**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners held in St Luke’s Church Sunday 21st May 2023 at 12.10 in church and on Zoom.**

**1. Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Reverend Bob opened the meeting with a prayer.

Notice of this meeting has been posted on the church door, in the church magazine and on the church website. Paper copies of agenda, 2022 minutes, annual report and financial report available in church.

**2. Appoint a Clerk for the meeting**

Nomination Sandra Lacey to be clerk proposed by Yvonne Horabin seconded by Colleen Harper. All agreed. Sandra Lacey will also be clerk for the next meeting.

**3. Apologies and Present**

Apologies – Pat Johnson, Clare Liptrott, Jeff Evans, Debbie Doyle and Lynn Keeling

Present on Zoom Barry Ingram in church 24 attendees see list below

**4. Minutes of meeting held Sunday May 22nd 2022 in St Luke’s Church and on Zoom**

Approval proposed by Barry Horabin and seconded by Lesley Runcorn All agreed.

Reverend Bob signed the minutes as a true record.

**5. Matters arising** None.

**6. Election of Church Wardens for May 2023 to May 2024**

There are 4 warden positions within the Parish of Farnworth. Reverend Bob thanked Barry Horabin, Pat Johnson, Rob Leech and Colleen Harper for serving as wardens from May 2021 now. To stand as church wardens for the forthcoming year (2023-2024) nominations were proposed by Sandra Lacey seconded by Sue Smither

Barry Horabin Pat Johnson Rob Leech Colleen Harper All agreed.

The church wardens are ex-officio members. None are disqualified from standing and all agreed to stand. No further nominations. Nominations accepted all agreed. Reverend Bob thanked the wardens for their dedication and for continuing in their roles.

**7. Election of Deputy Church Wardens for May 2023 to May 2024**

Nomination received Margaret Campbell proposed by Sandra Lacey seconded by Sue Smither. No further nominations. Nomination accepted. All agreed.

Barry Ingram has stepped down from his role as Deputy Warden after over 20 years in that position. Reverend Bob thanked Barry for his dedication to the church.

Deputy Wardens can be appointed throughout the year at a PCC meeting.

**8. Closing prayer**

Reverend Bob closed the meeting with a prayer.

Attendance in Church: Reverend Bob, Sandra Lacey, Geoffrey Poole, Alison Pearson, Beryl Cain, Sandra Vanezis, Yvonne Horabin, Baz Horabin, Pat Waring, Gail Beswick, Derek Beswick, Lesley Runcorn, Alma Marshall, Colleen Harper, Rob Leech, Sue Smither, Margaret Campbell, Lesley Howell, Ray Roberts, Pam Roberts, Paul Delaney, Lynne Taylor, Dorothy Lightfoot, Jane Lightfoot.

**St Luke’s with Cronton Mission Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 21st May 2023 at 12.20 noon in St. Luke’s church and on Zoom**

**1. Welcome and Opening Prayer as above**

**2. Apologies and Present as above**

**3. Minutes of meeting held Sunday May 22nd 2022 in St Luke’s Church and on Zoom**

Approval proposed by Barry Horabin and seconded by Lesley Runcorn All agreed.

Reverend Bob signed the minutes as a true record.

**4. Matters arising** None.

**5. Report on the Electoral Roll as of 7th May 2023 – Sandra Lacey Electoral Roll Officer**

Additions can be made to the Roll at any time following this meeting. The 2022 Electoral Roll is displayed in church. Names are listed in accordance with privacy rules. The PCC allocation is based on the Electoral Roll number. There are 171 on the electoral roll. As less than 200 members on the Electoral Roll the number of members allowed on P.C.C. is 12 elected members plus 2 co-opted for 2023. Reverend Bob thanked Sandra.

**6. Election of Parochial Church Councillors for May 2022 to May 2023**

4 members are elected each year to preserve the 3-year cycle. The following wish to be re-elected.

Nominations Proposer Pat Johnson Seconder Colleen Harper

Lynn Keeling Sue Smither Deborah Doyle Sandra Lacey

The following members wish to continue.

