Café</b>	
Last Monday each month, Centenary Room 1.30 - 3.30pm also:	
Contacts	Helen Bailey 07891 075023
	Bev Keating
	Jean Saunders 01772640146
<b>Handbell Ringers</b>	
Leader	Judith Kaye Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
	<i>judithkaye@sky.com</i> 01772 785114

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

<b>Children's Church</b>	
<i>Carolyn Barton</i>	<i>carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk</i>
<b>Mothers Union</b>	7.30pm on 1st Tuesday
Enrolling Member	<i>Judith Kaye</i> Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
	<i>judithkaye@sky.com</i> 01772 785114
<b>Prayerline</b>	If you would like our prayer team to pray for you e-mail
<i>Muriel Anderson</i>	12 Plessington Court, Brewery Street, Longridge
	<i>Murielanderson33@gmail.com</i> 07823 762089
<b>Tuesday Club</b>	7.30pm on 2nd Tuesday
Chairman	<i>Fred Little</i> 26 Hoghton Road
Hon. Sec.	<i>Adrienne Atkinson</i> 01772 783998
	<i>adbil1959@gmail.com</i> 01772 783091
<b>Walkie Talksies</b>	
	<i>Hannah Green</i> 20 Darwen Close 01772 783558
<b>Bereavement Group</b>	
meets on 1st Monday of the month including Bank Holidays	
	<i>Karen Burdett</i> 07712 440135
	<i>karenlburdett@hotmail.com</i>

## Sidesmen and Sideswomen

Karen Boardman, Bev Keating, Janet Heap, Peter Turver, Lib Turver, Graham Kelsall, Yvonne Ball, Val Wardley, Phil Walker, Marina Walker, Emma Pettit, Carl Pettit, Becky Filder, Andrew Filder, Lawrence Ingham, Marilyn Kinrade, Barbara Burton, Ian Cookson, Ruth Buckley, Jennifer Sturzaker, Kai Ng, Helen Eccles, Keith Thompson, Judith Singleton, Liz Hemmingway.

## Duty Wardens

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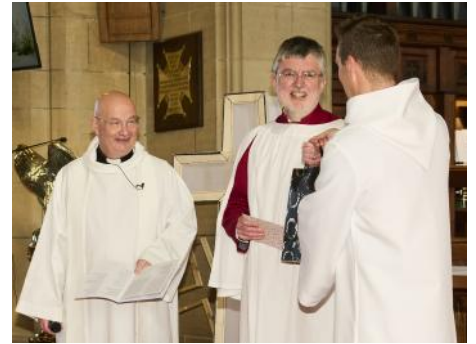


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## Thank you from Paul.

I was overwhelmed at both my last services on Easter Day by the presentations from clergy/PCC and the choir. A very big thank you to one and all. It really has been a privilege to have held the position of Organist and Choir Director at St Lawrence with St Paul. Once again, thank you very much for the presents.

*Paul Warren.*



## Choir Notes

As you know Paul played his last service at Evensong on Easter Day as our Choir & Music Director. As always throughout the last two years Paul has been with us, we have sung some beautiful hymns both modern and traditional. He gave us some challenging anthems, but with his support, as always, we managed to get it, as they say, "right on the night". During this time, he also treated us to some lovely voluntaries at the end of the services. His very last voluntary was especially moving as it was dedicated to the choir. We will surely miss him, but, as we all know, he is not completely leaving us at St. Lawrence with St. Paul's. Over the last few months, we have successfully appointed a new Organist & Music Director in Karen Au. For more details on Karen, see 'Getting to know you' on page 12. So, we are looking forward to some more challenging and rewarding hymns and anthems in the coming months ahead.



*Michael Dawson*



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ST. LAWRENCE WITH ST. PAUL, LONGRIDGE

— VE DAY THEMED —  
**SPRING FAIR**

Saturday 10th May — 11am - 2pm  
in St. Paul's Church

To be opened by Longridge C of E School Choir.



