

The Log



*“Sowing
with faith...
reaping with
thankfulness.”*



**The Parish Magazine
October 2023**

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Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday 8th October

All Services at St. Lawrence's Church.

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00 am All Together Service

6.30pm Harvest Songs of Praise



The Church will

be open from 2.00pm – 4pm for
people to view the flowers and
displays and enjoy tea and cakes.

Harvest Walk.

We are grateful to John Ireland who will be leading the Harvest walk this year, leaving St. Lawrence Church at 1.30pm and returning by 3.30pm for tea and cakes. Do join us if you can.



The Log Team

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VICAR'S NOTES

As the days get darker the church gets busier and perhaps there's something spiritually significant about that. At the end of September, the staggered Triathlon finished (see picture below and through your support we managed to raise over £1,650 towards general church funds), the Christianity Explored Course started and the Autumn Family Social took place and now we come into October below is just a snapshot of some of the things going on.

Harvest Festival 2023

As per the front cover, the theme this year is, 'Sowing with faith, reaping with thankfulness' and our celebration will take place on Sunday 8th October. On this day all the services, which are detailed on the previous page will take place at St Lawrence Church.

Our very popular family friendly harvest walk will once again leave from St Lawrence Church at 1.30pm and we're very grateful to John and Sue Ireland for plotting a suitable route. If you can't take part in the walk for whatever reason don't let that stop you from coming to St Lawrence Church between 2-4pm to look at the beautiful flowers and creative harvest displays while also enjoying a cake-based treat and a cup of tea/coffee.

At harvest time we're reminded to be thankful for all God's provision and as a token of this we have the opportunity to be generous in our support of two causes. The first is our local Foodbank so please can you bring any harvest gifts of fruit or vegetables to St Lawrence Church from 1.30pm - 3.30pm on Friday 6th October (please not before because we have a funeral). Tinned, bottled, or packet items can also be donated then but ideally it would be wonderful to see them brought up at the start of our 10am Sunday All Together Worship Service in celebration of all God has done.

The second cause we're supporting this year is the Bishop's Harvest appeal for the people of the South Sudanese Diocese of Liwolo; currently living in exile in Uganda following years of civil war in their homeland. You can see more about this on page 21 and Bishop Philip has already walked 100Km across the Diocese to raise awareness – see more information on the Diocesan website here: <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/news>

Finally, donations towards the cost of Harvest flowers would also be welcome and there will be baskets in both churches for those. We are grateful to the Mothers Union, Children's Church, Brigade, Craft Group, Flower Club, Primary School, and Hillside School who are working on harvest projects and we do thank the team of willing helpers who will prepare the church for us.

A warm space and friendly company

Wednesday is café day at St Paul's Church. During the school term we run Brew Time from 8.50am-11am and the Welcome Café from 3.30-5pm. People of all ages are welcome to come along for a friendly chat over a brew. We hope to see you there.

Revd Simon King Ministry Training Placement

In case you wonder where Simon is during the first two weeks of October, please be assured he's not absconded, he's just fulfilling one of his curacy training requirements by doing a ministry placement at Royal Preston Hospital. Please do be praying for him as he learns what it's like to be a hospital chaplain.

All Souls Service

This year our All-Souls Service will take place on Sunday 29th October at 6.30pm in St. Lawrence's Church. Those with a keen eye on the Anglican lectionary will notice that the official date falls closer to the Sunday afterwards which is bonfire night, so we have brought it forward by a week to ensure a suitably solemn occasion. This calm and meaningful service gives people the chance to remember loved ones who have died and are held close to the heart. Each year we invite those families who have suffered a bereavement over the last twelve months, but the service is open to everyone in the parish.

VICAR'S NOTES continued

During the service there is an opportunity to come forward and light a candle in memory of those you love but no longer see and also for their name to be read out. So often the years go by, but the pain and sadness can still be there so if you would like to have a loved one's name read out as part of the service, please write their name on the list you will find in both churches, or email our Parish Administrator, Michael Dawson at secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com to add their name to the order of service.

Remembrance Sunday

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on 12th November. A short community service will take place at the Longridge War Memorial about 10.45am ready for the nation to fall silent at 11.00am.

In addition to this at St Paul's Church there will be our usual All Together Remembrance service at 9.30am and for those who prefer a more formal service, the town's Civic Remembrance Service will start around 11.20am when we're joined by the Mayors, Town Councillors, Uniformed Organisations and Longridge Band.

For those wishing to receive Holy Communion on Remembrance Sunday, Parish Communion will be available during the 6.30pm service at St Lawrence Church.

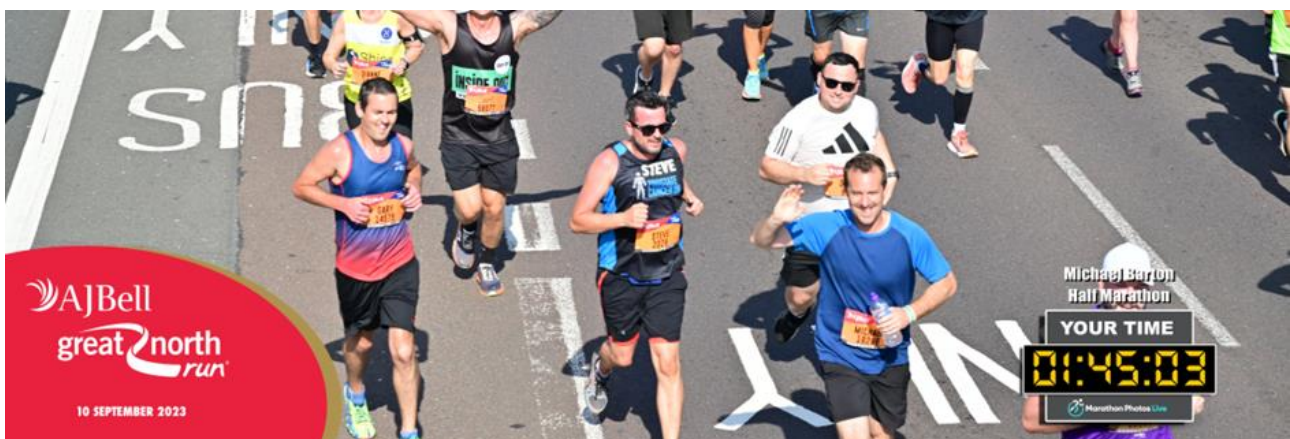
Audio-Visual (AV) Proposal Update

It was good to be able to submit our AV proposal for St Paul's Church to Blackburn Diocese during September. You may remember the full project cost is approximately £30,000 but with a successful match funding bid to the Diocese's Parish Vision Fund this could bring our portion of the costs down to £15,000 and even less if Gift Aid is taken into account. The even better news is that through the kind generosity of many of you in our church, to whom I wish to say a big thank you, we have already received pledges of up to £8,500, including Gift Aid.

