



The Chronicle

The Parish Magazine of Christ Church Charnock Richard

December 2020



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter to you today, I am sure I am not alone, making lists of things I need to do before Christmas. I have just returned from my hairdressers, where the staff are juggling the diary, trying to fit everyone in who wants an appointment before the big day. The pressure is building up for many of us, we all want to be ready for this special time. We all have to plan and prepare as Mary did over 2000 years ago. Our children, and probably Mums and Dads too, are all excited, waiting to see what Father Christmas will bring. Mary was waiting in great anticipation for the birth of her Son, baby Jesus. On Christmas Day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, who brings us great hope of things to come.

Father Andrew, in normal times, goes into our School once each week to lead an assembly. Unfortunately, we are not in normal times, therefore he has been unable to do this during the current lockdown. However, he has provided a recording each week, where he has highlighted various topics and invited the children to join him in prayer.

In the week around Remembrance Day, Father Andrew did a presentation on the burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey 100 years ago. He informed the children that no-one knew the identity of the soldier, they did not know from where he originated, or from which regiment he came. The body was brought to London from France, the grave contains soil from France, and is covered by a slab of black Belgium marble, from a quarry near Namur. Father Andrew suggested to the children that we can sense someone is important without actually seeing them. He referred to the story of Samuel, when the Lord called Samuel three times before Samuel realised it was the Lord calling him, he thought it was Eli. He suggested we all need to be ready to listen to God's call, in order for us to have a conversation with him and build up a relationship. He asked the children if they had ever heard God speaking to them.

The following week he recorded his presentation at Salford Quays. He talked to the children about the Manchester Ship Canal and the decline of the docklands. He showed the children how the area has been completely redeveloped with the Manchester Metro Train Station, the Lowry Arts Centre, Virgin Active Health Centre, the studios of ITV and the BBC. He informed the children that the redevelopment of Salford was all part of God's plan. In the 1980's the area appeared to be a place without hope, but now it is a thriving, bustling place. He referred to Mary's song, the Magnificat, in St. Luke's Gospel. He asked the children two questions: can they think of anyone too powerful, whose power should be limited, and are there any poor places or people they would like to raise up.

At the beginning of Advent, Father Andrew travelled to Manchester City Centre, near Piccadilly Gardens, to tell the children about the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and preparation leading to the birth of Jesus. This week he talked about The People of God, The Patriarchs, The Founding Fathers. Father Andrew could be seen standing in front of the statue of Sir Robert Peel, who founded the Metropolitan Police Force, and was instrumental in turning the Tory Party into the Conservative Party whilst Member of Parliament for Tamworth in Staffordshire. He then moved to stand in front of the Midland Hotel in St. Peters Square where, in 1819, eighteen people were killed and over five hundred people were injured in the Peterloo Massacre. On 16th August 1819, around 60,000 people, made up of the working classes of what is now Greater Manchester, had gathered to demand the reform of parliamentary representation. The peaceful protest turned into violence when Manchester magistrates ordered a private militia, paid by rich locals, to storm the crowd. He then talked about Emmeline Pankhurst, who was born in Manchester, a leading women's rights activist, who led the movement to win the right for women to vote. Father Andrew suggested we could refer to all these people as Founding Fathers, as they have all made significant contributions to the way we live our lives today. He asked the children what they would be doing in Advent to prepare for Christmas.

This last week, Father Andrew could be seen making a cake in his kitchen. He made two cakes, which, when they were joined together, formed a Christingle. He placed a candle on the top of the cake, a red ribbon around the middle, and skewers through the cake with sweets and fruits on them. I watched as he helped himself to a piece of marshmallow. He explained to the children the significance of all the elements that make up a Christingle, which, when lit, represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness. He then delivered the cake to School!

I am delighted to inform you the wedding of Alice and Ross went ahead as planned on 19th September 2020. This was the only wedding we have had this year in our own parish and at Eccleston St. Mary the Virgin. It was a beautiful wedding, very special for us and very special for

Alice and Ross and their families. You can read about it in this edition of the Chronicle.

We had intended to hold a special service for All Souls-Tide, but as a result of the national lockdown, this could not take place. Malcolm and I did go into Church that evening to say some prayers and light some candles in memory of your Loved Ones.

Our Remembrance Day service had to be recorded and this can still be accessed on the Eccleston St. Mary website. We undertook the wreath laying earlier in the week in the Memorial Garden. On that occasion, wreaths were laid by Carolyn Cross on behalf of the Parish Council, Debbie Hutchins representing the Uniformed Groups, Doris and George Haydock and Malcolm Stewart representing our Church, Alan Whittaker representing Chorley Council, Stan Pearson and his daughter Clare, the son and grand-daughter of Sergeant Jack Pearson, who was killed in action in Monte Cassino in January 1944. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker of the House of Commons and our Member of Parliament, also came along to lay a wreath and say a few words. The children from our school and the children from the Eccleston schools lit the candles and read out the names of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the First and Second World Wars and other conflicts since that time. We were delighted all these people came to contribute to our service and, if you look at the photographs on the next page, you will see Mr. Stan Pearson was wearing the medals awarded to his father. Stan has assured me he will join us next year, hopefully without government restrictions.

