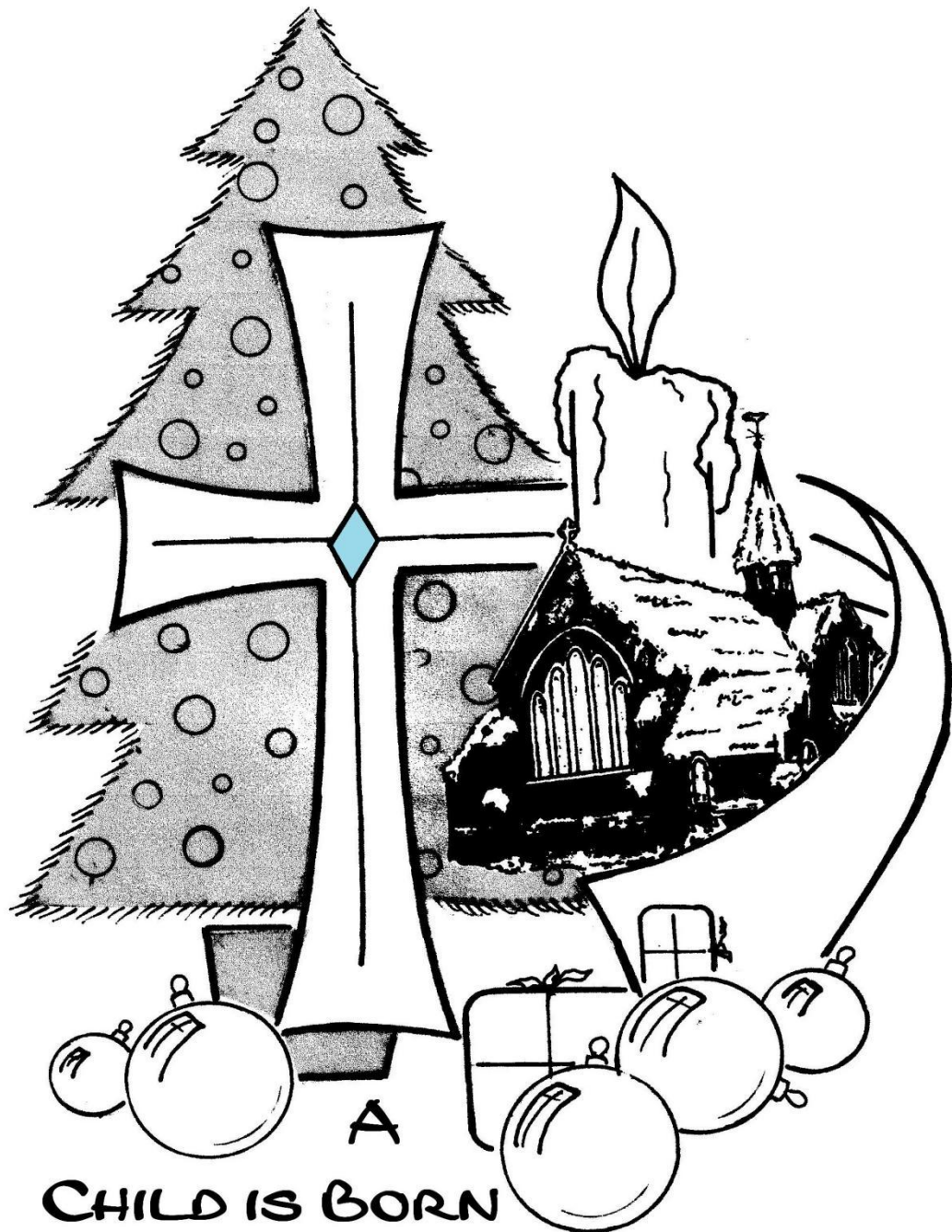


*The Magazine of
St Paul's Church, Warton
Serving Christ ~ Serving the Community*



DECEMBER 2025



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Tel: 01772 632364

**Link Parish - Timmerlah
in the Diocese of Braunschweig,
Lower Saxony, Germany**



Saturday 6th 10-12 St. Paul's Cafe

Advent 2
Parish Eucharist
Christingle

Tuesday	9 th	13.00	Women's Institute in the Village Hall
Wednesday	10 th	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-15.00	Foodbank
Saturday	13 th	19.30	Warton Singers Concert

Advent 3
All Aboard
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
followed by Grand Raffle draw,
mulled wine and mince pies.