We now await a meeting by members of the Diocesan Financial Assistance Group taking place in November 2023 and subject to the Diocese being able to fund half the project costs, I'm hopeful this incentive will encourage us to reach our final target swiftly.

Foodbank

A reminder that the Foodbank continues to operate every Friday at St Paul's Church between 11am and 1.30pm. More information can also be found at: <https://ribblevalley.foodbank.org.uk/> and I'm happy to receive donations at the Vicarage door by prior arrangement.



ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL – Malcolm Welch.

As we move into autumn and celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving nature is already well prepared. Hawthorn hedges, Rowan trees and several other bushes have spent September laden with copious arrays of bright red berries. Many of you will have heard the saying that lots of berries in autumn portends a bad winter, although I feel it may just show that the summer weather has been good for the forming of the berries. The oak trees are also showing a good crop of acorns for the birds and squirrels with the Horses Chestnut trees doing their bit producing 'conkers' for our younger generation.

I suspect that some parishioners, if they visit our wild flower area bordering the bottom field will consider it quite an untidy, mixed-up patch of ground. We must remember that nature does nothing in neat blocks or straight lines.

Things tend to be mixed up together which unfortunately can mean that smaller flowers get hidden by taller ones and the various types of grass fill up the gaps. It is very much, the more you look, the more you find.



How many have noticed the strange 'Cuckoo Pint' flower (also known as Lords and Ladies) that has recently appeared near the door at St Lawrence's. Some very early fungus (toadstools) appeared last month under the large beech tree opposite the door. Another early arrival was a single 'Shaggy Ink Cap fungus' in its usual place lower down the graveyard. As we go through October we can expect more of these and a wider variety of fungus around

the whole churchyard.

The warm spell in early September brought a second flush of colour to the blue Cornflowers and the tiny bright yellow Meadow Vetchling, with the newly planted Buddleia flowering for the first time to attract the butterflies.



Shaggy Ink
Cap Fungus

The newly installed nest boxes for Swifts in the tower did not get occupied this year although there is some evidence that the birds did explore the boxes. Hopefully next year we may get some residents. We understand that the Swift boxes installed a few years ago at St Wilfred's Church on Derby Road had a successful year. The other nest boxes around the churchyard had a quiet year with two house Sparrow nests and a Blue Tit's nest.

All things bright and beautiful



Meadow Vetchling

BREW TIME

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The Log Church Directory

Seven

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Curate	Rev. Simon King	9 Willows Park Lane	07789 645138	revsimonking@gmail.com
Retired Clergy:	Rev. John Ball		07754 771220	
	Rev. Gill Mack	7 Bowland Close	01772 783983	gillmack423@btinternet.com
	Rev. Adrian Mairs	8 Hacking Drive		adrian.s.mairs@gmail.com
Readers	Muriel Anderson	12 Plessington Court	07526 025933	murielanderson33@gmail.com
	Gerald Mack	7 Bowland Close	01772 783983	gillmack423@btinternet.com
Churchwarden	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
PCC Secretary	Barbara Burton	7 Chaigley Road		brbrbrtn6@gmail.com
PCC Treasurer	Graham Kelsall			graham@oaktreehouse.net
Safeguarding Officer	Andrew Burdett		07808 701297	amburdett@icloud.com
Parish Administrator	Michael Dawson	See hours below	01772 783281	secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com
Health and safety Officer	Chris Martin			
Electoral Role Officer	Michael Dawson			

Parochial Church Council

Chairman	Rev. Mike Barton
Hon. Secretary	Barbara Burton
Hon. Treasurer & Stewardship Recorder	Graham Kelsall
Members:	Clergy and Churchwardens Karen Boardman, Rob Bretherton,, Hellen Clements, Michael Dawson, Andrew Filder, David Hartley, Philip Jones, Vernon Kinrade, Rosemary Lyons, Chris Martin, Barbara McCormick, Ali Ng, Annamarie Rogers-Waterman, Wendy Smyth, Val Wardley, Stephanie Willan.

Organisations

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Michael Dawson
Parish Office Monday and Wednesday 9.30—12.30
Friday 9.30—15.30 01772 783281

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JudithKaye 01772 785114

Hon. Sec. St. Paul Donna Rowe-Green 07880 348597

Choir

Organist and Choir Director Paul Warren

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
Commanding Officer Janet Redding 3 Chapel Street
janetredding@clcgb.org.uk

Craft Group

Last Monday each month, Centenary Room 1.30 - 3.30pm also:
Contacts Helen Bailey 01772 783178
Ruth Ball 01772 783172
Julie Kirkham 07742 228232

Handbell Ringers

Leader Judith Kaye Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
judithkaye@sky.com 01772 785114

Children's Church

Carolyn Barton carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk

Mothers Union

7.30pm on 1st Tuesday
Enrolling Member Judith Kaye Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
judithkaye@sky.com 01772 785114

Prayerline If you would like our prayer team to pray for you e-mail
Muriel Anderson

Servers

Leader George Green 07935 080 443
georgebradegreen@gmail.com

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 Talksies

Hannah Green 20 Darwen Close 01772 783558

Longridge C of E Primary School

www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk

Headteacher

Mrs Catherine Parkin
head@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk

Clerk to the Governors

Val Morris 01524 581136 c/o the School Office
School Office 01772 782378
bursar@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk

Pre-School 01772-780078

PTFA Hon. Sec. Katie Keighley

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Emma Pettit, Carl Pettit, Becky Filder, Andrew Fielder,
Leanne Gilchrist, Mungo Gilchrist, Lawrence Ingham,
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INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

This month Rev. Adrian Mairs shares some words to ponder on.

Today life is lived at a hectic pace and we often hear people say they can't find the time to fit everything in. This sadly includes Sunday worship.

Many years ago a member of an American church wrote a letter to his Pastor.

I think every person ought to be excused for the following reasons and the number of times indicated:

Christmas (Sunday before and after)

New Year (Party lasted too long)

Easter (Get away for holiday)

July 4 (National holiday)

Memorial Day (Visit hometown)

School closing (Kids need break)

School opens (one last fling)

Family reunions (Mine and wife's)

Sleep late (Saturday night act)

Deaths in Family

Anniversary (Second honeymoon)

Sickness (One per family member)

Business Trips (A must)

Vacation (Three weeks)

Bad weather (Ice, snow, rain)

Ball games

Unexpected company (Can't walk out)

Time changes (Spring ahead - Fall back)

Special on TV (Super bowl)

Pastor, that only leaves two Sundays per year. So you can count on us being in church on the fourth Sunday in February and the third Sunday in August unless providentially hindered.

Yours, A faithful member

We no doubt will smile but also I hope ponder our Sunday attendance.