Spring Fair Cafe: Traditional or Cheese & Onion Hotpot with Peas  
Freshly made sandwiches, Assorted desserts  
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**Grand Spring Fair Raffle**


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**ALL PROCEEDS TO GENERAL CHURCH FUND**

## **VE DAY 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY THEMED SPRING FAIR.**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 11am – 2pm in St. Paul's Church.**

With Easter being late this year we have found ourselves with just three weeks to get all the arrangements in place for our 2025 Spring Fair. You will see from the poster that as the fair is just two days after the official VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations we will be very much continuing that VE Day theme – with stall holders and kitchen staff dressed for the occasion.

We are so pleased that Longridge C of E Primary School Choir are to open the event – do make sure you are in St. Paul's by 11.00am to hear them. Then there will be an opportunity to go round the stalls and for the children to enjoy crafts and games on the dais where a special Spring Fair air raid shelter will be erected.

There will also be the opportunity to pick up a ration book and visit each stall, answering a quiz question and getting your book stamped with a chance to win a prize.

As well as the Spring Fair raffle with a wonderful hamper first prize there will be all the usual favourites – plants, cakes, tombola's, squares game, books, jigsaws and lots of sideshows. A good number of teddy bears will also have their evacuation tags on and will be looking for a good home.

You will be pleased to know that there won't be any rationing in the Spring Fair kitchen with Ann and her team ready to cook for us both traditional and cheese & onion hotpot with some open teacake sandwiches and some yummy desserts also on the menu. Vernon and Marilyn Kinrade will be in charge of the BBQ outside on the grassed area and don't forget to visit the cake stall which the choir will be manning.

One of the features of the Spring Fair is the wonderful display of bedding plants which we purchase each year direct from the Horticultural Nursery at Whitestake and we do thank Robert Wilkinson for transporting these for us.

So lots to look forward to and importantly an opportunity to be together and to enjoy each other's company. We look forward to seeing you.

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## **Revd. Simon's Leaving Party.**

As you will read in the Vicar's notes, although Revd. Simon's last Sunday is the 18<sup>th</sup> May his farewell party will be in St. Paul's Church on Saturday afternoon 24<sup>th</sup> May starting at 3.30pm. The FF & F Group (Social Committee) promised Simon and Tracy a good send off so do come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship. To help with catering numbers please add your name to the list in both churches if you are able to join us.



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**GETTING TO KNOW YOU – Karen Au.**

Dear readers, it is my great pleasure to introduce myself to you as your new organist. Here is a bit of background information about where I've been and what I've done -

I was born in Hong Kong in 1990, and like many middle class Asian children, I was made to learn the piano at age seven. After hearing the violin on the streets of Canterbury I also asked (or more like pestered) my parents to let me learn the violin as well.

When I arrived in the UK to embark on secondary education my new piano teacher, a terrifying but inspiring man, happened to be the school organist and after a couple of years he decided that he'd teach me the organ instead. Soon after that, I began to play for school services and even took over as school organist in my final year at school. To my amazement I managed to gain an organ scholarship at Corpus Christi, Cambridge, where for three years I attempted (and failed miserably) to write many essays and play three services a week. Despite the stressful environment, due to the constant overwhelming workload, I mostly enjoyed my time there and learnt a lot about choral accompanying.

After university, I was briefly the organist of St Lawrence's College in Ramsgate before moving on to another organ scholarship at Blackburn Cathedral. I very quickly realised that I did not suit the world of cathedral music, nor it me, so after I completed my year as organ scholar I decided to earn a living as a baker but also working as a freelance musician, doing some teaching and playing for various local Choral Societies and churches.

Recently, I decided I'd had enough of the night shifts and decided to re-train as a horticulturalist. Having spent two and a bit years inside a hot stuffy bakery all night working outside in the fresh air seemed very appealing. Currently I work at Willowbridge Plants, a nursery in Catforth, which specialises in grafted Japanese Maples.

Now that you know a bit about me, I look forward to getting to know all of you over the next few months. I am hoping that I can build on what Paul Warren has achieved and continue to raise the standard of worship and music at St. Lawrence with St. Paul. If you are interested in joining the choir either as a regular member or on a more ad hoc basis please don't hesitate to get in touch, you will be able to catch me most Sundays!

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*Kath, Jacqui, Bev and John.*



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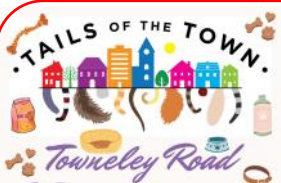
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## APPEAL REACHES ITS TARGET.