Tuesday	16 th	19.30	History Society in the Village Hall
Wednesday	17 th	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-15.00	Foodbank

Sunday 21st

Advent 4

09.30

Parish Eucharist

Wednesday	23 rd	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-15.00	Foodbank

Wednesday 24th

17.30

23.30



CHRISTMAS EVE

CRIB SERVICE

MIDNIGHT MASS

Thursday 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

No service at St. Paul's.

10am at Holy Trinity, Freckleton



Sunday 28th

Holy Innocent's Day

09.30

Parish Eucharist

Wednesday	31 st	09.30	Holy Communion
		12.00-15.00	Foodbank

A very peaceful and blessed Christmas to everyone

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the year draws to its close and the days grow shorter, we will soon find ourselves once again in Advent, a season of waiting, of watching, and of



hope. The world around us rushes toward Christmas with its familiar flurry of lights, shopping, and planning, but the Church invites us first to pause. Advent isn't just a countdown to Christmas; it's a time to make room in our hearts for Christ's coming, not only as a baby in Bethlehem, but also as Lord in our lives today.

Each candle we light on the Advent wreath reminds us that light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. In a world that can often feel uncertain or weary, that truth is something we need to hold onto more than ever. God's promise isn't distant or abstract; it's Emmanuel, God with us. In our joys and in our struggles, in the quiet moments and the crowded ones, God is present.

And soon Christmas will be upon us, the great celebration of God's love made visible in Jesus Christ. Whether our Christmas is filled with family and laughter or quieter this year, may we each know that the heart of Christmas isn't found under the tree but in the manger. It's there that heaven touches earth, and we glimpse the depth of God's love for all creation.

As we step into this holy season together, I want to thank all who have contributed so much to the life of our churches over the past year, through worship, service, care, and prayer. You are the living expression of Christ's light in our community.

May the peace, joy, and hope of Christ fill your homes and hearts this Christmas and into the New Year.

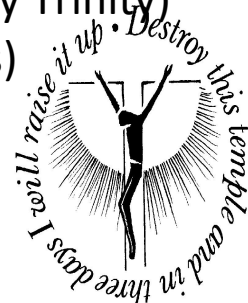
With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Gray", written in a cursive style.

FROM THE REGISTERS
Holy Trinity Freckleton & St Paul's Warton

Funerals

29 th October 2025	Beryl Barnes (Burial of Ashes) (Holy Trinity)
29 th October 2025	Margaret Needley (Burial of Ashes) (Holy Trinity)
3rd November 2025	Elizabeth Watts (St Paul's)
5 th November 2025	Linda Turner (Holy Trinity)



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St Paul's Little Café



Saturday 6th December

10.00 – 12.00

All Welcome

Churchwarden's Letter

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”. [Isaiah 9:6]

November's Remembrance Sunday Service saw a crowded church gather to pay their respects to those who sacrificed their lives for their country. The last post was played followed by the two minute silence to enable us to remember family members and loved ones who lost their lives during conflict. The laying of wreaths at the memorial at the front of our church brought both young and old together to lay their wreaths as a tribute to their memory. As long as we gather to remember them at our Remembrance Sunday Service they will be honoured and not forgotten.

Did you know our church has been awarded a bronze award? The Diocese awarded our church a bronze certificate for its Eco saving efforts in recycling our waste, switching to LED lightbulbs and showing we have reduced our carbon footprint. Churches obtaining this award include Blackburn Cathedral, so we have achieved a high standard indeed. Thank you to everyone who played their part in helping us gain this award. The certificate is on the noticeboard at the back of the church if you wish to see it.

December is always a busy month in our church's calendar with a number of special church services being added to celebrate Jesus' birth. We start with Christingle Service on the 7th. As a child I loved to decorate the orange with dried fruit, light the candle and hold it carefully during the service. Today's service differs slightly with modern adaptations replacing some traditions. The orange is replaced with a round bun, making the process less sticky and messy! Sweets instead of dried fruit are used, and the candle remains unlit during the service due to the risk of causing a fire.

Regardless of these changes the service remains a joyful celebration that spreads the message of hope, symbolising Christ as the light of the world.

