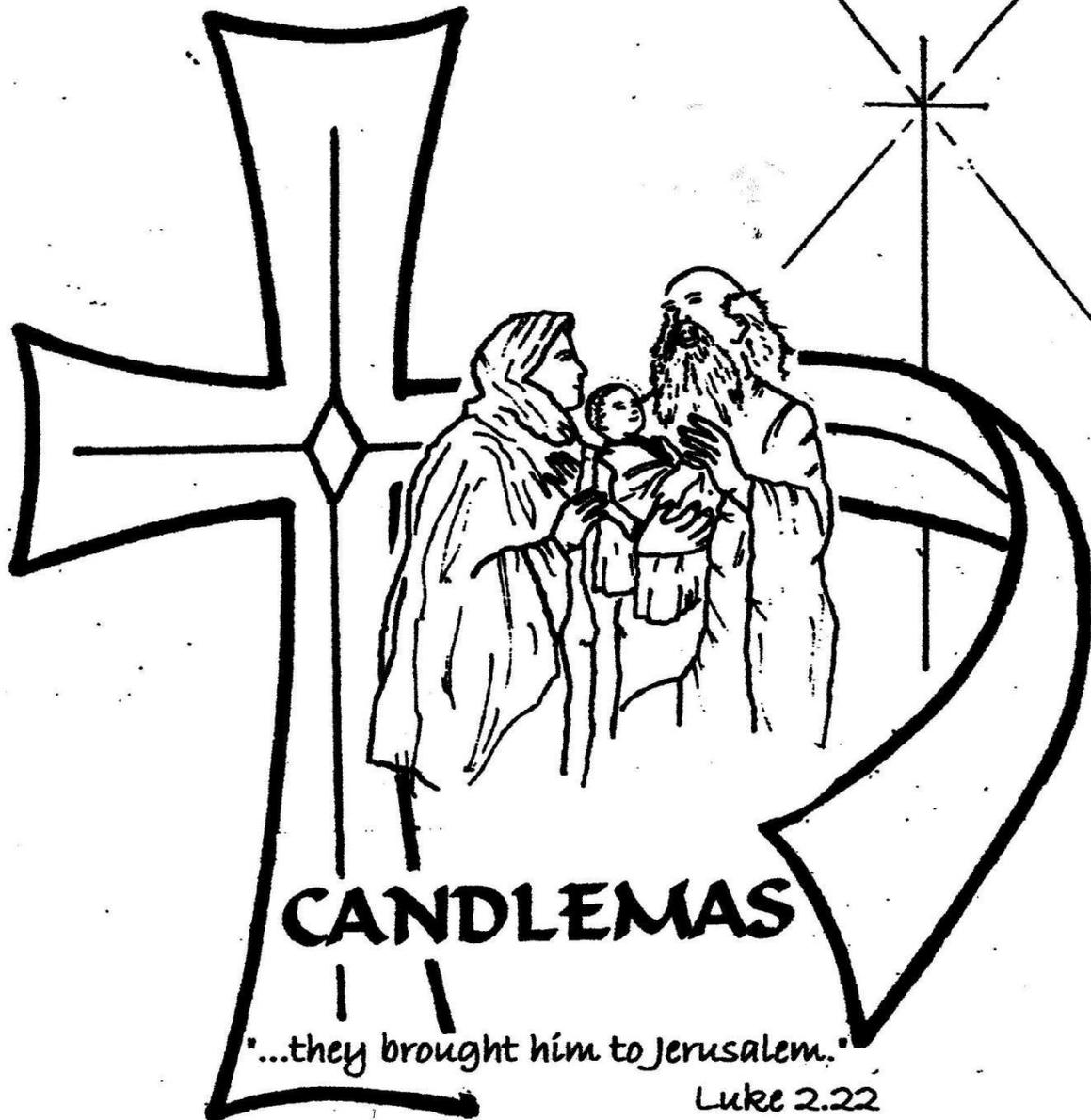


*The Magazine of
St Paul's Church, Warton
Serving Christ ~ Serving the Community*



