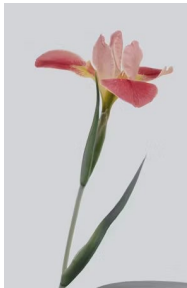
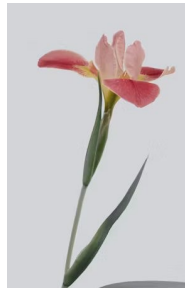


## MARGARET CLARKE

Margaret (Peggy) Clark lived at the Rowans, Balterley and was rapidly approaching her 100th Birthday, to be celebrated this August. Sadly Margaret died in May, following a short illness. Her funeral was on Wednesday 17th June at Crewe Crematorium. Margaret was a kind, caring, independent lady who was able to stay in her own home almost to the end. She was always positive and never complained. She had a wonderful carer, Carol, and excellent neighbours, especially Mary Hamman and Geoff Fox. Her telephone was her salvation keeping her in touch with her many friends. Margaret kept Balterley Church going until its inevitable closure. She delivered the Parish News locally and is remembered for keeping the Church Missionary Box collection going. When Oliver Horrocks had his sabbatical in America Frank and Abbie Thorburn came from South Dakota to take his place and Margaret did so much to make them feel welcome in the Parish. When her husband Stanley died Margaret planted a magnolia tree in his memory, this tree flourishes and gives pleasure to visitors to Barthomley Church and Village Hall each spring. Rest in peace, you will be sadly missed.



“A pillar of the community” describes a highly respected, reliable and active member of the neighbourhood who helps to provide support and continuity.



## Church Newsletter

The decision to reduce the number of editions has caused some difficulties for us. We would appreciate your feedback. Just to remind everyone that the decision was made due to issues regarding distribution and content input. In future the funding of printing through sponsorship will impact on our ability to continue its production. Production costs continue to rise despite efforts to keep the costs down.

## From The Rectory

The Summer months of July and August tend to bring a break for many people as the old song puts it “no more worries for a week or two.” Some people who do not have children at home often take a holiday at other times of the year – for those with children the end of term allows holidays to begin. Some people go abroad, some travel to various parts of the British Isles, others are happy to undertake DIY around the home and garden – doing things which perhaps have been put off for months.

Rest from the busyness of life is a Biblical principle established by God. In the Book of Genesis after creating the heavens and the earth God rested on the seventh day. This is where the word “Sabbath” comes from, a day of rest, usually on a Sunday. Jesus recognised the importance of rest from the busyness of life – he often got into a boat and crossed to the other side of Lake Galilee to “escape” from the crowds. At other times he would go up a mountainside. This reminds us that as well as being Son of God, Jesus was also human, he struggled with tiredness and a heavy workload and need time to recover. Unfortunately, because of increased working commitments, Sunday trading, Sunday sport and so on, many do not have the opportunity for a day of rest from their busy routine and often suffer the consequences of this, such as an increase in stress related illnesses and a breakdown in family relationships – which is why a summer break is important. Jesus took time out to renew himself – often he also took his disciples with him knowing their need also for a break. Taking a rest or time out restores them. So likewise with ourselves we all need a break or time out – using it wisely as best suits us. Whether it be a holiday abroad or travelling here or simply being at home it is “much needed” to “recharge your batteries” both emotionally and physically. Some words of a hymn come to mind :-

O Sabbath rest by Galilee  
O calm of hills above  
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
The silence of eternity  
Interpreted by love  
Interpreted by love

Please do enjoy this time of the year and make room  
for Rest, Refreshment and Renewal,  
for times of Quiet and Peace.

Every Blessing  
Peter

### NEW CHURCH WARDEN

I would like to introduce myself to anyone who doesn't know me. My name is Lucy Burgess. I am the new church warden and have taken over from Chris Bailey who is taking a well-earned rest. I shall still need to defer to Chris from time to time as she has a wealth of knowledge. I thank Chris for her guidance, support and kindness. Also, her service to the church and community. These are huge shoes to step into. Wish me luck!

I have lived in Balterley since 1981 when I married John. This was when the Rev'd Oliver Horrocks was the Rector. Oliver was a regular visitor to my late Father-in-Law Tom Burgess. They would sit and talk, drink sherry and generally enjoy themselves before falling asleep by the fire much to our amusement. Tom would tell tales of his days as a schoolboy at Barthomley, with his brothers and sister. It was very entertaining to say the least. When Tom's eyesight became impaired in 1987, he asked me to take over the delivery of the Barthomley Church Newsletter. Which I have done until very recently.

Since living here, I have seen many significant changes in Balterley, Barthomley and the surrounding area. Barthomley Church in greater part remains the same, an anchor in an ever-changing world. However, it's the congregation & parishioner's that make it work.

Since the loss of my husband in 2021, I have become more involved in church life. I have been a member of the PCC for a couple of years. Finding community and fellowship within the church.

I am a mother and grandmother, a semi-retired farmer (if there is such a thing!). An enthusiastic walker & enjoy regular exercise.

I look forward to serving the church in my new role. Please be assured of a warm welcome to Barthomley church.

My contact number is 07342 775818 or you can email me on johnlucy2016@hotmail.com should you need assistance; I will do my best to help.

### THANKS

The church building is an important landmark in the village; I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Community Payback Team for tending the churchyard and keeping it looking tidy and cared for. Also, thanks to Marie Oulton for keeping the Church clean and tidy.

In addition to these people, we have a small army of parishioners and congregation members who support the Rev'd Peter to keep the church running smoothly, the severs, Jackie and Simeon, Jackie Marshall and her team of flower arrangers, the ladies who make the coffee and provide refreshments on a weekly basis, the bellringers, the clock winder and the members of the PCC past and present. We appreciate your hard work.

### PAT FOX

To David, Stuart, Martyn and their families we offer our deepest sympathy at this sad time. Pat died in Leighton hospital after a short illness; she did so much for our church, the neighbourhood and for Weston, she will be very sadly missed.

Pat was an active member of the PCC, a bellringer and helped with the Sunday School over 25 years ago when the Sunday School was so active. For the 450th Chester Diocesan Anniversary held at the Roodee all the Sunday School went in fancy dress – made by Pat. Look round the church, the organ loft curtains were made by her as were the choir robes and neck ties. Recently Pat had been repairing some of the Millennium Kneelers where the inner pads had disintegrated. Ask for a cake for a village event, at least 4 would appear; request an apple tart for Harvest Supper, 4 beauties arrived. The children at the Christingle Service loved the Candy Sticks which she provided. The Rectory curtains were made by her and Pat was the “go to person” for alterations to our clothing.

These are just a few memories that have sprung to mind; Pat was a most generous and reliable person, a good friend and a great loss to us all.

Chris Bailey Retired Churchwarden