This time last year I was informing you about our plans for the redevelopment of our Church. In the light of what has happened this year, these plans are now on hold. However, in the New Year we intend to instruct our architect to investigate the water ingress to our Church. Robinsons Preservation undertook an inspection and produced a report at the beginning of this year highlighting problems relating to the gutters, hoppers and spitters. They pointed out that the current design is a contributing factor to the amount of rainwater that is being allowed to percolate into the building. Our architect will be instructed to advise on the necessary remedial action and ascertain the cost of such action. Members of the Parochial Church Council have agreed this essential work must be undertaken in the near future.

Quite a few members of our community have lost Loved Ones over the past year and this year Christmas will be very different for them. We are very conscious that this time of year is a time of great excitement and joy for some, but for others it is a time of intense loneliness and sorrow. We are thinking about you now. You may wish to light a candle or hold a small cross with some lovely music playing in the background, as you reflect on the true meaning of the birth of Jesus who brought light into a world of darkness. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" John 8.12. In the stillness, try to spend a little time looking back on the times you shared with your Loved Ones, they cannot be taken away, they are yours to treasure for ever. Just remember, you are never alone, Jesus said, "I am with you always, till the end of time". Matthew 28.20

I would like to close by thanking all of you who support us in so many ways, your help is so much appreciated. Malcolm joins me in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and we hope and pray, with the emergence of the vaccine, 2021 will be a happier and healthier year, when families and friends can share meals together and socialise without restrictions.

Yours very sincerely,

Margaret Stewart

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A MESSAGE FROM FATHER ANDREW

My dear friends,

As the calendar year draws to a close you may well have started preparing and looking forward to a better 2021. That's certainly true of couples preparing to marry in churches throughout the country as weddings in 2020 were initially postponed and then cancelled. Thankfully, we managed to marry Alice Holt and Ross Cornish in church this year between lockdowns and restrictions on gathered numbers, but for so many the magic of the year '2020' turned out to be a year to remember for all the wrong reasons. However, it is perhaps fitting that in such a chaotic year when we have been forced to adapt, become more flexible and consider the effect of our behaviour on others, the marriage service directs us to pray for the ups and downs of life as this is a reflection that however carefully planned the wedding day may be, the reality is that sharing our lives with another person requires patience, cooperation and compromise.

But in our preparations for 2021 we have had a period of reflection during the church season of Advent, which this year ran from 29 November and ends on Christmas Eve. Perhaps you have enjoyed buying and sharing an Advent Calendar this year. Many people probably don't know much about or think about the season of Advent but see the calendar as a countdown to Christmas Day. To be fair, that's exactly what the calendar does as we open a window each day, not two or three a day in order to get our chocolate fix, but gradually and slowing revealing a bit more of what we may all hope for when the big day comes.

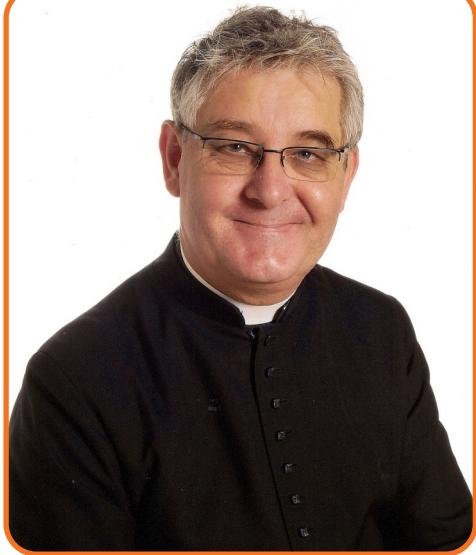
Seen as a reminder of Christmas and its true meaning, rather a materialistic, consumer binge, there is absolutely nothing wrong with everyone enjoying Advent Calendars, Christians and non-Christian alike. But there is so much more to Advent than a big count down. In our family we have bought and given our children Advent candles rather than the calendars, even when they ceased to be children. The candle is a great image because not all good things begin and end with chocolate and the sense of increasing light as Advent progresses is at the very heart of the season of expectation.

Whilst Advent Calendars and Advent wreaths where one candle is lit for each of the four Sundays of the season are European traditions, other cultures across the world have their own way of celebrating the season leading up to Christmas Day. In Latin America the Posada has been part of Mexico's celebrations for over 400 years. Posada takes its name from 'the inn' which is central to the nativity story and features two people dressed as Mary and Joseph. A procession around the local community takes place with various houses identified as the Posada or inn. After singing some suitable Christmas songs Mary and Joseph are recognised and allowed to enter. A variation of this tradition has been adopted by some schools in our own country as nativity figures are passed around the homes of various children, giving hospitality and rest to the Holy Family before the birth of Jesus.

