

The Log



A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

JOHN 13:34



The Parish Magazine
February 2025
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www.stlawrencewithstpaul.org.uk

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The Log

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VICAR'S NOTES

Parish Vision 2025

On Sunday 26th January our Parish Vision Emphasis for the year ahead was launched, 'Following Jesus In Reconciliation'. The biblical warrant for reconciliation with neighbour and nature is at the very heart of the Gospel and I've been particularly struck by a verse in 2 Corinthians 5.18, 'All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation'. If the Old Testament call upon Abraham and his descendants was 'be blessed to be a blessing' then our New Testament call as Christians is 'to be reconciled to reconcile'. The order is clear, first we must know peace with God and then as we let this peace transform us from within, we are better equipped to outwardly share God's peace with others. Or to use some of Jesus' words, 'A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.' Luke 6.45.

Well now all the feasting of Christmas has been thoroughly forgotten, the New Year question remains, 'what are we really full of?' I hope this can be our mutual challenge for the year ahead.

Thanks to all involved in Christmas 2024

Our theme, 'The Holy Spirit of Christmas' was well received and I'm now grateful to be able to write with a spirit of thanks to everyone who contributed to all our Advent and Christmas services and events.

It was a joy to see so many of you at the Christmas Fair and special thanks to the Longridge CofE Primary School Choir for opening the event so tunefully and cheerfully. Continuing on this musical note I'd like to say thank you to all our musicians and singers in the Senior and Junior Choirs and in the Worship Group, including our organist Paul and Junior Choir Leader Annette. Thank you for inspiring our worship. This also gives me the opportunity to give thanks to those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make our various Christmas activities such wonderful occasions.



Once again, I'd also like to give thanks for your kind donations which meant Revd Simon and I had the privilege of distributing some wonderful Luxury Christmas Hampers to bless some lovely families and people. The photo shows the boot of my car loaded with hampers ready for delivery!

The 5th Annual Jigsaw Celebration

On the weekend of 18-19th January we held our 5th annual jigsaw festival. It proved to be a huge success, raising £2,300 towards general church funds via the proceeds of the jigsaw sale itself and those who enjoyed the food and refreshments. Thank you to everyone involved: to those who dedicated precious time throughout the entire year to make the jigsaws ready for selling, to those who stewarded over the weekend, and those who cooked and served in the kitchen. Everybody contributed to offer all our visitors a wonderful welcome and your contribution is very much appreciated.



VICAR'S NOTES continued

Live Streaming on YouTube

This is just a reminder that with the Audio Visual project completed in 2024 you can watch our 10am Sunday morning service either live or later on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@stlawrencewithstpaulongridge>

This is perfect for those who can't physically make the service for one reason or another.

The Difference Course

As part of our 'Following Jesus in Reconciliation' Vision Emphasis this year, I'm very excited to let you know about The Difference Course which we'll be running for five Consecutive Thursday nights from 6th March to 3rd April at St Paul's Church. This is a brilliant course to help us think through how we can cross divides, navigate disagreements and pursue a just and flourishing world. It's distinctly Christian and open to everyone. Please do let me or Revd Simon know if you're interested in taking part and if evenings don't work for you and there is enough interest, we may also be able to offer a daytime course. Have a look at this website for more information:

<https://difference.rln.global/the-course/>

Lent and Easter 2025

Easter Day is late this year taking place on Sunday 20th April which means Lent doesn't start until 5th March when we'll have our Ash Wednesday service at 7.30pm at St Paul's Church. As we draw closer you can look forward to a number of resources being released by Blackburn Diocese which includes the Lent devotional resource booklets which this year are based on the theme of 'Prayer For Growth and Renewal' and you'll be able to pick them up from church. There will also be a Lent Course on the Diocesan 'Fruitful App' which is well worth downloading using the QR code below.



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LOG DISTRIBUTION

It's that time of year when your subscription for The Log is due. The price remains the same as last year £10 for 10 copies of our wonderful magazine, always full of parish news and interesting articles plus the contact details for many of the local businesses.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in getting the magazine through your letter box, we have a team of about 30 people who regularly deliver the magazine come rain or shine. THANK YOU ALL.

Of course, we wouldn't have a magazine to deliver if it wasn't for the people who contribute articles and those who prepare it for publication – quite a task for each edition – so thank you to you also.

If you don't have The Log delivered but would like to please contact me with your details.

My contact details are judithkaye@sky.com . 01772 785114 or 07769663156

JAK

REPAIRS TO THE CHURCHYARD WALLS AT ST LAWRENCE



Work started at the end of January to repair sections of the boundary walls around St Lawrence's churchyard.

Last year it became apparent that the stonework in some parts of the retaining wall adjoining Chapel Brow was showing signs of cracking and becoming loose. Our surveyors confirmed that this is being caused by the presence of old tree stumps close to the wall. Four trees were felled

there in recent years as they were becoming overgrown, and the stumps are now swelling which is causing some cracking in the wall. The repairs will look to remove the stumps, and repair and stabilise the loose stonework.



At Walton Fold on the other side of the churchyard, there is a pedestrian entrance comprising a metal gate with stone steps leading up into the churchyard through a stone archway in the boundary wall. The steps and coping stones have become misaligned and need levelling and securing. This will enable much safer pedestrian access into the churchyard. Weather permitting, it is intended that the work will be completed during February.



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INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

May 8th 2025 and August 15th 2025 are the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day respectively. I see that a Pageant Master has been appointed to encourage individuals, communities and organisations to plan “shared moments of celebration” to commemorate these dates. There are the usual suggestions such as lighting beacons, organising street/Church/garden parties and the ringing of Church bells. A more unusual suggestion is to eat Fish and Chips all day!