Many Log readers will recall that the appeal to restore the Lychgate at the Parish Church of St. Lawrence was launched on a wet Saturday morning in June 2024 with ten couples all married at St. Lawrence happily standing for a photograph under the recently erected appeal banner. That photograph was used for the press release and to promote the newly set up JustGiving page.

Some 10 months later treasurer Graham Kelsall has confirmed the good news that he now feels sufficient money has been raised to hopefully cover the restoration and for the work to go ahead. The banner has

therefore been removed and after including this months donations the appeal closed.



Looking back over those ten months we had a successful Flower Festival in July 2024 – Celebrated St. Lawrence day with a splendid afternoon tea – enjoyed a highly enjoyable Christmas Concert by the Valley Singers and more recently a wonderful concert by Longridge Band. Those events all gave the appeal a tremendous boost but it has been the donations we have received week by week, month by month that have been so encouraging and got us to the required figure. You will see that this past month over £75 was raised by Gary Rowles Butchers who offered to have two collecting tins on their counter – a wonderful gesture, all confirming the affection and the attachment people feel to that building where Longridge people have worshipped for well over 500 years.

We wish we could thank everyone personally for their generous contributions but understandably a good number have chosen to remain anonymous – especially those donating via the JustGiving page. We therefore take this opportunity to thank everyone most sincerely – the support has been heartwarming and we are so grateful that we can now finalise the Faculty to gain Diocesan approval to commence the work which hopefully can be scheduled for over the Summer.

### Donations for Lychgate Restoration Appeal.

In memory of Michael Swanson	£200
Anon.	£20
Anon.	£2,000
Collecting tins at Rowles Butchers	£75.73
Anon.	£100

Our sincere thanks also to all those who have kindly donated via the JustGiving site.

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## REVD. SIMON - THANK YOU.

### From the Churchwardens.

When Simon and Tracy arrived back from the Ordination Service at the Cathedral, where he was made Deacon on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the original plan was to have a Garden Party at the Old Vicarage to welcome them but as it turned out Covid restrictions were such that the garden party was postponed until the September and only the PCC were able to be there.

We didn't waste much time before throwing things at him though because when that Garden Party did take place we had him in the stocks, wet through, from being hit by wet sponges! Being soaked was perhaps good preparation for the 21 miles he swam in 21 days, (a total of 1344 lengths of a local swimming pool), as part of the Time, Talents and Treasures Triathlon in August 2023 raising money for church funds. That challenge was all the more remarkable because Simon had undergone a hip replacement operation earlier that year.

When Simon returned to the Cathedral to be Priested on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022 he was not short of Longridge support and after the Service came back to St. Paul's for a celebratory BBQ and party with everyone invited. It was amazing that in just 12 months in the Parish it felt like he was one of us.

Over the four years we have had the privilege of having Simon as Curate there have been of course many baptisms, weddings and far too many funerals, every one of those occasional offices prepared with the utmost care. We should add that there have also been some long PCC Agendas to work through with many fabric and finance items to discuss but when Revd. Mike took his three month sabbatical in 2024 he knew the parish was in good hands.

What a journey we have shared and now that journey will take Simon and Tracy ten miles or so back down the B6243 towards Preston and on to Penwortham with our love and prayers.

One thing Simon you leave with one record intact – you are the only Vicar or Curate of Longridge, certainly in living memory, who has received a spontaneous round of applause after a sermon - quite an achievement but what a gift you have for preaching.

### From the Brigade

Simon has been an integral part of our Brigade family and the impact he's had on our leaders and members will last a lifetime. We want to thank him for the years of friendship, support, guidance and truly accepting our crazy family as his own. We thank you for being our constant throughout it all - you've been there through exam stress, new jobs, breakups, ill health, passing of loved ones, big moves across the globe and everything in between. We feel very lucky to have had the privilege of your presence every Wednesday - it will be missed!!

### From our members.

Simon has impacted our lives in countless ways, he has always taken the time to listen to any crazy and bizarre things we had to say. As well as always being the person we could go to for anything, if that was advice or just to bring a smile to our faces. The amount of laughs we've shared has been unforgettable and will be deeply missed.