Another tradition comes from Paris where the nativity characters are dressed in contemporary clothes and sit amongst modern buildings to show that the arrival of Jesus Christ wasn't an historical or onetime event, but something that happened at a certain point in time with eternal relevance for all of us as we welcome him in to our home, our lives and our hearts time and time again. Some of you will have seen a re-enactment of a famous opera which gives added poignancy to the drama as we see something fresh which hadn't occurred to us before. I remember seeing an English National Opera production of Verdi's *Nabucco* in Birmingham a few years ago where the Hebrew Slaves were portrayed as World War II concentration camp prisoners about to be led to the gas chambers. The whole opera was lit in an almost achromatic black and white film effect which served to provide an interpretation of the plight of God's chosen people, the Hebrews, which Verdi could never have imagined.

Whatever your plans for Advent this year, please take time to enjoy and savour the moment of preparation and expectation for the coming of Our Lord. The season should never be a mad rush in the way that we complete all our other pre Christmas preparations. That gradual revealing of what is to come allows us be truly ready for the greatest arrival of them all bringing hope that 2021 will be a very different year to the one about to end.

May your Christmas be holy and blessed.

A portrait photograph of Fr. Andrew, a man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark clerical collar. He is smiling and looking towards the camera.

Fr. Andrew.

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

"In the power of the Holy Spirit, and strengthened by daily prayer and bible study, we will be faithful communicants and by active witness, fellowship and service in the community, we will strive to help forward the Kingdom of God"

THE POWER OF PRAYER

We are often asked to include in our prayers people who are anxious and awaiting tests, people who are about to have surgery, and people who have been diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. One or two of us thought it might be helpful to tell you about some of those for whom our prayers have been asked so that we might know a little more about them.

If you would like us to include an update on the progress these people have made, so that it can be shared, or if you wish for someone to be prayed for, please contact Margaret Stewart on 01257 792692.

THE POTTING SHED TEAM

Have you a few hours to spare each week? We have a team which meets for two or three hours each week and works in the garden areas in the centre of the village; the Old School garden, the Almshouses garden, and the Churchyard. The team meets each Monday at 10.00am. If you need further information please contact Malcolm Stewart on 01257 792692 /792536 or 07951 862399

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020



The Rt Hon Sir Lyndsay Hoyle MP

Church Services at Christ Church Charnock Richard

Join us this

SUNDAY

9AM

The pattern of services for the time being is:

SUNDAY 9:00am Parish Eucharist: Common Worship

DONATIONS

DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM
14th SEPTEMBER to 30th NOVEMBER 2020

CHURCH FUNDS

In loving memory of Tom & Ada Baybutt. From Ann Cook & family.	£20.00
Loving birthday memories of Joe. From Marion.	£50.00
In thanksgiving for the marriage of our daughter Alice Holt, to Ross Cornish on Saturday 19th, September 2020. From John & Shirley Holt.	£150.00
In loving memory of Ronnie Southworth. From Florence & Norman Brown.	£20.00
In loving memory of Alan on his anniversary 30th, November. From Jean Heaps.	£30.00
In loving memory of Bill. From Teresa Cunliffe. From Canon B.G.Moore.	£200.00 £20.00
In memory of Joyce Lord. From Margaret Culshaw. From Margaret & Malcolm Stewart.	£10.00 £20.00
In memory of Edith Robinson. From Christ Church Mothers' From Doris & George. From Florence & Norman.	£100.00 £10.00 £20.00

In loving memory of Donald Heaps.

From Doris & George Haydock.

£10.00

From Margaret & Malcolm Stewart

£20.00

In loving memory of Sgt Jack Pearson killed at the Battle of Monte Casino, Italy in the Second World War.

£25.00

From Mrs Pauline Finnigan-Wood.

From Mr Stan Pearson & Mrs. Margaret Pearson.

£25.00

In memory of Loved Ones.

From David.

£40.00

RESTORATION FUND

In loving memory of my husband David.
From Sylvia.

£100.00

In memory of Joyce Lord.

From Jim & Dorothy Rutter.

£20.00

In memory of Donald Heaps.

From Jim & Dorothy Rutter.

£15.00

GRAVEYARD FUND

None received.

ORGAN FUND

None received.

Thank You!

Parish Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

None



HOLY MATRIMONY

10th September 2020

Alice Mary Holt and Ross Trevor Cornish

FUNERALS

29th August 2020	Interment of Ashes of Ronnie Southworth. Died 25th April 2020 aged 77 years. Funeral service and cremation at Charnock Richard Crematorium on 11th May 2020.
22nd September 2020	Funeral of Marion Brisk. Died 7th September 2020 aged 83 years. Funeral service in Church followed by interment at Euxton Parish Church.
15th October 2020	Funeral of Stephen Henry Fleming. Died 2nd October 2020 aged 76 years. Funeral service and cremation at Charnock Richard Crematorium.
5th November 2020	Funeral of Joyce Lord. Died 22nd October 2020 aged 75 years. Funeral service in Church followed by cremation at Charnock Richard Crematorium.
23rd November 2020	Funeral of Mary Bernadette Whittaker. Died 7th November 2020 aged 89 years. Funeral service in Church followed by interment in the Churchyard.
12th December 2020	Interment of Ashes of Joyce Lord.
12th December 2020	Interment of Ashes of Brenda Heyes. Died 7th November 2020 aged 77 years. Funeral service and cremation at Charnock Richard Crematorium on 18th November 2020

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service, recorded, to be accessed via Eccleston St. Mary Facebook page and the Eccleston St. Mary website.