All this has reminded me that during those long dark years of WWII our country needed to hear some Inspirational Words to lift our personal spirits and to boost the Nation’s morale.

Winston Churchill sought to do that:

“I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat

What is our policy? To wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime

What is our aim? Victory, victory at all costs. Victory in spite of all terror Victory however long and hard the road may be. For without victory there is no survival.

We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France; we shall fight on the seas and oceans; we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air; we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds; we shall fight in the fields and on the streets; we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender.”

Janet Heap

Rousing words, necessary in their time and place, but I’m also conscious of words often attributed to Albert Einstein: *“I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”*

As we remember the significant wars and Inspiring speeches of the past, we must look to the future hoping and working for a better way.

Here, Jesus’ timeless words echo through the ages, offering a vision of hope and peace: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”* He taught us to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies, and to pray for those who persecute us.

These principles challenge us to embrace reconciliation over revenge and unity over division. His message is a beacon, urging humanity to pursue paths of justice and compassion. As we commemorate, let us not only honour the sacrifices of the past but strive to embody the peace that Jesus preached—a peace that transcends conflict and uplifts the human spirit.

Revd. Mike Barton



Clergy & Church Officers

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

Parochial Church Council

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

Organisations

Parish Administrator	<i>Michael Dawson</i>
Parish Office Monday and Wednesday	9:30—12:30
Friday	9.30—15.30 01772 783281
Altar Flowers	
Hon. Sec. St. Lawrence	Dot Little 01772 783998 JudithKaye 01772 785114
Hon. Sec. St. Paul	<i>Donna Rowe-Green</i> 07880 348597
Choir	
Organist and Choir Director	Paul Warren <i>paulbionicears@gmail.com</i>
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	
	Oliviastewart@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	<i>Judith Kaye Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED</i> <i>judithkaye@sky.com 01772 785114</i>

Longridge C of E Primary School	
www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk	
Headteacher	<i>Mrs Catherine Parkin</i> 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.	<i>Katie Keighley</i>

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

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

I came to live in Longridge in May last year, like many new residents in the older generation, to be nearer my family. It wasn't very long before Hilary Ingham knocked on my door and gave me a very warm welcome, Hilary and Lawrence are part of the wider family so were aware of my arrival. Through them I was introduced to the congregation at St Paul's where I felt immediately at ease.

So where am I from and what makes me tick?

I was born in Lytham St Anne's of strong Lancashire stock at the beginning of the second World War, but have not lived in the county until now. I was brought up in Cheshire and have early memories of air-raids, rationing, and tasting the first banana my father was given at work. Sent away to school in Hertfordshire and constantly on the move since I have enjoyed bringing up my family, two sons, living and working in Avon and Nottinghamshire. I was widowed in 2003 and since then have added Cumbria and Yorkshire to the list. The last nine years have been enjoyably spent in a first-floor flat overlooking Valley Gardens in Harrogate.

During my working life I worked in the health service, then briefly for the Census Office doing surveys on disability, mainly in Nottinghamshire, and then finally set up a cookware shop with two friends, which was fun but not very profitable!

My main hobbies are the garden and music, so it is wonderful to have my own small garden again in Longridge and I am having great fun redesigning it with a local garden designer. Roll on the Spring when we can finish the planting. In Harrogate I spent several years as a garden volunteer in Valley Gardens and was lucky to get involved in the restoration of the Japanese Garden area there, working closely with members of the Japanese Garden Society.

As for music, from my school days I loved singing choral music and kept this up with various choral groups being lucky enough to sing in Cathedrals around the country as the visiting choir. Sadly, I can no longer rely on my voice to produce anything remotely musical! I had my debut with the St Paul's handbell ringers at the Carol Service which I enjoyed very much, so another way to make music in a group.

As well as making friends at St Lawrence with St Paul, joining the Longridge U3A has proved a wonderful way to make new friends whilst doing various group activities and I thoroughly recommend it to anyone who is fully or partially retired.



BREWTIME

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TOM HAWORTH RETIRES AS LOG DISTRIBUTOR

In the December issue of The Log we briefly acknowledged Tom Haworth's retirement as a main Log Distributor, conscious that the brief note didn't do justice to Tom's involvement with the Log or indeed the many other aspects of church life he has been involved with over the years.

Dot Little had the pleasure recently of reminiscing with Tom and Kath and encouraging this very modest man to share some memories with us. Tom recalled that he started Sunday School at four years old, when Bob Eckton and John Slater were involved and James Procter was Superintendent. As well as Sunday School he also attended Church Services – in those days Services alternated every three months between the two churches.

Tom got a lot of pleasure out of being part of the Annual Sunday School Pantomime and from fourteen became a Sunday School teacher until employment with Bovis took him to London for a while, continuing his training as a Quantity Surveyor and gaining skills he was able to use for the benefit of the church on many future occasions.

His final link with the Sunday School was helping to carry the large banner on the Annual Parish Walking Day/Sunday School Anniversary. A practice which ceased during Revd. Simon Aikin's time here.

Tom met Kath, his wife of 59 years, at the Isle of Man – Kath, who was from Blackburn, had gone to Douglas with some friends and Tom had done the same. They had met briefly while in Douglas but then found themselves returning on the same boat. They were married in St. Lawrence, by Revd. Peter Furness in 1966, making their home in Wasdale Grove. In future years they took their three children to church and Tom became a sidesman.

