

## Sunday Worship

8.00am.	Holy Communion	1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
10.30am.	All Age Worship	1st Sunday
	Mattins	2nd Sunday
	Parish Communion	3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
4.00pm	Holy Communion	2nd Sunday
6.30pm	Evensong Arley Chapel	3rd Sunday

### Week-day and other activities

Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday in month at 10.30am  
Celtic Evening prayer 1st Thursday in month 7.00pm in the Lady chapel

Vicar:	The Revd. Alec Brown, The Vicarage, Great Budworth	Tel: 01606 891324
Associate Minister:	The Revd Christina Westwell 42, Runcorn Road Barnton	01606 782743
Churchwarden:	Mrs Pauline Ridgway, 16, Pickmere Lane Wincham	01565 733494
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P.C.C. Hon. Secretary:	Miss Bev Harding, 11, Thistle Close, Pickmere	01565 734880
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Parish Website:	<a href="http://www.greatbudworthchurch.co.uk">www.greatbudworthchurch.co.uk</a>	

# The Parish Magazine of

Price £1.00p

November 2024



## St Mary & All Saints Great Budworth

Serving Arley, Aston-by-Budworth, Comberbach, Crowley, Great Budworth,  
Lower Wincham, Marbury, Marston, and Pickmere.

## November

Sunday 3rd 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

10.30am All Age Worship for All Saints

4.00pm **Commemoration of The Faithful Departed \***

**\*If you wish a loved one to be remembered at the service, please include their name on the list in church or phone Margaret 07732324001 or Pauline 01565 733494 to add their name.**

Wed 6th 10.30am Holy Communion Common Worship followed by coffee

Thur 7th 7.00pm Celtic Evening Prayer

7.40pm Bell ringing tbc

Sunday 10th 10.30am Remembrance Sunday – service during which the names from the war memorial are read out and the poppy wreath laid in the Lych gate.

12.00pm Wakes Lunch in Parish Hall

4.00pm Holy Communion Common Worship

Wed 13th 10.30am Craft and Natter in the Old School

Thur 14th 1.30pm Play and Praise in church

Sunday 17th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

10.30am Parish Communion Common Worship

6.30pm Evening Prayer at Arley Chapel BCP

Sunday 24th 10.30am Parish Communion Common Worship

2.30pm Forest Church – venue tbc

Wed 27th 10.30am Craft and Natter in the Old School

Thur 28th 1.30pm Play and Praise in church

## December

Sunday 1st 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

10.30am All Age Worship Toy Service

Wed 4th 10.30am Holy Communion Common Worship followed by coffee

2.00pm Christmas Wreath Workshop with Maggie Earl, in church.

## Rota for Readers, Intercessors & Eucharistic Ministers November 2024 Year B

F I R S T  S U N	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> November All Saints Day</b>  <b>The 4<sup>th</sup> Before Advent. (Gold or White)</b>  <b>8.00am HC</b>                      Isa. 25. 6 – 9 LL731 SL652                      Rev. 21. 1 – 6a LL732 SL653                      John 11. 32 – 44 LL733 SL 654</p> <p><b>10.30am All Age worship</b>  <b>Special Service Sheet</b></p>	<p><b>4.00pm Commemoration of The Faithful Departed</b>   <b>Special Service Sheet</b></p>
S E C O N D  S U N	<p><b>10<sup>th</sup> November The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent</b>  <b>Remembrance Sunday (Red)</b>   <b>10.30 am</b>  <b>Special Service Sheet</b></p>	<p><b>4.00pm H.C. CW</b>                       Jonah 3.1–5, 10 LL739 SL659                      Heb. 9. 24 – end LL740 SL661                      Mark 1.14 – 20 LL741 SL661</p>
T H I R D  S U N	<p><b>17<sup>th</sup> November The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before</b>  <b>Advent. (Red)</b>  <b>8.00am HC BCP 10.30am HC CW</b>                       Dan.12.1 – 3 LL745 SL665 S Evans                      Heb.10 11-14,19-25 LL747 SL666 S Gray                      Mark 13. 1 – 8 LL747 SL667                      INT Vicar                      EM S Ollier</p>	<p><b>6.30pm EP BCP Arley Hall Chapel</b>                       Ps. 95 P.535                      Dan.13 – end Lord Ashbrook                      Matt.13.24-30,36-43 Officiant</p>
F O U R T H  S U N	<p><b>24<sup>th</sup> November Christ the King (White)</b>  <b>10.30am HC CW</b>                       Dan.7.9-10,13-14 LL751 SL670 M Cross                      Rev.1.4b-8 LL752 SL671 C Rees                      John 18.33-37 LL753 SL671                      INT K.Hammond                      EM S Evans</p>	<p><b>No Evening Service</b></p>