8.30pm Holy Eucharist in Church

Christmas Day

9.00am Holy Eucharist in Church



Mothers Union

Very little news on this occasion as we have not been able to meet owing to the pandemic. We hope to have a spaced-out meeting in January 2021, for our AGM and when our subscriptions are due. We hope you are all well and we look forward to seeing you soon. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Joyce and Chris

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

20th September 2020

In celebration of the marriage of Ross Trevor Cornish and Alice Mary Holt.

4th October 2020

In loving memory of Ilene, Ian and John Cornwell from Linda, Bob, Jason, Rachel and Adam.

Loving birthday memories of Alan Charnock Heaps from Jean.



18th October 2020

In loving memory of Stephen Henry Fleming from the Trustees of the Frances Darlington Charity.

In loving memory of Alice Bracegirdle from Margaret and Malcolm Stewart and Family.

1st November 2020

In loving memory of Ray Winstanley from Janet.

Foundation Stage 2020

**Christ Church Charnock Richard
C of E Primary School**

Christ Church are so proud to welcome a new set of Superheroes to Foundation Stage. They have shown confidence and resilience when settling into school. They have been busy making new friends and learning new things. Miss Woolley is very proud of their positive attitudes towards learning and knows that they will continue to grow and flourish as they head through school.



CHARNOCK RICHARD PRE-SCHOOL

November brought a few tears as we said goodbye to Mrs Leadbetter. We will all miss her but wish her luck on her new journey.

The children have enjoyed activities using numbers and shape, they have been very creative.

The children made a beautiful Poppy for Remembrance Day and visited the Memorial Garden to place it.

We also enjoyed raising money for children in need dressing in lovely bright colours, we raised £50.

We have enjoyed the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' and measured ingredients to make porridge for the Three bears.

Our weekly 'Welly Wednesday' has been a great success with lovely walks in our village splashing in puddles and collecting conkers.

The Pre-School provides 15 hours a week funded childcare for all children aged 3 and 4 and some 2 year olds. Some working parents of 3 and 4 year olds will be eligible for 30 hours a week funded childcare. Further information about funded childcare and tax-free childcare is available at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare and www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you would like to enrol your child at Pre-School please telephone us on: **07944 217699** or email: info@charnockrichardpreschool.co.uk

Further information about Pre-School can be found on the Pre-School website:
www.charnockrichardpreschool.co.uk.

Beverley Hughes (Pre-School Manager)



CHARNOCK RICHARD SCOUTING NEWS



In September we were looking forward to face-to-face meetings, we prepared, working hard to ensure that all the COVID-19 secure guidance was followed. Programmes prepared, excited that we could return. Then we had the news that we could only meet outdoors. Despite this we were all more than happy and relieved to be returning to face-to-face scouting, undeterred we met for about 4 weeks before the weather changed, and the nights were darker. The Cubs and Scouts went for walks in the local area stopping for ice cream and chips and pumpkin carving. The Beavers met on the field at HQ where we had mini-Olympics, scavenger hunts and toasted marshmallows. As restrictions tightened and lockdown 2 was imminent, we moved back to meeting via zoom.

Throughout autumn the scouting community have been busy delivering materials to ensure scouting could continue, making crafts and continuing our badge work. As a group we worked hard to ensure that Remembrance Day was marked and remembered in a socially distanced way. There were activities to make poppies and display poppies in windows, and opportunity to attend an online zoom for Remembrance Sunday when we would normally be in church and at the memorial service.

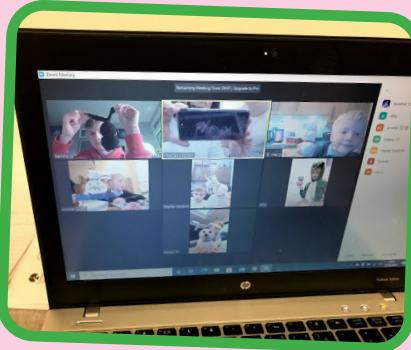
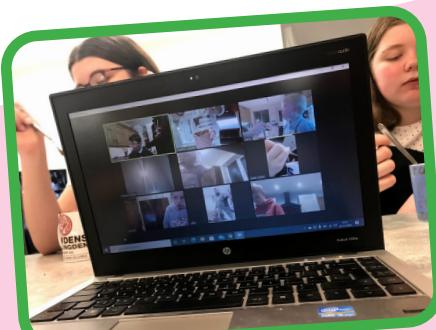
Zoom activities this term for Scouts have included quizzes 'scoutegories', direct the leader when the scout leaders were lost in Charnock and the scout teams had to navigate them to a designated point via zoom (sort of challenge Annika, or Diane and Stephen in our case!) making new dog poop bag dispensers, and the history of scouting.