Sandra Vanezis Margaret Campbell Alma Marshall Jeff Evans Clare Liptrott Gail Beswick Dorothy Lightfoot All agreed.

Malcolm French has resigned from PCC. Reverend Bob thanked Malcolm for his time on PCC.

There is 1 vacancy nomination at the meeting Ray Roberts proposed by Barry Horabin seconded by Colleen Harper. Raymond has attended church for more than 6 months. All agreed. Relevant safeguarding paperwork to be completed before Raymond can attend PCC meetings. ACTION RR and MC.

**7. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives May 2023 to May 2024**

Proposed by Sandra Lacey Seconded by Margaret Campbell

Lesley Runcorn Barry Horabin Pat Johnson Yvonne Horabin

Deanery Synod members are ex-officio members of PCC. Reverend Bob is a member of Deanery Synod. Sue Smither may be elected to Deanery Synod to represent Readers otherwise Yvonne Horabin will step down so Sue can represent St Luke’s and Cronton Mission.

**8. Confirmation of PCC Officers, sides people, baptism teams, funeral vergers and wedding vergers**

PCC - Treasurer Yvonne Horabin Secretary Sandra Lacey Safeguarding Margaret Campbell Eco Officer Sandra Vanesiz Website Officer Rob Leech Electoral Roll Officer Sandra Lacey. Barry Ingram thanked for his many years as Lay Chair. Nomination Barry Horabin proposed by Colleen Harper seconded by Sandra Lacey. All agreed.

Sides people - Team 1 Olga & Lesley H, Team 2 Sandra V & Lynne T, Team 3/5 Gail & Brenda T Team 4 Alma & Gloria List of duties prepared by Margaret Campbell to be circulated ACTION SL

Baptism Teams – Team A Barry H, Yvonne, Lesley H Team B Margaret, Lesley R Team C Pat J, Gail, Pat W Team D Colleen, Alma, Alison

Funeral Vergers - Barry Horabin, Pat Johnson, Colleen Harper, Margaret Campbell

Wedding Vergers – Yvonne Horabin Margaret Campbell (Helpers Lesley Runcorn Alma Marshall)

**9. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the financial affairs of the PCC 2023** Nadia Hague FCA Vanguard Accountancy Ltd, Liverpool Proposed by Yvonne Horabin and seconded by Sandra Lacey. All agreed.

**10.Parochial Church Council proceedings – Sandra Lacey PCC Secretary**

In 2022 there were 6 PCC meetings in church with the option to join on Zoom, if for any reason a member could not be in church. A great deal of time and energy was spent on preparing for the Archdeacon’s review in March. It was all worthwhile as we received a glowing report. The Giving Appeal in Lent helped to increase the number of people using the Parish Giving Scheme which makes our Treasurer’s job a little easier. In October the Fit for Mission initiative was brought to our attention. This is a new way of working within the Deanery, which Bob will tell you more about.

As directed by the Diocese we had to address eco issues. So, an Eco-group has been formed and hopefully the churchyard will become the local hub for the ‘Sow and Grow’ initiative. We are indebted to the working party from the Justice Department who continue to maintain the churchyard to such a high standard.

Sunday 10.30am services are still zoomed so people unable to attend church can join and be part of our church family. Doreen Hough and Barry Ingram are regular attendees on Zoom. Doreen enjoys seeing her great grandchildren when Sunday Club show their crafts to the congregation. Barry has decided to step down from his church duties and I would like to pass on my personal thanks to him for his dedication and service not just to St Luke’s church, but also Cronton Mission and in the past Bold Mission. He has been an inspiration to me. Thank you, Barry.

Reverend Bob thanked Sandra.

**11.Safeguarding, Child Protection and Protection of Vulnerable Adults – Margaret Campbell** **Safeguarding officer**

The Safeguarding Team at St Luke’s and Cronton Mission consists of: Margaret Campbell Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter, Lynn Keeling Assistant Recruiter for St Luke’s and Debbie Doyle Safeguarding Officer Cronton Mission.