Each sidesman in those days received a list of houses they had to visit to collect an annual donation towards the running costs of the church, known as Easter Dues, Longridge, we understand being one of the last parishes to stop this practice. One of the houses Tom visited was that of Willie Cunningham who played for Preston North End and through that connection Willie brought the North End team, including Tom Finney for a game against Longridge United on the recreation ground. Tom played Centre half against Finney on that day.

Sport has always been important to Tom – he played for Longridge United in the Winter and played Cricket for Longridge in the Summer – in fact he can remember scoring cricket games when just nine years old. In-between football and cricket he also managed to play tennis.

Tom was a cricket all-rounder – opening the bowling as well as being a batsman. In those days Longridge only had one cricket team now they have 24 and after almost a lifetime of involvement the cricket club honoured Tom by naming their second ground the Croft Haworth ground with Tom Croft sharing the title. Tom has been a member of Longridge CC for 75 years and as well as Kath making the teas, the couple organised dances and dinners over many of those years.

Revd. Peter Furness was a keen football fan and Tom often went to watch Burnley with him but Peter also enjoyed a bit of fun, especially if it raised money for the church. Older parishioners will recall events like Funny Football and It's a Knock Out organised by the Church Youth Club which Tom and Kath got involved with.

The Church Youth Club also trimmed up a milk float every Christmas and went around the streets with Father Christmas. The children had the opportunity to tell him what they wanted and then received a small present. Tom Haworth was Father Christmas for many years and what a brilliant job he did.



continued



2025 sees some notable changes. All Mothers' Union roles are meant to be for a term of no more than 6 years and so in 2025 we will have a new Worldwide President and also a new Diocesan President. Some of you will know Susan Willoughby who, for some years, has been Diocesan Secretary, and she has taken over from Jill Ireland in the Diocese.

The Worldwide President is Kathleen Snow who has been a member for 36 years and a founding member of Christchurch Cathedral branch in Fredericton, Canada. Kathleen has served as a Diocesan President and Canadian Provincial President before taking on international roles in our organisation. In a recent article she said "When I think of our global programs which are making a difference in so many lives, such as the Literacy Program, the Savings and Credit Program or the Parenting Program, I am inspired. My vision going forward is that we build on our strengths, our programs in our communities, our faith in action and our prayer life."

We wish everybody who has taken on new roles every success as we start a new triennial and that Mothers' Union continues with so many worthwhile projects around the world.

JAK

February 4th Quiz night and catch up

March 5th AGM followed by Photographic memories

Looking back to the December meeting we welcomed our good friends Gordon and Ann Sharpe, Gordon reminding us that they had been coming to the Tuesday Club annually since 2007. Their wonderful video presentations take us both near and far but always leave us Spellbound! We look forward to seeing them again in the next programme.

Tuesday Club

At the January meeting Mike Barnes gave us a moving, yet inspirational presentation explaining how through his daughter Laura's death from bowel cancer at the age of 35, he had taken up running at the age of 70. In the last 18 months of her life Laura kept a daily log and through her amazing faith was able to stay positive. Mike took those log notes and published a book to tell Laura's story. Laura had received treatment at the Christy Hospital which remains the largest chemo and radiotherapy hospital in the country and so Mike's marathon runs, 20 last year, including the London Marathon, raises money for the Christy and for bowel cancer – so far an incredible £31,000.

At our meeting on the 11th February, we will start with the AGM but then look forward to hearing Stella Holts presentation – Mother Theresa's Work in Sri Lanka, God will provide.

Tom Haworth Continued

Until retirement Tom and Kath ran the Post Office for over 20 years, known and respected by the community. So in a modest and unassuming way Tom has served this community all his life – the church always an important part of that and of course the reason we asked Tom to reminisce was because of his many years of involvement with The Log where he served as a main distributor with as many as 180 Logs each month to deal with.

So Tom this article is our way of saying THANK YOU for all the years you have been involved with the Log but thank you also for everything you have so willingly undertaken over the years be it for church or for this community of Longridge.

SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin



On our best behaviour at lunchtime

Following the recent re-launch of our Shared Attitudes and Values (school rules), we have continued to think about our behaviour in school and particularly our behaviour at lunchtime. Mrs RW has made this fantastic 'Dinnertime Top Tips' display to help us remember the most important things when we are in the dining hall.

We want everyone to have a lovely environment to eat in.

Singing in Class 3 and 4

Our music curriculum is enhanced in many ways. Year 5 benefit from learning a musical instrument and performing as a group, there is the opportunity for KS2 to join the school choir and sing at community venues too. This year we have been delighted to welcome Mr Spencer, Choral Director at Stonyhurst College, who has been working with Mr Nixon's class and Mrs Dewhurst's class.



Year 5 and 6 STEM Challenge



We like to make sure our children are challenged and Years 5 and 6 were certainly put through their paces by Rachel and Mhairi from STEMFirst recently. The children were asked to work as part of a team to solve a series of problems. The learning here was all to do with the prevention of cyber crime. This was a really enjoyable session for both

classes and the children were complimented on their behaviour as well as their ability. Well done to all who took part!

Year 5 at Robinwood

Year 5 pupils have also faced some physical challenges recently. Our latest group to visit Robinwood Activity Centre in Alston are seen here taking part in the crate challenge. For some children, overcoming a fear of heights was an incredible achievement. Thank goodness for those harnesses!



Forgiveness

Our understanding of this Christian value, began with us considering that it is difficult on both sides. It can be difficult for us to forgive others and also to ask for forgiveness ourselves.



In Matthew 18: 21-35 it is made clear that the forgiveness we offer should not be limited to a certain number of times. It is also clear that if we expect to be forgiven by God our Father, we should extend the same forgiveness to our fellow man. The story of the Unforgiving Servant tells the story of a man who accepts the forgiveness and generosity of his master whilst, at the same time, pursuing others without mercy. Forgiveness will be our theme through worship as we approach Lent.