FEBRUARY 2026





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

February

HELLO



Sunday 1st

Presentation of Christ

CANDELMAS

09.30

Parish Eucharist

Wednesday

4th

09.30 Holy Communion

12.00-15.00 Foodbank

Sunday 8th

Second Sunday before Lent

09.30

All Aboard

Tuesday

10th

13.00

Women's Institute
in the Village Hall

Wednesday

11th

09.30 Holy Communion

12.00-15.00 Foodbank

Saturday

14th

10.00

St. Paul's Cafe
Valentines Day

Sunday 15th

Sunday before Lent

09.30

Parish Eucharist

Tuesday

17th

19.30

History Society
in the Village Hall

Wednesday 18th 09.30 Holy Communion
12.00-15.00 Foodbank

Sunday 22nd

Lent 1

9.30

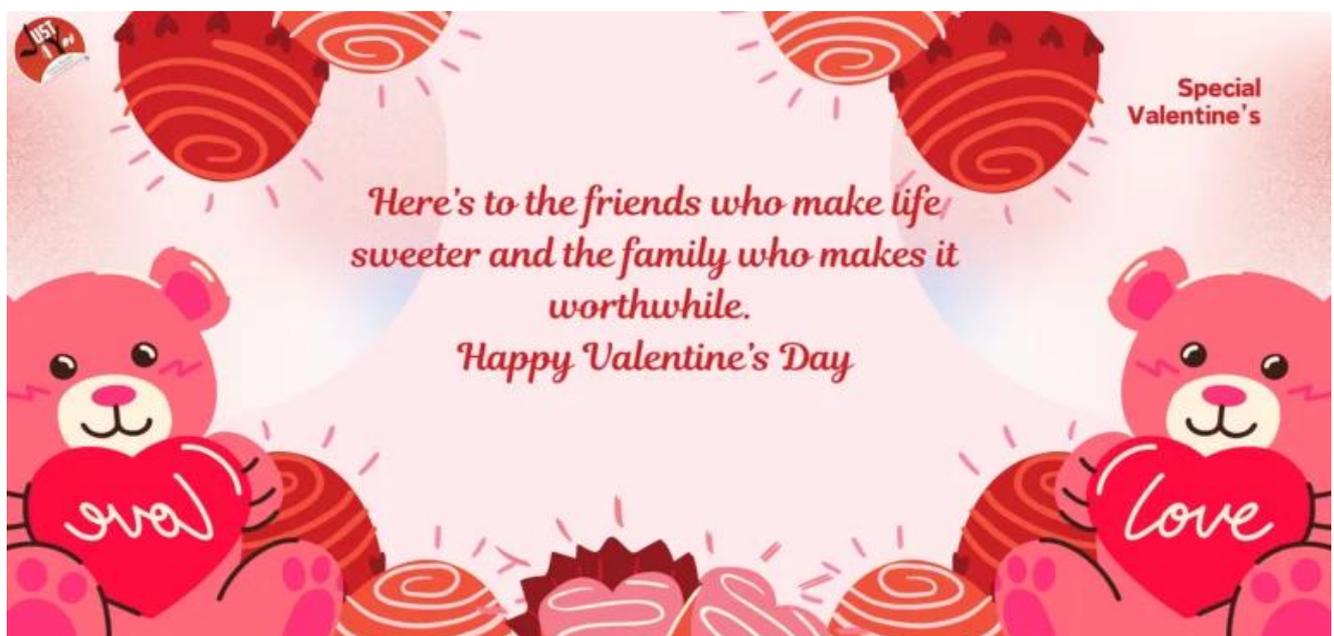
Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 25th 09.30 Holy Communion
12.00-15.00 Foodbank
13.30 Mothers Union
Village Hall