St Luke’s is a welcoming church; however, we ensure that it is a safe church for its congregation and the volunteer groups that utilise the church. Safeguarding is Christian imperative and a responsibility that we must undertake with thoughtfulness, and commitment to the parish policies and procedures. St Luke’s Church, it is a welcoming place, but it also needs to be a safe place.

The Minister and PCC are responsible for ensuring that they promote a best safeguarding culture.

We do not want to prevent the culture of volunteering, as this is the life blood of the church. We also need to ensure that Church is a safe place for our congregation.

In January 2022 the National Church updated their Safer Recruitment Guidance. Parishes must now be following the Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance for all new appointments for both paid and volunteers who are working with children, young people and /or vulnerable adults. Plus undertake a Disclosure Baring Service DBS.

One of the most common questions asked, is if volunteers are not working with children, young people/ or vulnerable adults. For example, serving tea coffee after a church service, choir members, flower arrangers and gardeners. Still require a form of safer recruitment, but not DBS clearance.

We in St Luke’s and Cronton Mission follow the Liverpool diocesan safeguarding team’s advice, in line with the House of Bishops safeguarding policies. Following the basic steps for the safer recruitment process.

Volunteers must have attended Church regularly on a Sunday for six months.

1. A role description is given to the volunteer.
2. Application form and confidential form, with request for two references.
3. The volunteer commits to undertaking basic online safeguarding training which is accessed via the Church of England Training Portal.
4. The Volunteer is given a code of safer working practice.

All of this can sound complex and daunting, throughout the procedure the Safeguarding Officer will be there for help and advice.

At the back of church there is a printed copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and Policies and Procedures for a Safer Church. Also, a list of contact telephone numbers of people to be informed if anyone as concerns, with regards to a safeguarding issue

The Safeguarding Team work closely with Pauline Ruth and the Halton Safeguarding Children and Adult Board.

Throughout 2022 there were no safeguarding issues reported.

**Objectives for 2023**.

To encourage all volunteers to attend the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal.

Any Questions? Colleen Harper pointed that MU is preparing a safeguarding policy but Trustees feel the Diocese policy should take precedence for activities in church.

**General Data Protection Regulations (GPDR)**

We continue to store all of the congregations’ information in a safe place and respect the individuals’ privacy, and do not share their personal information with other organisations.

Margaret Campbell Safeguarding Officer Lead Recruiter

Rev Bob thanked Margaret.

**12.Fabric, goods and ornaments of the parish and Health and Safety – Barry Horabin**

There hasn’t been much to discuss over the year as we have been saving and raising money for the toilet project. That was until January 2023 when the missing Gargoyle was replaced. This had been a long ambition for a member of the congregation and finally we had an estimate for the carving of a replacement. This all went to plan until the stonemason found that the block of sandstone which had been placed after removal of the original was too small to carve the head as per the original. After some discussion we examined the original and found we could actually fix the old head to the block which had been placed in the wall when the old one was removed. This was carried out by inserting stainless steel rods in both pieces of old stone then fixing them with resin which would hold it all together.

The Gargoyle now looks as if it has always been there except for the carved initials of our benefactor. The work was carried out by Austen who displayed his master craftsmen skills in replacing our long-lost friend.

With regard to the toilet project, we have instructed the Architect to obtain an up-to-date costing for the project and await the outcome. I hope by the next report to be able to say that developments are progressing and to have a date for the project to start.

With regard to the churchyard the working party from the Justice Department continue to keep the churchyard tidy throughout all kinds of weather. Their efforts are to be applauded as comments from visitors have been very positive.

Something different will be happening around Heritage Day as we now are planning an Eco project where people have been asked to plant seeds in a in large pot to be brought the churchyard on Heritage Day. The children have been busy planting seeds as part of this Eco project to attract wildlife etc. and record the findings. More news later.

Reverend Bob thanked Baz.