*Articles for December edition send to Rob Cross:*

*robross43@gmail.com by **22<sup>nd</sup> November** please*

## Sides persons' Rota – November 2024

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Trinity 23 - Kingdom 1 - 4 before Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Pat Hart
10.30am	All Age Worship All Saints	Anne O'May Rebecca Brierley
4.00pm	Service of Commemoration For the Faithful Departed	Robert Cross Shirley Humphreys

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Trinity 24- Kingdom 2 – 3 before Advent

10.30am	Remembrance Sunday	Geoff Taylor Hazel Taylor
6.30pm	Holy Communion CW	Shirley Humphreys

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Trinity 25–Kingdom 3 – 2 before Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Robert Steele Marian Steele
10.30am	Parish Communion CW	Robert Cross Anne O'May
6.30pm	Evening Prayer BCP at Arley	xxxxxxxxxx

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Christ The King - Next before Advent

10.30am	Parish Communion & Baptism	Maggie Earl Robert Cross
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### December

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – ADVENT 1

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Pat Hart
10.30am	All Age Worship Toy Service	Anne O'May Rebecca Brierley

Margaret Cross – 07732324001  
Pauline Ridgway – 01565 733494

### From the Vicar

At the beginning of last month, on National Poetry Day, I attended a workshop which was held in The Old School in the Churchyard and lead by Chester Cathedral's Poet-in-Residence Julia McGuinness. There were about 15 of us present, from across the Diocese, and the theme of the workshop was "Making words count" and we were all encouraged to wander around the Churchyard, Church and Quiet Garden and to look carefully at and think about the things we saw, and then to see if we could write about them in new and different ways. I ended up writing a poem from the perspective of one of the many former upright or "table top" headstones which were laid flat in the 1960s to form part of the new Churchyard paths' scheme.

Thinking about the coming month though and the various celebrations and services, including of course All Saints and All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, our Poetry Day theme seems very appropriate and relevant – making words count. November's festivals and services are amongst the most important in both Church and national calendars – from the simple yet incredibly poignant and powerful reading of names at both All Souls and Remembrance, to the short sentences and phrases on Remembrance Sunday with which we're all so familiar, and which mean so much – "They shall grow not old.....At the going down of the sun.....we will remember them."

And as for the poetry, the opening lines of poems such as John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" say so very much and are incredibly evocative: "In Flanders fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses, row on row....." One of my favourite poets is Edward Thomas, who was killed on the opening day of the Battle of Arras in April, 1917 and whose poem "Roads" (written in 1916) contains this beautifully poignant verse:

"Now all roads lead to France

And heavy is the tread

Of the living; but the dead

Returning lightly dance:"

*Continued over*

Making words count is of course an ongoing task/responsibility for all of us and not just aspiring poets. We know how important our words can be, for good or for ill, and the Bible has quite a lot to say, in different ways, on this subject.

Remembering and giving thanks for the sacrifice of so many people during past conflicts, as well as our own departed loved ones, is so important for all of us, and November affords us numerous opportunities to do this together as a worshipping community (as well as individually of course) and I look forward to welcoming everyone to the Church over the coming weeks.

May God bless us all in this coming month.

The Revd Alec Brown

Vicar.

### From the Registers

**Baptism** – welcome to Emelia and Arthur Dentith who were baptised on 13<sup>th</sup> October, and Lucas Gildea and Zelena Acton-Johnson who were baptised on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Marriage** – congratulations to Hattie Dufton and Chris O’Halloran who were married on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**Funerals** – rest in peace Edwina and Bryan Simpson, Doris Shepherd, Winifred Percival and Elaine Lomas whose cremated remains were interred in the Churchyard on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October respectively.

