

The Log

"Great is Thy faithfulness!"

*"Morning by morning
new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided—*

*Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me"*



St. Lawrence with St. Paul Longridge - October 2026

The Parish Magazine
www.stlawrencewithstpaul.org.uk

Following Jesus
on Mission

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Harvest Thanksgiving – Sunday 11th October. All Services at St. Lawrence Church.

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am – Harvest Festival Service

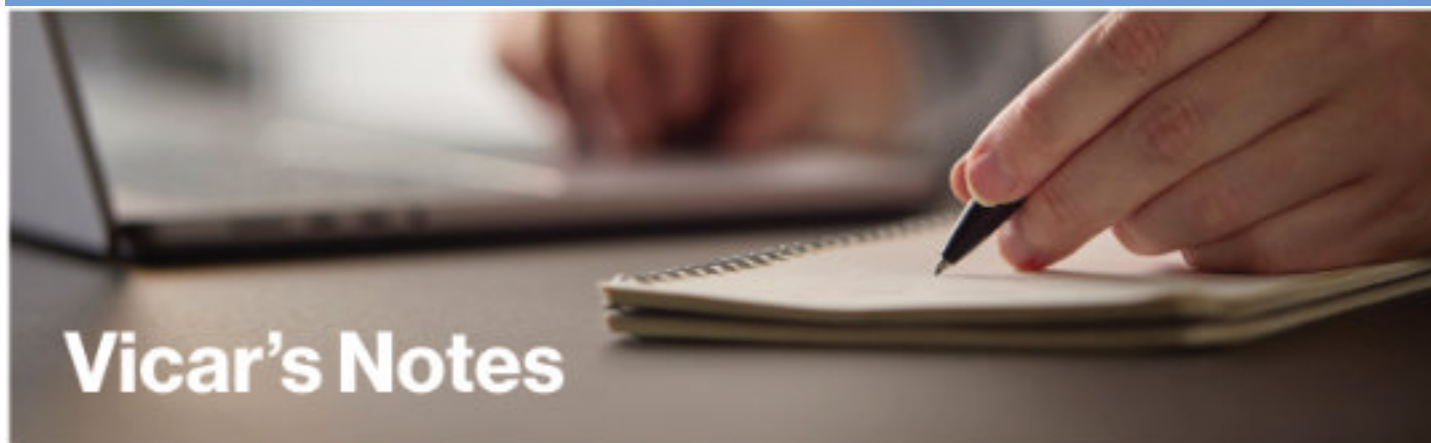
6.30pm Harvest Songs of Praise



**The Church will be open from
2.00pm – 4.00pm for people to view
the flowers and displays
and enjoy tea and cakes.**

**The traditional Harvest walk
lead by Peter & Lib Turver
will leave St. Lawrence
Church at 1.30pm and return
for mugs of soup, tea and
cakes at approximately
3.30pm**





Wow what an amazing 'Come and See' Parish Mission Weekend we had in September! Huge and grateful thanks needs to be given to the many people in our church behind the scenes and up front who put a lot of effort into making sure all our events were well planned and run. Thank you also to Quiz Master Ray and the Longridge Civic Hall team for your invaluable support on the Friday night 'Come and Quiz' and comedian Andy Kind and the Longridge Cricket Club Team for enabling us to laugh so much at the 'Come and Laugh' event on the Saturday night.

The other new initiative I really want to celebrate was the 'Come Chat and Eat' women's breakfast on the Saturday morning facilitated by our very own Janet Mortimer and Premier Christian Radio host Esther Higham, who together with her husband Jeremy also trained up a few of us in prayer ministry as part of their [MOJO ministry](#). I hope you were able to come to one of these events or one of our special church services on the Sunday. You can see more highlights on pages 22 & 23 and my hope now is that we keep up the prayer and invitational energy in all we do going forward.

'The 4' – New Service

No prizes for guessing the time of our new family friendly café style contemporary service on at St Paul's on Sundays. Revd Jesse did a brilliant job of launching the service on 20th September and I suspect that the combo of Messy Church on the third Sunday of the month and 'The 4' on the other Sundays of the month will see this grow rapidly. Do come along and try it out – we'd love to see you.

Autumn Alpha Course

By the time this edition of the Log gets into your hands we could well be into our third session of our Autumn Alpha Course. However, if you're kicking yourself for not being with us right from the start and still interested in coming along it's not yet too late to catch up and join in because I can send you the links to the previous videos we've watched.

By way of reminder, It takes place at St Paul's Church from **7.30 – 9.15pm** and runs for 8 sessions (taking a one-week break for Half Term) until Thursday 20th November. If you are interested in attending, or if you have any questions, please do email me at: revmikebarton@gmail.com

Harvest Festival 2025

This year's Harvest Festival takes place on Sunday 11th October and as you can see from the front cover our theme for this year is 'Great is Thy Faithfulness'. On this day all our services will take place at St Lawrence Church as follows:

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Harvest Festival Service
6.30 pm Harvest Songs of Praise

In the afternoon our popular family friendly harvest walk will once again leave from St Lawrence Church at 1.30pm and we're very grateful to Peter and Lib Turver for plotting a suitable route. But if the walking side of things isn't for you 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 tea and cakes.

If you can help with the cake baking, we'd love to hear from you. Please speak to Dot Little or me. St Lawrence Church always looks brilliant on Harvest Sunday so do visit if you can.

This year we will again be supporting the Bishop's Harvest Appeal which is for the Diocese of Liwolo in Sudan. (See Page 6 for details). All donated fresh or tinned/packet items will go to the Longridge Community Foodbank.

All Souls Service

This will take place on Sunday 1st November at 6.30pm in St. Lawrence's Church. You are very welcome to attend this beautiful and reflective service which gives you the chance to remember loved ones who have died and are held close to your 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.

