

## The Rectory St James the Least

My dear nephew Darren,



So, you are being encouraged to look at adverts for parishes for that happy day when you will have charge of your own church. You wonder if you should look to moving to another part of the country; I suspect it may be better if you look to moving to another planet, as your reputation may not yet have travelled that far. Reading the specifications that parishes provide, giving a picture of life in their community, need to be read in the same way as estate agents' specifications for houses for sale. Both demonstrate a triumph of optimism over reality. Let me help you decode some of the statements you will find:

"We look to grow our Sunday School" - We do not have a Sunday School.

"We have an enthusiastic choir" - We have a choir totally out of control.

"Our youth group is always eager to learn" - Our youth group experiments with some strange substances.

"The new incumbent should be sympathetic to our musical tradition"- The new incumbent must be able to play the organ as well as lead the services.

"While cherishing our traditions, we see the need for change" - We always see the need for change, but alter anything at your peril.

"Plans for church renovations are in hand" - The building is in imminent danger of collapse.

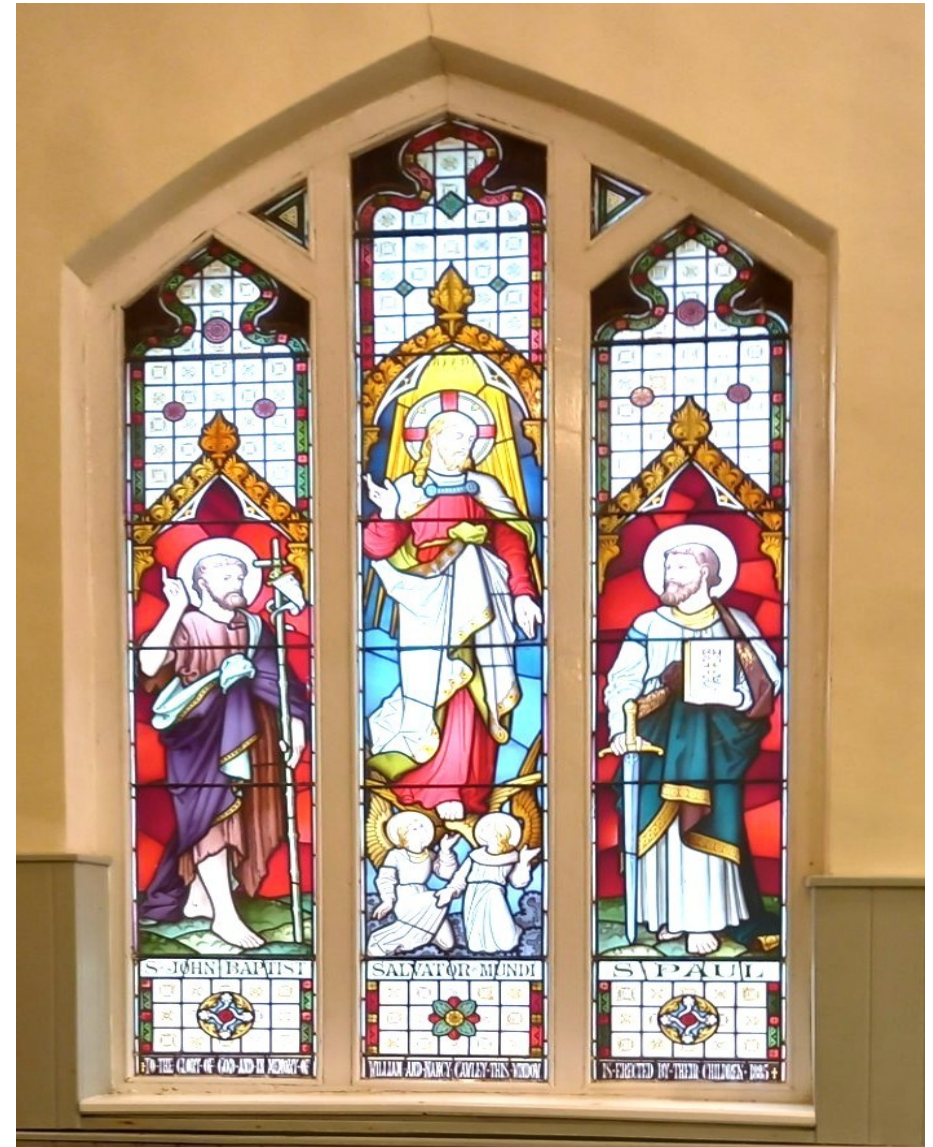
"We have a large range of church groups" - You will have to run a large range of church groups singlehandedly.