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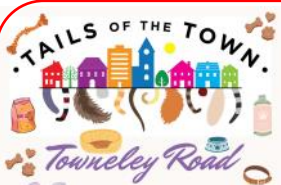
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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LONGRIDGE AND DISTRICT

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

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'I made you wonderful'

Friday 7th MARCH 2025

11am St. Wilfrid's Church

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Friday in March each year by over 120 countries. This year, the service has been prepared by women from the Cook Islands, and includes music and reflection as well as an opportunity to pray for women from all parts of the world and to hear about their hopes and concerns.

The theme for 2025 is 'I made you wonderful' and the service will invite us to recognise that God created each of us with great attention and loving care. During the service, we will hear the stories of three Christian women and hear them witness to God's strength in their lives. The preparation team say that they hope that through this service people will be spiritually uplifted as they come to trust the great love of God.

We will be joined by a group of children from St. Wilfrid's primary school who will be leading us in two of the hymns. The service will last for approximately one hour and will be led by women and men from all of our local churches. A light lunch will be served in the church hall after the service.

Everyone is welcome. Come and join us!

LENT LUNCHESES

Churches Together have arranged Lent Lunches for many years and this year the dates and venues are as follows:-

Wednesdays

March	12th	St. Paul's Centenary Room
	19th	St. Wilfrid's Parish Room
	26th	Christ Church Hall run by Christ Church & Grimsargh
April	2nd	St. Paul's Centenary Room
	9th	St. Wilfrid's Parish Room run by Alston Lane

Please do join us between 12 Noon – 1pm for soup, sandwiches and good company.

All proceeds will go to the work of CAFOD and Christian Aid.

Please Note: Brew Time will still run on the 12th March and the 2nd April from 9.00am – 11am with Lent Lunches following from 12 Noon to 1.00pm.

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYERS

A reminder that Friday Morning Prayers during 2025 will be at St. Wilfrid's. We meet in the Parish Room at 7.45am. Prayers are led in turn by the different denominations and last approximately 15 minutes. Everyone is welcome – do join us if you can.



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BREAKFAST IS SERVED – Saturday 22nd February.

February can be a cold and dreary month so what better to set you up for the day than the opportunity to enjoy a good breakfast. Our next parish breakfast will be on Saturday 22nd February from 9am – 11am in St. Paul's Centenary Room.

Ann Golding is in charge of the cooker so will your order be for a full English or a bacon or sausage bap with perhaps an egg on top? Sounds tempting – then do come along and join us.

YOUTH BAND CONCERT

After the success of last year's concert, the Longridge Youth Band are excited to present their end of term concert, at St. Lawrence's Church on Sunday 23rd March, starting at 2:00PM.

The music will include a varied programme from traditional brass music to pop and rock chart hits from different eras. Entry to the event is free, but any donations to the Youth Band will be greatly appreciated. Do come along and support our local young brass players.

Jonathan Ford (Longridge Youth Band)



The poster features a red background with a faint image of a church. At the top left is the Longridge Band crest. The main text reads 'LONGRIDGE BAND' in large white letters, followed by 'In Concert' in a white script font. Below this, a paragraph of text describes the concert. On the right side, there are two polaroid-style photographs: the top one shows two people reading sheet music, and the bottom one shows a brass band performing. At the bottom, there is a white section with a red border containing event details: a calendar icon for 'Sunday 9th March, 2025', a clock icon for '2:30 PM', a ticket icon for 'Tickets £10 available on the door', and a red button with 'St Paul's Church, Longridge'. The website 'www.longridgeband.org.uk' and the Longridge Band crest are at the very bottom.

LONGRIDGE BAND

In Concert

Join us for an afternoon concert by the Longridge Band in St. Paul's Church. Proceeds from this concert will support the St. Lawrence Lychgate Restoration Appeal.

 **Sunday 9th March, 2025**

 **2:30 PM**

 **Tickets £10 available on the door**

St Paul's Church, Longridge

www.longridgeband.org.uk

LONGRIDGE BAND

ST LAWRENCE LYCHGATE RESTORATION APPEAL

Looking back to The Valley Singers Concert in December

How can we forget that wonderful Christmas concert given by The Valley Singers in St. Lawrence Church on the afternoon of the 22nd December. It really was special and the church decorated ready for Christmas created a lovely festive atmosphere. Admission to the concert was free but people generously donated to the appeal with £1,413.16 being raised. An incredible amount of money, due in no small way to John Wilson and everyone connected to the Valley Singers who worked so hard to promote the concert and arrange such a lovely programme of seasonal songs and carols all very much enjoyed by an appreciative audience. To Musical Director Chris Hyde, Accompanist John Gray and all members of the choir we send our heartfelt thanks.



Looking forward to a Concert by Longridge Band

We are delighted to confirm that Longridge Band will give an afternoon concert in St. Paul's Church on Sunday afternoon, 9th March at 2.30pm in support of the Lychgate Restoration Appeal. Admission £10 payable at the door. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the band in concert in St. Paul's and to see them at the front of the church rather than at the back as they are on Remembrance Sunday. We know that the band are keen for us to use this opportunity to raise as much money as possible for the appeal and there will therefore be a lucky dip prize draw. If you have any unused or unwanted Christmas presents you feel you could donate please do hand those in to any member of the Social Committee or they can be left in St. Paul's Church in advance of the concert date.