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 for their name(s) to be read out. If you would like to have a loved one remembered in this way, please do 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 falls on 8th November. Following the Remembrance Parade a short community service will take place at the Longridge War Memorial starting about 10.50am ready for the nation to fall silent at 11.00am.

Following this St Paul's Church will be hosting the town's Civic Remembrance Service which will start around 11.20am where we'll be joined by the Mayors, Town Councillors, uniformed organisations and Longridge Band.

For those wishing to receive Holy Communion on Remembrance Sunday, a Parish Communion service will take place at our 6.30pm service at St Lawrence Church.

Did you know we're also holding a short service at Longridge War Memorial for the opening of the Poppy Appeal on Saturday 24th October at 10.50am and then at the same time on 11th November, Remembrance Day itself, to mark the armistice between the Allies and Germany that ended Western Front hostilities in World War I. As some of the powerful nations continue to stir up war and division this year we need to remain vigilant in our hopes and prayers for peace.

Winter Fair – Saturday 21st November,

Save the date and dust off your Victorian outfit for our forthcoming Winter Fair at St Paul's Church. Think of the Industrial Revolution, steam power railways, Charles Dickens and Chimney Sweeps and you're in the right era.

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

This Churches Together Foodbank runs every Friday, 11am-1.30pm at St Paul's Church. Any non-perishable items you can donate such as pasta sauce, tinned meat, long life milk, sponge puddings, tomato ketchup and toilet rolls, nappies etc. will be much appreciated.

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



Bishop's Harvest Appeal 2026

Harvest Appeal 2026 raises funds for Diocese of Liwolo

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

An urgent need

A serious healthcare crisis is emerging in Kajojeji County. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), currently the main healthcare provider for the region, will withdraw all services by the end of 2026. Support to local healthcare centres such as Liwolo will end by September, with hospital services ceasing by December.

Without this support, many communities will be left without accessible medical care. The nearest healthcare facilities are several hours away and remain out of reach for many families due to distance and cost.

This will impact pregnant mothers, sick children, and vulnerable elderly people — leading to preventable suffering and loss of life.

Our response

In response to this urgent need, our diocese is seeking to support the Jehovah Rapha Healthcare Centre in Liwolo. This is a simple but life-saving intervention that will ensure continued local access to essential healthcare.

Why this matters

This project will provide immediate, life-saving support for thousands of people. It will ensure that mothers can give birth safely, children can receive treatment, and families can access care close to home.

At a time when hope is diminishing, your support will demonstrate the love of Christ in a practical and powerful way.

To encourage giving, Bishop Philip has encouraged the clergy in the Diocese to join him for an Assault Course Challenge on the 3rd October at Whitehough Outdoor Centre, Barley.

Ways to donate to the Harvest Appeal:

- You can donate **online** using a credit card where you can also Gift Aid your donation.
- You can donate by **cheque**, payable to 'Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Limited (Diocese Harvest Appeal)' and send to Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance, Diocesan Office, Clayton House, Walker Office Park, Blackburn, BB1 2QE
- If you wish to make a bank transfer, please email dbfaccounts@blackburn.anglican.org and ask for the bank details, giving your name, school/parish and parish role.



Clergy & Church Officers

Vicar	Rev. Mike Barton	The Vicarage, Church Street	01772 389837	revmikebarton@gmail.com
Curate	Rev Jesse Adesina		07776 750695	revjesseadesina@gmail.com
Retired Clergy:	Rev. John Ball		07754 771220	
	Rev. Adrian Mairs	8 Hacking Drive	01772 356015	adrian.s.mairs@gmail.com
			07899 905768	
Licensed Reader	Janet Mortimer	8 Tootle Road	07734 475762	jan.mortimer1958@hotmail.co.uk
Churchwardens	Dot Little	26 Hoghton Road	01772 783998	dotlittle003@gmail.com
	Helen Clements	30 Kestor Lane	07864 574945	hrclements61@gmail.com
Deputy Wardens	Dorothy Laver	19 The Pastures, Grimsargh	07719 389529	dorothylaver@gmail.com
	Mae Heys	29 Fell Brow	07740 068099	
PCC Secretary	Barbara Burton	7 Chaigley Road		brbrbrtn6@gmail.com
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				psostlandplongridge@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Michael Dawson	See hours below	01772 783281	secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com
Health & Safety Officer	Caroline Wilson			georod4658@gmail.com
Electoral Role Officer	Michael Dawson			
Ignite-Children & Youth Leader	Becky Filder			becky.ignitelongridge@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

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

Organisations

Parish Administrator		Michael Dawson
Parish Office Monday and Wednesday	9:30—12:30	01772 783281
Friday 9.30—15.30		
Altar Flowers		
Hon. Sec. St. Lawrence	Dot Little	01772 783998
	Judith Kaye	01772 785114
Hon. Sec. St. Paul	Ellen Dawson	07487 741745
		ellendawson7@gmail.com
Choir		
Organist and Choir Director	Karen Au	kauorganist@gmail.com
Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade		
Wednesday Nights Berry Lane School Term Times		
Martins and Y-Team (Reception-Year 5 6.15-7>30pm		
JTC and Seniors (Year 6 and Above) 7-9pm		
Oliviastewart@clcgb.org.uk		AmiiBateson@clcgb.org.uk
Crafty Café		
Last Monday each month, Centenary Room 1.30 - 3.30pm also:		
Contacts	Helen Bailey	07891 075023
	Bev Keating	
	Jean Saunders	01772640146
Handbell Ringers		
Leader	Judith Kaye	Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
	judithkaye@sky.com	01772 785114
Children's Church		
Carolyn Barton		carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk
Mothers Union		7.30pm on 1st Tuesday
Enrolling Member	Judith Kaye	Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
	judithkaye@sky.com	01772 785114
Prayerline		If you would like our prayer team to pray for you e-mail
Muriel Anderson		12 Plessington Court, Brewery Street, Longridge
	Murielanderson33@gmail.com	07823 762089
Tuesday Club		7.30pm on 2nd Tuesday
Chairman	Fred Little	26 Hoghton Road
Hon. Sec.		01772 783998
Walkie Talkies		
	Hannah Green	20 Darwen Close
		01772 783558
Bereavement Group		
meets on 1st Monday of the month including Bank Holidays		
	Karen Burdett	07712 440135
	karenburdett@hotmail.com	

Longridge C of E Primary School

www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk

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

Sidesmen and Sideswomen

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

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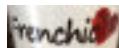
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Inspirational Words – brought to us this month by Sassan

Happy Sad

“When you are happy, you go to the one you love. But when you are sad, you go to the one who loves you.” Rumi.