**13. Health and Safety Barry Horabin on behalf of wardens**

As with all work in the church or the churchyard Health and Safety is of paramount importance. Our thanks to Malcolm French who advised and updated our policy which is available on the church website. If you are concerned about any aspect do not hesitate to contact Reverend Bob and the wardens. As I said in the fabric report the churchyard has been transformed thanks to teams from the Justice service who have worked in all conditions to clear weeds and brambles and tend the areas around the graves, so the churchyard is a safer place to visit and take time out to enjoy God's creation. The wardens and sides people are trained re the evacuation process.

Colleen Harper pointed out that lucky there are 3 wardens and 1 deputy warden who act as funeral vergers, so always 2 present as there can be large numbers attending funerals. Need to ensure this is always the case. This applied to baptisms too.

Reverend Bob thanked Baz on behalf of the wardens.

**14.Financial affairs of the parish – Yvonne Horabin Treasurer**

Endowments held on behalf of PCC @ 31/12/2022 and Restricted and Designated Funds are per page 7 of accounts.

General Fund - This fund is for the general day-to-day expenditure of the church.

Incoming resources this year were £121,896 and this included £33,270 received from the Church commissioners during the year, firstly towards the £26,000 outstanding to the Diocese at 31/12/2021, with the balance of £7270 towards the 2022 Parish share. Even with the benefit of the monies from the Church commissioners, we have been unable to pay all of the Parish share to the Diocese in 2022, the amount owing at the yearend was £26,000. There will be no further credits available to us and therefor the outstanding monies will have to be paid before paying anything towards the Parish share for 2023. However, the diocese has reduced our Parish share in 2023 by £12,000 a year from £84,325 to £72,325, which will be a great help. As of end of April 2023, we have only been able to pay £9,500 to the diocese towards the 2022 outstanding figure.

Resources expended amounted to £119,031, slightly down on the previous year This is keeping expenditure to an absolute minimum. This figure includes £26,000 outstanding to the Diocese at the yearend for Parish share. Summary: -

Incoming £121,896 less Expended £119,031= surplus of £2,865

We all have a responsibility to think of ways to increase our income, to reach out to everyone to keep this fellowship strong. Everyone needs to play their part in this, not just expect the PCC members to do it.

Ideally, I would like you all to think about changing the way you give to use the Parish Giving Scheme, instead of standing orders (if a taxpayer) envelopes or loose plate. The Parish Giving Scheme is the only source of income that has increased in the last few years, from £1645 per month in January 2022 to £2712 in December 2022. This regular income helps to fund the regular monthly expenditure of the church, for the likes of Insurance, Salaries, Utility bills, Maintenance contracts Etc., but leaves very little left towards the Parish share.

Reverend Bob thanked Yvonne.

**15.Cronton Mission and School – Sandra Lacey on behalf of Debbie Doyle**

I apologise for my absence today; I had a sudden bereavement yesterday morning.
2022 was the first full year of services at Cronton Mission since the Pandemic. We had ecumenical worship with the Methodist Chapel for Palm Sunday, and village services with all 3 churches, 2 school and the local community at Remembrance and Christmas. The Churches in the East Widnes Team also met at the Mission for Easter prayer and Team Holy Communion. Following the passing of our Monarch Queen Elizabeth the II, I had the honour of attending the Knowsley Service of Thanksgiving at Prescot Parish Church (St Mary the Blessed Virgin) on Sunday 18.9.22 – representing Cronton at the request of the Mayor’s office.
In addition to traditional Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, Cronton Mission has continued its fresh expressions of ministry with Café Style Worship twice each month. These are popular services for young families, being a less formal structure with children’s activities and refreshments. Families will often start coming to church when exploring primary school attendance for their children - We are pleased that this year we have retained more families attending regularly, and families who are taking an active role in church activities. The Mission has been fully supported by the clergy and wider PCC this year. We are very fortunate to have Revd Bob, Lesley, Sue and Clare, and thank God for their ministry at Cronton despite the additional challenges of Revd Lyn’s retirement.
The partnership of St Luke’s with Cronton Mission and Cronton CE School has remained strong, but capacity for people to spend time in school, and as a governor has been more limited that in recent years. The reception children were welcomed to Cronton Mission in September, Key stage 2 led worship for Harvest, and Key stage 1 presented their Nativity at the Sunday service. Revd. Bob and Jodi Whitehouse stood down as foundation governors, and we thank them for their commitment and contributions they made to the governing body and school life as a whole. The PCC supported the proposal of 2 new governors, one of whom worships at Cronton. Additional foundation governors are still required to ensure the Christian distinctiveness at Cronton remains outstanding, and the links to St Luke’s and Cronton Mission are a priority.