Saturday 28th Coffee and Toasties
at Holy Trinity

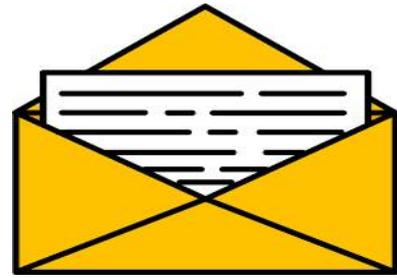
PLEASE NOTE

The **DEADLINE** for articles for
the **MARCH** magazine is
FRIDAY 20th MARCH



Dear Friends,

A few years ago we stayed on a small-holding caravan site. There was every sort of hen and duck you could think of. Lots of rare breeds. It was so nice to see them all roaming free - except if you were near a certain gate and the geese came! It was a retired farmer and wife who ran the small-holding caravan site



One day they were talking to me and asked me in to look at his hobby. In his kitchen were lots of little eggs in small ovens that held about half a dozen eggs, all in containers with lights and warmth inside. His hobby was hatching the eggs.



 The farmer put an egg into my hand just as the egg was cracking open and the little chick was in half an eggshell. It really felt like a miracle being put into my hands, tiny and warm, swirling around in the shell.

Every sort of new life is a miracle. It makes you feel so good inside whether it's human or animal.

This time of year we are all preparing for Easter



Time for Lent - the forty days, except for Sundays, that comes before Jesus death and resurrection. People say it's a time of reflection; a time of contemplation. A time to think of the things that God has done for us.

Some people like to take on an extra task or study at this time. Others feel it's time to give something up. Some give up their favourite chocolates or drinks. It's all a personal choice, but it's so we remember how much God has done for us. By giving his only Son, God sent Jesus as human form on earth where he started his ministry when he was thirty-two.

Then we know he died in what we call Good Friday so that each and every one of us, if we want it, can have life eternal life and be with God after our life on earth.

As young children we feel our lives are forever, but as we get older we know that the time goes very quickly. When we ask Jesus into our lives we get to know Him better. We have the assurance of that life everlasting.

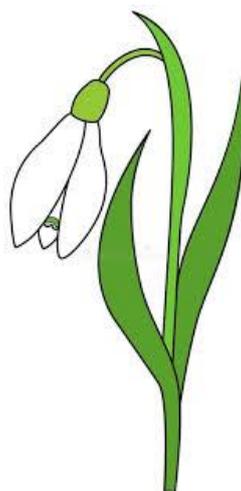
In the spring, when Lent takes place, the world is full of new life. Not just the lambs and chicks, but the ground starts to warm up and the flowers start to come through the ground. The trees start to bud and turn green. It's a very exciting time after the cold dark nights of winter. It's something that happens every year and is always exciting. The nights start to get lighter and we all, hopefully, feel the warmth of the sun.

This is all part of the circle of life. To me, it's the most lovely time of the year. The expected time of light nights - new life of human, animal and vegetation. All reminding us as it says in the hymn "All Things Bright And Beautiful" - The Lord God made them all.

As we move forward into Lent, help us all to contemplate on the life and places that God has given us; the time to look forward into spring and help us to thank God for his goodness and blessings.

With love and prayers

Reverend Christine



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

Holy Baptism

24th January 2026

Esme Goodman (Holy Trinity)



Funerals

9th January 2026

Doreen Middleton (Holy Trinity)

13th January 2026

Doreen Middleton Memorial Service
(Holy Trinity)



14th January 2026

Frederick Squires (Burial of ashes) (St Paul's)

22nd January 2026

Margaret Thomson (Holy Trinity)

McGinleys Fresh Fish

THURSDAYS

*AM Outside the Coach &
Horses*

*PM Car Park, Clifton
Arms at Warton, 1-3pm*

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methodist church

Freckleton Methodist Church
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An Evening with
Andrew Snowden M.P.

Faith in Politics?

Host - Phil Gough

Friday 20th February

Doors Open 6.30 p.m.
Starts 7.00 p.m.

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Churchwarden's Letter

“The Grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever”

Isaiah 40:8

At our first service of the New Year a message from the Bishop of Blackburn was screened to remind us Epiphany is a time we discover who Jesus really is by looking at the gifts the wise men gave him. (gold shows he is king of kings, frankincense reveals his divine nature, and myrrh foreshadows his mortal suffering). This year our Diocese is celebrating its 100th birthday, and the theme to mark these celebrations is “All for Jesus” reflecting on the many years of faithful service given by its parishioners.