This poem which has been attributed to Rumi, views love from two separate angles. One view is active while the other receptive. When you are happy, you have abundance. Joy makes you generous and you can afford to reach toward someone even if there is no guarantee they will reach back. It all involves risk; however, happiness is the emotional condition that allows us to embrace that risk without fear of the outcome.



Sadness, on the other hand, takes that abundance away. In times of grief or difficulty you might not have the courage to gamble on an ambiguous love, so you go instead to the place that is certain and you can count on; sadness needs security. And in that lies a subtle critique of chosen love's frailty; the one you love is picked by you, but reciprocity is never guaranteed. The one who loves you, however, already has their heart turned towards you. That sense of being wanted is what makes their presence feel safe.

A Christian's love towards Jesus as the one loved, is full of desire and longing. But unlike ordinary love where you can never be fully sure of the other person's reciprocity, this gamble is completely removed; you pour yourself out toward someone whose love for you was never in question. And that leads directly to Jesus as the one who loves you. In Christian theology however, this love is not contingent on your worthiness or your ability to earn it. So, when sadness conquers your heart and you go looking for love that is certain, you are reaching out to the same person with whom you had already shared your joy.

This is where the asymmetry of the poem gets resolved. In every human case, the one you love and the one who loves you can diverge. This may be the reason happiness and sadness pull you towards different routes.

In Christian faith however, in Jesus, the divergence closes; reciprocity is not a hope you are gambling on, it is already guaranteed from His side, so loving Him costs you none of the vulnerability the poem assumes love requires. And there is even more. The poem assumes you love first, out of your fullness, and only discover the safer, given love afterwards when you are in need. But 1 John 4:19 reverses that order completely: “We love because he first loved us.” The given love is not a back-up plan for when chosen love fails. It is the origin of the chosen love in the first place.

An advertisement for a bereavement support group. The background is a black and white photograph of two hands clasped together in a supportive grip. The text is overlaid on the image.

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU –**brought to us this month by Valerie Bond**

My earliest faith memory is colouring in a Bible picture in Sunday School in Stretford, Manchester, where I was born. I must have been about 4 years old. We then moved house to Bispham, Blackpool, although my dad continued to work in Manchester at Thomson House (now the Printworks) commuting daily by train. I had a very happy childhood at Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School. The local parish church was where we worshipped, and the Sunday school was enormous – in the 1950's that was what we did.



At the age of 11, I decided that I didn't want to go to church – it was just too big and I couldn't cope with it. It was my neighbours' children who invited me to the local Methodist Church (also in Bispham – sadly now closed), which was much smaller & more friendly. It was here that I shared my faith journey with lots of other young people, growing up and each one coming to know Jesus as Saviour, Lord and Friend. On Friday evenings about 50 of us would meet in the home of a Methodist Local Preacher, Robert Peters & his wife Marjorie, to study the Bible together, sing 'choruses' and make new friends. Even whilst away at College, I would come home on Friday evenings, complete with guitar, to go to the Peters' Bible Study.

It was whilst away at college in Bingley, West Yorkshire, that I received the 'Wesley heart-warming', a wonderful warming of the heart that filled me with the assurance that I was saved and loved – a real blessed assurance, that sadly is not spoken about much from the pulpit these days, but is nevertheless a crucial part of faith.

I met my husband, John, through the same Bible Study group and Methodist Church (Springfield Greenlands – now sadly closed). Whilst in Blackpool, I experienced a call to preach, and trained to be a Methodist Local Preacher. John & I moved to Manchester for his employment, and as a teacher, I found work with the local Examining Board on Harter Street, working in the same office as my Godmother had about forty years before! It is my single biggest regret that there were no children in our marriage – I have been trying to fill the gap ever since. Sadly, John and I divorced after 17 years of marriage.

Since then, it has become apparent that I had been struggling with mental ill-health for many years. I eventually settled in an Anglican church in Handforth, Cheshire and was very happy there. The Vicar, Rev. Paul Reynolds, encouraged me to become a Reader, which I did after another 2 years' training in the Chester Diocese. The stress of life's situations however has taken its toll, and I found myself on the move in order to find a way of living that was affordable. This has led to some interesting years renovating property, which I greatly enjoyed, but whilst only moving 3 miles down the road, unbeknown to me I moved from the Chester Diocese into the Manchester Diocese. The Anglican Church does not handle change very well, revealing its true humanity. My last priest in Kidderminster, Rev. Jacqueline Shalloe, wanted me to pick up the preaching challenge once more, but at the age of 74, I feel there has to be a time to 'retire'.

So on that note, I have arrived in Longridge to 'retire'!! My heart's desire is to be obedient to the Lord who has called me from a very early age, and who still now, 70 years later, is calling before it's too late. So what is it He is calling me to? I believe I've been sent to Longridge to help build God's kingdom through prayer. To share with everyone that we have a Heavenly Father who is passionate about His children, who sent His only Son Jesus to be our Saviour and Guide, Shepherd and Friend, and to love His dear Spirit, who is able and willing to help us, whatever pickle we find ourselves in. It is my privilege & God's amazing provision that I have landed in a place of grace here at St. Lawrence with St. Paul, amongst the saints of Longridge.