We hope that you love your new church as much as we have loved the time you've spent with us. Your new church family will love you lots and should feel honoured to have you. Just know though Simon that if you don't visit every once in a while we will not be happy about it ahha.

**REVD. SIMON - THANK YOU.. .....continued****From the FF & F Group (Social Committee)**

When Simon was called to Longridge I wonder if he ever imagined how things would unfurl? He hadn't been here too long when we had a conversation where he admitted he never intended looking for a Curacy in a more rural parish, and coming from Preston and a city base you can kind of understand his apprehension. There will no doubt be many words written in this edition of The Log about his caring ministry, his thoughtfulness, and his ability to connect with everyone from the youngest parishioners to the oldest generation but I am here to write about his incredible willingness for fun and fellowship in the name of fundraising.

Simon and Tracy were quick to offer help and assistance from the off. We have seen Simon dressed up in aprons at barbecues and as such things as a Lion and Wizard for Field Day, dressing up as a Royal Guard at Spring Fair and serving tea and cakes in the tea tent at the Goosnargh and Longridge Show, the list goes on. Penwortham isn't too far away for us to visit and we look forward to seeing what you might get dressed up as next!

Simon's willingness to turn up and do what he's told will be remembered for a long while. Simon and Tracy have attended most functions and events and often work quietly in the back ground. It might be making a pan of soup for a jigsaw festival or have their hands in the sink washing up, their help and assistance has been greatly appreciated.

There have been many times too where they have been able to enjoy fellowship at social events with fun and laughter, getting to know us that bit better and making new friends. I think everyone will agree that Penwortham are very fortunate to have Rev Simon and Tracy join them at St Leonards. It goes without saying we wish them both well as they start their next chapter but its safe to say Longridge will be left with a King sized hole which will be hard to fill.

On behalf of the FUNdraising and Fellowship committee I would like to say a massive thank you to Simon and Tracy for all their help, support and friendship over the last four years.

*Wendy Smyth.*

**From the Bereavement Group**

I would like to thank Simon for his support and contributions with the Bereavement Journey course and the monthly Bereavement group especially the Blue Christmas service.

Simon's dedication, hard work and passion has been invaluable, and inspiring and I appreciate all that he has done. Thank you also for friendship

Although it's hard to say goodbye to Simon as he will be greatly missed I do wish him and Tracy all the very best as they begin their next chapter

*Karen Burdett*

**From the Welcome Cafe**

We have really appreciated the fact Simon has been a regular helper at our welcome cafe for the last couple of years. He has mucked in both in the kitchen, doing the craft activity and sitting and chatting with both our young and not so young attendees. Many I'm sure have shared laughs, confidences and had the pleasure of his company. I know that we will all miss his company and help and St Leonard's are lucky to be gaining such an all-round 'good guy' We love you, Simon.

*Steph, Karen & John*

## From Children's Church.

Children's church has always been a big priority for Revd. Simon since his first day in Longridge. From how he interacts with children arriving on a Sunday morning with high fives and big smiles, him dressing up for special occasions both in church and school, helping and leading fun Sunday School sessions and for always ensuring each child who wants to share at the front of church has a voice, no matter how old! His passion and kindness will be greatly missed as well as his wisdom and big heart. Thank you so much Simon from ALL the Children's Church team and all the children you have helped teach, inspire and provide for.

## From Youth Group

Simon has created an amazing space for young people to grow and learn about their faith through Youth Group. We will be forever thankful for the quizzes, pizza and games that have filled our Friday nights for many years. All those who have attended feel blessed to have been given such time with Simon. Simon's new parish is incredibly lucky to have him and we're sure that Simon will be fantastic.

## From the Log Team.

The lovely thing about having a church magazine is that as well as reporting on current matters of interest or giving notice of future events you can enjoy looking back. That's what we have done to pick out just a small selection of the highlights and photographs we have had the pleasure of including during Revd. Simon's time here.

Having enjoyed re-reading some of the many 'Last Word' articles Simon has written openness and honesty are the thoughts that come through, Simon often using his own life experiences as a starting point before expertly guiding the reader to the Christian message or challenge he wants to put over. A wonderful skill.