Cubs have been pioneering making towers from marshmallows and spaghetti, making crystals with mad scientist Kerry, pumpkin carving, and making nativity scenes.

Beavers have been baking 'pud in a mug', making sock bunnies, badge work, Lego challenges and making Christmas decorations.

As Christmas approaches, we will be making floral Christmas table centrepieces via zoom. We are all looking forward to being together again for scouting activities, but we remain undeterred by the virus finding ways to meet using technology when we cannot. We cannot thank parents enough for supporting our young people through these challenging times and enabling them to continue to joining in with scouting on zoom.

Heather Clipston (Leader)





Scout and Guide Headquarters: Available for Hire

The Scout and Guide Headquarters is available to hire for meetings, children's parties, groups etc. The building is accessible to all with kitchen facilities, baby changing, and disabled toilet. Charges are £15 per hour for one-off or regular use. Please contact Chris Pilling on 01257 794325 if you wish to hire this facility.

Getting Married During a Pandemic

We were invited to write an article for the Charnock Richard Chronicle to share our experience of getting married during a pandemic. I grew up in Charnock Richard and moved to London ten years ago where I met my now husband, Ross Cornish, four years ago. My housemate at the time was Ross's colleague and she set us up on a blind date, which worked out very well!

We were engaged in January 2019 on a walk in the Kent Downs. On the way back to the hotel, to lighten the mood, Ross said some throw away comment along the lines of 'well, wedding planning, how hard can it be?' Well...

We got off to an easy start, as there was no doubt about where we wanted to get married. I had my Christening and Confirmation classes at Christ Church Charnock Richard and my parents, both sets of my grandparents and three sets of aunts and uncles were all married at the Church. My sister also had a blessing in the Church following her marriage in her husband's hometown in Spain in 2017, so it is a very special place for my family.

We were planning a wedding for 23rd May 2020 for 150 people and were going to have the wedding reception in a tipi at my parent's house in Charnock Richard. We encountered some challenges as the tipi company we had originally booked went into liquidation, but we also found it difficult arranging everything from afar, as we lived in London.

In January of this year, we met with Father Andrew to discuss final preparations for the wedding service and to decide on hymns and readings. At the beginning of March, my family came together in Charnock Richard for some final wedding preparations and we were starting to get very excited. We spoke about COVID-19 that weekend but (probably naively) it did not occur to us that it could affect our wedding plans.

After the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown on 23rd March, it became clear that we would have to postpone our wedding. We were really looking forward to being married and starting the next chapter of our lives and were devastated that a cruel twist of fate could stop it all in its tracks. We shed many tears for the wedding and it was more difficult as like everyone at the time, we were not able to see friends and family. We also felt guilty for feeling sad as our wedding felt insignificant compared to the suffering the pandemic had caused for so many people.

However, our lovely friends and families made sure the original wedding date of 23rd May was a day to remember. For obvious reasons we couldn't visit them, but they sent lots of lovely gifts and my sister filmed a video montage of our guests singing to 'All you need is love', and we went on a walk to the pub where we had our first date in Brixton (obviously you couldn't go inside!). It was certainly a day to remember!

After our original wedding date had passed, we began the process of re-arranging the wedding and initially decided to move it to May 2021 thinking the pandemic would be a distant memory by then. However, as the months went by and the true scale of the pandemic became clear, we realised the prospect of a large wedding in May 2021 was unlikely.

Therefore, on 15th August, when the Government announced that weddings and receptions were allowed for up to 30 people, we decided to seize the opportunity and planned to marry on 19th September. We contacted Father Andrew and Margaret Stewart, who were supportive of the decision and arranged for our banns of marriage to be read at Christ Church and we asked our local parish church in Elephant and Castle in London to do the same. We got in touch with various suppliers to see if they could accommodate the wedding at short notice and in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines.

It was a mad rush of planning and we invited our close family and a few friends, with 22 adults and 3 children. The wedding could only go ahead in a COVID-19 secure way and the Church of England had strict guidance on this. It meant that guests, apart from the bride, groom and vicar, had to wear masks in the Church. This was a bit strange when I walked down the aisle, as you could not see people's expressions.

Hymns were not allowed at the service and neither the best man nor the vicar could handle the rings, so they were blessed on a table. Signing of the register also took longer as the pen had to be sanitised between each person. We were proud and honoured that two much loved 90-year-

old ladies - Ross's grandma, Floss and Alice's great aunt, Margaret, were able to attend and act as witnesses.

