

Parish of St. Luke Farnworth with Cronton Mission Annual Trustees Report of the Parochial Church Council 2019



Our Mission Statement

“We strive to live by faith, to be known by love and to connect people to Jesus and one another”.

Our Vision

God's love is

Learn from each other

Outreach to all in our community

Vitalise personal growth and discipleship

Ensure all feel welcome and encourage belonging

Team Rector Reverend Bob Pearson

Team Vicar Reverend Lyn McIver

Local Missional Leader (Cronton) Lesley Wright

Lay Readers Sue Smither and Clare Liptrott

Web site St-luke.co.uk

1. AIMS and PURPOSES

The first and most important aim of the St Luke's Church with Cronton Mission Parochial Church Council (PCC) is working with Reverend Bob Pearson, our minister to promote in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, Evening Prayers provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship, while opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship such as that provided at All Age Worship services.

Legally the PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of the building, the Bridewell and the churchyard, and for promoting the mission of the church.

Our purpose is to provide a church family within which people can grow as Christians and help one another and the community around us with the many problems individuals face.

Safeguarding is of paramount importance to us. Our Safeguarding Officer ensures that we follow Diocesan guidelines diligently ensuring that all necessary checks are made on church members and staff who work with children and vulnerable adults; we aim to promote the best possible safeguarding culture.

2. OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES for 2020

St. Luke's church

1. To hold Bring One Friend and Back to Church Sundays.
2. To promote our website at every opportunity.
3. To revise the Baptism service and use the screen to promote church services and events.
4. To improve the welcome to new people to church and update our 'Church near You' entry.
5. To organise a Giving in Grace Stewardship appeal.
6. To hold a Toy service at the All Age Worship service in November.
7. To provide more services for the bereaved and lonely people.

Cronton Mission

1. To maintain a presence in Cronton village through the Drop-in and book exchange
2. To further develop links with Cronton CE Primary School through weekly whole school collective worship, weekly Ethos group [lunchtime club] and a weekly post Confirmation JAM Club after school
5. To take part in Giving in Grace Stewardship Appeal
6. To continue to incorporate The Rule of Life and Bigger Church, bigger difference into Café Church

3. ACHIEVEMENTS and PERFORMANCE



In March 2019, Archdeacon Roger announced that Reverend Bob Pearson would be the next Priest in Charge of the East Widnes Team. Bob's first event in the parish was at the Summer Fair in June. We were delighted that he opened the Fair and his wife Alison crowned Olivia, our Rose Queen for 2019. Unfortunately, Bob had to commute from Wigan, as there was no vicarage in the parish. After months of negotiations by the Diocese, he and Alison finally moved into the Rectory in Hartland Close just before Christmas.

After 7 years, we have a vicar living in the parish. That is certainly our major achievement of 2019 and we thank God for guiding Bob to join us. Reverend Ian Hopkins left us in April 2019 and we cannot thank Ian enough for the teaching, prayer, generosity of spirit and time, of effort and energy that he gave to his Interim Ministry.

The second joint Summer Fair with St Luke's Scout and Guide Group was again a success. Unfortunately, Alan Deans, who for several years has been the driving force behind the Fair, has resigned owing to family issues. The PCC is indebted to Alan for his commitment to this event. As you can imagine the time and energy needed to stage the Summer Fair and Crowning of Rose Queen is great, so if you can help with this event please speak to a warden.

Communication of Prayer enables our faith in God to grow. Prayer is a spiritual exercise. As we pray, more energy comes, and we have more spiritual consciousness. We also recognise the importance of communicating with our congregation, our local community and further afield. Our website is kept current and provides a calendar of services, events, reports and photographs of recent services and other events. The Contact Us facility is proving popular as a point of contact to make an enquiry and book an occasional service. Text Marketer is used successfully to send information on Toddler church and Messy church. Text message reminders the day before the event are appreciated by the participants. Colourful banners in the church porch keep locals informed. Parish Review, our parish magazine, is distributed bi-monthly to parishioners and others and is available in church. The magazine keeps parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Children, the future generation of worshippers, are important to us and in September we were delighted that Sue Mitchell, Liverpool Diocese' Children and Families Missioner, presented the Child Friendly Award to our Sunday Club children and the children presented Sue with a copy of the Children's Charter which they had compiled.



Children in our church are just as important as adults.

Everyone in our church can worship God in lots of ways no matter how old they are.

Our church helps everybody to keep learning.

Our church is a place where everyone feels and knows they belong.