I was going to tell you all sorts of things – about my cat, Star, and my only living relative, Vic, in New Zealand, but they will have to wait for another time. It is God's call, God's challenge and God's timing. Now or never! Don't leave it too late!

Blackburn Cathedral, The Tyndale 500 Exhibition, marking the 500th Anniversary of the Tyndale Bible.

This is a wonderful exhibition which provides information about the role and attitude of the pre-reformation church in Tudor times and showcases an original 1535 edition of the Tyndale New Testament, on loan from the British Library.



We read, study, absorb, and contemplate the Bible daily; we believe that it is God's Word, God-breathed and we use it to help us to believe and follow our Saviour Jesus. Yet the Bible was only translated into English in 1526, before this date it could not be read by ordinary people. I cannot conceive of a life without reading and hearing God's Word, to absorb Him within my soul.

The Bible itself is amazing. It is pocket sized and is open at Chapter 1 of John's Gospel. *"In the begynnyng was the worde/ the worde was with God: the worde was God."* The spelling is taken from the Tyndale Bible, but look- the words are the same as we read now in our own Bibles! The truth is constant, unchanging, He is the Truth.

William Tyndale was a linguist and could understand many languages including Hebrew and Greek, he needed to leave England to have the freedom translate the Bible for people to read. The newly invented printing press in Germany was used to print multiple copies which were then smuggled into England. The price of heresy was on Tyndale's head and ultimately he was betrayed when in Belgium and he was burnt at the stake. He gave his life for God's Word to be read by us, yes, for we are the ordinary people who 500 years later are still reading the Bible, hearing it read and preached in English. I am humbled by the sacrifice Tyndale made, he certainly did lay down his earthly life for his love of Jesus.

The exhibition also features later Bibles and describes how more modern technology is being used to spread God's Word, the Bible has been downloaded over a billion times. I tried this when I got home and I now study the King James Version, along with my Good News. It was easy to download on my phone and I would be very happy to help anyone to do this. <https://www.youversion.com/bible-app>

I encourage you to go and see the Tyndale Bible, (Expo is on until 18th November), it is a rare opportunity to be grasped with both hands.

<https://blackburncathedral.com/tyndale-500-exhibition/>

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Therese of Lisiuex, a Quiet Day at Whalley Abbey

I find Whalley Abbey to be a very spiritual place. There have been a series of Quiet Days of instruction and prayer entitled Held in God's Gaze, each day focussing on a Christian mystic. There is a book of the same title which I highly recommend.



Therese of Lisiuex lived in the late 19th century and died at the age of 24. She was filled and led by the Holy Spirit through her life, and was admitted to a Carmelite Convent at an early age. You may have heard her in the context of her "little way". Such language may seem patronising in this day and age, but I understand it as meaning that we need clear and clean hearts to hear God's Word. Day to day life can be filled with all sorts of things, ranging from family, work, illness, food, other people, slight and hurts whether real or imagined, bills – the list is endless. The problem is that there can be little time left to listen and hear God's word and the peace and joy that Jesus can bring is then squeezed out.

Jesus invites us to Him- all who are tired and weary and worn down by life, He says that His heart is gentle and humble, He says that when we rest in Him, our burden is eased and becomes light. Belief and trust in Jesus frees us from things that don't really matter (most things), but that take up a lot of time and energy.

There is a lot more to Therese but space is limited. I'm discovering more and more about spiritual prayer and the divine love found in communing with the Lord who indwells within our soul. I am finding the journey leads into a deep peace and joy as I rest in Jesus.

Are you interested? Come and chat to me about it, it's a door waiting to be opened.

Naomi.pinder63@gmail.com

BARNARDO'S

During October Rhona White and Sheila Roberts will be emptying the Barnardo's boxes. It would help them greatly if you could hand your box or donation to the Duty Warden at one of the Church Services or drop it off at the Parish Office. You are asked not to leave boxes in church unattended. If you would find this difficult Rhona and Sheila are happy to collect the box from your home.

The parish has had a long association with Barnardo's and it remains important that their vital work continues. Thank you for your support.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

I will be carrying out my annual emptying of the Children's Society charity boxes this month. If you have a Children's Society box please could you drop it off at the parish office at the back of St Paul's Church during October.

The office is normally open during services also Monday and Wednesday mornings and most of Friday each week.

Thank you, Malcolm Welch



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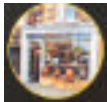
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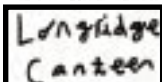
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FLOWER GROUP

Earlier this summer I decided to practice what I preach and created a flower display in church entirely from elements from my garden. Now, for those of you that have seen my garden you will know that it is not what you might expect from a lass with a degree in horticulture and over 30 years' experience in the industry. The kindest of my friends will call it natural, maybe even free spirited. Others may view it as chaotic and a little out of hand!



Here's the thing, I struggle to kill anything, including weeds. Left to their own devices they can produce some fabulous flowers that feed our pollinating insects. I embraced No Mow May and extended it into June and July. The hot weather curbed the growth of my grass (I am not sure I can refer to it as a lawn!) and every time I went down there to think about cutting it, I would notice a frog or two sheltering in the lush green canopy, or a bird hungrily feeding on worms. Of an evening, the bats soared around my garden, gratefully consuming insects. Dandelions and other 'weeds' are welcome in my garden because they play host to so many bees, butterflies and insects.

So why am I admitting all of this? Well, the first thing to note is that the arrangement I created from my garden was made up almost entirely of things that no human had planted. I take credit for the hydrangea and the fern leaves, but everything else has just appeared, flourished and spread, without any intervention from me. I was worried that people might think it was a dull and cheap arrangement, so I was very grateful to have a group of ladies come up and ask me what was in it and tell me how lovely it looked. Thank you for that. Doing the church flowers with zero impact on our fragile environment felt like a small achievement.