We also had to write a COVID-19 risk assessment for the wedding reception and each bubble had to have their own table. Each table had its own drinks box and each guest had a personal gift bag containing the order of service in it, their own toilet roll, anti-viral wipes, hand sanitiser, card and their own pen to write a message on for us, which were all packed and sealed three days before the wedding. The caterers, from The Mill Café at St Catherine's Hospice, were fantastic and ensured they had minimal contact with the guests. We also had plastic tablecloths at the reception so the groom, with a mask on, could wipe them down with anti-viral wipes on the morning of the wedding.

The planning was not without its hiccups. In the weeks before our wedding, parts of Lancashire went into lockdown and on the Friday before our wedding, the Health Secretary announced that the Chorley area would go into lockdown on the Tuesday after our wedding. Then, on 22nd September, the Government announced that weddings would reduce to 15 people.

However, despite the challenges, we had the most wonderful day. It felt special and magical. The sun shone over us, and we were lucky to have friends and family who lived locally watch from outside the beautiful Church. There were many tears of relief on the day as we were so pleased to finally be married. We felt so lucky to have fitted everything in before the restrictions tightened again. We even managed to have a sunny honeymoon in Scotland!

It will definitely be a wedding to remember and the Vicar said it was the only wedding service he had conducted in 2020 and probably the only one for the rest of the year. We will proudly show future generations the pictures of guests in masks so they can see what a 2020 wedding was like. I saw a quote from Harry Potter, which felt quite apt for the situation...Ginny Weasley said, "Seems silly, doesn't it? A wedding. Given everything that's going on". Harry Potter responded, "Maybe that's the reason to have it. Because of everything that's going on".

We would also like to thank Father Andrew for conducting such a deeply moving service, Margaret and Malcolm Stewart for their help and support preparing for our wedding and all the kind volunteers who tidied the church yard and cleaned the church - we are so grateful to you all.

Alice Holt & Ross Cornish (Mr and Mrs Cornish)

We would like to dedicate the article to Ross's Grandad, Charlie Wheatley, who sadly passed away in May this year and to Alice's Grandma, Jean Stuart, who would have been 89 on the day of our wedding.



Retirement... What's that?

For Ann and myself it has certainly not meant "doing less" or "doing nothing". After our four happy years at Charnock Richard, we spent twenty-four years in Exeter, mainly because Ann's parents, getting on in years, lived in Lyme Regis, just over the border in Dorset, and were grateful for occasional help.

It was after this move that we were able to help out in the Diocese of Exeter, which maintains Anglican Chaplaincies all over Europe, doing "locum duties". We spent time in Spain, Madeira, France, the Netherlands, and, notably, in Florence and Venice, and I must not forget two spells in the extreme South of Ireland.

In every place, we were received with great kindness by the members of the congregations. Perhaps the most unusual of all these jobs was to cover two vacancies in the Anglican Church in St. Petersburg.

So, the years rolled by, until our four children decided that we had wandered enough and needed to be within their reach. We moved to our flat in Calgarth Park on the shores of Lake Windermere, run by the Lake District Housing Association, a charitable organisation. I help out our local clergy in Windermere and Troutbeck from time to time.

So, 2020, we feel very fortunate to have experienced so many friendships and to be so comfortable now. Looking back, our four years at Charnock Richard were among the very best and it has been our joy to receive copies of the Chronicle for the past 28 years and to watch your progress and that of this magazine, which is a great credit to all who produce it.

We keep you all daily in our prayers.

Geoffrey and Ann Moore

Memories of Christmas by Alf & Betty Stacey

Alf's memories are from 1930's and 1940's, he remembers stockings at the bottom of his bed, with an orange and a sixpence, and toys were downstairs. One year he was given a telephone, run by a big separate battery. This was wired up between his house and his grandmother's house, who lived two doors down the road, in the same row of terrace houses. They could then ring each other up. He thought this was such a novelty, no-one had telephones then. Later that Christmas, he received a call on his phone from Father Christmas, asking if he had enjoyed the present that he had sent him. This became the number one method of contacting Grandma.

Another memorable present from his godfather was a small wooden cabinet filled with chocolate pipes, cigarettes etc, certainly not something we would give children today.

Their Christmas tree was a small artificial one on a small wooden block, with branches like pipe cleaners that you pulled out. This was decorated with home-made decorations. He remembers making paper chains to hang in the living room. They had goose for dinner, always shared with his Grandmother and her family, and it was always 1.00pm sharp.

He says, the best Christmas present he remembers, was the birth of his sister Joan, just after Christmas, when he was 12. He was overjoyed to have a sister and thought the world of her. He still does, 77 years later!

Betty's memories of early Christmas's are a bit hazy, 1940's and 1950's. My Mum had TB and used to have to go into a sanitorium for months at a time. One Christmas, whilst Mum was in the sanitorium, which was miles away, we spent Christmas day at the home of my father's boss, we called this couple Aunty and Uncle Butcher, they were so kind to us. They placed two fairies on the top of the Christmas tree, so Jennifer and I could both have one. I remember one year we both had a doll's crib, one pink and the other blue. Toys and gifts were put in a pillowcase at the bottom of the bed, we couldn't wait to peep to see if Father Christmas had been.