In our church, children can do things to help God, the church and other people.

Our church listens and helps us share what we have learned.

The Holy Spirit speaks through children as well as adults.

Our church helps us to find our 'thing' and grow in it.

Our church gives us opportunities to do things with everyone else and not just things for adults.

Everyone in our church can be equally close to God, praying and serving.

Volunteers are also important and without out them the church would not function. The list of roles is endless and 100 people were invited to the Commissioning service introduced by Reverend

Bob. The thank you, though not expected, was appreciated by everyone as the part they play in the mission and outreach of St Luke's was recognised.

A small loyal group collect for Christian Aid each year. This year we were offered a trial of a contactless machine, with a percentage going to Christian Aid. The trial was successful and as more people become aware of this method of payment, the use of the machine is increasing, especially at Baptism services.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through Funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life that is now complete in this world and commend the person into God's keeping. Once again Christingle services were well attended with the early service at 3pm proving to be popular for families with young children whilst more adults attended the 5pm one.

Our heritage, which is promoted each year on Heritage Day, is important for the church and the community. Volunteers provide tours of the church and the village. This year the focus was on three Bishops - William Smyth, Richard Bancroft and Richard Barnes. First time visitors were impressed with beauty of the church and fascinated by the history.

Finally, we opened up the back of the church by relocating the font to the front of the church which has proved a success with Baptisms. The space created by this has provided an area to welcome the community for meetings, for fellowship after services and at Open Door on Wednesdays when the church is open till 4pm. A Faculty for the installation of toilets and a kitchenette was finally approved and an application for a grant application to fund the work was submitted. Unfortunately, the bid was not successful as we didn't have the full 50% of match funding. It has now been decided that we will re-launch the Friends of Farnworth Church and a Final Roof and Restoration Appeal to complete the outstanding work on the roofs of Bold Chapel and the Nave, as well as restoration of the Bell Tower and have a church which last well into the next Century. This will require a great deal of support from not only the congregation but also the wider public. More information on this will appear soon and we will arrange a meeting to launch this project to which you will all be invited.

We do hope you will join us in this Appeal and be part of the future of this wonderful building.

Remember **THE PAST IS OUR INHERITANCE, THE FUTURE OUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

At Cronton Mission and Cronton CE Primary School

We had 20+ families with 26 children attending regularly in 2019, with 14 children on average at café church and 8-10 at traditional services. This year we have had more than our usual number of families with both parents attending. Families have participated in worship and fellowship throughout the year. It has been heartening to see families attending more than once a month.

This is in addition to our regular attenders who have worshipped at Cronton for many years. The congregation has appreciated the regular contact with Bob for service of Holy Communion and this has made people feel more connected to St Luke's. Reverend Ray Jones still takes services for us and when he is not covering services elsewhere he attends Cronton with his wife Pam.

The Ethos group joined us to lead Christingle in December and the younger children joined in the story of the story of the Nativity before we lit our Christingles for our final songs and prayers.

We have been fortunate that Denis Bray has continued as treasurer and that he and Anne continue to open up each week. Alan Hill has set church out each week [apart from a couple of Sundays when he was away on holiday]. All much appreciated and essential. We have not had a secretary this year though and I quickly gave up trying to chair meetings and get action notes sent out. Our meetings concern arrangements for services and so 'minutes' are unnecessary.

As every year, we have enjoyed sharing Ecumenical services in Cronton – Rogation and Palm Sunday with the Methodist chapel; Remembrance and Christmas with all three churches taking

part. These services are particularly special as we enjoy the closeness of community and shared worship.

The regulars at the Drop-in and book exchange contributed to the Ethos group end of year celebrations, paying for their holding crosses. This year we visited the Greek Orthodox Church where one of the children worships and also the Egyptian Coptic Church in Liverpool. The similarities and differences to the Anglican tradition sparked some interesting conversations between the children as we came back to school on the bus and some very good [and polite] questions while we were there.

4. FINANCIAL REVIEW

St. Luke's church Yvonne Horabin

The funds of the church are, in the main, made up of three sections:

1. Endowment Fund

Generally only the interest is available for the PCC's use, not the capital. We have however had to cash in two of the investments in this year to cover the annual deficit, one for £10490.94 in October and one for £14867.57 in November, a total of £25358.51. It was pleasing to note that even after these withdrawals the remaining Investments balances had increased by £21930.60 over the year.