TUESDAY CLUB

For our first meeting of the new programme on the 12th September we welcomed Sue Wilks from the Guide Dog Association who brought her trainee puppy Link with her and although Link behaved perfectly throughout the evening Sue told us that, unfortunately it would not pass to be a Guide Dog. This was because Link was too nervous and had run off a number of times, not responding to the recall. Sue assured us that the dog would go to a good home and enjoy life as someone's pet. Although she would be sad to see Link go Sue has her own dog Poppy and intends continuing to train Guide Dogs in the future – hoping to reach 20 trainee puppies having been in her care. She was able to explain the strict regime you are expected to follow when training the puppies, they had for instance to get used to Sue having her meal before feeding the dogs and strict rules around toileting where the puppies aren't trained to 'go' when out on a walk. The dogs are not allowed to sleep on your bed and are trained to sleep in a crate. The evening certainly gave us an interesting insight into this vital training.

For our next meeting on the 10th October Melissa Sinden is coming to entertain us with her talk "It's a Funny Way to Make A Living" and Melissa has assured me that All your questions will be answered in her talk. Melissa trained at Manchester Metropolitan University School of Theatre and has worked extensively in Television, Film and Theatre as well as having a huge amount of experience as a Voice Over.

I feel sure that we are in for a treat so do come along and bring a friend if you wish, everyone is welcome, the room will be toasty and you will enjoy some good company and a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Adrienne



Do you ever stop to think what it means to be able to read and write? Most of us use these skills without even noticing, from reading a telephone number, shopping for essentials or even following a recipe. On National Literacy Day the aim was to explore the way Mothers' Union works at a grassroots level to equip communities with these skills we take so much for granted. Skills that can improve lives, reduce poverty and empower disadvantaged groups.

"In Rwanda, when Deidre's husband lost his job during Covid-19, she took on the responsibility of taking care of her whole family. With the help of regular loans from her saving group 'I increased my working capital and 65,000 Rwf (Rwandan franc) were used for buying a goat. Now my business has expanded and I can sell more.' Her numeracy skills of managing her money allowed her to build her business and look after her family.

Mothers' Union also has programmes in Burundi working with disadvantaged communities and people living in extreme poverty. Over a 20-year period, the programme in Burundi trained nearly 1,300 facilitators to work locally within the communities and directly benefitted over 165,000 participants. 87% of the participants are now accredited as both literate and numerate. They can now access loans and save money due to the numeracy skills acquired from these programmes. The course promoted financial stability and expanded beyond the classrooms across the community.

'Through trainings I acquired skills to run businesses.' and subsequently one participant commented on being able to buy food and feed their growing children.

Not only does numeracy help people in Burundi and Rwanda build their own means of income, this knowledge grows their self-esteem and confidence. Consequentially, they feel able to voice their opinions and fight for equality and empowerment in a wider context. Due to financial empowerment, it has been reported that there is a reduction in domestic violence that grows out of economic stress in households.

A Rwandan member of a savings group said, 'I was feeling lonely and hopeless. Our group members are like my second family members.' It brings a sense of community and togetherness; a safe space for discussion on a variety of topics. Not only are these groups providing essential life skills to the participants, but building up the community spirit and spreading empowerment through numeracy. "

I remember when I was on the Diocesan committee of Mothers Union in the late eighties, early nineties, there was a discussion about members overseas wanting to learn to support themselves rather than surviving on handouts from Mary Sumner House (MU headquarters). These stories illustrate how, with encouragement and support, a great deal can be achieved. JAK

Diary Dates

Oct 3rd Donna Rowe Green

Nov 7th Rev Simon King

Handbells

Since late August we have been working on music that we will ring before Evensong in the Parish Church on October 15th. If you enjoy hearing the bells do come a bit early for that service and hopefully, we will make your effort worthwhile. We will then switch to practicing for Christmas when we will be visiting the Elsie Finney Day Centre in Ingol and Plessington Court and the library here in Longridge, finally we will be ringing before the Nine Lessons and Carols Service in St Paul's. We now have Paul Warren in our team of ringers and he is planning for the choir and bells to join forces at some point within this service which I'm quite excited about, so we are working hard to achieve this. JAK

ST PAUL'S MEN'S GROUP

The latest more regular version of the Men's night has been running for a year in October. In total, over 35 individuals have attended our evenings with varying degrees of frequency. Our regular venue has been upstairs at Applejacks, but we also met once at the Durham Ox, and we had a trip to Blackburn Cathedral too.

The structure of the evening has proved to be most effective; an initial fairly brief talk to stimulate interest followed by some discussion and banter. There has also been plenty of time to chat about everyday matters and get to know one another better.

One of our early meetings featured the Bishop of Blackburn's Chaplain and rugby player, Sam Cheeseman. He reflected on labels that we use to describe ourselves and how they can be both unifying and divisive. On another evening, Andrew Belshaw spoke passionately and interestingly about his early life in Belfast and gave some powerful testimony of his Christian faith in action. He spoke of some real events where the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit were manifested.

Keith Macintosh spoke eloquently and interestingly about his work as Health and Safety Officer at Old Trafford. He described the importance of his faith in his life and work. Two of his toughest tasks were to organise a visit from the family of one of the girls murdered at Soham in Cambridgeshire in 2002. Photos of her wearing a United shirt featured in the newspapers at the time. Another poignant event that he described involved a dinner for families to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Munich air disaster. For those of our readers who are interested in football, when asked who the nicest player was that he had encountered, he responded immediately with Eric Cantona. He described him as courteous, polite, warm and friendly - a true gentleman.

In June, twelve (a suitable number) of us attended the Man Alive event at Blackburn Cathedral. This proved to be a very enjoyable, thought provoking and powerful evening. The sound of over 120 men singing How Great Thou Art was spine tingling and set the evening off well. Several speakers told their stories of conversion and salvation, and more hymns were sung. Bishop Tony Porter superbly delivered the address and reflected on the Prodigal Son reading. As he came to his impactful ending, he burst into the first lines of Amazing Grace and the audience spontaneously joined in. It was very impressive. Later, Bishop Tony came to one of our Applejacks meetings and started the evening off with a talk about his life and coming to faith and the amazing grace of God who always offers a new start.

At our last meeting at the Durham Ox, Mike kicked off the evening by exploring the idea of a distinct second half of life. Extensive discussion ensued and other related issues explored included the Prodigal Son story (again), the importance of a relationship with Jesus and the facades that some men set up to hide their true emotions and problems. Quite a bit of banter and some deep and challenging debate followed amongst the group and then with people in the pub, who seemed drawn to the "God Squad". Perhaps, we will choose venues again in the public eye, rather than in a private room tucked away upstairs. An interesting consequence of our encounters is that Steve McNamara hopes to set up an "Open Mic" evening there once a month.