The second thing to remember is that we can sometimes get caught in the trap of doing things or being the person that we think is expected of us, living by other people's standards, or at least our perception of them. God made us beautifully unique, he gave us skills and gifts that we are free to use to serve Him. Some of us may be roses and orchids, some are oaks, but for those of us that are more like dandelions and buttercups, remember, you are as beautiful and strong as the roses and oaks, you just have a different, but equally important role. Live the life that God has given you, not the one that you think you should be.

As we enter into the colder season, it will be harder to source flowers from our gardens. However, if anyone has any flowers, greenery or in fact, those little glass beads that flower arrangers put in vases, I would be delighted to chat with you.

Thank you so much.

Donna
donnarowegreen@gmail.com



BREWTIME

Wednesday's from 8.50am-11am
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We serve tea, coffee, toast, crumpets and cakes!
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 Do join us we would love to see you.

The Brewtime Team

SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin

Our new Captains and Vice Captains.



Here are our new House Captains and Vice Captains. It's a long-standing tradition of the school that our four Houses - Jeffrey (red) Beacon (green), Parlick (yellow) and Fairsnape (blue) – vote for their own leaders at the beginning of every academic year. These leaders help to organise house matches with Miss B and are called upon to represent school at special events such as the Remembrance Day parade each November.



Writing in School

As you walk through the classrooms in school it's always lovely to see how children's work develops from Reception through to Class 6. It's lovely to see the progress and the different opportunities they have for extending their knowledge and skills.

The lovely display in Class 3 shows that the children have been reading fables in their English lessons. They have been re-telling these in their own words.



Year 4

used a Science lesson, where they were learning about the diets of different animals, to practice their note taking skills. They took part in an active learning activity, moving around the classroom to gather information from posters.

In Year 6, the children's English work is currently based on Shakespeare's Macbeth. This is a long and complex text with many different themes. The children have been writing summaries, concentrating on key points of plot and character.



School News continued.....

Worship this term



Our collective worship this term began with two stories of healing. The first was from Luke 17, 11-18 where we are told of Jesus healing ten lepers and just one thanking Him for the gift of renewed health. Our second story was about the lame man, lowered through the roof of a house so that he might be close to Jesus



(Luke 5, 17-25). He too was made well and we are told, 'Went home praising God.' In this way the man showed his gratitude and we are told that those who saw him also praised God when they saw him healed. All too often we can take gifts such as our health for granted when we should be using our lives to give thanks.

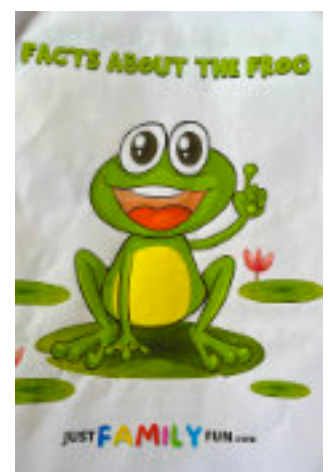
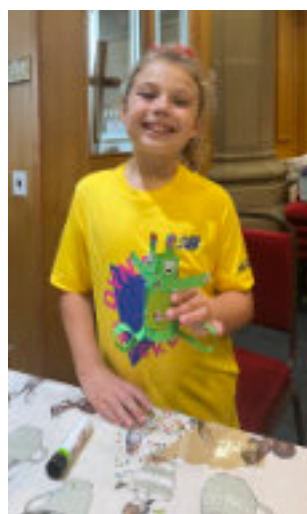
WELCOME CAFE

Welcome cafe returned on September 9th with over 40 adults and children attending. For 50p in total a hot meal, jacket potatoes with fillings, toast, various cakes, biscuits and drinks were available.

The children enjoyed a craft session learning about frogs (who knew that a group of Frogs is called an army!) and how to care for hedgehogs (no milk please) The children then went on to make hedgehogs and frogs.

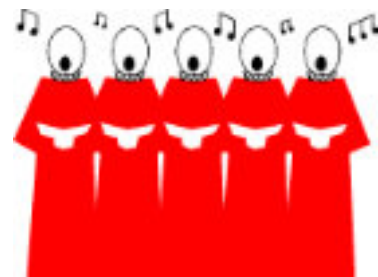
Some of the adults played dominoes or the various games on the tables, others preferred to just chat .

Welcome cafe is open to all during term time 3-5pm We look forward to seeing you
Steph John & Karen



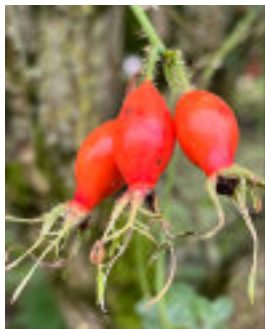
From the Choir

The choir took advantage of their break from Friday night practices and enjoyed a BBQ at the home of Eileen and Terry Lewis in early August. Their generous invitation and hospitality was much appreciated and indulged in!! To really top the evening off the weather was kind and we were able to sit outside chatting until late. There was much laughter, everyone enjoyed the superb food and a great time was had by all – so much so that we forgot to take a photograph!

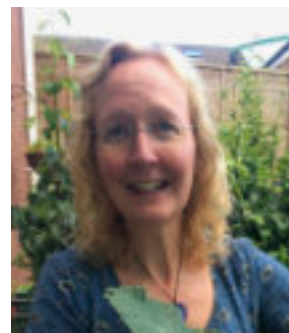


The choir holiday in August already seems like a distant memory. Even before the break we had started rehearsing pieces for Harvest, Remembrance, All Souls and even Christmas. These important occasions are now very much the focus of our practices so that we are able to enhance the worship at them.

Eco Corner October by Barbara Burton



The Church of England and the Diocese of Blackburn have committed to reducing their carbon emissions to zero by 2030. This is an ambitious goal, and in our own parish, we would like to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible over the next few years.