### Craft and Natter

At our meeting on November (13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>) we have decided to try our hands at different Christmas crafts. We hope to make/ paint Christmas baubles, make stars/crosses using beads and the usual knitted and sewn crafts. Do come and join us if you can. New people and ideas are always welcome. All meetings are held in the school Room /Reading room 10.30am to 12.30pm.

We’ll not be meeting in December, as everybody will be busy elsewhere, but we will be back in January

We are available by phone or email if you want to talk to us. We can offer a chat or prayer or both. If you have Facebook, have a look at the church page, @greatbudworthchurch where Christina posts prayers and reflections

We keep you all in our prayers. Stay well.

**The Rev Alec Brown (Vicar)** 01606 891324  
[alecGbrown@gmail.com](mailto:alecGbrown@gmail.com) don’t forget the “G”

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**Mrs Pauline Ridgway (Churchwarden)** 01565 733494  
[pauline\\_ridgway@hotmail.com](mailto:pauline_ridgway@hotmail.com)

All phone calls etc. will be treated with confidence, but may need to be shared with somebody else on the team.

If you don’t wish this to happen, please let the person you speak to know at the time of first contact.

St. Mary And All Saints

Church Teas 2024

On behalf of Rev Alec Brown and the PCC, we want to thank everybody who volunteered for church teas in 2024, in whatever capacity; from hosts, to bakers, washer uppers, cake servers, tea brewers, table clearers and musical entertainer (Nat). You helped to raise an incredible £5800 before costs.

A huge thank you also to all our visitors who came along to partake of the tea and cake, it wouldn't be worth doing it without your support. A special thanks to those who came every weekend through the season! What a variety of cakes they have experienced over the season.

A brilliant result.

Margaret and Maggie.



Coffee & caramel



Rhubarb and ginger



chocolate fudge cake

And many, many more!

## Remembrance Sunday



'Lest we forget'

**November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**10.30am**

**In church and at the  
War Memorial (Lych Gate)**

**Please join us for this special service.**



## Wakes Lunch

**November 10<sup>th</sup> – 12 noon**

**In the Parish Hall**

**Hot pot and apple pie**

**Book in with Shirley Humphreys**

**01606 891204 – Tickets £15**



## Great Budworth C of E Aided School News



As the first half of our Autumn term comes to an end and we have so much to be thankful for. Psalm 136:1 says: **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.**

We had our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools) inspection which we were delighted with the results that reflect the hard work & dedication of our staff, families and Friends of the School (FOTS). Below are two strengths of the school highlighted in the report.

### **The Biblically rooted Christian Vision is driven by solid Christian leadership. As a result, pupils and adults are empowered to flourish in a welcoming, inclusive and loving Christian environment**

**The nurturing Christian environment fosters a culture where pupils and adults feel secure, valued, and trusted, enabling them to thrive.**

Our open morning on the 16<sup>th</sup> October was a wonderful gathering, where we welcomed many new families to view our little school. We are grateful to Helen Gill from Northwich Hedgehog Rescue for bringing three baby Hedgehogs for our children & visiting families to meet.

The next Open morning is on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 9am until 12noon** which will be Christmas themed with some circus skills fun included. If you know anyone looking for a nursery or school place, either full time or as part of our new Flexi school option for home educators & children who struggle in larger schools, then please let them know. At Great Budworth, we believe every day is an Open Day, just contact the office to arrange an individual visit as well.

Our MacMillan afternoon tea raised £135 and was lots of fun. The children entertained

## God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### Should We Have Faith in Science?

How do you feel about science after all the grief of the recent pandemic? Are you tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID-19 over the past few years has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made compulsory? The data doesn't tell us what to do.

So, when we are encouraged to 'trust the science' in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in our response to climate change, how can the Church respond? The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other's work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can't prove anything scientifically because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it's not science. Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy.

Psalm 8 reminds us both of the splendour of God's creation, and that He has placed us in a position of responsibility over it. Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. The more we learn, the better we can usually see what's going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So, in answer to the question 'Should we have faith in science?' I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.