The schedule for the rest of 2023 is as follows:

Thu 19th Oct - Games Night at Longridge Golf Club 7.30pm

Sat 4th Nov - Breakfast at Longridge Golf Club 9.00am

Thu 7th Dec - Meeting Venue to be confirmed in Longridge 7.30pm



BRIGADE NEWS

We have started back after the summer break and are thrilled to see so many of our members again. The Martins and Y-team are learning all about the history of Brigade this half term. They started with learning the story of St Martin and then made Bishops hats in craft. We have also been learning about the different elements of the Brigade Badge and then made shields out of salt dough. We have also started to get ready for Harvest and will soon begin several different crafts to go towards the church display. The older Y-Team girls have started making Journals as a mini-project and have really enjoyed this so far.



Fun, Faith & Fellowship



JTC and Seniors have started preparation for London which has included uniform checks and drill practice. We have several exciting things planned this half term which includes a scavenger hunt around Longridge, Pizza Making and a board games night.

On Saturday 9th September we were invited by Chipping

Steam Fair to collect the donation by the committee of £600. We are very grateful for the generosity and hope to continue to support the event next year.



Olivia Stewart



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Having met as one big group over the summer period, the beginning of the new term in September saw the separate children's and young people's groups beginning again for different age groups.

During the first Sunday, the younger group continued their summer series of boats by exploring the story of Jesus walking on water. They used wooden bible characters to retell the story before diving into crafts and creating their own playdough representations of the story.

The older group meanwhile had breakfast together and chatted about how the summer had been and how the new term has started. We also picked up on an idea that was raised before the summer of the high schoolers helping out with the younger groups. They seem keen to do this and so watch this space!

The other Sundays of September have been dominated by preparing for Harvest. We have started to paint our egg boxes and hope to transform these into treasure chests, ready to be put on display at the Harvest Festival, St Lawrence, 8th October.

We love to meet new families through our children's and young people's groups. Do come and join us or feel free to contact Barbara McCormick (barbara@her-email.co.uk) or Carolyn Barton (carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk) if you'd like to find out more.

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CHOIR NEWS – Paul Warren

Many years ago, when Kate and I were on honeymoon, we attended a Harvest Service at Lynton, North Devon. I was very struck with the ending of the sermon, which ran along the following lines: “God created the earth and saw that it was good. God created the seas and the dry land and saw that it was good. God created life (humans included), and saw that it was good. God came back later to see how people were tending to the earth, looked down sadly and said ‘When will they ever learn?’”

Those words have stuck with me all those 36 years, and, in part, led me to introduce the following new hymn for our Harvest Praise service this month:

When your Father made the world, before that world was old,
to his eye what he had made was lovely to behold.
Help your people to care for your world.

*The world is a garden you made,
and you are the one who planted the seed,
the world is a garden you made,
a life for our food, life for our joy, life we could kill with our selfish greed.*

And the world that he had made, the seas, the rocks, the air,
all the creatures and the plants he gave into our care.
Help your people to care for your world.

When you walked in Galilee, you said your Father knows
when each tiny sparrow dies, each fragile lily grows.
Help your people to care for your world.

And the children of the earth, like sheep within your fold,
should have food enough to eat, and shelter from the cold.
Help your people to care for your world.

The words of the hymn, particularly the refrain, are somewhat blunt, but then it's increasingly apparent to everyone that blunt and radical action is needed on looking after the planet on which we live.

To balance the above hymn, the choir will be singing Andrew Carter's arrangement of the well-loved hymn “For the beauty of the earth”. This is a lovely anthem, with different harmonies for the verses, so I'm looking forward to the choir's rendition of this later this month.

Crafty Café

at St. Paul's

Church Street, Longridge

You are invited to join us on the last Monday of the month (except December)

1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Come for a chat, Enjoy a brew and biscuits.

Bring your current project. Or have a go at our jigsaw.

Helen Bailey 01772 783178

PATTERNS FOR PRAYER Soon be time to say "Goodbye"

There is a season for everything.

A time for giving birth

A time for dying:

A time for tears,

A time for laughter;

A time for mourning,

A time for dancing. (Ecclesiastes 3:1,2 & 4).



There is also a time for moving on and saying "Goodbye". Gerald and I will soon be moving and moving on. Some of you know already that we are preparing to move to Shipley, Bradford. We are hopefully moving to a house in the same road (on the same side) as our older son, his wife and our two wonderful granddaughters. It will soon be time to say "Goodbye"!

One of the tasks we have had to undertake is to sort out 50 years of belongings ready for packing, ditching or donating. Not an easy task especially when it comes to books. But the rediscovery of long forgotten books is wonderful. Today as I write what will probably be the last Patterns for Prayer, I came across a book by **Joyce Rupp OSM** called "**Praying our Goodbyes.**"

She writes, **"Goodbyes are as much part of life as the seasons of the year. The story of gain and loss, of joy and sorrow, of life and death, union and separation, is inside each one of us.... The word "goodbye" – originally "God-be-with-Ye" or "Go with God" was a recognition that God was a significant part of the going."**

God is a significant part of our going: our moving on. We thought that Longridge would be our final home and the parish our last place of worship, friendship and community. At the end of June our younger (adopted) son died, suddenly and unexpectedly having lived with us for all of his 44 years. Our lives and our plans changed within 12 hours. We have been plunged into a time of grief and mourning but also of wonderful memories and celebration of his life, his love, his creativity and his brokenness. The support of friends, family and the congregations that we have served, have helped us enormously, for which we are very grateful.

Our elder son and his family suggested that it was the right time to move nearer to them. Their idea being that we could see them and the family more often and more easily; but also, to be close enough to help us cope with our latter years and the health issues that we both have.

We came to Longridge when I retired as Vicar of Hurst Green and Mitton and settled at St Lawrence with St Paul. We received such a warm welcome and have made many new friends over the years. We are reluctant to leave but know that the decision is the right one. We thank you and God, for all that has been, all that is and all that is to be. We pray our farewell and our "Goodbye".

God of our continuing journey, renew in us a deep trust in you and in your purposes.

Calm our anxiousness and any misgivings.

As we reflect on our lives we can see clearly

How you have been there in all our leavings and in all of our comings.

You will be with all of us in everything: at all times and in all situations.

None of us know what the future holds, or what our resettlement brings:

But we place ourselves into the welcoming arms of your extravagant love.

Encircle our hearts with your peace and give us your Blessing. Amen.

God be with ye until we meet again (which we will from time to time).

Rev Gill and Gerald Mack

Rev Gill and Gerald Mack

From Revd. Mike: We are truly grateful for all of Revd Gill and Gerald's ministry among us here at St Lawrence with St Paul. Among many things, when the move eventually takes place, we will especially miss Revd. Gill's wonderful quips during the service such as, "Sometimes I wake up grumpy and sometimes I let him sleep!" and Gerald's lovely cheerful spirit and wonderful organ playing. We have been hugely blessed by their ministry among us over the last 7 years and will not let them go without arranging a proper goodbye after one of the Sunday services when more information is known about a moving date.