Warton Singers will be in church on the 13th to perform their Christmas Concert. Their Musical Director, Stewart, likes to showcase a wide variety of music at the concerts and this year's performance will no doubt live up to expectations. Be prepared for some traditional carols mixed with some modern songs as well as carols that have an international feel about them.

More carols will be sung the following evening when the church holds its Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Our final services for the Christmas period begin with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, when our newly restored Nativity Figures will be on display and our children in the congregation will be asked to help build our nativity crib at the altar. This service brings old and young together as the Christmas Story is retold. At some stage in the service Father Christmas makes a brief appearance, to the delight of the younger children. Later that evening there is Midnight Mass, making a fitting conclusion to our Christmas Services.

May the joy of our Saviour's birth fill your heart with peace and your homes with love this Christmas time.

Blessings to you all

Jackie



On Wednesday the 22nd of October, Chris Wrigley from the RNLI came to talk to our Mothers' Union group. It was a really interesting talk about the history of our local lifeboat stations and the work they are still doing today.



During the late 1700s there were hundreds of shipwrecks every year. The advent of the industrial revolution meant that there were lots of cargo ships, carrying coal, textiles and other goods. Formby was first in the world to have its own lifeboat station, manned by local men who would row the boat out to distressed ships off its treacherous coast.

A competition in 1789 was held to design a lifeboat and in 1824 a group of men wrote the constitution that is still used today that 'We are here to save lives at sea, no matter what colour or creed'. A group of wealthy friends put some money together to help with training but there were still many men that lost their lives while trying to save others. The crew would wear life jackets made of cork but these were heavy and bulky and could drag them down.

In 1851 Lytham lifeboat station was opened and later a station at St Anne's also opened. The boats were designed with an air compartment which should have self righted the boat but sometimes this air compartment was disturbed and used to store things which caused the boat to capsize. The twelve crewmen battled the high seas and sometimes never made it home. Many lost their lives.

Steam engines were added to the boats, but after only a few years the RNLI stopped using them because they were slow and impractical. They also required six horses borrowed from local farmers and milkmen to launch which was impractical.

Over the years the boats they use and the safety equipment they

wear and carry has changed.

Life jackets improved and training given to the crew.

The large diesel engine boats which are very fast and powerful are being replaced by hovercrafts which are lighter, faster and able to travel over the sand, mud and sea more easily. Crew are equipped with high tech equipment, wearing wet suits and life jackets, with support from a helicopter if needed.



The Royal National Lifeboat Institution relies on people's generosity and donations. As Chris Wrigley said "Donations save lives" and it costs a lot of money each year to keep this valuable service. We prayed for the work of the RNLI and the men and women that risk their lives to save

others. We asked God for his protection for the crews and gave thanks for the kindness and dedication of volunteers, supporters and their families that make their work possible.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 26th November, a talk and demonstration on candle making by Jo Houghton. There will also be the opportunity to purchase gifts. Anyone is welcome to attend.

There is also the Christmas Market in church on Saturday 29th November from 1 till 4pm, where we will be having a Cake Stall. We hope to see you there.

God bless

Amanda



Greetings from Colin and Audrey Charnley

We have decided not to send cards to our friends at St. Paul's this year and instead donate to the great work our church is doing in the community. So here we send our most sincere wishes for a very happy Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year.

Audrey and Colin



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November saw us conducting our Annual Meeting. Treasurer, Secretary and President's yearly reports were presented. We were delighted that the present committee members were happy to stand again and that Ann Jackson was re-elected as President.

After refreshments we had fun crafting Christmas decorations for our December meeting from recycled paperback pages .

Ann presented the Janet Hargreaves Rose Bowl to two members who have made outstanding contributions to the W.I. - Gwen D'Arcy and Yvonne Plaskett .

Rosemary was the winner of this month's competition - "*A favourite Christmas ornament*". The overall winners of the monthly competition for 2024/2025 were- 1st Barbara; 2nd Ann J; 3rd Rosemary. We have enjoyed the interesting entries throughout the year.

Five lucky raffle winners were Jean, Yvonne, Hazel, Barbara and Margaret .

We are looking forward to some of the children from St. Paul's C.E. School entertaining us at our Christmas party on the 9th December starting at 1:00pm

Barbara

PLEASE NOTE
The DEADLINE for articles for
the JANUARY magazine is
WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER



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The closing date for items to be donated for this brilliantly worthwhile cause will be Sunday, December 7th. Please ensure your donations are placed at the back of church by then.