Mary is clothed in shades of blue, her traditional colour, and holds a lily, a symbol of her purity and calling to bear the Christ Child. The lily is usually found in paintings of the Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel tells her that she will bear the Saviour. Mary's expression is serene, apprehensive and thoughtful. Both figures look directly at the observer; their message and its promise is for each one of us.

Directly above Mary is a dove, the symbol of both the divine presence and the deliverer of peace for the troubled soul. At the top of the picture, the heavens are represented by stars, a fitting background for Mary who has been known since the Middle Ages as the "Queen of Heaven."

Angels are portrayed on each side, worshipping and praising. Each has a different arm and hand gesture representing prayer (hands making a steeple), praise (arms raised), acceptance (arms lowered) and reverence (arms crossed).

It is interesting to note that the surrounding glass creates an oval of curving lines around Mary and Jesus. This is typical of Fourmain-treaux' work where his central subject is framed by the glass.

The other windows in the chapel should not be forgotten, as they provide the frame or environment for the main window.

The Lady Chapel window is really very powerful and worthy of careful study as it is full of symbols, but its overwhelming strength is the majesty and glory it represents.

Robert Steele

our guests with their favourite poems and some they had written themselves to celebrate National Poetry Week.

We welcomed the community to our Harvest Service & thanked everyone for their contributions to the local food bank. It is so lovely to be part of a rural, farming community and experience first-hand the bounty of harvest; to be able to see the beginning of ploughing and planting, right through to harvesting the crop. Our Harvest service saw our older children reflect upon the Parable of the Sower and we were entertained by the younger children with their rendition of Bean Harvest – one of their favourite songs amongst lots of other harvest songs. It was lovely to welcome our families as well as some of the village residents too.

The children also enjoyed our Autumn Lights Trail, a new event organised by FOTS, which turned our school field and garden into a magical wonderland and was a wonderful experience for all.

The second half of Autumn term sees us planning for our many Christmas activities and some exciting fundraising events: Children in Need, Christmas Jumper Day and our annual Elf Dash.

We will be starting a series of collective worships based on the fruits of the Spirit. Paul's letter to the people of Galatia says: <sup>22</sup> **By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.** Galatians 5:22-23. We shall be considering each of these 'fruits and how we can use them to enhance our lives and the lives of others.

Our Christmas Fair is on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 11am-3pm so come along and see all the lovely stalls by local crafters and get a head start on your Christmas shopping. We are also having wreath making workshops on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November – 10am until 1pm & 2pm-5pm. Tickets cost £30 & includes all wreath making equipment, festive snacks and mulled wine. To book a place please contact Emma on 07739468472.

This will really get us in the festive spirit and we look forward to letting you know about our December activities next month.



ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH



**Christmas Wreath  
Workshop in church**

**With**

**Maggie Earl**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**2.00pm – 4.00pm**

**Mulled wine, mince pies**

**Tea and coffee**

**£45/person**

**Book in with Margaret 07732324001**

**Maggie 07970927161**

The Lady Chapel stained glass window of Mary and the Christ Child is one of those “marmite” experiences: the viewer either loves it or hates it.

I often sit opposite it at the 8 o’clock communion service on Sundays and have observed it through the seasons and watched its colours change as the back lighting changes, and with it the mood from dark and sombre to bright, vibrant and dynamic. Careful study shows it to be a very thoughtful and powerful piece of art.

First, a little of its history: it was put in place during the 1960’s church restoration, inspired and funded by John L. Snyder who was a wonderful benefactor of the church. It was made by the Whitefriars Glass Company, the leading manufacturer at the time (look for their hooded friar figure in the bottom righthand corner of the window). It was designed by Pierre Fourmaitreaux, their chief designer, a Frenchman who had moved to England. Fourmaitreaux identified his work by adding PF by the hooded friar emblem.