From The Log Team.

The first Patterns for Prayer Revd. Gill wrote was in the September 2016 Log - The Log was only 50p a copy in those days and the Parish was in an Interregnum. The first topic was linked to a kaleidoscope and Revd. Gill told us that over the next few months she intended to offer some patterns of prayer - something to colour or contemplate, something to read and something to do. Amazingly over sixty Patterns of Prayer later we have come to the last one – certainly not because Gill has run out of ideas - she has proved to us that the possibilities for prayer are endless.

That first Log article ended with the words **"Seven days without prayer makes one weak!"** Thank you for helping us stay strong Gill – All best wishes from everyone in the Log team.

FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND FUNDRAISING

Autumn Family Social – 30th September. (In the pavilion on the Showfield.)

As The Log goes to print we can report that numbers are encouraging and we are looking forward to a fun afternoon with Bouncy Castle, games and a disco and then 56 adults and 17 children will be sharing the meal at 6.00pm before Lynne & Jeff Hoyle take us through our paces at the Barn Dance. A full report next month.

Autumn Lunch

Again, there has been a good response to our invitation to join us at The Cross Keys at Whitechapel for Sunday lunch on the 22nd October – final numbers were required by the end of September but we are sure its something we will arrange again.

Turkey & Tinsel

Please put Saturday 25th November in your diary. Traditionally this has been our Christmas Tree Fair date but we plan to ring the changes a little this year - but don't worry turkey balms will still be on the menu and there will be lots of opportunity for some pre Christmas fun and fellowship. Full details in the November Log.

Jigsaw Festival – January 20th/21st, 2024

This will be our fourth Jigsaw Festival and we feel its an event that's going from strength to strength. Thank you so much to those people who are completing jigsaws for us - we already have a wonderful assortment in readiness for the festival weekend. If you have good quality boxed jigsaws you are willing to donate, please do let us have them so that our eager team of jigsaw makers can complete them. We especially welcome Gibson, Ravensburger, Falcon, Wentworth and Wasgij puzzles. More about the festival next month.

SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin

RE - Learning about Harvest



We will very soon be celebrating Harvest as a school and as a parish. Our Questful RE work gives us the chance to learn more about the Church's year. Mrs Carr's class were very thankful for all the food God gives us and were surprised how many different types of apple there were to choose from!

This year we will also be joining with Blackburn Diocese to support Bishop Philip's Harvest Appeal.



The charity, Cress, is helping to build new communities in South Sudan where people have been displaced by civil war. One of the things we want to help them raise money for are trees which can be used for food, as fuel or to give shade.

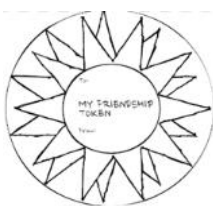
Welcome to our new Reception Children



Reception Class have made a terrific start in school with Miss Gornall and Mrs Miller. Some of our older pupils have been playing their part in helping them to settle in. Each new starter has been given a buddy in Year 5 who will check on them during lunchtime and be a friendly face on the playground. Thank you, Year 5!



Friendship



The Worship Group have been on a secret mission recently to spread acts of friendship throughout school. Each of them has been tasked with doing up to six acts of friendship for six different people. They are then to present the person with a friendship token to let them know they are valued. We hope that those who have received tokens will then be a friend to someone else, so that tokens are passed throughout the school.

Democracy in Action

As well as our seven Christian Values, we uphold British values such as respect and tolerance, justice, democracy and the rule of law. In democratic fashion, KS2 children have just voted for their Team Captains and Vice Captains. These children will be helping to organise sports day, house matches and will represent the school on special occasions. Well done to all of them.



YOUTH GROUP – Revd. Simon King

After the summer break, youth group met for the first time on Friday 15th September. In preparation for the Soap Box Derby, we were supposed to be thinking about a race well run, but actually spent much of the time drawing and making cards for Joy Rushton. Joy has been a leader of the group for a few years, but has had to step back to take up a new role in her day job for the Diocese. We will all miss her enthusiasm, her care and her infectious laughter and wish her well for whatever God has in store for her next.

October will be slightly different for youth group. I am joining the chaplaincy team at RPH on placement for three weeks, but I am delighted that youth group will keep running, thanks to Jacqui Taylor, Rev Mike and Amii Bateson. They will be joined by Olivia Stewart, who with Amii, have agreed to plan and lead the sessions in my absence. Many of you will know Amii and Olivia from their roles in leading and planning for Brigade on a Wednesday night.

The themes for youth group for this season will still follow those found in the Gospel readings for Sunday morning. Not least because our young people are a constant source of laughter and inspiration, who always ask pertinent and challenging questions about whatever subject is covered. They are a credit to our church and to our community and a pleasure to spend time with.

OUR FAVOURITE RECIPE

With another bumper crop of apples again this year here are two apple recipes to try.

Jean Smith's Golden Apple Mincemeat.

- 3lb ripe apples. (chop or grate)
- 1 oz butter
- 1 level tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 level tsp ground mace.
- 4 ozs candied peel
- 2lb sultanas or use 1lb and 1lb mixed dried fruit.
- 1. pint water
- 1 1/2 lbs sugar
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tbs brandy---- or less!



Peel and core the apples

Butter bottom of pan, and put in the apples, sultanas and water. Cook gently for twenty mins. Add spices, sugar and peel and lemon juice. .Heat to dissolve sugar. then boil - stirring continuously, until a thick consistency is reached. [about 35 mins] Add brandy. .Pour into warm jars- cover-with waxed discs. When cold, cover with cellophane or a lid. Makes approx. 8 lbs

Doreen Furness's Apple and Walnut Loaf from an old MU Cookery Book.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 ozs. margarine | 8 ozs. S.R. flour |
| 4 ozs. caster sugar | Pinch of salt |
| 1 tablespoon golden syrup | 1 level teaspoon mixed spice |
| 4 ozs. sultanas | 1 medium sized cooking apple |
| 2 ozs walnuts (chopped) | (Peeled, cored and chopped) |

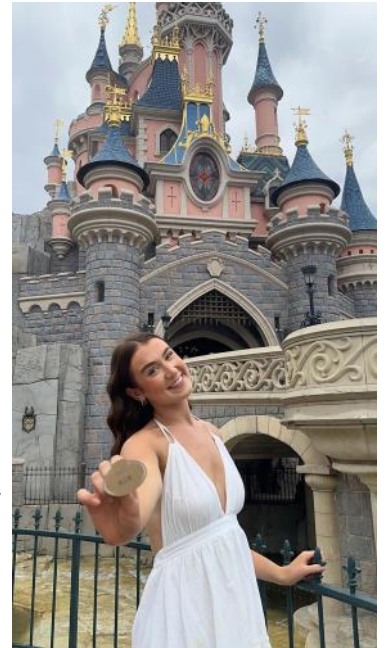
Cream margarine and sugar. Beat in eggs one at a time, then syrup. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. Turn into a greased and lined loaf tin and bake in the centre of the oven at gas mark 4 (350F) for one hour, then reduce to mark 3 (325F) for a further half-hour. Serve sliced and buttered.