In order to do this, we need to know what our current carbon footprint is, and then to make whatever changes we can in order to reduce it. Therefore, we have started to calculate the carbon footprint of both of our church buildings each year and to take advice from advisers at the diocese about the best ways to decrease our energy use and carbon output. For example, the lightbulbs at St. Lawrence's church have been replaced with LED bulbs, which are much more energy efficient.

But it shouldn't stop there. Each of us as individuals and households produce carbon as we go about our daily activities, and as caretakers of God's creation, we are responsible for reducing this if possible to help protect the planet from the worst effects of climate change.

I have recently used the World Wildlife Fund carbon footprint calculator [WWF Footprint Calculator](https://www.worldwildlife.org/footprint-calculator) to work out what my footprint is. It is simple to use (it took me about ten minutes) and gives you a figure in tonnes. You can then see whether you use more or less than the world average, which is 6.3 tonnes, the UK average, which is 8 tonnes, and the PR3 average, which is 12.3 tonnes. More useful than that, is the breakdown it gives you of which areas of your life produce the most carbon (travel, food, home, stuff) and some tips about what you can change to reduce your carbon emissions.



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MY FAVOURITE HYMN – brought to us this month by Karen Au

It has been really hard to choose a favourite hymn out of such a wealth of hymns that we are fortunate enough to inherit in the Anglican tradition, today I have decided to write about the hymn *My song is love unknown*. For me, this hymn is about the suffering and sacrifice of Christ and his love for us. In the first verse, the Saviour's love is rather unusually described as "unknown". I think the word "unknown" refers to the incomprehensible vastness of God's love which is then illustrated in each of the remaining verses by his acts of suffering and sacrifice.



The text of this hymn was written as one of nine devotional poems in *A Young Man's Meditation* by Samuel Crossman in 1664 which was later set to music by John Ireland and published in *The Public School Hymnal* in 1919. The origins of the text explains the use of the first person throughout the hymn, which gives this hymn an intimate quality, and is one of the reasons why I find this hymn particularly moving.

Another reason I like this hymn is that in every verse, Christ is described in a different way that illustrates his relationship towards us. In the space of only seven verses, Christ is characterised as no less than five different epithets: "Saviour", "Friend", "King", "Prince of Life", and "Lord". I particularly like the juxtaposition in the last verse of Christ as "dear King" and "my Friend", in fact, this kind of juxtaposition litters the entire hymn. The use of oxymorons throughout this hymn, in my opinion, rather poetically illustrates the incredible enormity of God's grace. I find the juxtaposition of the words "cheerful" and "suffering" in verse five particularly moving - "Yet cheerful he, to suffering goes", especially when combined with the Mixolydian mode (use of the flattened 7th) in John Ireland's setting of the text. However, it is verse six which speaks to me the most, as it describes our Lord as an outcast and someone who has no sense of belonging to our earthly world. I find the theme of Christ as an outcast in this hymn particularly comforting as it reminds us all that as Christians we also belong to the heavenly kingdom, despite the sufferings of this world.

*My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.*

*O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?*

*He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend.*

*Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:*

*Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.*

*Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run;
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease,
and 'gainst Him rise.*

*They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes,
That He His foes
From thence might free.*

*In life, no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home;
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.*

*Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.*

Ignite Update - Becky Filder *Ignite Children & Youth Leader*

It has been a busy, busy month for Ignite! It has been great to get back into school and once again have opportunities to lead assemblies, spend time with the children and continue building relationships within our local schools.

September also brought our fantastic Come and See Mission Weekend. It was wonderful to see so many people getting involved across the weekend and especially encouraging to have another brilliant turnout for Messy Church. Seeing families exploring faith together through activities, conversation, worship and lots of mess is always such a joy!



As Messy Church continues to grow, we would love some more helpers to join us. You don't need to plan or prepare anything, and you certainly don't need to be an expert! If you could come along, sit at an activity table, help guide families through what they need to do and, most importantly, offer a friendly face and conversation to help families feel welcome, we would love to hear from you.

We have a busy term ahead too. We are beginning Youth Alpha on Friday evenings from 4–5pm, creating a space for our high-school-aged young people to explore some of the big questions about life, faith and God. I'm really excited to see where the conversations lead and how this group develops.

We are also busy planning our Light Party, giving children and families an opportunity to celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World as an alternative to Halloween. There will be lots of fun, games and activities as we share the message that Jesus' light shines in the darkness.

Finally, there has been an exciting development for me personally too! I have begun studying for a Theology degree with Emmanuel Theological College, part-time on Tuesday evenings. The opportunity to study is offered as part of the Ignite Project, and I am really excited to deepen my



own understanding of God and theology and to see how what I learn shapes and strengthens our work with children, young people and families here in Longridge.

There is lots happening and lots to look forward to. Please continue to pray for our children and young people, our schools work, Youth Alpha, Messy Church and all the families we are connecting with as we seek to help children and young people encounter Jesus, grow in faith and know that they have a place in our church family.



Children's Church Update - Becky and the Children's Church Team

We had a fab time over the summer becoming detectives for our I AM Detective Agency series! Each week, the children investigated one of Jesus' "I AM" sayings, searching for clues and discovering more about who Jesus is. There was lots of investigating, creating and exploring along the way!

As we move into the autumn term, Children's Church is now following alongside the themes and Bible readings being explored in our main church service, helping our children to feel part of the wider worshipping life of our church family.

We had a particularly lovely session during our Come and See Mission Weekend, exploring the wonderful truth that Jesus knows us and loves us, and thinking about how we are called to welcome others and help them discover Jesus too. One of the highlights was the children hunting around the Centenary Room to find their very own little Jesus to take home and keep as a reminder that Jesus loves them and is always with them.

More recently, we explored Jesus' story of the workers in the vineyard and thought together about God's grace. Through our different activities, we discovered that so much of what God gives us is a gift that we haven't earned. We thought about being thankful for what we have rather than comparing ourselves with others.