2. Restricted and Designated funds

This is for monies for specific purposes, i.e. Major Repairs, Bridewell etc it also includes £25298.50 for Mission and Growth, which initially was the money received from the diocese from the sale of the vicarage and land. We will be using some of this money to buy kitchen equipment and more furniture for the rear of the church once the work has been completed.

3. General Fund

This covers the income and expenditure of the day to day running costs of the church which have been running at a very large deficit again this year of £26106.62

Balances

The balances @ 31/12/2019 were Endowment Funds £146,208.35, Restricted funds £30,483.00 and Designated funds £8,665.05 and General Fund £5,923.46

Cronton Mission Denis Bray

All of the figures below are included with the main income and expenditure

Total receipts were £6174.04, which consisted of :

Collections of cash and through the envelope scheme £2961.63

Standing orders - £1760

Fundraising - £272.00

Funeral Income £82.50

Eligible tax reclaim - £1180.41

Total payments were £1125.61, which consisted of :

Direct petty cash - £547.61 for upkeep of services

School energy contribution - £500 (creditor at year end)

Readers licence - £50

CCLI , copyright cost for use of CD recordings - £78

Charitable Giving

The following donations were made:

Children's Society - £742.32 from collections at Christingle services to support their work. This donation is paid directly to the Children's Society. If you would like a collecting tin please contact Dorothy Lightfoot 0151 423 4507

Christian Aid - £414.30 plus £75 from the contactless machine to support their work, paid directly to Christian Aid. The money was raised thanks to a small dedicated team of collectors led by Barry Ingram who distribute and collect envelopes in Christian Aid week. If you can help with distribution and collection of envelopes to your street please contact Barry Ingram 0151 423 2492

Ignite - £60 per year by standing order to support this valuable work with young people

St Luke's Scouts and Guide Group - £2000 from Joint Summer Fair

As well as the congregation's regular food donations to Foodbank (thanks to Barry Ingram for taking items to Foodbank) and the Widnes Changing Lives House (thanks to Dorothy Lightfoot for being the Link person) on a regular basis, appeals for specific items were published through the Pew Sheet. Farnworth School parents and children supported Foodbank at their Harvest service.

5. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

Other related trusts: There are no other related trusts.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are registered on the Electoral Roll and therefore eligible to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC operates two subcommittees: The Standing Committee and Friends of St Luke. PCC members receive Health and Safety training and are CRB checked. Other training includes trustee responsibilities, risk assessment and safe guarding procedures.

Safeguarding policies are displayed in St Luke's church, the Bridewell, at Cronton Mission and on the church website. The policies are reviewed annually and agreed and signed at the first PCC meeting after APCM. Health and Safety policies are reviewed annually and displayed in church and on the website. The Churchyard policies re reservation of a plot and Diocesan guidelines are displayed in church and on our website. The PCC operates under a mature system of controls and procedures developed over many years of operation. Finance and operational issues are routinely monitored as part of regular PCC meetings.

When planning activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with advancement of religion.

An annual budget is prepared to monitor short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC quarterly. The investments held by the PCC are reviewed by the Standing Committee. All assets are insured and levels reviewed and approved by the PCC. Plans have been agreed with Farnworth School for services to be held in the school hall in the event of the Church becoming unusable for a limited period. Geographically there is little or no experiences of terrorist activity in any Churches and the risk rating of any problems in this subject area is very low, but as a place of worship open and welcoming to many visitors vigilance is paramount at all times.

Reserves Policy - No charity can operate for any length of time without reserves. There are low available reserves, so a major effort will be needed to re-build reserves to a working level, say a minimum of six months costs (minimum £50,000) and to re-build a contingency for future maintenance costs.

Electoral Roll – 155 on the 2019 new roll.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Team Administrator Lesley Howell 07399784219 eastwidnesteam.2942@gmail.com
www.st-luke.co.uk Charity Number 1133042 Parish number 744

Bankers

Barclays Bank

Legal Advisor

Hill Dickinson & Co LLP

Independent Examiner

Nadia Hague FCA Vanguard Accountancy Ltd, Liverpool

Architect

Alex Finlason Pickard Finlason Beech House

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the work and roles and responsibilities of the PCC.