God bless.
Sue Parkin.

What the donkey saw

No room at the inn, of course,
And not that much in the stable
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host -
Not to mention the baby
Using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another cherub in
For love or money.

Still, in spite of the overcrowding,
I did my best to make them feel wanted.
I could see the baby and I
Would be going places together

by U A Fanthorpe



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The Royal School of Church Music [RSCM] by Derek Paine

It was on St. Nicholas Day, December 6th, 1927 that the school of English Church Music came into being. The occasion was a meeting in Westminster Abbey when the organist and Master of Choristers, Sydney H. Nicholson, put forward to those present the foundation of a school or college in London which would form a centre for work in the interests of church music. It was Sir Walford Davies, then Master of the King's Music, who proposed the original idea and Sir Hugh Allen, who was Director of the Royal College of Music, who seconded it.

Sydney Nicholson surprised many people by giving up the coveted position at Westminster Abbey in order to devote himself to his new work. It was sometime before a suitable place was found for the college but Sydney Nicholson had support from Parish Churches and all parts of the Anglican communion.

The college was originally founded at Chislehurst in Kent and received its first students in January 1929. It was on the outbreak of the second World War in 1939 that it temporarily closed because all the students were of military service age. During the war the college building was used as the headquarters for Kent County Council. It was Kent County Council's decision that post-war activity for the Royal School of Church Music should be transferred to Canterbury. The college re-opened in January 1946. Sir Sydney Nicholson, who had been knighted in 1938, died after a short illness on May 30th, 1947. The Royal School of Church Music was subsequently based at Addington Palace in Croydon.



When I first became a choirboy probationer the conditions were strict. Choirboys were awarded marks for good behaviour or or bad marks if you were absent without leave, lateness and untidiness. A boy's hair had to be tidy and shoes polished. As a probationer we wore a black cassock and a ruff and we were not allowed into the church unless wearing said cassock, even to change the hymn board. Even then I had to ask permission to enter the church! The ladies in the choir wore mortar boards, as they did in Universities.

Before I became a full chorister I had to pass twelve musical tests - voice and theory. When made up to full chorister it was at a special service where the boy(s) knelt at the altar rail and the vicar placed a surplice over the boy's head. Each boy took an oath and was allowed to wear the RSCM medallion. We were given a small book - *The Chorister's Pocket Book* - which I still have.

When a boy wanted to join the choir he was auditioned on a choir practice evening, in front of the choir, which may seem a little harsh, but if you wanted to sing in public you had to prove yourself in front of others. Choir practice was held every Thursday and Friday evening, 6.30-9pm, and private singing lessons every Saturday mornings.

We had the chance to sing in various places such as for the Freemasons parties, choral festivals, including the Royal Albert hall, London and in the presence of the Queen Mother. The RSCM had it's own record label, thanks to Columbia Records.

It was hard work, but I would not have had it any other way, because my singing days did not end there.

The choirboys' motto was: ***“Stand up; Book up; Sing up”***

The Choristers Prayer:

Bless, O lord, us Thy servants who minister in Thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts and that what we believe in our hearts we may shew forth in our lives. Through Jesus

Crist our Lord. **Amen**



Possibly you read the History Society's October report, in it you may recall that the remarkable Moses Holden, Preston Astronomer and

Wesleyan Preacher had been the subject of that month's talk. Our speaker, Stephen Halliwell, has written an excellent biographical book in which he relates his findings about this most remarkable man. On reading it, one passage caught my eye, and before I give you the November write-up, I should like to loosely quote it.

"After giving a sermon in Kirkham in early 1811, he received a request to visit the village of Bryning. He got there and met with the same homely, friendly and good reception he had when there six or seven years previously.' He goes on, 'I desired them to inform Warton singers as they had been fond of me, and I knew they would come if anything of their respect remained. I told them to tell them that we would sing the Psalms in the Prayer Book, the same as sung at Warton Chapel. They came and brought their prayer books with them, set off their tunes, and seemed uncommonly pleased.' - Well, there we are, a **very** early local Ecumenical Service and Warton singers in 1811.

.....

