

Len Griffin
Treasurer of St Bertolines's PCC
8 Dart Close
Alsager
Stoke on Trent
ST7 2HY

16th January 2019

Dear Len

Thank you for the generous donation of £450 we received from St Bertoline's this week. This is a wonderful gift and a blessing and encouragement to our work – we are very grateful to you! Here is a brief update on our work:

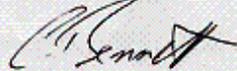
St Paul's Pantry is completing its 5th year of supporting people who are experiencing food poverty, some of whom are in employment. This is achieved through the people of Crewe generously donating food to St Paul's Pantry via the 31 local churches, 13 businesses, 16 schools and 2 NHS departments. In 2018 we received 601 agency referrals and fed 1,497 people, equating to 13,473 meals. The youngest person in a family to be in receipt of a crisis food parcel was 7 days old.

In addition to the work of the foodbank we supported a further 455 individuals with crisis furniture in 2018 as a result of 209 agency referrals. Our weekly Friday sale provides a further opportunity for those on low income to find affordable furniture and household items such as bedding and cooking utensils. Our cycle workshop helps many local residents to purchase an affordable means of transport to their place of work. Every year, as well as recycling and re-using donated cycles, the workshop gives a young person the opportunity to enter employment and learn a new skill alongside a trained member of staff and volunteers. Our fifth young such person has just started with us.

Our work with supported adults continues to develop and grow and we now support 13 young adults with learning difficulties who, as a result of their time here, are learning new skills and are growing in confidence and independence in preparation for later life. They each contribute to the work of the charity and feel valued in their role. To help with the task of teaching independent living skills we are currently in the process of creating a purpose built Independence Room, which is eagerly awaited by all.

Thank you again for supporting us in this work. Please pass on our thanks and best wishes to all at St Bertoline's.

With kind regards



Caroline Bennett
Finance Coordinator

St Bertoline's –Why we're here.

That the community we serve may know that St Bertoline's is here to profess the faith, to celebrate it in worship and prayer, and to share it in fellowship, so that we may say, "We would see Jesus".

The Rectory Barthomley February 15th 2019

My dear Friends,

The following announcement was made to the Parochial Church Council on January 16th and repeated at the Service on Sunday 20th:

'As you may know the Licence as Priest-in-charge of Barthomley has to be renewed annually from the time the holder of the Licence reaches 75 years old. This process has been followed for the last nine years, with the agreement of the Bishop, Churchwardens (and PCC since 2018) and myself.

The Bishop and I, together with Angela, have agreed that the time has come for us to retire while we still have the energy to move and enjoy retirement, and before the Bishop himself retires.

My present Licence will expire on July 20th, my 84th birthday, and Angela will have just passed her 75th. This means that our last Sunday here will be on July 14th. The July meeting of the PCC will be held on July 10th, and the Strawberry Tea in the Rectory Garden for St Luke's Hospice will be on Sunday 23rd June.

After much searching the Church of England Pension Board's retirement housing arm, CHARM, have acquired a bungalow in Sandbach Heath for us to retire to in July/August.'

Meanwhile, March is focussed on Lent. Last year we had a very good series of house meetings at the Rectory, using the first part of the Pilgrim Course. This year we shall move on to part two, "The Lord's Prayer". As last year we shall meet on Thursday afternoons at the Rectory beginning at 2pm, and away by 4pm. The first meeting is on Thursday 7th March, then each Thursday, same time, same place. The final session is on April 11th. Do tell me if you would like to join us.

Angela and I send our best wishes to you all.

Darrel Speedy



**WI 5th March
FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD
Kath Reynolds**



Hostesses: C Belton, E Williams, L Cliff
Flowers: S Bailey.
Vote of Thanks: J Walker.
Competition: "An Apron"

"What an industrious meeting we had in February. Rather than spending the evening listening to a speaker our members produced over 30 hand made necklaces!

It all began when one of our committee members bought a necklace. It was so admired by everyone that she set about finding exactly how it was made. At that point the concept of organising a workshop was born. Everyone made one, it was a lovely Evening, we all helped each other and we had a good chat at the same time.

Later this month we will be entering a preliminary round of the Cheshire Quiz. It's always an interesting evening - some might say challenging for us but we do have a good sense of humour.

Our dates for March are as follows:

All are free but donations welcome.
Wednesday 20th March 12.00-2.00 Lent Soup and Study

Sunday 24th March at 2.30pm Heritage/Cottage service in the cottage.

Wednesday 27th March 12.00-2.00 Lent Soup and Study

Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum of Primitive Methodism

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Mad as a March Hare

Despite the reduction in their numbers one of the most delightful signs of spring remains the sight of hares leaping in the air, apparently engaged in a boxing match. Once seen it is obvious why "Mad as a March hare" is an expression the British have used for 600 years. The European hare, *Lepus europaeus*, is taking part in a mating ritual of sorts. It is usually the female landing the blows, fending off over amorous males



ELECTORAL ROLL

Just a reminder that Sunday March 10th is the last day to hand in Electoral Roll application forms, and that this is a new Electoral Roll – all have to complete a form. Such forms are available in Church for baptised residents of the parish and worshipping members of the congregation from outside the parish. DCS

ALL SAINTS', BALTERLEY

On Wednesday March 13th at 7.30pm there will be a meeting, open to all, for us to voice our thoughts on the future of All Saints' Church. The meeting will be chaired by the Venerable Ian Bishop, the Archdeacon of Macclesfield.