Longridge is rightly proud of its Brass Band, thought to be one of the oldest Brass Bands in the country, established in 1845 and in those early days connected to St. Lawrence Church. We know we are in for a wonderful concert – do put the date in your diary.

(See separate notice about the Longridge Youth Band performing in St. Lawrence Church on the afternoon of the 23rd March at 2.00pm)

DONATIONS TO LYCHGATE RESTORATION APPEAL

Valley Singers Concert	£1,413.16
Donation – GC	£ 300
Knitting Sales	£ 30
History Society	£ 100
Anonymous	£ 40
Anonymous	£ 50

Money raised so far £16,161.09.

JIGSAWS, JIGSAWS, EVERYWHERE!!



Yes, there were literally hundreds of them both made up ones displayed around the church and also a fantastic range of boxed jigsaws. In fact, we had so many made up jigsaws we filled every board, table, nook and cranny we could find to make sure we displayed as many as possible – hurriedly replacing the gaps as jigsaws were sold.

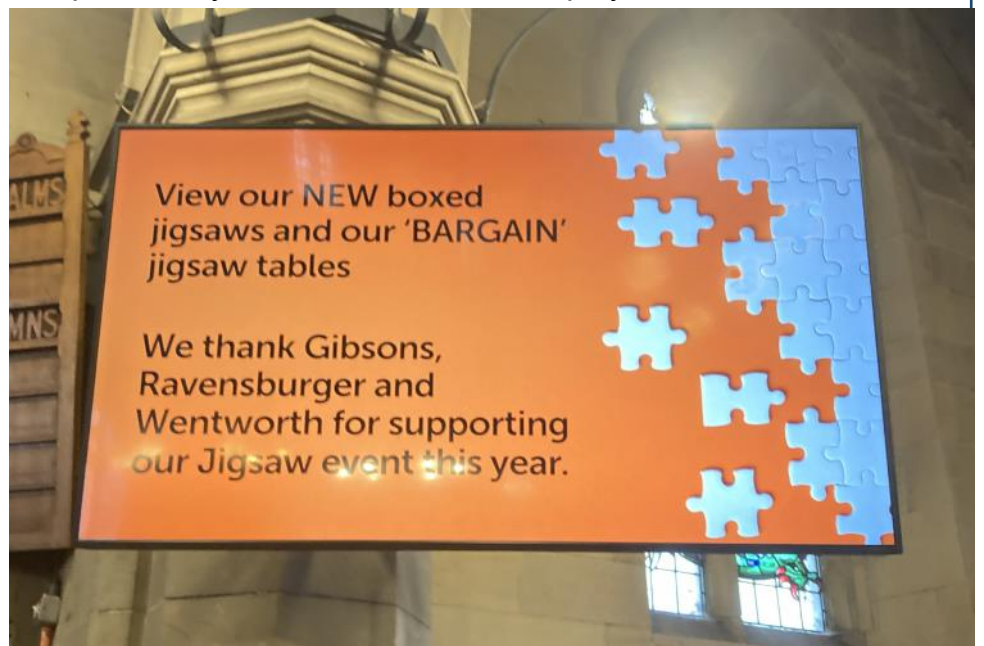
This year thankfully the weather was kind, always a concern when holding an event in the middle of January and we welcomed people from quite a wide distance who had responded to the various adverts or the notices on Facebook. We were delighted to see representatives from the Ramsbottom Jigsaw Festival and do thank them for advertising our event.

This year we were able to utilise the screens in St. Paul's to give all the information people needed on a rolling programme and that information included our thanks to Jigsaw makers and suppliers Gibsons, Ravensburger, Wentworth and HOP all of whom supported the event. Wentworth Jigsaws were particularly featured both with a display table and with four of

their jigsaws out and ready for people to make while enjoying their refreshments in the Centenary Room.

People coming for the first time to see what a jigsaw event is all about were amazed at the number of jigsaws on display and part of the pleasure for us is that opportunity the weekend gives to welcome and to chat to people.

Sheila Roberts and Mary Cookson have perfected the art of breaking up and boxing jigsaws and we are so grateful to them for being with us for the whole of the weekend, as were many of the stewards including Peter and Lib Turver.





In fact Peter and Lib, Sheila and Mary have been the inspiration behind why this January weekend has become so established and successful but our thanks go to everyone who signed up and helped.

Perhaps the two most popular people on the Sunday afternoon were John and Steph Willan who came to help clear away and find storage space for the unsold puzzles.



If we had a great team seeing to the Jigsaws then we had an equally great team of caterers who once again battled with the limited facilities of the Centenary Room kitchen and certainly on the Saturday were kept incredibly busy. So thanks go to the soup makers, the sandwich makers and the cake bakers, without whom we couldn't have offered our visitors refreshments.

The event raised £2,300 for the Church General Fund which was an amazing total. The date of our Jigsaw Celebration in 2026 will be the 17th & 18th January and if you can't wait that long the 2025 Ramsbottom event will run from the 3rd – 6th September, 2025 in St. Paul's Church, Bridge Street, BL0 9BP.



GRACENOTES SPRINGS FORWARD

After a quiet month, the parish singing group GraceNotes is making plans for its Spring season. The group goes out to entertain residents in care homes in and around Longridge. Since Christmas, there have been encouraging signs of interest from potential new members. We plan to move into rehearsal gently with a bit of a get together at The Old Station Café at 12:30 on 10th February, followed by rehearsals and presentations on subsequent Mondays, usually at St Lawrence's. Do come along, if you're minded to join an informal singing group that aims to bring pleasure and restore a few memories. Just speak to any of the members or phone Carly Fitzpatrick on 07972 548684.