It was a full house plus some very welcome visitors on a cheerless November evening when Anne Horne amazed and amused us with her entertaining chat entitled "Reet gradely Lancashire stuff". So here is just a sample of the cornucopia of qualities that make our county so gradely (proper or properly good).

Anne took us from the dark and mysterious ages when the Romans were in occupation, to the County having early royal connections it has right up to the present, and what a story **that** is. She told us about the coming of the cotton industry with its giants of invention and innovation with the spread of railways and canals. We were truly surprised when she singled out Preston's genius Moses Holden and the early twentieth century Blackpool journalist and author Allen Clarke who in 1916 wrote the superb Fylde book "Windmill Land". Today, a collector's item.

We probably got the most fun from remembering the peculiarly Lancashire dishes many older folk remember from childhood days and noticed how some found one or two rather off-putting. Then it was time for the world of entertainment and here we could have gone on all night down memory lane from "our Gracie" to George Formby – Britain's highest paid stars in the 1930's. We could also not forget the many great Lancashire Pop stars whose records sold like hot cakes. Finally, Lanky Twang, (our dialect) caused many a furrowed brow as we searched our recollections to find the meaning – but Anne always supplied the answers. Following a welcome *cuppa* it was time to return to the Warton winter rain and chill but with a smile and some happy memories for which we thank Anne.

December 16th at 7.30pm sees Brian Topping giving us the inside story in "Tales of a Customs Officer" which promises to be very informative. We do look forward to seeing you there when you will certainly be welcome. And finally, a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to you all.

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DECEMBER SUNDAY ROTAS

Date	Readers
December 7 th	Simon Eccleston Colin Charnley
December 14 th	Family Service
December 21 st	Margaret Jacob Sue Parkin
December 28 th	Stewart Hankinson Rosemary Gilbert
Date	Coffee
December 7 th	Barbara Fenton Stewart Newall
December 14 th	Alison Eccleston Simon Eccleston
December 21 st	Lin Willetts Mike Willetts
December 28 th	Deborah Cherry Lorraine Higginson



Churchwarden Duties

DECEMBER	7 th	Jackie Ridealgh
	14 th	Mike Willetts
	21 st	Paddy Quinn
	28 th	Kate Parker

Christmas gifts and Advent treats

Edwardian traditions

In Edwardian times wealthy people would thank staff working in their homes at Christmas. At Lyme Park in Cheshire there would be tea in the servants' hall followed by a children's party with gifts like oranges or small toys. Servants might be given clothing, money, a piece of meat or even an umbrella. Sometimes presents were buried in a 'lucky dip' tub full of bran, set next to a Christmas tree.

The first Advent calendar

There are many references to people marking the days of Advent by burning candles or marking the wall with chalk. However, the first printed calendar is credited to Gerhardt Lang in Germany. In the late 19th century his mother taped a sweet to a piece of cardboard for each day of Advent. As an adult Gerhardt set up a printing business and produced his first Advent calendar in 1908 – an idea that soon spread across the world.

Christmas superstitions

Many ancient superstitions surround the Christmas season. A large log of oak too heavy for one man to lift would be put on the hearth in Victorian houses like Tyntesfield in Somerset. If it was still smouldering on Christmas Day, then it was said that the home would be prosperous for the coming year.

On New Year's Eve, there was a tradition of opening every door and window just before midnight, to let out the 'burden' of the old year.





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Organisations

Day	Section Leader	Contact Number
<u>Monday</u> <i>Squirrels</i> (4-6yrs) <i>Guides</i> (10-14yrs) 6.30 -8.30 pm	Chloe Miller Bridget Davison	07388 554048 01772 671740
<u>Tuesday</u> <i>Cubs</i> (8-10½yrs) 6 -7.30pm	Kate Parker	01772 635514 07788 551100
<u>Wednesday</u> <i>Rainbows</i> (5-7yrs) 5.45-6.45pm <i>Brownies</i> (7-10yrs) 6.30-8pm	Catherine Potter	01772 493475
<u>Thursday</u> <i>Beavers</i> (6-8yrs) 5.45-7pm <i>Scouts</i> (10½ -14yrs) 7.15-8.45pm	Amber Chauhan Chloe Miller	07468 616692 07388 554048
<i>Group Lead Volunteer</i>	Chloe Miller	07388 554048