PCC members	2019	Date Elected	Term completed
Reverend Bob Pearson	Team Rector ex-officio from July 2019		
Reverend Lyn Mclver	Team Vicar ex-officio		
Reverend Ian Hopkins	Interim Vicar ex-officio left April 2019		
Barry Horabin	Warden from 2016 ex-officio	2019	2020
Barry Ingram	Warden from 2014 ex-officio	2019	2020
George Telfer	Warden from 2014 ex-officio	2019	2020
Pat Johnson	Warden from 2018 ex-officio	2019	2020
Pat Johnson	Deanery Synod ex-officio	2017	2020
Lesley Runcorn	Deanery Synod ex-officio	2017	2020
Barry Horabin	Deanery Synod ex-officio	2018	2020
Sue Smither	Deanery Synod ex-officio	2017	2020
Lesley Wright (Cronton)	Local Missional Leader ex-officio		
Sue Smither	Lay Reader ex-officio		
Clare Liptrott	Lay Reader ex-officio		
		Length of term	Term completed
Lynn Keeling	Sunday Club Leader	3 years	2020
Sandra Lacey	Secretary	2 years	2020
Vacancy		2 years	2020
Ian Taylor	Sides people contact	2 years	2020
Vacancy		3 years	2021
Gail Beswick	Sides people contact	3 years	2021
Dorothy Lightfoot	Children's Society	3 years	2021
Rob Leech	Website Administrator	3 years	2021
Yvonne Horabin	Treasurer	3 years	2022
Alma Marshall	Baptism Assistant	3 years	2022
Margaret Campbell	Safe guarding Officer	3 years	2022
Robert Critchley	Asst Treasurer	3 years	2022

	Officers in addition to above list		
Lay Chair	Barry Ingram	Verger	George Telfer
Health & Safety	George Telfer	Wedding Verger	Margaret Campbell
H&S Advisor	Graham McGregor	Wedding Verger	Yvonne Horabin
Project Manager	Barry Horabin	Cathedral Representative	Lesley Runcorn
Foodbank	Lesley Howell	Flower Arrangers Leader	Lesley Runcorn
Chair of Friends	Barry Horabin	Electoral Roll Officer	Sandra Lacey

Cronton Mission	Committee	Members	
Lesley Wright LML	PCC member	Rota Monitor	Chair
Vacancy	Secretary	Barry Ingram	Vice Chair
Denis Bray	Treasurer	Vacancy	Safe Guarding officer
Cherrill Edge	Deanery Synod	Lesley Wright	Team Council
Anne Allison	Debbie Doyle	Gerry Nash	Wendy Patten

Worship Attendance Barry Ingram

St Luke's	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sunday 8am average	15	16	16	14
Sunday 10.30am average	60	65	62	68
Sunday 6.00pm average	11	14	21	19
Wednesday 930am average	12	17	16	19
Baptisms	48 children 2 adults	38 children	56 children	53 children 4 adults
Baptism monthly average	200 adults 50 children	210 adults 38 children	118 adults 35 children	110 adults 27 children
Confirmation (inc Cronton)	2 adults 18 children	2 adults	7 children	2 children
Funerals Church	57	27	27	16
Funerals crematorium	28	13	11	16
Weddings	13	10	11	9
Christingle	385	429	569	663
Christmas Eve Midnight	122 adults	76 adults	103 adults	83 adults
Christmas Day 1030am	46 adults 3 children	47 adults 3 children	43 adults 1 child	41 adults 1 child
9 Lessons & Carols	109 adults 25 children	89 adults 17 children	88 adults 26 children	123 adults 20 children
Cronton	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sunday 1030am average	20 adults 9 children	24 adults 10 children	33 adults 14 children	17 adults 9 children
Christingle	52 adults 48 children	21 adults 20 children	26 adults 23 children	32 adults 23 children
School Nativity	Not recorded	127adults 104 children	105 adults 95 children	Not recorded
Christmas Day	No service	No service	31 adults 13 children	No service
Baptisms	1	4	2	1
School Eucharist	105 adults 120 children	100 adults 120 children	100 adults 120 children	Not recorded

Giving and Stewardship Barry Ingram

Due to the increase in regular giving pledged last year and the increase in our Gift Aid tax claim our deficit has been reduced. However we have lost some of our stewardship members and this means we face a shortfall in income of approximately £200 per week. If all our regular givers increased their giving by £1 or £2 per week this would increase our Gift Aid tax claim, which would reduce the deficit.

If you would like information on giving please contact Barry Ingram, Giving and Stewardship Officer.