BRIGADE NOTES



The festive season is always one of our favourite times at Brigade and we started it off with the Longridge Does Christmas event at the end of November. The members had worked really hard over the previous months to create various different Christmas themed decorations to sell on their stall. They had the responsibility of designing, making and pricing all the items and they really enjoyed selling on the night. They made an amazing £400 for our general funds.



Our National Band members attended their last weekend of 2024 in Beverley where Amii and Joanna were presented with their flashes and welcomed as official members before enjoying a Festive meal and party afterwards.

As we approached Christingle we carried the theme into our nights and the Martins and Yteam enjoyed a themed scavenger hunt followed by making Jesus and his family portrait using wool in craft time. The JTC and Seniors helped with all the preparation for the service by preparing the oranges and all the bags to go alongside.



The Christingle service was extra special this year as we took it as an opportunity to include some of our presentations for our members. Two very special people who have been a part of our brigade for so many years are Julie Marwood and Jean Carlin. They were awarded Exemplary Service Medals to honour their service and lasting impact they've made. Their dedication and unwavering support and hard work has left an incredible mark on all of us and we simple couldn't do it without them- Thank you.



Amii Bateson- Captain
Laura Salisbury - Lieutenant
Joanna Green- Company Warrant Officer
Rhiannon Green and Jake Oates- Probationary Warrant Officer
Lauren Garth- Sergeant
Eliza Keighley- Corporal

BRIGADE NOTES . . . continued



We enjoyed a party evening for our last night of 2024 which involved lots of games. Our older members had to design an outfit using Christmas wrapping and then walk down the catwalk- some great outfits were made. We all played various games and enjoyed a disco and festive food.

Our older members and leaders enjoyed an evening at Oh Pizza for their festive treat which was enjoyed by all.



We are delighted to have welcomed all our members back after the Christmas break and welcomed some new faces too. We look forward to another year full of fun faith and friendship and I look forward to sharing with you all what we get up to.

God Bless
Olivia Stewart



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HYMNS WE LOVE - Lord of the dance

This hymn was written in 1963, and I think my first recollection of it comes from 1967. I recall it being sung at school assembly, and I think that back then it was regarded more as a song than as a hymn. The author, Sydney Carter, described it as a carol, 'a dancing kind of song, the life of which is in the dance as much as in the verbal statement'.

Sydney Carter (1915 - 2004) was born in Camden Town, London, and educated at Christ's Hospital and Balliol College, Oxford. He became a schoolmaster, and during the Second World War served in the Friends' Ambulance Unit, where he spent two years in Greece. It was this period in Greece that he attributed his later career as a folk song writer and performer.

Lord of the Dance was written in the early days of the folk-song revival in Britain. Many of Carter's other songs which he wrote around this time had a radical social and political message, and to a certain extent, this song is a protest against the rigidity and stuffiness of traditional church services. However, it also has a much more positive message, where, in Carter's book *Green Print for Song*, he wrote:

"Scriptures and creeds may come to seem incredible, but faith will still go dancing on. I see Christ as the incarnation of that piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of reality. By Christ I mean not only Jesus: in other times and places, other planets, there may be other Lords of the Dance. But Jesus is the one I know first and best. I sing of the dancing pattern in the life and words of Jesus".

In portraying Christ as the Lord of the Dance, Carter was returning to a strong theme in medieval theology, expressed in the carol 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day', in which Christ is represented as coming into the world 'to call my true love to my dance'.

Paul Warren

I Danced In The Morning When The World Was Begun,
And I Danced In The Moon And The Stars And The Sun,
And I Came Down From Heaven And I Danced On The Earth,
At Bethlehem I Had My Birth.

*Dance, Then, Wherever You May Be;
I Am The Lord Of The Dance, Said He.
And I'll Lead You All Wherever You May Be,
And I'll Lead You All In The Dance, Said He.*

I Danced For The Scribe And The Pharisee,
But They Would Not Dance And They Would Not Follow Me;
I Danced For The Fishermen, For James And John;
They Came To Me And The Dance Went On.

I Danced On The Sabbath When I Cured The Lame,
The Holy People Said It Was A Shame;
They Whipped And They Stripped And They Hung Me High;
And They Left Me There On A Cross To Die.

I Danced On A Friday And The Sky Turned Black;
It's Hard To Dance With The Devil On Your Back;
They Buried My Body And They Thought I'd Gone,
But I Am The Dance And I Still Go On.

They Cut Me Down And I Leapt Up High,
I Am The Life That'll Never, Never Die;
I'll Live In You If You'll Live In Me;
I Am The Lord Of The Dance, Said He.

A REFLECTION – Andrea Titterington DOORS

Some years ago we had a holiday in Denmark. When we came home we found that almost all of the photographs we had taken were of doors! The front doors of Danish houses are beautiful: artistic and unique designs with colourful paintwork. You can buy posters of similar images of doors in Dublin or Georgian fan-light doors in London and other cities in the UK.



The front door to a building makes a statement: “Welcome,” “Go away,” “Private, Members Only,” “Authorised Personnel Only,” “Danger, Keep Out.” Prison Doors are only open with multiple keys and are usually far higher than a person’s height, designed to be intimidating. Night club doors are manned by burly bouncers who will decide if you can enter or not.

Automatic doors make entering a shop easy, especially if you are pushing a pram or using a wheelchair. Helpfully many commercial doors say “Push” and “Pull” to save us futile effort.

It is common in certain homes to go to the back or side door as the front door is never used. In many homes now when you ring the door bell you are instantly filmed to see if you are a legitimate visitor. In some mixed tenure apartment developments the entrances for tenants are deliberately far from those for owner occupiers, much like servants’ entrances were separated from those of the householders. Schools built in former centuries had separate access for boys and girls.