If soft margarine is used, all the ingredients can be put into the bowl together. Beat well, then cook as above.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW – Ellie Cowell



My name is Ellie Cowell and I have always had such a passion for performing. Since the young age of 3 I have been dancing with Sutcliffe School of dance studying in the styles of Ballet, Tap, Modern and Theatrecraft before furthering my knowledge at Cardinal Newman College which involved Contemporary dance styles. Here I gained A-levels in English combined, Religious Studies and Dance. This was the turning point for me in which I realised my true love will always be performing and I was eager to see if I could make this into a career. It was a huge risk for me making the decision to study



dance full time, as I knew how tough the performing arts industry was and I really had to push myself and learn how to deal with the setbacks and harsh environment, however i knew it was all I had ever wanted to do. I decided to further my training at Shockout Arts in Manchester where I completed a foundation degree in Professional and Commercial dance and a 3-year BA Honours degree in Performing Arts. These qualifications involved me learning new skills along with those I had already studied including Latin, Hip-Hop, Heels, Musical Theatre, singing and stage and screen acting. During my time in training, I was faced with the difficulty of Covid which involved missing out on training and performance opportunities. Although this was a hard time for many performers like myself, it was also a time where many people turned to the arts as a form of therapy during their lockdown days and I feel this time was a turning point for many in the arts. People began to appreciate the time and effort performers put into their work so much more, with it being just as credible as any other degree. I can honestly say my degree was one of the most challenging things I have encountered. I trained around 50 hours a week and accomplished things I never thought would have been possible and for that I was very proud of myself graduating this year.



Like any other person of my age coming out of a degree can be scary, there are so many avenues to go down and at the beginning of the year I was still trying to decide where I wanted to go next. I've learnt in this industry it is ok not to know what you want to do straight away as there are endless career paths and options to consider. It is more about reaching for the opportunities when you see them. By this point I had just passed my level 3 Ballet teaching exam with Sutcliffe School of Dance and knew teaching could be definite option for me in the future but something inside me was still burning to go out there and perform. I knew I needed to experience the industry before I moved to teaching as I wanted to have that experience to pass on to future students. This was when I attended my Disney audition.

Disney was the first professional audition I attended, with me still having 5 months left of my degree at the time I auditioned I decided to go for the experience. If you speak to any performer, they will probably say the same- auditions aren't usually everybody's



favourite days, and can be hard with the constant setbacks, you are always having to build yourself back up. However, I absolutely loved this experience, I knew immediately this would be a company I would dream to work for. When I received the call a few weeks later I was over the moon to hear I had been offered a contract over the Halloween period to work in the character and parade department at Disneyland Paris. This had been my dream since such a young age and to be finally able to do what I love every single day as well as have the experience of living in Paris meant the world to me. I have now been here for 8 weeks and I am half way through my contract. I can honestly say this has been the best 8 weeks of my life. I feel extremely grateful to be here and participating in the Halloween celebrations with Disney and am



taking in every single moment whilst absorbing all the new and exciting experiences I have been given. I'm not sure what is in store for my future as with performing you have to take opportunities when they come, but I sure do know that this happened at the perfect timing for me, and that I now feel my hard work over the years has paid off. I wanted to say thank you to everybody for the support and love on my new journey, and I am also so very grateful that Disney have given me this opportunity.

I will continue to share my experiences with you all and thank you again for taking time to read this and continuously support me, sending love from Paris. Ellie.

BISHOP'S HARVEST APPEAL 2023: A Nation Rebuilt with Christ at its Heart

Last summer, during the Lambeth conference, I met one of the most inspirational Christian leaders I have ever come across. Bishop Joseph Aba is the Bishop of Liwolo, which is in the southern part of South Sudan. Just two days after he was elected Bishop, that whole part of South Sudan was plunged into the most terrible and destructive Civil War. Bishop Joseph had to lead his people into exile.

The people from Liwolo have been living in refugee camps in the northern part of Uganda and are now starting to return to their country. As they leave those refugee camps behind and go back to South Sudan, Bishop Joseph has the most wonderful vision of a nation transformed under Christ. He shared something of that vision with us here in Lancashire when he visited us earlier this year for a week. The more I spoke to Bishop Joseph, the more I began to see the possibility of a friendship link between our Diocese and the Diocese of Liwolo.

These friendship links are quite difficult to arrange, so I was delighted to hear about a charity called CRESS UK. They are a small English charity, but one that is present on the ground in the refugee camps in Uganda and offering real practical support as people try to rebuild their shattered lives and access proper healthcare and education. So, this year, my Bishop's Harvest Appeal we will be supporting the work of CRESS UK.

Members of CRESS's 42 agriculture groups have already started planting trees as part of their organic food production. The trees offer multiple benefits of nutritious fruit for improving diets, income generation from the sale of fruit after only a couple of years, and also protection from severe sun and rainfall. With your support, new this year will be the addition of locally sourced fast-growing fuelwood trees which are in huge need due to deforestation as wood is the main source of energy for cooking in the refugee settlements.

- You can donate through your church marking your gift "Bishop's Harvest Appeal"

OUR PILGRIMAGE ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO WAY. (PART 1) CHRIS AND ELIZABETH MARTIN

Chris and I sat in the blazing sunshine gazing up at the magnificent Santiago de Compostela cathedral for the first time drenched in awe. Nine days previously we had embarked on a daily walk covering 116km following in the footsteps of millions of pilgrims before us since the 10th Century. We had made it!!

The seed was sown on a dark cold winter's night in Longridge, we had watched a film called 'The Way' directed by Emilio Estevez starring himself and his father Martin Sheen. It's a great film about the relationship between a father and son featuring the beautiful landscape known as 'The Camino Way'. We were hooked and decided to plan an unforgettable trip.

The Camino de Santiago (or in English, the Way of Saint James) is an ancient pilgrimage route that goes back to the 10th century. It leads to the shrine of the apostle James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela which is located in Galicia in North Western Spain. His remains are laid in a silver urn inside the tomb at the cathedral. People walk the Camino for many different reasons and each will have a personal experience and spiritual story to tell. As do we.

There are various routes to take through Portugal, Spain, France and England. We chose the French Way which is the most popular route. It starts at Saint Jean-Pied-de-Port and is 800km and crosses the Pyrenees. We chose to walk the last 116k from Sarria as it is the shortest distance that allows a walking pilgrim to qualify for the official certificate.