Along with the Diocese celebrations, St. Pauls will be marking its own special celebration this year as our church is 140 years old. Rev Tracy has asked if anyone has any old photographs of church events that could be used as part of a visual display in church to show how the church and community has changed over these last 140 years. Also if anyone has any ideas on how we could mark our 140th birthday celebration, could they please let them be known to a PCC member so it can be brought up at our meeting and discussed and let's make 2026 a year our church will remember in years to come.

Recalling how excited the children at our Christmas Crib Service became when asked to help Rev Tracy find the hidden Nativity figures in church so she would continue to tell more of her nativity story, It made me realise how important a role teaching plays in nurturing and enriching the minds of our young children. Did you know then that the 24th January was International Day of Education? This year's theme is developing peace through education.

It's reassuring to know that teaching skills needed to resolve conflict is being incorporated into our children's education, since it also reinforces one of the beatitudes of the bible in Matthew 5:9 "blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God" .

No sooner have we recovered from celebrating the start of the New Year we now find ourselves beginning to build up to our next religious festival, Easter. We begin the countdown to Easter with pancake Tuesday which as you all know is followed by Lent. This year Pancake Tuesday falls on the 17th February which coincides with the start of the Chinese New Year. (this year they will be celebrating the year of the horse). If you have ever seen the spectacular parades that accompany the Chinese New Year celebrations you will know that the event is something worth seeing at least once in your lifetime as the procession is both colourful and noisy as firecrackers get set off along the route.(at this point please be aware that our church celebrations need not be as elaborate as this, nor as noisy).

Enjoy making, flipping and eating your pancakes this Shrove Tuesday

Blessings to you all

Jackie

Shrove
Tuesday



St Paul's Little Café



*Saturday 14th February
2026*

*10.00 - 12.00
All Welcome*

Freckleton & Wrea Green Flower Club

Title: 'Birds of a Feather'

Demonstrator: Namiye Sianga

Tuesday February 17th at 2pm

Freckleton Village Hall, Freckleton PR4 1 PJ

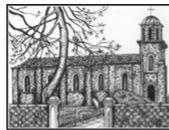
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Coffee and toasties

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toasties, sausage barmes, scones, cakes,
and good company.

Everyone's welcome!



Saturday 21 February, 10:00 to 12:00



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Issue 1



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The Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian organisation. It aims to demonstrate the Christian faith through fellowship and action, united in prayer, worship and service. Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 and this year we celebrate our 150th Anniversary. Here at St Paul's Church, on April 22nd, we will be hosting the Deanery Festival, joined by six other local Mothers' Union groups.



Our Mothers' Union group at Warton is a friendly, interesting gathering, meeting in the village hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2pm. If you would like to join us at any of the meetings, please do so, you would be made very welcome.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 28th January, starting at 13.30hrs in Church, then the AGM in the village hall, followed by coffee, tea, cake and chatter.

Our programme for 2026:

February 25th - Will be a talk by Paul Barfoot about Fylde Foodbank, a Trussell Trust foodbank.

March 25th – There will be a talk by Fylde Coast Friends in aid of Guide Dogs, by Brenda Wildish and friends.

April 22nd – Deanery Festival at St. Paul's Church, 2 pm.

May 27th – 40 years of Nursing by Amanda Barfoot

June 24th – A talk by Rachel Taylor-Watson about Veterinary Nursing

July and August – Trips to be arranged

September 23rd – Eucharist and talk by Rev. Alan Byrom

October 28th – Fylde Women During World War 1- by Jennifer Ray

November 25th – “Reet Gradely Lancashire stuff” by Anne Horne

December – Christmas meal and services.

God bless

Amanda



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Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

Ritual purification stems back to a Jewish tradition that women were considered unclean after the birth of a child. For 40 days for a boy, and 60 days for a girl, women weren't allowed to worship in the temple. At the end of this time, women were brought to the Temple or Synagogue to be purified. After the ceremony women were allowed to take part in religious services again.