Over the next few weeks, we will be getting creative as we prepare our Harvest display for St Lawrence's, celebrating God's faithfulness through the seasons and giving thanks for the wonderful world he has created.

As always, please keep our Children's Church children and families in your prayers as we continue to help them explore the Bible, encounter Jesus and grow in faith together.

BAPTISMS

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

Charlotte Rose Joy Filder - was Baptised on the 6th September 2026 at St. Paul's Church, Longridge

Thomas Michael Andrew Coombes & Elsie-May Coombes were also Baptised on the 6th September 2026 at St. Paul's Church, Longridge



Weddings

Many congratulations and our very best wishes to:

Luke Andrew Swindells & Natalie Louise Page-Fleet who were married on the 5th September 2026 at St. Lawrence's Church, Longridge.

Richard Edward James Chippendale & Charlotte Rebecca Presho who were married on the 12th September 2026 also at St. Lawrence's Church



Funerals

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

John Allan Parkinson



Mission Weekend Women's breakfast

We Came, We Chatted and We Ate

On 12th September more than fifty women of all ages gathered in the Centenary Room at St Paul's church for our first women's breakfast. The event was part of the Blackburn Diocese 100-year celebrations and parishes had been encouraged to hold mission style events to celebrate together and to invite friends and family to "Come and See".

Our Saturday morning event was called "Come Chat & Eat" and the morning began with a delicious buffet style continental breakfast.



We welcomed Esther Higham – a radio presenter from Premier Christian Radio. She began the "Chat" by asking us to think of and share encounters we might have had with people who had influenced the direction of our lives.

We then listened to Esther interview three local women whose lives had been changed by meeting other Christians, but above all by their encounters with Jesus. Their stories were truly inspiring and humbling.

We hope to hold more women's events in the not too distant future – so watch this space.....

Janet Mortimer



'Come and Quiz' from Kathleen Sturzaker

Quiz Night was brilliant (or so my winning team thought!). Seventeen teams faced up to five rounds of questions from Quizmaster Ray. There was something for everyone from children's cartoon programmes to identify to music and musicals from the 1950s, so the multi-generational teams were well catered for. There was plenty of time for talking to each other too over the hot pot from Tim Slater and cakes served by Graham.



I met a team who had been regular attenders at church during their early teens, had drifted away but been invited by a friend to the quiz and decided to come along and I was able to tell them about our services and the Alpha course. A few days after the quiz I met a lady in Berry Lane who asked me if we'd enjoyed the chocolates we received for our prize (we did!) and we started chatting about our parish and all we have to offer. So I think we can confidently say that Come and Quiz provided food for thought for some of the people who came to join us for the evening, and we are very grateful to all who helped in any way to make the event run so smoothly and successfully.

Come and Laugh with Andy Kind

On a wet Saturday evening in September, we gathered at the Cricket Club to listen to a Christian comedian who hopefully would raise us up above the damp, and entertain us with warm humour. Well, we certainly had our chuckle muscles exercised. Andy was funny, without having to rely on invective, bad language or smutty innuendo. Yes, he interacted with the audience, and some people particularly, but he was never nasty or relying on embarrassment.

The stand out joke for me was, 'I was standing in Aldi, I couldn't afford Waitrose'. This is topical, the rising of food prices, and ironic, we can all afford to stand in Waitrose but not necessarily shop there. Typical of his humour.

Talking to several people on the Sunday, his performance was really enjoyed. I shall be keeping my eye out for Andy on the circuit and would happily see him again.



Andrew Burdett

Mothers' Union - Judith Kaye

After the excitement of celebrating Mothers' Union being 150 years old this year we are now looking forward to next year when Blackburn Diocese Mothers' Union will be 100 years old and so will our branch here in Longridge. I'm sure we'll find a way to mark the centenary but as yet I'm not quite sure how.

Some of our members are knitting "Prayer Squares" and Teddies which you may see appearing on various occasions.



Our October meeting is a bit of a mystery at the moment but we always find something to fill the time on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Diary dates

6th October Meeting in St Paul's 7.30pm start

3rd November Janet Mortimer



Handbells - Judith Kaye

I'm pleased to say we have 1 new recruit to our team of ringers. Steve Stanley responded to our appeal for players and although he hasn't rung before & can't read music he has made a very good start. We have changed our start time to 4pm, which I realise may exclude people who are working from joining us but if there was enough interest we could think about another group running in the evening – just in case there is someone out there desperate to have a go but not at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.



St. Lawrence Flower Rota for October

4 th	In memory of Dorothy Laver's family
11 th	Harvest Thanksgiving (Altar pedestal in memory of Tom and Anne Seed
18 th	In memory of Annie & Bill Walker & Lily Woodacre
25 th	In memory of Alan & Doreen Tweedie
30 th	In memory of Shaun Dawson

St. Paul's Flower Rota

October Donna Rowe Green & Ellen Dawson



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FELLOWSHIP, FUN & FUNDRAISING GROUP - Wendy Smythe

Harvest Walk – Sunday 11th October.

Peter and Lib Turver have kindly agreed to lead the Harvest Walk again this year, leaving St. Lawrence Church at 1.30pm and returning between 3.30pm and 3.45pm. Last year a mug of vegetable soup and bread greeted the walkers on their return to St. Lawrence which seemed to be very much enjoyed and will be repeated – don't panic there will still be cakes. So do join us if you can – let's enjoy each others company on the walk and then look forward to the refreshments. No need to book in advance – just come along for a 1.30pm start.



Winter Fair – 21st November.

Not wishing to clash with 'Longridge Does Christmas' at the end of November and with Advent Sunday not until the 29th November it seems appropriate to have a Winter Fair rather than a Christmas Fair again this year. Rie Waterman and others are therefore planning a Victorian/ Dickensian theme with lots to excite the children.