"The vicarage is being refurbished" - The vicarage has rising damp and dangerous electrics.

"The new incumbent should have a sense of humour" - He or she will need it when reading this specification.

My dear nephew, *caveat emptor*. Let the buyer beware!

## HOLLINFARE St HELEN October 2025 Bulletin



## St Helen Hollinfare

School Lane, Hollins Green WA3 6LJ  
sthelenhollinfare@gmail.com  
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15313

### Priest in charge

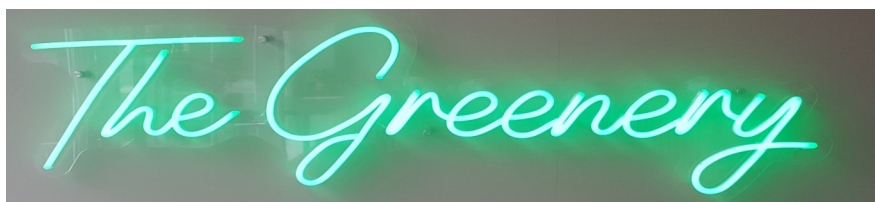
Rev Canon Bob Lewis  
Tel 07789 402954



**Churchwardens** Alan Domville Tel 0161 775 9360  
Veronia Prowting Tel 01925 763353  
**Warden Emeritus** Ray Shaw

**PCC Members** Rev Canon Bob Lewis (Chair), Alan Domville (Vice Chair and Secretary), Veronia Prowting (Treasurer), Virginia Baglee, Janet Barcroft, Sheila Breese, Irene Collins, Jim Hall.  
Ex-officio: Colin Lowndes, Catherine McDonald and Ray Shaw

**Deanery Synod** Ray Shaw, Virginia Baglee  
**Day School Headteacher** Catherine McDonald  
**Bulletin Editor** Alan Domville



96 Glazebrook Lane  
Open Tuesday to Friday 8-5 Saturday and Sunday 9-4  
Tel 0161 775 7095

## 50 years ago this month

Despite widespread unemployment our Hollinfare Society were delighted to announce that for the first time all five lads undergoing rehabilitation after borstal had each secured jobs.

One of the lads, Kevin, had to make two journeys by bus to reach his place of work – a farm in Daresbury where he was assisting with the potato harvest and the slaughtering of turkeys in preparation for the Christmas market.

All were keen supporters of our newly-formed HYPO youth club and attended church services. All had arrived at the vicarage with little more than the clothes in which they stood and our vicar, Tony Corble, appealed to parishioners not to throw away unwanted clothes and instead donate them to the society.

Noelle Atkinson, leader of our netball team, held a disco to raise funds for the girls' playing kit.

Richard John Bailey and Helen Louise Morris were baptised, Michael Paul Atherton and Maria Farrimond were married and there were funeral services for Ann Blundell and Edith Annie Williams.

We also heard of the death of Annie Robertson, nee Jackson, who had taught in our day school for almost 40 years. As a child she lived at the mission house in Rixton and in 1918 she married Walter, son of a farmer at Rixton New Hall.

They set up home in Warrington but Annie continued to teach the children of our village until the mid-1950s.

## Rev Eric goes north

Rev Eric Rotherham, who conducted many services for us following the retirement of Rev Bernard Clark, has left his home, the vicarage of the former St Paul's Church in Warrington, and moved to Scotland.