At the beginning of your Camino you have an official 'Credential del Peregrino' or pilgrim passport that you must get stamped at least twice per day to prove your journey points and qualify for an official pilgrim certificate at the Pilgrims Office in Santiago. Some people can walk their Camino 'vicare pro' in memory of someone who has passed, or is unable to complete the walk due to disability or with a life limiting illness, and that person's name can also be included on the certificate.

There are Albergues (Pilgrim Hostels) along the way where you can sleep over night in dormitories for about 12 euros per person and our trip could be easily walked in 5 days. However there are also nice 2-3 star hotels along the way (approx. 50 euros per room including breakfast) which we opted for. We also took 9 days to do the walk. Who said you had to suffer on pilgrimage! The extra time allowed us to walk slowly to make the most of the scenery and investigate the villages and small towns along the way with the obligatory café break. (There may also have been the occasional ice cold Estrella Galacian lager consumed by Elizabeth!)



Sarria – Portomarin 21km (Arrows and Scallop Shells)

One of the first things to mention about the Camino –is how well signposted it is, even we couldn't get lost!! The whole route is well marked with granite columns or 'mojones' which point the way and show the distance remaining to Santiago. The columns are marked with the familiar yellow Camino arrow pointing the right way and a yellow scallop shell, or 'viera' on a blue background.

The scallop shell is the symbol of the Camino and there are many fascinating legends and stories connected with it dating to Roman times. It is also said that the ship carrying St. James' body was destroyed in a storm, and his body was discovered on the shore completely undamaged because he was covered in scallop shells.

Our first milestone on leaving Sarria, 113.460 km to go!

The scallop shell also has a practical history. Some say its lines represent the different routes on the pilgrimage all pointing to Santiago. In ancient times, medieval pilgrims attached a scallop shell to their hats or cloaks; it also had a practical purpose. They used it as a bowl to hold their food and drink during the pilgrimage. At churches and other establishments that used to feed the pilgrims, the scallop shell scoop was the measure for food.

Equipped with our backpacks, pilgrim passport and scallop shell we began walking out of Sarria in an upward climb of 21km to Portomarin. It's tempting to rush off in an effort to get to the next destination, but the key to walking the Camino is to take the time to hold back, walk at a leisurely pace and enjoy the scenery, good company and personal reflection.



The scenery in Galicia is very reminiscent of the Ribble Valley and Cumbria, (without the rain!) it has lush greenery and along the route we saw a wide variety of trees and wildflowers. There were many apple and lemon trees, oak, chestnut and pine trees. The popular local crop in this area is sweetcorn and there were many apple orchards along the way.

Our climb out of Sarria was uphill luckily the weather was overcast and misty. The walk into Portomarin, a small town is very picturesque. Crossing over the impressive Belesar reservoir under the Roman Bridge was our first milestone completed. We saw the old flooded village; many of the buildings were moved stone by stone to the new small town. In Portomarin we attended a pilgrims mass in Spanish at the 12th Century fortress church San Nicolas. Portomarin is also famous for its 'Aguardente' liquor called Orujo, very popular after a meal and on Easter Sunday. After tasting one, I am not too sure that it would be a good cure for heartburn!

Portomarin – Palas des Rei 25km (Cake and Buen Camino!)

Our next stretch saw the afternoons getting very hot reaching 35 – 39 degrees! We discovered the heaven of an 'afternoon siesta' (we could definitely get used to this!) We also began to love the breakfasts, including our new found favourite friend the Santiago Cake! This delicious cake is a permanent fixture at breakfasts, coffee shops and restaurants. It is the oldest traditional dish from Galicia dating back to 1577. It is a sweet round almond cake, moist and springy in consistency, dusted with icing sugar with a stencil of the cross of Santiago on top. Originally it was a high class delicacy given to nobles by locals, but these locals from Longridge give it a big thumbs up!



Traditional Santiago Cake

We look forward to Chris and Elizabeth sharing the next stage of their journey with us next month.

CHURCH FLOWER CLUB



In September our Flower Club visited The Bloom Room in Longridge for a demonstration on how to create a beautiful arrangement without using oasis foam. This is becoming increasingly important due to the plastic particles in the foam blocks we use and the impact upon our planet. Our thanks to Bethany for her advice and guidance. We hope that anyone visiting St Lawrence's church enjoyed the results. It truly was stunning.

Our desire to reduce our contribution to climate change can feel so small. It is an overwhelming concern and simply changing how we arrange our flowers seems almost redundant. However, while researching harvest flowers I found the following quote,

"Things great have small beginnings. Every downpour is just a raindrop; every fire is just a spark; every harvest is just a seed; every journey is just a step because without that step there will be no journey; without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there can be no harvest."

William Wilberforce

It feels like we can all take reassurance that every little thing we try to do for good is worth more than we probably imagine.

If you would like to join our monthly Flower Club, it is open to anyone. You do not have to arrange flowers in church to come along to our meetings. We have a range of activities and demonstrations throughout the year on the 4th Tuesday on the month, 7.30 – 8.30pm.

If you would like any information on how you can be involved with our flower team, both at St Paul's and St Lawrence's or how to help fund the blooms in church, please do give me a call on 07880348597 or email donnarowegreen@gmail.com.

St. Lawrence Flowers

October 1st In loving memory of Anne & Tom Seed
8th & 15th Harvest flowers
22nd In memory of Annie & Bill Walker & Lily Woodacre
29th In memory of Alan & Doreen Tweedie

St. Paul's Flowers

Ellen & Michael Dawson in memory of Shaun (30th Oct)



PTFA NEWS

Thank you to everyone for all your donations to the PTFA, we are pleased to say the new sound system was installed over the summer and it sounds fantastic!

The Children are looking forward to a break the rules day in October, where they can wear their own clothes and we are working towards another great Christmas Market, is it too early to mention? We are now raising funds for extra iPads for the children and new blinds in the hall.

Emily Oates



SOAP BOX FUN



Beryl Fenech and the team, representing the North West Air Ambulance shop in Longridge really looked the part as they encouraged their Soap Box as it hurtled down Berry Lane. Beryl commented that they entered a team not to win but just to take part and have some fun. They certainly enjoyed the day and hope to be back next year.



Then on Towneley Gardens Revd. Simon with Steph and John Willan manned the 'Crafting' area gazebo where many children and indeed parents and grandparents enjoyed making balloon go cart cars and egg box cars. We prepared over 90 kits to be made up and they were all done by lunch time. We also had a giant box of Lego and some toy cars



and ramps and it was lovely to see so many children stay and play from toddlers through to pre-teens. The feedback we got on the day was really positive and everyone that came to see us enjoyed creating and playing. **Steph.**

BARROW IN FURNESS AND FURNESS ABBEY – Dorothy Laver.