We in the Log team have also frankly come to rely on Simon's artistic expertise to produce some amazing front cover images month by month – how we are going to miss that. We often talk about people using their time and talents – thank you Simon for always making the time and being so willing to use your talents to enhance the quality of our magazine. What a wonderful new chapter it will be for the church family at St. Leonard's.

## From Brewtime

If you were to ask Simon what his favourite drink was, what would he reply? A cheeky red wine maybe? A nice glass of gin and tonic? Or a cup of tea?

I think it's fair to say that on a Wednesday morning it would be a cup of tea. Simon, being a regular visitor to Brewtime, will be very much missed when he leaves.

We have enjoyed many conversations with Simon and his lovely warm personality, together with his friendly smile make the greyest mornings that much brighter. We are forever grateful for the time you have spent with us and consider ourselves truly blessed to say you are a good friend to us all.

We would all like to say a massive thank you for everything you have done and wish you every success in Penwortham. Our loss is definitely their gain.

## From the Choir.

The choir has always enjoyed singing Evensong, but as Simon confirmed in one of his 'Last Word' articles he had never even been to an Evensong Service before coming to Longridge. We were therefore very pleased when he was not only willing to take the service but also to lead the singing of the responses with the choir. It has been great to see him singing with more confidence week by week. Simon is very approachable and has made time for whoever needed his support, always with a kind word and a ready smile. He has been very supportive of the choir and we will all miss him greatly.

## SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin



### Year 6 visit to the Imperial War Museum North

Class 6 thoroughly enjoyed their History work on World War 2. They learned about children's experience of evacuation and the changes to domestic life brought about by air raids, blackouts and rationing. The museum is a tremendous resource and really brought their learning to life.



### Construction Club

Mrs Carr's Construction Club is always very popular with our younger children. Although the club gives children the opportunity to design and build, it also gives them the chance to learn about famous landmarks and structures from around the world. A variety of construction materials are used each week although Mrs Carr says that the

sweetie build remains the most popular session!



### PTFA Easter Competition

These incredible designs were all entries in a competition run by our wonderful PTFA. They wanted an Easter themed project for our children to work on over the holidays and came up with the idea of decorating eggs (or pebbles!). I am always amazed at how creative our children are. Well done to everyone who entered!



## Thank you, Rev'd Simon

Thank you for your help when I was scared performing.

We will miss you and hope to see you sometime soon.

Thank you for helping us all. I hope you enjoy Penwortham.



Good luck and keep safe. We will all miss you.

The whole school wishes Rev'd Simon well as he moves on to his new post and new parish. We always looked forward to seeing him as part of the Open the Book team and the Junior Church Choir children always enjoyed his company on Fridays after school. He has been a good friend to the staff and children at Berry Lane, even dressing up to join us on Field Day. We do hope that the relatively short distance to his new parish will mean that he keeps in touch. He takes with him our love and best wishes.

## FLOWER ROTA.

### ST. LAWRENCE FLOWER ROTA.

Easter pedestal arrangements - in memory of Lilian Hodgson and Muriel Barker.

May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Vacant
11 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of William & Ettie Fordham
18 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of Maureen McDonnell
25 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of Michael Swanson

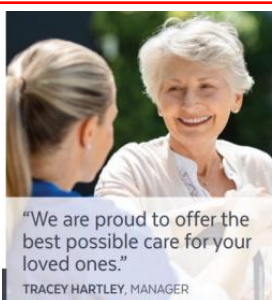
### ST. PAUL'S FLOWERS FOR MAY.

Yvonne Ball & Judith Kaye



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## BRIGADE

This month we have celebrated all things Easter throughout all our sections. Our Martins and Yteam started the month by creating Mother's Day cards using finger painting- we all got very messy! We've also done Easter colouring and



enjoyed many Easter themed games which of course meant an egg hunt outside in the sunshine.

Our JTC and Seniors have also enjoyed many Easter themed crafts and games- a firm favourite each year is the Egg drop challenge where our members work together as part of a team to design an egg and create a suitable casing for it to

be dropped from a height and not break! Lots of creative designs- one of them being Egg Sheeran!

They also took part in an Apprentice themed night where they had to take an already existing Easter Egg and redesign it, decide a price and sell it to an audience- we had some great designs- Lord Simon King (unfortunately Lord Alan Sugar was unavailable) chose our winner!