We thank Barry Ingram for all his years of input to Cronton Mission and also his years as a governor at Cronton School.

We have identified that during 2023, our next steps must be to further strengthen our partnership working with School, and look at ways along with the Parish to ensure we are fit for mission and ways to improve out giving. May our partnerships remain grounded in love and respect. Help us to recognise our organisations diversity and unique gifts which complement one another.
Reverend Bob thanked Sandra on behalf of Debbie.

**16. Deanery News – Rev Bob**

In our Diocese of Liverpool we have a vision for asking God for a bigger church in order to make a bigger difference with more people coming to know Jesus and more justice in the world. Of course, by this we mean the ‘church’ as the people of God not the buildings! Although, if we are successful in our efforts, I suppose we might one day need bigger buildings!

I have been asked to share with you some important information about something called Fit For Mission. It is a radical new approach to what it means to be church and seeks to equip today’s church (you and me) to achieve that vision.

Bishop Paul Bayes, the 8th Bishop of Liverpool wrote:

‘Fit for Mission is not a project for the few or an idea of the moment. It sits in our diocese's faithful, prayerful call to do God's work’.

We have all been trying very hard to grow over the past decades. Indeed 22% of our churches have seen sustained attendance growth which is fantastic.  However, 70% have been in sustained decline. We need to face that reality and take action, addressing the issues that hold back mission and growth.’

Briefly, Fit For Mission seeks to build on what has gone before, it:

* Incorporates best practice from churches that are seeing growth around our diocese.
* Continues to revitalise existing churches through Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG), which is proving successful for many churches.
* Enables Resource Churches, where they exist in a deanery, to lead on larger planting by sending teams out to plant and revitalise. Our five Resource Churches are mainly still in the growing phase, but we are seeing good growth, which is encouraging.
* Brings learning from the Joshua Centre and Wigan, where we have seen growth through smaller, largely lay-led worshipping communities. Since 2015 these have planted around 60 new worshipping communities.

Over the last two years, Fit for Mission has involved hundreds of people across our diocese in working groups, consultations, and discernment.

The diocese has been given significant funding from the Church Commissioners to take Fit for Mission forward over the next 6 years. The funding will mean that each deanery will get the support they need, with capacity and specific resources for a two-year change period.

Between September 2021 and April 2022, the deaneries of St Helens and West Derby engaged with Fit for Mission to understand what it is and what it would mean to join the change programme. This culminated with each PCC voting on whether they wanted to be in the first cohort. Twenty-three churches across St Helens and West Derby made a commitment to the process, and in June 2022 began their two-year Fit for Mission journey of change.

Over the next four years every deanery in the diocese, including Widnes, will be given the opportunity to join Fit For Mission in two more cohorts. Widnes is exploring the possibility of being part of the next one – Cohort 2.

As each deanery begins to actively engage with their decision on whether to go ahead and commit, they will be supported by the Fit for Mission programme team in engaging deeply and prayerfully with all in their church communities.

I have put a few links below to a lot more information on Fit For Mission from our diocesan website, where you can read in much greater detail than I can give here.

At this time, I would ask you to please pray for God’s guidance for our Parochial Church Council (PCC) who this Autumn will be asked to make a decision about whether St Luke’s and Cronton Mission wish to begin the two-year process of change. A similar process will be asked of all the churches in Widnes. Those who choose to take part will become one parish, the Parish of Widnes and clergy and churches will work together as a team.

I realise that this is a lot for all of us to take in and you will no doubt have lots of questions so please have a look at the links below where a lot of those questions will have been answered.