When I say to people that I grew up in Barrow-in-Furness they tend to think of an industrial town at the end of the longest cul-de-sac in the country. With its ironworks, steelworks and large shipbuilding and engineering yard, Barrow was once known for being shipbuilders to the world. The ironworks and steelworks are long gone but its shipyard continues with BAE systems building nuclear submarines for the Royal Navy. Unfortunately, whenever Barrow is in the news it seems to be for all the wrong reasons.

What few people realise and the media never seem to show is that within the boundaries of the Borough lies a hidden gem-the ruins of what was once the largest and wealthiest monastery in north-west England: Furness Abbey. The Abbey is situated three miles past Dalton-in-Furness in a beautiful wooded vale known as the vale of nightshade.

The Abbey was founded nearly 900 years ago in 1127 when Savignac monks moved from Tulketh in Preston to the Furness peninsula. The remote site was an ideal location for their monastery with a supply of fresh water and access to timber and sandstone for building. It was also close to the sea facilitating communication with the wider world. In 1147 all Savignac monasteries were absorbed into the larger Cistercian order. The Abbey prospered, embedding itself in the religious, social, economic and political life of the north-west. The generosity of its early benefactors provided the basis for the Abbey's wealth for the rest of the Middle Ages and it became the second richest Cistercian Abbey in England, second only to Fountains Abbey in North Yorkshire.

The Abbey was dissolved in 1537 by Henry VIII and the buildings fell into disrepair with the stones being taken away to build secular buildings in the vicinity. The ruins also suffered from subsidence with its wooden foundations sinking in the soft ground of the vale. The ruins are now cared for by English Heritage.

If you travel to Barrow by train (a very scenic line going over the Kent and Leven estuaries) you will pass very close to the Abbey ruins. In fact, when the Furness Railway was constructed in the 1840s the Abbey had its own railway station and hotel to encourage the Victorian interest in antiquities. A tunnel had to be constructed to avoid the railway being too close to the great east window of the Abbey. The station and hotel have now gone but a museum has been built housing some medieval treasures including an Abbot's crozier (staff) and ring which were discovered in 2010. Well worth a visit.

Unfortunately, space hasn't allowed me to tell you about Piel Castle but I hope this article may have inspired you to consider paying a visit to Barrow. There is an excellent museum on Barrow Island situated in an old graving dock telling the story of Barrow with all its ups and downs. The views to the Lake District from Walney Island on a nice day are amazing too. Semper Sursum. (Always Rising).



OUR WORSHIP AND READINGS*Our vision is Following Jesus in Loving Community***Our regular Sunday 'in church' services are below.**

St Paul's Holy Communion Service at 9:30am (arrival from 9:00am)

St Paul's Informal Service at 11:15am (not on 2nd Sunday of the month)

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 October - Trinity 17****9:30am St Paul's and Live Stream**Philippians 2: 1-13
Matthew 21:23-32**11:15am Informal Service**Philippians 2: 1-13
Matthew 21:23-32**6:30pm St Lawrence's (Evensong)**Psalm 124
Philippians 2: 1-13
Matthew 21:23-32**8th October - Harvest Services—Trinity 18****8:00am St Lawrence's (Harvest BCP)**Deuteronomy 8 : 7-18
Luke 17 : 11-19**10:00am St Lawrence's****and Live Stream**Deuteronomy 8 : 7-18
Luke 17 : 11-19**6:30pm St Lawrence's
(Harvest Songs of Praise)**Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9 : 6-15**15th October - Trinity 19****9:30am**Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14**11:15am Informal Service**Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14**6:30pm St Lawrence's (Evensong)**Psalm 139 v 1-12
Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14**22nd October - Trinity 20****9:30am St Paul's and Live Stream**1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Matthew 22:15-22**11:15am Informal Service**1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Matthew 22:15-22**6:30pm St Lawrence's (Evensong)**Psalm 142
1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Matthew 22:15-22**29th October - Bible Sunday— Last Sunday after Trinity****9:30am St Paul's and Live Stream**Nehemiah 8: 1-12
Matthew 24:30-35**11:15am Informal Service**Nehemiah 8: 1-12
Matthew 24:30-35**6:30pm St Lawrence's**

ALL Souls Service

**5th November - Fourth Sunday before Advent****9:30am St Paul's and Live Stream**1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13
Matthew 24:1-14**11:15am Informal Service**1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13
Matthew 24:1-14**6:30pm St Lawrence's (Evensong)**Psalm 111
1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13
Matthew 24:1-14**FUNERALS****We commend to God those who have died recently
and pray for those who mourn their loss:**

Jean Mallon

Terry Warburton

Ian Johnson

Lee Caton

DONATIONS

Those who sponsored the Staggered Triathlon

£1,650 including gift aid

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptisms, Marriages

Arrangements for these should be made with the Vicar (Tel: 01772 783281) or via the Church website

Do you know anybody who is in hospital or ill at home?

If so, please let the Vicar know so that they may be visited.

The Last Word

From the Vicar



On 10th September it was a privilege to be able to join 60,000 other runners in the Great North Run from Newcastle town centre to South Shields on the East Coast. Despite not being able to catch up with Sir Mo Farah in his last professional race it was a brilliant day, due in large part to the phenomenal crowd cheering us in the scorching heat, offering us ice pops to cool us down and jelly babies to give us an energy boost.

And then on 17th September it was of course the Longridge Soap Box Derby where crowds lined Berry Lane to cheer on the brave, if slightly mad, soap box car drivers, who for the most part I'm led to believe made it down the obstacle laden track with minimal injuries!

So for me September certainly seemed like the month for racing. But what was noticeable on both occasions was the local community spirit which made for a fantastic atmosphere and very enjoyable days on both counts. But such events don't happen without a great deal of preparation, and it is often the unsung heroes quietly serving behind the scenes who make these marvellous things happen before, during and afterwards. Well now we're into October what feels like a different race has begun.

Dare I say it, the race to Christmas, first announced to Mary by the angel Gabriel, but now largely announced to us by the first signs of mince pies and Advent calendars being sold in the shops. Again, the run up to Christmas can feel a bit like a marathon for those who need to prepare well. So if you feel such responsibility let me encourage you with the first two lines of a hymn that springs to mind: **'Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You, Let Me Be As Christ To You.'**

You who work quietly behind the scenes to serve and create a wonderful atmosphere for others to enjoy are unsung heroes who also need to hear the runners cheering you on. You are the ones who enable a local community spirit to flourish and put a smile on people's faces. And just as Jesus in his incarnation made God's love tangible, you through your practical acts of service make life better for everyone - thank you.

Let us also consider we often think it's only those doing the running who get a medal, but the bible reminds us in Ephesians to, **'Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do.'**

So speaking metaphorically, in the race to Christmas, whether you find yourself in the position of running, cheering or serving let us all remember the second verse of the above hymn:

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



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