We welcomed Mick McKenna from Chorley Brigade who kindly gave up his evening to run a Drum practice session with our National Band members in preparation for their upcoming concert. We also saw some of our other members take an interest and have a go!

We have enjoyed 2 weeks off for the Easter holidays and look forward to welcoming old and new faces back.

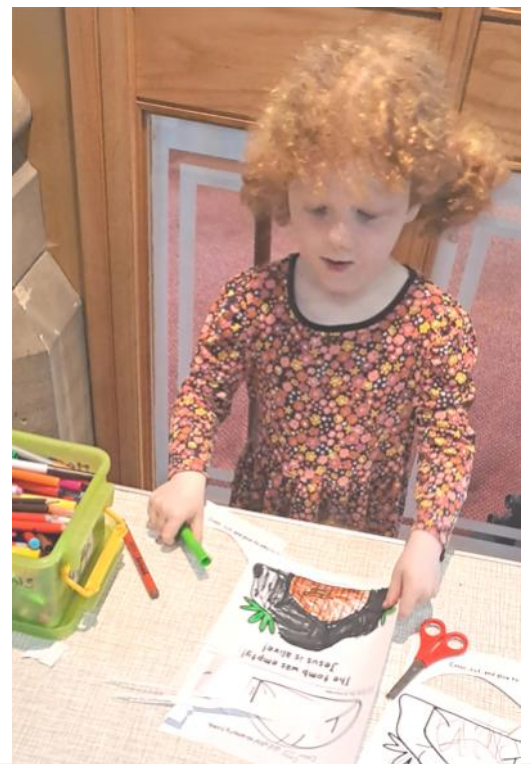
*Olivia Stewart.*



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH.

This month we have continued learning about the events of Holy Week. It was fantastic to have Rev Mike leading our Children's Church session at the beginning of the month. We had great fun exploring how people rescue others and then we found out that Jesus rescued people for heaven using the cross. We were amazed by Rev Mike's origami storytelling and created some wonderful cross art.

With Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we have only had 2 Children's Church sessions and we finished the month exploring how Jesus is alive and we should share this good news with others. We had great fun making delicious treats and creating our Jesus is alive evidence bags to share with others!





# *The Valley Singers*

## **Charity Concert**

### **for**



# **Christian Aid**

**Saturday 10 May 2025**

**Concert Starts 7:00 pm**

**Christ Church, Berry Lane, Longridge**

Music including Works by:

*Henry Mancini,*

*Ewan McColl,*

*John Rutter,*

*Orlando Gibbons,*

*Bob Chilcott,*

*Steve Tilston*

**Free Admission**

**Collection for Christian Aid**

**Refreshments included**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LONGRIDGE & DISTRICT.

**Lent Lunch Total.** Thank you to everyone who supported the five Lent Lunches this year, which we can confirm raised a total of £1,230.95 (£615.48 each for CAFOD and Christian Aid).

Christian Aid week this year is from 11-17<sup>th</sup> May and you will see from the poster that there is to be a concert given by the Valley Singers on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May in Christ Church starting at 7.00pm. Admission is free but with the opportunity to donate towards the work of Christian Aid.

Looking back to Palm Sunday we gathered in St. Wilfrid's for an Ecumenical Service and then on Good Friday at midday shared in the short Service of the Cross at the War Memorial. It is always meaningful and special when we can come together in worship and this would seem a good opportunity to remind people that we pray together every Friday as Churches Together at 7.45am – this year in St. Wilfrid's Parish Room.

The next Ecumenical Service will be on the evening of Pentecost Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

### A prayer from the Palm Sunday Service.

*May we strive to love one another as God has loved us, that we may work for unity and peace and that through embracing his word in both heart and mind, we might come to strengthen the bonds that bring us together in fellowship. AMEN.*



On March 26<sup>th</sup> 2025 Kathleen Snow was officially commissioned as our new Worldwide President at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York.



Archbishop Stephen reflected on the occasion, saying: "It was a real joy to commission Kathleen Snow as the new Worldwide President of Mothers' Union today. Members across the world are united in their desire to make a difference in daily lives, bringing the hope and love of God in practical ways."

Kathleen's motivation to take on this role was "We are stronger together. These words have been on my heart since I felt the calling to stand for Worldwide President. Mothers' Union is more than an organisation - it's a way of life, a family of faith."