An Introduction to Fit For Mission - Watch the video

Fit for Mission at a glance - a two-page summary with the key points

https://liverpool.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/fit-for-mission-at-a-glance.pdf

Getting Fit For Mission Ready - Some ideas and suggestions for deaneries and churches who are looking for ways to prepare for Fit for Mission

https://liverpool.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/getting-fot-for-mission-ready-v5.pdf

Scoping document - A 64 page working document that describes the journey of a deanery towards being Fit for Mission

https://liverpool.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/fit-for-mission-scoping-paper.pdf

Frequently asked questions - A collection of questions asked by church members in cohorts 1 and 2 that have engaged with Fit for Mission

https://liverpool.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/fit-for-mission---frequent-questions-v3.pdf

Ray Roberts stated that Fit for Mission was an initiative started by Bishop Paul and asked if Bishop John has signed up to it. Revd Bob assured him that Bishop John was supporting the initiative and Liverpool Diocese was one of the first Dioceses to be involved. Rev Bob said the PCC will have to make a decision re Fit for Mission in Sept/October and if the decision is to join there is an opportunity to withdraw after 2 years.

Geoff Poole raised concerns about the process and Rev Bob said not to be involved is an option. Worship will stay the same but may be at different times. Churches who have withdrawn from the process have been invited to meet with the Deanery members.

Yvonne Horabin added Fit For Mission does not only affect clergy. If the Deanery is 1 parish there will be 1 bank account and 1 PCC, so 1 Treasurer and 1 Secretary. Sandra (Secretary) and I (Treasurer) would be able to resign from our labour intensive roles as there appears to be no interest here for people to succeed us, although Jeff Evans assisting with online banking has been helpful. Some churches do not have the support of a PCC and the vicar has to be the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Revd Bob pointed out that the Deanery Synod needs a secretary if anyone is interested, please contact the Area Dean. When Revd Bob retires and Revd Roland moves there will only be 3 clergy and 1 curate, so hopefully 2 stipends will be recruited.

Lesley Howell asked about IF the maintenance of the building would still be our responsibility.

**17. Dates**

a) Archdeacon’s Visitation Service wardens, clergy, PCC and congregation invited to attend Widnes visitation is at Ditton St Michael with St Thomas Wednesday 21st June 7.30pm

b)PCC meeting Monday 17th July in church 7pm

c)Date & time of 2024 APM & ACPM Sunday May 19th 11.45am in St Luke’s church

**18. AOB none**

**19.Closing Remarks by Reverend Bob Pearson**

It’s hard to believe that Alison and I (and nana Bez of course!) have had the honour of being with you for 4 years on 25th of June. In many ways for all of us it has been the strangest 4 years in living memory because of the pandemic. Although I asked you last year, please not to remember me as the ‘covid vicar’ it has become very clear to me that God called us here to lead you through this unprecedented time! We have all been forced to adapt to new ways of being church and I would like to congratulate us all on having risen to the challenge.

The virus has, of course, not gone away but it is now far less virulent and seemingly less dangerous than previously was the case. Infection rates have dropped, serious illness is now less likely and hospital admissions have followed suit. We must remain cautious, but it seems that we are now able to put all our efforts into building God’s kingdom in Widnes.

In November of 2022 we said a sad farewell to Revd Lyn McIver as she retired and moved to join her daughter in Australia. We had a lovely farewell service and meal as we gave thanks for her ministry among us.

You will have heard me say often that we don’t know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.

There are a couple of challenges for the future that we already know about that I would like to briefly mention now: Fit For Mission and my retirement. Alison and I are in the process of buying a house in Wigan to be near to our grandchildren. When we have a moving date, I will formally confirm my retirement date, probably in the Autumn. We will miss being amongst you, but God has guided us to know the time is right as I would not like to start the Fit for Mission journey together and not be with you all the way through the process.

I now turn to the most important part of what I want to say and that is a huge thank you on behalf of all of us to everyone who has contributed to the mission and ministry of EWT in 2022.