The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light. This ancient festival marked the mid point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox. Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights. People believed that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of the winter.

For some people, different superstitions surround this festival. For instance, if a candle drips on one side when carried in church on Candlemas, this denotes a death of a family member during the year.

If someone brings snowdrops into the house on Candlemas day it symbolises a parting or death.

Any Christmas decorations not taken down by Twelfth Night (January 5th) should be left up until Candlemas Day and then taken down.

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.



Once a year, the Warton W.I. quits its natural habitat in the Village Hall and instead chooses to enjoy a meal together in a local restaurant.

To celebrate the festive season - albeit a wee bit later than usual - this month members selected the tried and trusted Fairhaven pub.

If anyone had made a New Year's Resolution to cut down on calories, it was certainly a time to put that firmly aside and just enjoy the moment. A wide choice of dishes were available and of course we all eyed each other's plates to assess if we'd made the best choice. It was an informal occasion with no speeches and a bare minimum of W.I. "business", instead, the accent was on simply enjoying each other's company and a meal that someone else had prepared for us.

It was, however, time to collect up the members' votes concerning the annual Resolutions to be passed back to the National Federation. Five options were available:

- accessible public toilet facilities
- women's homelessness
- every child needs a friend
- vulval cancer
- nearer to Nature

The members unanimously voted in favour of the first option.

Another important happening at the meeting was the unveiling of the programme of speakers for the coming year.

Behind the scenes, the Committee have prepared what seems to be a fascinating calendar to look forward to. Special thanks for this must go to Ann Seabrook, whose difficult job it is to find and book all the speakers.

In 2026 members can expect a wide range of interesting topics from spinning to the history of gin. To kick things off well, in February our talk will have the intriguing title of **“Blissful Bride - Notorious Nun”**. Watch this space to see what that is all about!

Gwen

Update on 2025 Secret Santa...



Everything you so kindly collected has now been given out.

The Foxton Centre for homeless people received 43 parcels. Harbour House (YMCA) in Lytham received 21 parcels. Santa's Super Sack of Splendid Socks contained 148 pairs. St Paul's church Fairhaven gave us 16 hats, gloves & scarves. There were 2 bags of beautiful knitted hats. There was also a quantity of sweets, chocolates & other treats.

Sincere thanks to Rev Tracy & the PCC for letting this all happen again; to Paul & Amanda for the transport; to everyone who donated - however much or little. Every gift was, I am sure, really appreciated.

Sue Parkin. [*Easter eggs appeal coming very soon.*]

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

What has an Edwardian gentleman from Bristol, a determined & tenacious Boer War veteran who was dutiful & pious, an engaging writer & editor, an influential & persuasive negotiator with experience in South American mining got to do with St Paul's graveyard, here in Warton?

Well, it seems quite a lot. He was Fabian Ware (1869 - 1949) and he it was who founded the Imperial War Graves Commission (now CWGC) and we have two of their graves in our churchyard. More on them later.

Fabian Ware was too old to re-join his regiment in 1914 at the start of WWI so he set off on his own to France & volunteered with a Red Cross ambulance unit. As he and his team collected injured soldiers (the BEF had gone to France earlier) they constantly came upon temporary burials of British soldiers and others: most men had been hastily buried wherever they fell.

Ware realised that this would be unacceptable to the families of the fallen and he argued that the army needed to be involved in establishing permanent graveyards that could be visited after the Armistice.

He met with some furious opposition from certain families, who lobbied their MPs and there was much Parliamentary debate. However he was supported by the Prince of Wales (later George V); the influential poet Rudyard Kipling; Field Marshal Haig and a trio of renowned architects, willing to do the design - the most famous of these being Edwin Lutyens - he of the later London Cenotaph.

A Royal Charter was granted to the IWGC in 1917 and land started to be acquired. Several early principles included the fact that the fallen should be buried with uniform headstones of

Portland stone, side by side with no differentiation of rank or religion. Unidentified remains were to be buried with their own inscription " Known unto God ".