Alongside Kathleen, the new Worldwide Board of Trustees was also commissioned. Representing the diversity and strength of our 4 million members in over 84 countries.

As Kathleen was starting her new role, we learned that Simon King would be leaving Longridge to take up his first solo appointment in Penwortham. Simon spoke to our branch members on two occasions about his calling and then a potted history of his life so far. Both were interesting evenings, and we learned something of the man himself. We wish Simon well in his new position and hope he and Tracy will be happy in their new home.

We have also welcomed Paul Warren to a couple of our meetings and he gave us an insight into the workings of our fantastic Father Willis organ as well as entertaining us with his playing. Thank you, Paul, for the time you spent with us and for your two years as organist and choirmaster. On a personal note, I'm pleased to say that Paul intends to continue as a member of our handbell team and for volunteering Kate's services on occasions! Both are very good ringers.

### Dates

May 6<sup>th</sup> VE Day tea  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> Speak to be confirmed

JAK



Hosted by Peter Howell-Jones



Guest speaker Mark Mitchell



Guest speaker Bishop Tony Porter

# Man Alive

An evening to encourage, celebrate and inspire men from across Lancashire.

Thursday 5th June  
7.30-9.30pm

Hosted by Peter Howell-Jones, Dean of Blackburn

Featuring guest speakers: Mark Mitchell, Group MD at Mitchell Group - *who will help us think about men and faith in the workplace* - and Bishop Tony Porter.



Find out more and  
book your free ticket:

[blackburncathedral.com/man](http://blackburncathedral.com/man)



**BLACKBURN  
CATHEDRAL**

## MAN ALIVE..... continued from page 28

A group of us from church will be attending this event – see poster on opposite page 28 and will be sharing lifts to Blackburn. If you would like to join us please contact John Keating (07963195474) and he will book tickets and organise car sharing. Alternatively, sort out your own ticket and we look forward to seeing you there.

*John Keating*

### 'Party' Night and Entertainment

*Tuesday Club*

What a lovely evening we shared on 8<sup>th</sup> April at our meal and concert. A super buffet prepared for us once again by Tim Slater was followed by some great entertainment from the Garstang Ukulele Group with songs that we could join in with.

The Garstang Ukelele Group, which started in Lancaster in 2015, now has 40 members -16 of whom came along to entertain us for the evening. They rehearse in Garstang Arts Centre every Sunday and give performances to the wider community in the area. They played and sung an incredible 21 songs and could have gone on for much longer as everyone was enjoying it so much. They played a wide range of 1950s, 60s and 70s music starting with You are my Sunshine, and included Only 16, Peggy Sue, All my Loving, Feeling Groovy and ended with Sweet Caroline.

Now sadly our programme for this Autumn/Winter is almost at an end which must mean its Spring but what a finale we have on 13<sup>th</sup> May when we welcome the Rosy Goat Ice Cream with a chance to buy a very special Ice Cream.

More good news is that Dot and Jean are well under way putting together the programme which will start in September 2025 and copies will soon be available.

**Important Notice:** The Tuesday Club will again be running a tombola at the special VE Day themed Spring Fair on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 11am – 2pm. We will need as many prizes as possible please. These can be brought to church or contact one of the Committee members who will be pleased to collect. Do support us if you can; the Spring Fair is an important fund raiser for the church.

### Thank you Simon From Open the Book.

Revd. Simon has been a highly valued member of our Open the Book team for the duration of his curacy with us. He has significantly enhanced our practices and performances with his expertise and exceptional sense of humour. His interaction with children and our Open the Book team has been something we will all miss.

Simon's dedication to fostering a warm and inclusive environment has been truly inspiring. His thoughtful teachings and innovative approach have left an indelible mark on all of us, enriching our spiritual journey.

Both Simon and Tracy leave us with our love and prayers for a fruitful ministry and a very happy future.