When we travel around the country we try to visit churches. Entering the porch often brings you to a door that was fashioned hundreds of years in the past, heavy with elaborate hardware. It is always a joy to find the church open. The decision to close churches during pandemic lockdowns was a terrible loss for people who needed the solace of a sacred space to pray or just find peace. Our places of worship have absorbed years of prayer and have meaning for everyone: Christians, those of other faiths or none.

In the 1850s William Holman Hunt painted “The Light of the World.” It is a Pre-Raphaelite masterpiece showing Jesus Christ standing knocking at a door, representing the human soul. The door itself is “fast-barred, its bars and nails are rusty; it is knitted and bound to its stanchions by creeping tendrils of ivy, showing it has never been opened. A bat hovers above it; its threshold is overgrown with brambles, nettles and fruitless corn.” It is based upon Revelation: *“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.”* (3:20)

Our open doors and greetings at services in St. Lawrence and St. Paul ‘s are the means of opening that door to the soul. In the words of the hymn, “All are welcome in this place.”

Choir Notes

Well, didn’t they do well? You were treated to two very good carol services, and some nice anthems to go with them. For the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, I extend a very hearty “well done” to Michael and Terry, who held their own against lots of altos and sopranos. On top of that, Michael sang a solo verse in the carol “In the bleak midwinter”. Thanks are also due to Emily who sang with us in both carol services.

Following a short break, we’ve resumed choir practices on Friday evenings. Lent, Holy Week and Easter are already looming on the horizon, and we’ll be preparing for these events shortly.
Paul Warren

My name is Susannah and I am a local writer. I primarily write for a children's farming magazine called The Young Stock. However I have recently written a booklet that combines stories from the Bible and a themed recipe. It is called Bind Us Together Lord. My objective was to bring together the teachings of the Bible with a hands-on activity that young minds can enjoy and find fun and educational. Baking together gives a natural context for discussion and questions and the final creation serves as an inspiration for remembering the truth that has been taught and the beauty of sharing what has been made.

I have given you a taster of one of the stories and the recipe, The Lost Sheep. If you would like to purchase the full booklet of seven Bible Stories and the recipes, they are available from Rev Mike Barton and are priced at £3.00.

The Lost Sheep

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. Luke 15:3-7



Even after all the things Jesus taught them, the Pharisees and leaders of the people could not or would not understand how great is God's love. They thought it was wrong that Jesus associated with the tax gatherers and others who did things displeasing.

"Just look at him, they said, when they saw him with such people.

"He's allowing those dreadful people follow him round. He shouldn't have anything to do with them let alone encourage them to be in his company."

"He ate supper with them the other night. Shameful!" Another added.

Jesus could hear them complaining and moaning between themselves.

"God's love reaches to all, you should know this by now," he said.

So, Jesus told them a story to help them to understand the depth of God's love.

"There was a shepherd and he had one hundred sheep. There wasn't a day that went by that he didn't take them out to his fields to let them roam and seek fresh luscious grass. Overall, the sheep kept together but there was one that decided to be adventurous and she took herself off away from the flock to find greener pastures."

The drifting sheep got so carried away she didn't realise how far she had travelled.

"By the day's end the shepherd came to bring his flock back home. He counted them one by one but one was missing, there was only ninety-nine." Jesus said as he continued the story.

"What would you have done if it had been your sheep that was missing? Would you have let her stay lost?"

The people pondered but didn't answer, although each were beginning to understand why Jesus was telling them the story.

"Of course, you wouldn't and neither did the shepherd. He instantly went off to find the missing sheep despite the late hour. He searched for hours and at last he found her. Taking her gently in his arms, he carried her back to the fold."

That is how God works, he loves everyone and everyone is important, even when they wander, he is there to bring them back to fold.

The parable of the Lost Sheep, taught by Jesus Christ, is one of the most beloved stories in the Bible, perhaps for its simplicity and poignancy and illustrates God's profound love for his followers. The inspiration for this recipe is inspired by Jesus assuring us that every one of us is important, when we are lost, we are found by Our Father.

Sheep have an instinctive tendency to wander. If the shepherd did not go out and seek this lost creature, it would not have found its way back on its own.

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd in John 10:11-18, who not only searches for lost sheep but who lays down his life for them.

Lost Sheep Cupcakes

Ingredients

175g Baking margarine
175g Caster sugar
3 Large free-range eggs
175g Self-raising flour
1 tsp Vanilla extract

For the Butter Icing

100g Baking margarine
225g Icing sugar
1 tsp Vanilla extract

Decoration

12 Giant chocolate buttons
Candy eyes
White mini marshmallows



Method

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan Line a 12-hole cupcake tin with 12 paper cases.

Place the margarine in a mixing bowl and whisk together with the caster sugar until light and fluffy. Break the eggs into a bowl and lightly whisk with a fork. Add the eggs a little at a time to the margarine and sugar mix, whisking in between.

Sift the flour on top and using an electric whisk on a low speed, gently blend the ingredients together. Add the vanilla extract and blend again. Increase the mixer speed and whisk for a few more seconds to make sure the mixture is all combined. I use a spatula to get the bowl super clean so no mixture is wasted.

Divide the cake mixture between the cupcake cases and bake for 20-25 minutes until risen, golden and springy to the touch.

Once the cakes are cooked, transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Whilst the cakes finish cooling, make the buttercream icing. Whisk the margarine with an electric whisk until light and fluffy. Sift in the icing sugar, a little at a time, until completely combined. Add the vanilla extract and whisk again.