I know we never had turkey at Christmas, probably had a large chicken, which was a big treat then. Later, I remember Dad making a coffee on Christmas morning and putting a shot of rum in, something I like to do now to remember him. We had paper decorations and balloons in our living room, each year they came out, looking a bit tired and tattered.

Alf and I have celebrated forty-two Christmas's together, all have been memorable, not least the last few years, when we have travelled down to Windsor to spend Christmas with Helen and Mark, Alf's daughter and son-in-law, who is a Canon at St. Georges Chapel in Windsor Castle. Celebrating Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the Chapel have been wonderful. Sadly, this year, this will not happen and we expect to have a quiet Christmas at home, hoping that one of my sons is able to join us.

Doris & George in Lockdown

Because of our ages, George and I had to stay in lockdown for eight weeks, David and family did our weekly shop. After a week of sitting in the garden, I decided to emulsion the hall and bathroom. George did his art work.

No visits to my hairdresser, I decided to give myself a home perm. Remembering in my teens, a Toni Home Perm my friends and I did, the outcome this time, after two hours of putting the rollers in, was not the outcome I expected, just a curl or two, but you have to try. I also found a large piece of cardboard and made a rainbow to put in my window.

We celebrated V.E. Day with a picnic lunch and a glass of wine, and we sang along to a Vera Lynn tape in our back garden.

We decorated our back kitchen, which left us both with a few aches and pains, it's the age thing with us.

George celebrated his 91st birthday, no family party or lunch out like his 90th (below), but he got many cards and presents. I made him a nice lunch and we opened a bottle of wine, not a bad day, apart from it rained all day, our car got a flat tyre, and a letter from the BBC about our television licence.

Now the restrictions have eased, we have had a ride to Lytham and a nice walk around the new promenade at Fairhaven lake, also a trip to Cleveleys and a walk along the seashore. We don't go in shops or cafes, we take a packed lunch and a flask of coffee. We also like to walk around Astley Park and Birkacre lodges, the beauty of autumn this year is wonderful, even amidst this sadness, nature is lovely.

We are both keeping well, George got a dodgy knee but is mixing his own liniment, olive oil and ginger root, but at the moment he is trying tiger balm which a friend recommended. It's a new knee he wants, but you have to try things.

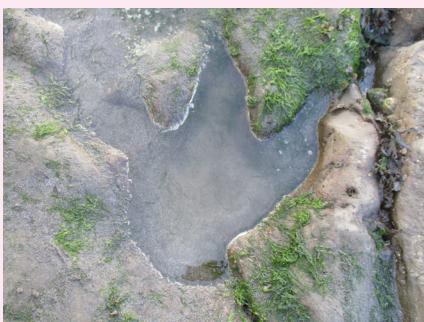
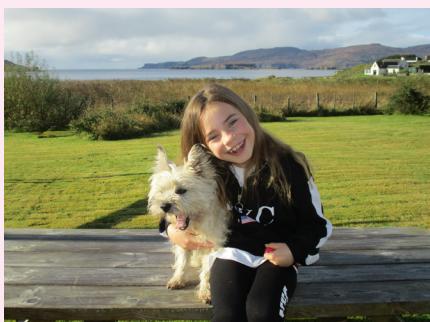
It has been a sad time for many families, losing loved ones and some of them our friends. So, we hope things will get better. God bless.



Scarlett's Holiday

For my holiday this year instead of packing up swimming costumes and shorts I had to take a water proof coat and my purple walking boots as I was going away in October to the Isle of Skye. It took around 8 hours to get there and as we were getting near to where we were going to stay, the houses were replaced with mountains and the people were replaced with sheep!

We went on a misty isle boat trip to Loch Coruisk, along with my dog Skye. We saw whales, dolphins and seals. In the mountains there was a fishermans cottage that you could stay at, but you could only get to it by boat. Daddy suggested mum could stay there for a few days but she did not want to! We also went to Staffin beach where I saw dinosaur footprints in the rocks! At night it was very very dark and there were lots of beautiful glittery shimmering shining stars in the sky. When we got back home there was soon another lockdown. *By Scarlett Ellison-Howarth, Age 9.*



MRS M'S VILLAGE PANTRY

Mrs M's Village Pantry officially opened on the 3rd January and what a year we chose for launching our new venture! We knew our main focus was always going to be to support our local community and so we started as we planned to go on! We asked the villagers what they would like us to sell before we opened and then stocked up on all of these items. This approach has stood us in good stead over the past 10 months. The way we see it is that the shop belongs to the village...we just run it.

We are a family of 5 and we moved into the village in July 2019. We lived in Coppull for most of our lives with a short stint living in Australia. When we got back to the UK we knew we wanted to open our own business as well as look for a family home to live in. And that's how we ended up here. A home and a business in one. I run the shop with everyone else in the family chipping in when needed when they're not at their own jobs.