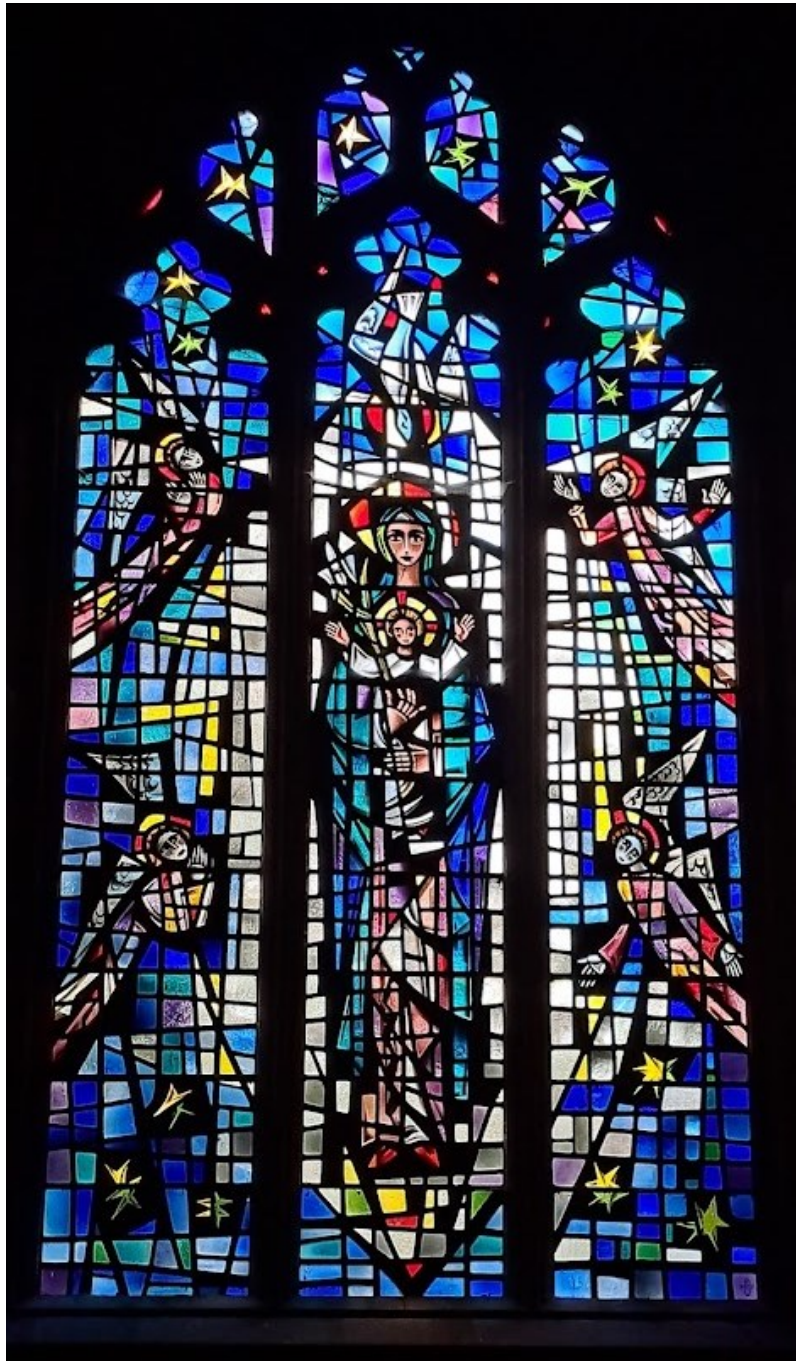
In 1965 this piece of expressionist art was fitted in the church and shortly afterwards that phase of restoration ended because Mr. Snyder died, and the funding stopped.

The window represents Mary and the baby Jesus. As the art critic, Waldemar Januszczak has pointed out, this is an extremely common topic in religious art, but rarely “pulled off.” Mary is easy to paint, but how do you represent a babe in arms who is also a member of the eternal Trinity and Saviour of the world? Few artists succeed in achieving this, but I believe that Fourmaitreaux does. The Christ Child spreads his arms to embrace and bless the world. His face remains childlike but serene, wise and determined. His head is framed by a halo which is backed by a cross, a sombre reminder of what was to come.

*Continued over*



# The Lady Chapel Window



**St Mary & All Saints**

**Invite you to a**

**Festive**

**Cheese and wine**

**In church**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**7.30pm – 10.00pm**

**Raffle**

**Tickets £20 / person**

**Available from Margaret 07732324001**  
**Maggie 07970927161**  
**Pauline 01565 733494**

**Raising funds for the day to day running of the church**

## Paul Gerrards Farming Diary

Hello from Gerrard Farming HQ

Well we thought last autumn was wet and a struggle to plant the next years crops and couldn't be any worse, how wrong we were September turned out to be a wash out accumulating over 5 inches of rain. Not only this it was cold and not much sunshine which didn't help the

beans or the maize to ripen.