### Thank you Simon From the Parish Administrator

Simon, In the four years that I have known you, you not only have been very supportive to me in my role as Parish Administrator, but you have combined your faith with much joy, given us all so much laughter, but always in keeping with traditional values. We wish both you, Tracy and your family health, happiness and fulfilment in your continuing journey with your new parish in Penwortham. Blessings, Michael



# VE DAY

## 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Join us for a Shared Moment of Celebrations**

**Longridge** will celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day with family fun, nostalgia and community spirit

### **Saturday 3 May**

- Live entertainment featuring local dance groups, The Cadets Corps of Drums, U3A Ukulele group and market stalls in the Civic Hall
- Vintage Vehicles, Film screenings, a look at 1940's food and engaging history presentations at the Heritage Centre and Civic Hall
- Themed food and drink across the town, including delightful afternoon teas and 1940's dancing at The Old Station Café
- Competition for best shop window display

### **Thursday 8 May**

We have a Beacon Lighting Ceremony at Longridge Memorial Gardens to honour VE Day

- 09:00am Raising the VE Flag
- From 18:30 Church Bells will ring out across the country
- From 18:45 we will have entertainment from a local dance group, Corps of Drums, Longridge Band and local Hand Bell ringing, leading up to the Lighting of the Beacon at 21:30



**Longridge**  
Town Council

## 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**

### 4th May - Easter 3

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

Revelation 5 :11– 14

John 21 : 1– 19

**6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong**

Psalm 86

Revelation 5 :11– 14

John 21 : 1– 19

### 11th May - Easter 4 - All Together Service – VE Day Focus

**10am St Paul's and live stream**

Revelation 7 : 9– 17

John 10 : 22– 30

**6:30pm St Lawrence's (Holy Communion)**

Revelation 7 : 9– 17

John 10 : 22– 30

### 18th May - Easter 5

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

Revelation 21 : 1– 6

John 13 : 31– 35

**6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong**

Psalm 98

Revelation 21 : 1– 6

John 13 : 31– 35

### 25th May - Easter 6

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

Revelation 21 : 10,22-22.5

John 5 : 1– 9

**6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong**

Psalm 126

Revelation 21 : 10,22-22.5

John 5 : 1– 9

### 29th May - Thursday Ascension Day



**7:30pm St Paul's Church**

Daniel 7 : 9-14

Luke 24 : 44–53

### 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

### 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:**

Millie Marie Melling on the 6th April 2025 at St. Lawrence's Church



### FUNERALS

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

David Waterman

Ellen Halliday

David Andrew Carlin



# The Last Last Word

From the Vicar, Rev. Mike Barton



Just over four years ago and before Revd Simon was ordained, I walked with him around Longridge while we both discerned if this could be a suitable place for him to train to be a vicar. As I introduced him to the parish one particular leadership maxim was going through my mind, '*Competence is trainable. Character is essential.*'

In fairness to Revd Simon, it was evident that he already had stacks of competence from his previous professional career, and over the four years of his ministry here I've probably learnt more from him than he has from me.

However, the question I was discerning – and I'm sure he was of me – was what was his character like?

You only need to look at the present chaos of worldly affairs and inconsistent leadership to know character is key. So now Revd Simon is shortly to move with his family to be the vicar of St Leonard's Penwortham, I'm reminded of the phrase, 'virtue's hunt in packs'. This is to say, just as wolves or lions hunt best when they team up together, so a person's virtues are made stronger when they align as one. Such a person could be said to have positively consistent character.

This is what I have observed in Revd Simon and is celebrated in some of the words and pictures within this edition of The Log.

This is why the Apostle Paul talks about the 'fruit' of the Spirit, rather than the 'fruits' of the Spirit in Galatians 5.22. The virtues of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control are meant to be part of one interconnected fruit of Christlike character, not individual fruits of varying size grown in separate isolation.

So if a person tells you their growing in joy but we observe them becoming less kind, we note an alarming contradiction and question the integrity of their 'pick n' mix' character. But when a person truly welcomes the presence of Jesus in their life, the Holy Spirit transforms everything, it affects every part of the fruit.

This is the way of life Revd Simon has accepted and when we do so our character is continually tested, especially in leadership. And because we're only human, inevitably sometimes we'll fall. But the character God forms will find the courage to rise again, even more dependent on the knowledge of God's grace.

So as Revd Simon and his family plant themselves in a new place, may the fruit of God's Spirit within them be evident to all. I pray they'll be blessed to discover lots of other fine characters in Penwortham, and I trust you will too.

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