The theme will be carried through to the stalls and sideshows and of course watch out for the Grand Winter Fair Raffle – tickets available soon. Planning for this important event is now underway with full details in the November Log.

Jigsaw Celebration – Saturday & Sunday 16th & 17th January, 2027.

With the nights drawing in and perhaps spending more time indoors we hope that many of you will be starting to think about completing some jigsaws in readiness for our 7th Annual Jigsaw Celebration. We have quite a stock of boxed jigsaws and some cardboard to make them on so do have a word with Dot Little if you would like to complete some.

As our event is in January its difficult to sell made up Christmas Jigsaws but there will be lots of Christmas Jigsaws for sale at the Winter Fair.

TUESDAY CLUB

The first meeting was on 8th September with an illustrated talk and slide show by Brambles Wildlife Rescue, a local voluntary organisation caring for injured birds and wildlife.

This was an in depth look at the work that Mel and Justin Greenhalgh do. We were treated to some lovely photos of pigeons, hedgehogs, wild birds and other small animals that are rescued, nursed back to health and released back safely into the wild.

They both have full time jobs and this is run from their private home which means that it is not open to the public to see the birds and animals that they are caring for.

The next talk, entitled Life on the River, is on Tuesday 13th October. Andy McLaughlin of Be Brave Film Production will give us an illustrated journey along the river from the source of the Ribble River in the Yorkshire Dales to the Estuary at Lytham.

This should be a really nice way to spend a wet Tuesday evening.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

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OUR WORSHIP AND READINGS

Following Jesus on Mission

Our regular Sunday 'in church' services are as below.

St Paul's Holy Communion Service with Children's Church at 10:00am (arrival from 9:30am)

St. Paul's 'All together' Service 10:00am on 2nd Sunday of the Month

St Lawrence's at 6:30pm (arrival from 6:00pm)

The readings that will feature in these services are listed below.

Our regular mid-week Holy Communion Service takes place on Thursday at St Paul's at 10am

4th October — Trinity 18

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

Exodus 20 : 1-20

Matthew 21 : 33-46

'The 4'

St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:00pm

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 136

Exodus 20 : 1-20

Matthew 21 : 33-46

11th October - Trinity 19 — Harvest Festival

8am BCP-St. Lawrence's

Psalm 65 : 5-13

Luke 12: 16-30

10am St Lawrence's-

'Harvest All Age Worship'

'The Harvest Parish Walk'

Leaves St. Lawrence's Church at 1:30pm

6.30pm St Lawrence's—Songs of Praise

Deuteronomy 8 : 7-18

Luke 12: 16-30

18th October - Trinity 20

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

Exodus 33: 12-23

Matthew 22 : 15-22

'Messy Church'

St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:30pm

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 142

Exodus 33: 12-23

Matthew 22 : 15-22

25th October — Trinity 21

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

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

Matthew 22 : 34-46

'The 4'

St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:00pm

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalm 119 v89-104

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

Matthew 22 : 34-46

1st November — All Saints Day

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

Revelation 7 : 9-17

Matthew 5 : 1-12

'The 4'

St. Pauls Church 4:00-5:00pm

All Souls Service

6:30pm St Lawrence's

Psalm 23

John 5 : 19-27

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptisms, Marriages

Arrangements for these should be made with Rev. Mike or via the Church website

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

If so, please let Rev. Mike or Rev. Jesse know so that they may be visited.



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The Last Word

From the Vicar Rev. Mike Barton



Growing up my parents taught me to sign off a formal letter to someone whose name you knew, 'Yours sincerely', or 'Yours faithfully' for someone you didn't.

Nowadays with emails there are multiple ways to end what you've written, and I've noticed many younger people who use messaging apps like Snapchat don't even bother – habits change!

Personally, I still like to end a lot of my communications with the sign off, 'Blessings, Mike'. I was reflecting how this can perhaps sound quite twee or tame; however, I've recently been reading a book called 'Sacred Fire' where the author, Ronald Rolheiser, describes how powerful a blessing can be. He makes the point that 'to bless' comes from the Latin 'benedicere', which literally means 'to speak well of'. And by sharp contrast the opposite to giving a blessing is to curse.

So whereas to 'bless' someone is to offer a life-giving encouragement, to 'curse' is to basically say, 'I wish you weren't here!'. Rolheiser then uses the biblical example of the differing reactions of the Wise Men and Herod to the birth of Jesus. The Wise Men bring their gifts and place them at the feet of the young Jesus and in doing so give away something of themselves to honour him as king. Herod however sees Jesus as a threat to his own rule and wants to get rid of him. Herod is even willing to murder to hold onto his own position and status.

Here then is the application for us, there may well be situations and circumstances right now where we see new life as a promise and we bless it, and other situations where we view new life as a threat, so we curse it. For instance, imagine you're a well-respected manager in your workplace and an intelligent bright young thing comes along who could steal the limelight, occupy your role or even accelerate past you. Do you bless or do you curse? Do you speak well of them and train them up, or do you criticise them and hold them back?

The former approach, to bless, involves dying to your own interests a little, and in a small way reflects what Jesus did on the cross, giving away his own life for the sake of us. The latter approach, to curse, is to act in your own selfish interests and follow the way of the devil.

Then Rolheiser adds a further point that I'm still musing over, he says, 'blessings are most powerful within the same gender'. Yes, to bless across gender lines is still powerful, but we're often not as threatened in our status or power by those of the opposite gender because somehow there's not quite the same sense of competition. In this case it's easier to bless because it doesn't feel like you're giving quite so much of yourself away. But for instance, using a perhaps stereotypical example, for a mother to bless her new daughter in law, or a father to bless his new son in law – that transition takes a bigger adjustment, that's quite a thing...

So is your posture one of blessing or cursing and how might you sign off your conversations today?

'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26), Amen.



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