I can’t tell you what a joy it is to have ministry colleagues like Sue and Clare and Lesley– all very gifted in ministry in different ways and very generous with their time.

The pastoral instinct is strong in them all and I know that we are all deeply appreciative of their important work amongst us both in preaching and teaching, in children’s and school’s work, in their prayerful and gentle pastoral work, in a loving and caring ministry with the bereaved and in a hundred other ways – they are a crucial part of St Luke’s with Cronton Mission.

My grateful thanks go to Pat, Colleen, Rob and Baz for all their work in 2022 and not forgetting the huge blessing of having Barry as a deputy. Thanks also must be given to their lovely families for allowing them to spend such a huge amount of time on church duties.

Church Treasurer, Yvonne – We thank her for the immaculate way she has managed our parish finances throughout the year. Thanks also that she has regularly drawn our attention to our financial state.

Honourable Secretary, Sandra – for the conscientious way she continues to manage our PCC business and a dozen of other things – including me (even on zoom from France!) I thank her personally for her timely reminders and suggestions.

Team Administrator, Lesley – booking and administering our baptisms and weddings and being the first point of contact for enquiries about these important areas of ministry.

We all have a debt of gratitude to those who give their love, time and expertise to us by working in various roles: as a PCC member,Deanery Synod reps, church cleaners, administering the chalice, Margaret our safe guarding and GDPR officer, Baz leading our project managing, sides persons, choir and Paul our Director of Music, welcomers, Lesley and her flower arrangers, Lynn and her helpers at Sunday Club, Colleen and the Mothers’ Union, Clare and her helpers at JAM Club, Parish Review editors and contributors, Children's Society Rep, Bible readers, intercessors, Christian Aid Rep, Bell ringers, Baptism Verger/helpers, Wedding Verger/helpers, Funeral Verger/helpers, School Governors, Friends of Farnworth, Rob managing our church website, Home Communion providers, Refreshment servers, Heritage Day organisers and helpers, Scouts & Guides, First Aiders and Stuart and Val Anderson who open/close gates. I understand they are retiring in July, so we need to celebrate their contribution to church.

I apologise if I have missed anyone out but let me end with a huge thank you to you all! Let me remind you that whatever you do which is given out of a desire to build God’s kingdom that is your ministry and however humble you may see it as - it is all VITAL to God’s work in this place.

**20.Vote of thanks to Rev Bob Barry Horabin**

When I was asked to give a vote of thanks from the congregation to our Vicar Bob, my mind was cast back to the days when I had to write glowing reports for students at the end of the course. This was sometime difficult depending on how the student had performed and being supportive in my comments.

Thankfully this is not one of those occasions. Since Bob arrived 4 Years ago, he has gradually grown into getting to know a new congregation after many years at his previous church. This is not an easy task as he has had to deal latterly with three churches and the job of Team Vicar. He was also asked the take on the role of Area Dean which thankfully he declined During the early part of his appointment we had to get used to having a permanent Vicar after 10 years of Clergy who came and went plus interregnums in between each one. All this upheaval made it difficult for anyone to come in and gain the confidence of the congregation. As Wardens we have proved to be the sounding board for comments, which were always dealt with by Bob and by working together we achieved so much in many areas of church life. The sheer number of Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings testifies that the work of this church is well received by the general public. He has been well supported by Sue Smither in this area particularly with the Funerals. St Luke’s is chosen by so many people because of the dignified way the services are presented and the professional way the general public are received.

In closing Bob, we hope you and Alison have enjoyed yet another great year with us and we look forward to carrying on preserving the esteem which the congregation and general public hold for St Luke’s with you at the helm.

**21.Closing prayer**

God our Heavenly Father, please make the doors of Cronton Mission, St Ambrose and St Luke wide enough to receive all who need human love and a Father’s care and narrow enough to shut out all envy and lack of love. Here may the tempted find help, the sorrowing find comfort, the careless be awakened to repentance and the penitent assured of your mercy; may all your children renew their strength and go on their way in hope and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The meeting closed at 1.25pm.