Mum and Dad jetted off on a holiday in September for ten days celebrating a ruby anniversary. Not sure who deserves the medal more. Jokes aside, congratulations.

It was still all systems go at HQ as we battled the damp conditions and combined the beans which we finished on 3rd October, probably the latest we have ever done. The yields were exceptional even with the wind damage I mentioned last time, unfortunately though with the wet conditions we have struggled to get the dry matter content good enough to store and be preserved . We have had to dry them with another machine a bit like a central heating boiler that jets hot air in to them whist turning and mixing them, a very very costly exercise. It was quite amusing when dad phoned to see how we were getting on, you could almost hear his deep gulp when I said I had been on his beloved combine. Since the 1st of September the maternity ward has been busy, we have had over 50 new arrivals. Currently I am sat with a celebrity beer knowing we have just completed the maize harvest thanks to all the team and contractors that make it happen.

Till next time.

**Third, don't succumb to conspiratorial thinking.** Full Fact reports that an incorrect name for the suspect in the Southport killings spread rapidly online, alongside false claims he had recently come to the UK on a small boat, or was Syrian. These claims were quickly rebutted by Merseyside Police. But nevertheless, unrest broke out in Southport, with the police reportedly saying people behind the violence had been fired up by social media posts.

As seekers after truth, Christians should be looking for evidence and robust investigations rather than fabricated ideas that intrigue us.

**Fourth, support independent journalism.** News organisations are under pressure from free material offered on the internet from unreliable sources. If independent journalism is to survive, readers are likely to have to pay an increasing price to support media outlets. The cover price of a newspaper, or an online subscription, can help ensure professional journalism survives. Journalists launching community publications to serve their local areas should be supported by churches.

**Fifth, take a stand against disinformation.** US academic Dr Lee McIntyre writes: "The issue for me is not to learn how to adjust to living in a world in which facts do not matter, but instead to stand up for the notion of truth and learn how to fight back."

In an era of post-truth, Christians are called to challenge every attempt to obfuscate a fact and challenge falsehoods before they are accepted as true. How you take action will depend on your circumstances, and where you see the truth being undermined.

It could be in your place of work or education, in the media that you consume, or in the social media posts that your friends are circulating. Small actions taken in churches, workplaces or friendship groups can have a ripple effect in drawing people back to the truth.

Post-truth, fake news, and disinformation together pose a serious threat to societies around the world. Citizens can feel powerless in the face of their demoralising and demotivating effects. But Christians can play their part in seeking to bring truth and integrity back into the centre of public life.

A final thought. Don't be afraid to take a step back from social media, if you find the relentless torrent of news and opinion impacting your wellbeing. For the sake of your mental health, take regular breaks away from your screen...and invest that time in prayer.

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler is a former communications director with the Church of England, and author of *'Responding to Post-truth'* (Grove Books).

### How can Christians fight back against disinformation?

Disinformation and fake news have helped fuel the recent riots and disorder taking place across parts of the UK. It's just the latest example of how social media can impact all of our lives.

Media campaigning charity [Full Fact](#) declared "The disorder we've seen, triggered at least in part by false claims circulating on social media, is an awful reminder of what can happen when online misinformation spills into the real world."

But how can Christians fight back against the tide of disinformation and fake news sweeping across the internet, and arriving at the smartphone in your hand? It's easy to feel powerless against the pervasive impact of social media, the algorithms of big tech serving up information that confirms inbuilt biases, or the 'influencers' seeking to use social media to wind up their followers. Elon Musk, the owner of X/Twitter is among those accused of stoking the fires of division in the UK.

But each of us has a voice within our own circle of friends, family, colleagues, and worshippers at our church, so here are some simple steps:

**First, don't share without thinking.** It's easy simply to share on social media or tell a friend something that you have just read online or in print. But take a few minutes to think over what you have just read or heard. Slow down your response...