As well as selling most everyday essentials, we also stock Greenhalgh's pies, bread and cakes, Butchers meat, Frederick's ice cream, free from foods, locally made gifts, products from a local florist and we are a stockist for a range of craft beers and gins from local breweries and distilleries. We try to buy local wherever possible. We also stock other useful items such as bags of kindling and wood, garden brooms, gloves and others.

We have added other services to our offering throughout the year as it became obvious from numerous requests that they were needed. We deliver everything we stock, including to those who are shielding or isolating. We deliver newspapers and magazines each morning. We have a great group of local teens doing the paper rounds, as well as myself and my husband James when he's not at work. We deliver through the village, and into Coppull, Euxton, Heskin, Eccleston, Chorley, Standish, Adlington and surrounds.

We have adapted our opening times to try and suit as many people as possible. We now open late most days, with a half day closing on Wednesdays. On the Wednesdays we offer a safe shop to those who are most vulnerable. This is a timed appointment, with the shop closed so there are no other customers. We serve takeaway breakfast sandwiches, freshly ground hot coffee and lunches. We also have a book swap as well which is proving popular.

Historically a village shop has always been the heart of the community and this is what we strive to be. A few customers who needed help and support during the first lockdown came to us and we made sure that the Parish Council had their details so they could offer their assistance. They checked on them, delivered food parcels and offered an ear to those who needed to chat. Living within a small village with people who care is definitely a must! If this year has taught us anything it's that we all have a great community spirit.

Now this year hasn't been an easy one! We've had more downs than ups. Starting a business is so hard for anyone, throw a pandemic into the mix and it definitely gives you a few extra sleepless nights! At times we have seriously considered closing the doors, but each time a customer tells us what a positive difference we've made to the village it makes us more determined not to give up! Like many other businesses this year, we are keeping our fingers crossed each day that we can survive these trying times. We're so grateful to each and everyone of our customers who have supported us since we opened. Some of the local businesses in the village have been amazing in their support as well.

Stay safe everyone, Love Mrs M



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Here are the deadlines for our contributors for the next few editions. Please email your contribution to margaretstewart@btconnect.com by the following dates:

**20th February 2021
20th May 2021**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our contributors, our sponsors and our distributors for all their support with the Chronicle, and a big thank you to Rachel Simm for agreeing to edit this and future editions.

Margaret Stewart: 01257 792692 / 795665

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Monday 7.00pm Scout and Guide HQ
Contact Kerry Houghton 01257 793423

CUBS

Thursdays 6.45pm Scout and Guide HQ
Contact Kerry Houghton 01257 793423

BEAVERS

Mondays 6.00pm Scout and Guide HQ
Contact Heather Clipston 07779 092004

GUIDES

Wednesday 7.00pm Scout and Guides HQ
Contact Carole Foster 07837 252266
Contact Rachel Simm 07787 445447

BROWNIES

Wednesday 6.30pm Old School 07725 973324
Contact Claire Wade 01257 793332

RAINBOWS

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ALMSHOUSES

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Contact Mrs M Stewart 01257 792536

The Alms House Chapel

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Contact Clerk Mrs M Stewart 01257 792536

WOMENS GROUP

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Contact Janet Bowen 01257 794064

CHURCHES

Church of England Christ Church Charnock Richard,
Church Lane
Priest: Fr. Andrew Brown 01257 452777
For details of Church Services and other activities see
the Church Noticeboard or contact the church wardens:

Mr Malcolm Stewart (Church Warden) 01257 792536
Mrs J Worthington (Church Warden) 01257 795665

CHRIST CHURCH LADIES

Fundraising and other activities for both Church
and community
Contact Mrs C Pilling 01257 794325
Mrs J Barlow 01257 793126

COFFEE MORNINGS

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Scout and Guide Headquarters
Contact Mrs C Pilling 01257 794325
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PRE-SCHOOL

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm in the Old School
Contact Mrs. Bev Hughes 07944 217699

CRAFT CLUB

Mrs A Sutton 01257 792464
Mrs B Willis 01257 793494

MOTO-X CLUB

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RAMBLING CLUB

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Secretary Mrs S Carr 01257 369166

PARISH COUNCIL: Your local voice.

Information from all enquiries to the Parish Clerk:

Mrs. Carolyn Cross. 43 Kingsmead, Chorley. PR7 3JY
carolyn.parishcouncil@googlemail.com 01257 265067
Councillor Allan Shaw Chairman 01257 792466
Councillor Ann Bishop Vice Chair 01257 793009
Councillor George Brennand 01257 791233
Councillor Les Cheetham 01257 792451
Councillor Alan Cornwell 07850 884041
Councillor Harold Heaton 01257 791312
Councillor Jim Hill 01257 277832
Councillor Janet Ogden 01257 791854
Councillor Chris Pilling 01257 794325
Councillor Ellen Walmsley 07756 355376
Councillor Lucy Watson 07703 429570
Councillor Cheryl Jackson 07894 966145
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with the subject title "Contact List Update"**