Once the cupcakes are completely cool, spread a generous layer of buttercream icing over the top of each one.

Take the mini marshmallows and stick them on the cupcakes, leaving a space to attach the chocolate button face. Go for it and fit on as many on as you can!

Make the faces by using a little of the buttercream to stick the candy eyes to each giant chocolate button. Press the buttons into each of a cupcake to turn them all into little sheep faces and then enjoy!

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CHILDREN’S CHURCH—*Children's Church Leadership Team*

Our children's church year started with a very snowy Sunday morning which meant that we only had a few of us but still enjoyed a lovely session exploring the story of the Magi.

We have now started a new series as a Children's Church exploring the story of Nehemiah, the first session explored how Nehemiah prayed to God when he received the bad news about Jerusalem. We enjoyed exploring the story together through a water carrying game to understand Nehemiah's job and activities about prayer to help us explore how we can pray to God in times of trouble. In our second session we looked at Nehemiah and how he helped rebuild the walls of Jerusalem we learnt about how we can join in with God's amazing building plan today - the church, building a delicious biscuit Jerusalem together. This was Marina's last session as a Children's Church Leader and we are extremely grateful for all her hard work over the last few years. Thank you Marina!

We have a wonderful community that meets in the Centenary Room and explores God's big story together, if you feel like you might be able to help please get in touch with Caz or Becky, we would love to hear from you.



ST. LAWRENCE FLOWER ROTA

February

- 2nd In memory of William & Ettie Fordham
- 9th Vacant
- 16th Vacant
- 23rd In memory of Mary Wilkinson and her father W.J. Wilkinson

March

- 2nd In memory of David Stringer
- Lent no flowers

ST. PAUL'S FLOWERS

February Linda Eccleston

FUNERALS

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

Audrey Elizabeth Scambler	Carole Rhona Gunnell	George Partridge
Ronald Fletcher	Nancy Umpleby	Isobel Hayhurst
Vincent John Hunt	Isabel Davies	June Threlfall Wilding
Glynne Procter	Glenise Cragg	Hilda Collis (formerly Marle)



Paul Byrne

OUR WORSHIP AND READINGS

Following Jesus in Loving Community

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

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

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

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

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

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

2nd February—Presentation of Christ — Candlemass

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

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

6.30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalms 122

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

9th February - All Together service—God's Generosity

10:00am St Paul's and Live Stream

Isaiah 6:1-13

Luke 5: 1-11

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

Isaiah 6:1-13

Luke 5: 1-11

16th February - God's Reward

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

Jeremiah 17 :5-10

Luke 6 : 17- 26

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalms 112

Jeremiah 17 :5-10

Luke 6 : 17- 26

23rd February - God's Resources

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

Acts 4 :31-35

Luke 21 : 1-4

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalms 147 v 1-12

Acts 4 :31-35

Luke 21 : 1-4

2nd March — God's Heart — Next before Lent

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

Exodus 34 :29-35 TBA

Luke 9: 28-36

6:30pm St Lawrence's Evensong

Psalms 89 v 1-8

Exodus 34 :29-35

Luke 9: 28-36

5th March - Ash Wednesday Service



7:30pm St Paul's Church

Isaiah 58 : 1-12

John 8 :1-11

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptisms, Marriages

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

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

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

BAPTISMS

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

William Edward Brown on 27th January 2025 at St. Lawrence's Church



The Log

The Last Word

From the Rev. Simon King



PARTY WALLS

There wasn't a specific thing or a particular day. There were no cross words or falling out, no raised voices or sharp whispers. In fact, the more I think about it, the harder it is to grasp, as it becomes more enveloped in fog, not less. Maybe the best way to explain it is entropy, the natural way that things break down over time. The degradation of order in a system that requires an expensive investment of energy to reverse.

Not that any solo effort on my part could ever make it fit for purpose.

A couple of weeks ago, I discovered the Party Wall Act 1986. It offers neighbours with plans, or a dispute over a common boundary, some rules of engagement. Set time frames, written proposals and permissions, clarity in what can be expected and when. It exists to protect the interests of those on both sides of the divide but can only work when both agree to work at it.

Put simply, reconciliation takes two.

Reconciliation is the effort to bridge the gap, to repair what time, misunderstanding, a lack of energy or neglect has broken. Relationship is a party wall that needs a commitment from both sides to fix. So often the cracks become too big, too quickly, and it becomes too difficult to rebuild what the other refuses to touch.

You may know that in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' tells a story about an unforgiving servant. He offers it in response to Peter's question, when he asks Jesus how many times, he should forgive someone—seven times? When Jesus' replies, "not seven times, but seventy-seven times," he redefines forgiveness not as a checklist but as a state of heart.

In the parable that follows Jesus speaks of a king who forgives an unpayable debt owed by one of his servants. That same servant, however, turns around and refuses to forgive a far smaller debt owed to him.

The point of the story is that reconciliation can feel like it demands huge amounts of energy from us, but in comparison to the grace we have already received, it is only a tiny amount. When the cracks in our relationships seem too wide, it is easy to forget that we, too, once stood in need of forgiveness.

Forgiveness doesn't eliminate the effort required to reconcile. It's not a magic wand that erases the history or the work of rebuilding trust. It's a deliberate act, a costly investment. It requires humility, vulnerability, and perseverance. It asks us to make space for the other person's needs, to lay down pride, and to open the door—even when we're afraid it might not be reciprocated.

Often that's too hard, and some relationships quietly crumble under the weight of time and silence. In this instance I knew that the next step couldn't just come from me. But what I never realised is that in waiting too long, the chance to take that step would slip away for ever.

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