Ask yourself: is this from a reliable news source? Can I check this information on another media platform? Slowing down our responses makes it much less likely that we will share fake news or spread disinformation. If in doubt, then don't spread the story — even if you would like it to be true, because of your worldview.

**Second, burst your bubble.** Journalist James Ball writes: "Knowing what people we disagree with actually say and think — rather than the straw men and caricatures we create in our heads — helps us bridge gaps and makes it harder to demonize people whose politics are different from our own."

In social media, this means being willing to follow people or organisations with which you disagree, and being ready to engage with what they are saying. It may be uncomfortable, and it may not change your point of view, but you will understand better the views that they are expressing — and maybe sharpen your own.

Otherwise, you just see opinions that echo your own, and are never challenged about your viewpoint. The algorithms will keep serving you up posts that you like...

### A flattened headstone's view

I don't think I was ever asked if I wanted to be laid flat,

I may have been but now, half a century or more later,

I simply don't recall. At least I wasn't moved too far from those

I bear witness to, as some of my friends were,

and I haven't been too badly damaged over the years,

so am still able to tell the story of those

whose bodies once lay beneath me;

But what do I feel as so many pairs of feet, and sometimes paws,

walk over me, in all weathers, and occasionally stabbing me

with their pointed walking sticks,

and don't mention mowers and other machines!

What do I feel? Just occasionally someone stops and stands in silence

as they read the words inscribed on me, and then I feel happy

that now they know something of those I commemorate, and love.

© The Revd Alec Brown

Great Budworth Churchyard, Great Budworth, Cheshire

3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024.

## Sleep out – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

At 10.30pm, all eleven of us went out through the South Porch to set up our camp for the night. Anne O'May and Maddie, Guide leaders, with four guides, Martha, Linnea, Chala and Alex, set up in the alcove by the South Porch, whilst the rest of us, Alec, Karen, Margaret, Sarah and Katy set up under the window of the Arley Chapel. When I say set up, I mean a ground sheet, cardboard and a sleeping bag, plus a sheet ready to cover up if it rained.

We all settled into our sleeping bags around 11pm. The night was dark, but warm, with a slight wind blowing; no stars, moon, Northern Lights or comets visible, but it still felt special to be out there. Forty-five minutes later, the first spits of rain were felt, we ignored it at first, the wind picked up, and then the rain became a little heavier, so we got out our cover sheets and tried to hide under them. The wind got stronger and kept blowing the sheets off



Alec setting up his bed

till we tucked them under us. At some point the wind stopped,

but the rain

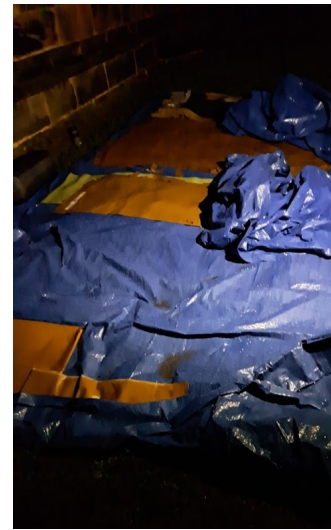


The Guide Camp

got heavier, the noise of the rain on the cover sheet was quite noisy! At 3am, with streams of water running down the ground sheets under us, turning our cardboard to pulp, we decided it wasn't sensible to stay out any longer. Our cloths were wet, but luckily it was still warm, so I don't think we realized how wet we were till we decamped into



From left to right: Karen (snuggled down), Margaret, Sarah, Katy.



The sodden camp when we left it at 3am

church. We all found a space and spent the rest of the time trying to keep warm, as we no longer had any dry blankets/sleeping bags to cover us.

The Guides had had a bit more sense than us older ones, and gone in a bit earlier, so their sleeping bags were a little more useable, but still damp; they all slept down the middle aisle. Tea and toast were on the menu at 6.00am and at 7.00am we packed all our wet belongings and headed home.



The morning after the night before! Karen had gone home before we took the photo.

**A huge thank you to all who took part in the sleepout, and another huge thank you to our sponsors. It will take time to gather it all in, but with an estimate, we think we have raised over £1000. Thank you Alec, Margaret and the sleepout team.**



The 'Holey' Crumpet at 6.30am!