He had to spend some time in hospital some months ago and while away his home was ransacked. It was therefore decided that he should move close to his family. Alan has his new address.



## The enigma: the answer

William Cawley remembered in the window died in 1876 at the age of five. Nancy Cawley, his grandmother, died at the age of 81 a year later. Nancy's son William, who helped to finance the window and left the legacy to our church died in 1886 at the age of 51.

**Conexus**  
T u i t i o n

**Sharon Cawley**

Principal Director

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[www.conexustuition.co.uk](http://www.conexustuition.co.uk)

Thank you to Sharon at Conexus for  
printing our Bulletin

## Fit for Mission

Just after this monthly Bulletin went to press the Parochial Church Council members were asked to vote on whether St Helen Hollinfare should take the first step towards joining the Fit for Mission initiative being rolled out across the diocese.

Members of the PCC and parishioners had been invited to attend any number of meetings held to explain the details of the scheme and how it would affect us in the future.

Three choices were offered for taking part in what is called the "engage stage" - yes without reservation, yes but we have concerns, or yes but there are major problems to be addressed. They could also decide that they were not ready to commit.

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## Diary dates for October

### Services

- 2 Monthly service and lunch 12.0
- 5 Holy Communion 9.30 T16
- 10 School Harvest service 9.30
- 12 Holy Communion and Harvest Festival 9.30 T17
- 19 Holy Communion and Holy Baptism 9.30 T18
- 24 School Buddy service 9.30
- 26 Holy Communion 9.30 T19 and last



### Readers

- : 5 ROY: 2 Timothy 1 1-14, Luke 17 5-10
- 12 ROY: Philippians 4 4-9, John 6 25-39
- : 19 RAINFORDS: 2 Timothy 3 14-5.4, Luke 18 1-8
- 26 ROY: 2 Timothy 4 6-8, 16-18, Luke 18 9-14

### Prayers

- 5 ROY
- 12 ROY
- 19 ROY
- 26 ROY

### Cleaning rota

- 5 SHEILA, VIRGINIA, IRENE C
- 12/19/26 TEMPORARILY VACANT

### Coffee morning

Saturday October 25 10.0

### Chill and Chat

Every Tuesday 2.0

## Your songs of praise

Janet's initiative of inviting us to choose a favourite hymn for her to accompany during our Sunday morning worship has proved really popular. What was intended to be restricted to August was extended to September and will continue this month.

Janet wishes to thank those who also made donations to our funds. The reasons for our particular choices have been varied, ranging from memories of school days to wedding days and other special occasions—and Janet has been pleasantly surprised by the depth of knowledge several parishioners have about the history of their choice.

## Bishop Beverley resigns

Rt Rev Beverley Mason has now formally resigned as Bishop of Warrington. She took extended study leave more than two years ago and has expressed disappointment at how long it has taken to address allegations she made.

## VILLAGE GREEN BARBERS

Church House, Manchester Road

Open Monday and Tuesday 9 to 5.30  
Thursday 9 to 7.0  
Friday 9 to 5.30



## The Cawley enigma

As we all know, there is a stained glass window and a plaque installed in our church during the 19th century in memory of members of the Cawley family of Glazebrook.

But there is something intriguing about them.

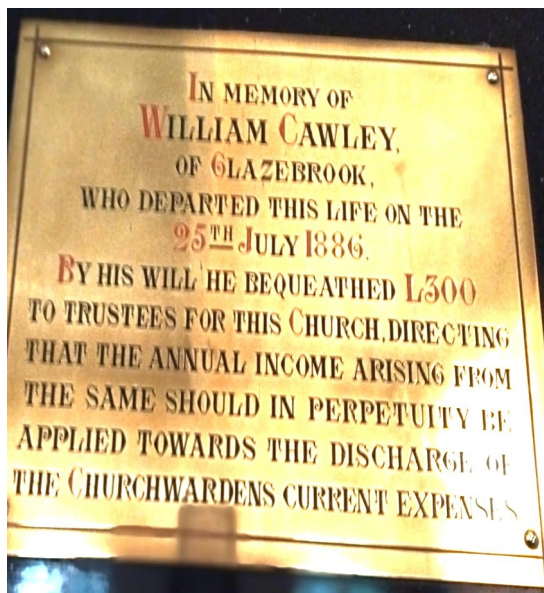
The south wall window, pictured on our front page, was presented to church by the children "to the glory of God and in memory of William and Nancy Cawley" and depicts Jesus - Salvator Mundi (the Saviour of our World) above two angelic figures - along with St John the Baptist who bears a cross and St Paul who has a Holy Bible and a sword in his hands.