From an early date volunteers created gardens and now all CWGC graveyards now have an alter-like stone of remembrance and usually the cross/sword of sacrifice. Gateposts contain written records of the locations of individual graves. Blacksmiths, stonemasons, carpenters and other craftspeople work to refurbish, repair & create from the HQ near Arras.

It can happen that remains are still being discovered & within the hour a team from CWGC begins the process of recovery and identification. All are buried with full military honours.

In St Paul's graveyard we have two CWGC graves near the Church Road wall. Both were serving soldiers who died locally of Spanish flu. They were cousins - Pt James Cross of the Machine Gun Corps and Pt David Slater of the Loyal N Lancs Regiment.

The CWGC commemorates 1.7 million war dead in 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries and it is all thanks to the boldness of vision of one man. Fabian Ware in 1914 chose to fight a different battle. He was knighted in 1922 and also given the honorary rank of Major General. - **LEST WE FORGET**

Sue Parkin

**The World Day of Prayer Service
will take place on Friday 6th
March at 2pm. The service will be
held at Kirkham Methodist
Church, Nelson Street,
Kirkham. PR4 2JP. The service
this year has been prepared by
the women of Nigeria.**

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WARTON HISTORY SOCIETY

JANUARY 2026 MEETING

Although our county is often thought of as being rather damp and dreary, it was a real pleasure to welcome a *ray* of sunshine to our January meeting. That *ray* was in fact Jennifer Ray who brought laughter and much pleasure to a large gathering for our first evening of 2026 when she reminded us how lovely so much of Lancashire is.

Many of her illustrations were based on a 1929 second-hand book, for which she had only paid £8, and found, unusually, to be complete; this seemed to be the spur to visit and photograph various beauty spots throughout the county. Jennifer explained that the boundaries were extensively changed in the early 1970's and what we now know as Cumbria (the Lake District) was previously in Lancashire and was earlier known as Lancashire Over Sands.

We were fascinated to see the stone marking the meeting of the old counties of Cumberland Westmorland and Lancashire close to the source of River Duddon. She also went on to explain that at the same time Sefton and Merseyside were formed with Blackburn and Blackpool later becoming unitary boroughs. Although our speaker showed some lovely pictures, she was very clear that it invariably rained on her field trips!

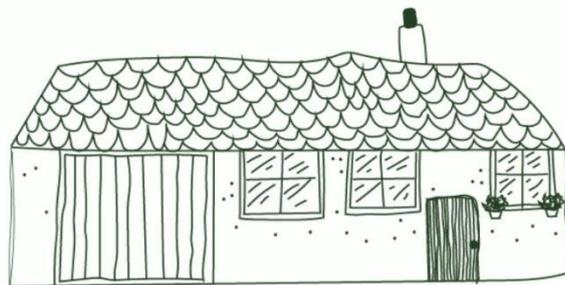
Many of us would be surprised to learn that Warton, Carnforth, is the village from which U.S.A. President George Washington's family originated and this fact is commemorated annually

Other great names, especially the poets who were inspired by the grandeur of the northern scenery were also an important part of our Lancashire heritage and it was good to be reminded about their contribution to the nation's life.

It was a great start to the year, and we thank Jennifer for her talk. Next month (February 17th) there will be a brief Annual General Meeting followed by pre-ordered supper from *Hot Pot Heaven* followed by our Chairman David's **very** famous Quiz.

In March we shall learn about "The Art of Spinning"; and that's on the 17th.

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FEBRUARY 2026 SUNDAY ROTAS

Date	Readers
February 1 st	Simon Eccleston Alison Eccleston
February 8 th	Family Service
February 15 th	Fred Taylor Lorraine Higginson
February 22 nd	June Wilkins Rachel Taylor Watson

Date	Coffee
February 1 st	Lin Willetts Mike Willetts
February 8 th	Alison Eccleston Simon Eccleston
February 15 th	Audrey Charnley Sally Lockhart
February 22 nd	Deborah Cherry Lorraine Higginson

Churchwarden Duties

FEBRUARY	1 st	Jackie Ridealgh
	8 th	Paddy Quinn
	15 th	Mike Willetts
	22 nd	Kate Parker



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Organisations

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