It is dated 1885.

The plaque records a legacy of £300 (worth more than £20,000 today) given by William as an investment for the interest to provide successive churchwardens help with expenses year after year. The payments are still being made.

But it also records that William died on July 25 1886. Can it really be that the window was installed before he died?

The answer is on page 10.



## Where our harvest gifts go to...

Last year, our parishioners, along with the staff and parents of the children who attend our day school brought more than 400 items of food and other household necessities to our two harvest festival services.

The gifts were then collected by representatives of the Irlam and Cadishead Foodbank which was established in September 2016.

Our school will be holding their harvest service on Friday morning October 10 and we will have our thanksgiving service on Sunday morning the twelfth.

The foodbank now have lots of local volunteers, spearheaded by six trustees in conjunction with the Trussell Trust and several local churches.

They moved from Boundary Road Methodist Church to St Joseph the Worker RC Church in Cutnook Lane, Irlam, three years ago.

To make the foodbank more successful, however, they still need more volunteers and resources from the community and local businesses.

Donations are received on Monday afternoons, between noon and 1.30pm and they distribute food parcels to clients each Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 12.30pm

Email: [info@irlamcadishead.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@irlamcadishead.foodbank.org.uk)  
Telephone: 07763 645964, please leave a message or text.

## Rev Bernard Clark

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Rev Bernard Clark last month.

On the creation of the united benefice of Hollinfare and Glazebury in 1994 Bernard was licensed as its first incumbent by the Rt Rev Michael Henshall, Bishop of Warrington, at a service here at St Helen's on February 12.

At that time, Bob was our Area Dean; his team also included Revs Alan Litton and Wilf Alexander.

Bernard had left the ministry eight years earlier to become chief officer of Age Concern in Wirral where he led a staff of 15 and 150 volunteers.

Bernard served part of his curacy at Winwick St Oswald's, working with Rev Canon Lawton, and continued it as a member of a team of four at Hindley All Saints.

He became a parish priest at Hindley and later at St Barnabas, Warrington, and St Philip's Westbrook.

He then began working for Age Concern while his wife Kathleen was employed as a social worker with the Church of England Children's Society at Century House in Farnworth. In Wirral, Bernard was able to conduct Sunday services at more than 20 churches.

A house in Meadowbank Gardens, Glazebury, became a vicarage and those in School Lane and adjacent to All Saints were sold.

Bernard and Kath became enthusiastic supporters of our Sunday School and organised memorable weekends for the children and teachers in Llandudno and Mellor in Derbyshire.

Born in London in 1933, Bernard was evacuated to the countryside during the Blitz - in his case South Wales. He was eventually allowed to return home and remembers vividly the V1 "doodlebugs" exploding in his neighbourhood while crouching in a Morrison shelter.

He supported Middlesex CCC from the days of Denis Compton and Bill Edrich and he was especially knowledgeable about classical music and its creators. He became a convert to rugby league and Wigan in particular while at Hindley.

Before ordination Bernard was employed by a regional hospital board, ultimately as a senior administrator. For National Service he joined the RAF, initially being stationed at Padgate and took part in NATO exercises in Germany.

Bernard was inspired to the ministry by a friend, Alan Wilkinson, who became canon theologian at Portsmouth Cathedral and he was trained under a scheme created by the then Bishop of Southwark, Rt Rev Mervyn Stockwood. We express our deepest condolences to Kathleen and the family.