Gift Aid	2016	2017	2018	2019
Tax reclaim St Luke's	101	86	69	80 (53 SO & 27 envelopes)
Cronton	17	11	9	12
Regular Gift Aid	£15,644.00	£8706.50	£6936.82	£9380.21
Yellow Gift Aid	£ 708.00	£602.00	£709.23	£959.52
Total	£ 16352.00	£9309.00	£7646.05	£10339.21

Stewardship scheme	2016	2017	2018	2019
St Luke's	47	46	45	41
Cronton	14	11	8	11
Total number	61	57	53	52
Value	£15,667.13	£14636.75	£14566.67	13,087.34
Standing Orders	2016	2017	2018	2019
General Fund	56	48	40	39
Fabric Fund	9	8	6	5
Value	£26,460.00	£21,973.00	£16,451	£16,248

Tax Efficient Giving

WEEKLY GIVING	Up to £1	£1 to £1.99	£2 to £2.99	£3 to £3.99	£4 to £4.99	£5 to £9.99	£10 to £14.99	£15 to £19.99	£20 and Above	total
Envelopes	1	5	4	1	7	8	5		1	32
SO	1	5	4	4	5	10	4	2	4	39
Fabric fund			2	1		2				5
Total	2	10	10	6	12	20	9	2	5	76

Other Regular Giving

WEEKLY	Up to £1	£1 to £1.99	£2 to £2.99	£3 to £3.99	£4 to £4.99	£5 to £9.99	£10 to £14.99	£15 to £19.99	£20 and Above	Total
Envelopes	8	2		3	1	5	1			20
SO										0
Fabric fund										0
Total	8	2	0	3	1	5	1	0	0	20

The small donation gift Aid Scheme yielded for St Luke's church £2000 and for Cronton £364.36

Part of the reduction in the figures for the Stewardship Scheme is reflected in the increase in membership of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

Total Givers to PGS in 2020 was 16 - received £7657.51 tax refunded £1869.41

7. REPORTS ON CHURCH LIFE

Safeguarding Margaret Campbell 0151 424 6039 Children & Vulnerable Adults Coordinator

Our Safeguarding Policies are as directed by the House of Bishops' guidance. Safeguarding is a Christian imperative and a responsibility that we must undertake with thoughtfulness, commitment as it is of vital importance. As a church we need to be welcoming, but also a safe place. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for ensuring and promoting the best possible safeguarding culture. I am responsible for ensuring and promoting the best possible safeguarding culture and I expect that everyone will work within the church safeguarding policy. In particular, the church expects anyone who becomes aware, of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to any member of the congregation to immediately raise this with members of the Clergy, and/or the Safeguarding Coordinator.

Throughout 2019 the system for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has been actioned through the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) All applications for DBS clearance are now submitted on line Via Thirtyone eight web site, this enables a faster response.

The situation for DBS checks remains the same with PCC being responsible, to ensure that all activities involving children, young people, and vulnerable adults, are well managed and supervised. Utilising Liverpool Diocese Safer Recruitment practice is an essential part of the

Church of England's approach to safeguarding. Within the parish, it is important to recruit the right people to work with children and young people. New volunteers, before they are eligible to volunteer and work with children and young adults and vulnerable adults, must have attended regularly at **Sunday Service for six months**, and are required to attend an interview, fill in an application form, with two referees and to complete a Self-Declaration Form.

In 2019 ongoing training sessions have been held throughout the Diocese. The training sessions invited volunteer workers who are involved with children and vulnerable adults to update their knowledge and skills in safeguarding recruitment and the key signs of physical and mental abuse. The Safeguarding Coordinator and members of the congregation attended training and updating sessions covering issues of Child and Adult abuse, and the importance of Safer Recruitment within the church community. The sessions proved very useful, for the role and responsibilities that they have in the church.

Vision for 2020.

- To review Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
- To ensure that the 9 Steps for Safer Recruitment for new volunteers are adhered to as in the Safer Church policy.
- To review volunteer role descriptions, vacancy adverts and interview criteria.
- To encourage people working with children, young people and vulnerable adults to attend the Liverpool Diocesan training sessions.

General Data Protection Margaret Campbell 0151 424 6039 Controller

In 2018 The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has agreed a data protection policy in line with new regulations and Diocesan guidance. At the present time all appropriate data is being collected from the congregation, PCC, Toddler Church and Messy Church and permission for photographs of church events, all weddings, funerals, concerts and baptisms. All data is stored in a safe place, locked cabinet in St Luke's vestry. Throughout 2019 we have adhered to all Data Protection Regulations. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Data Protection Act 2018 controls how your personal information is used by organisations, businesses or the government.

Everyone responsible for using personal data has to follow strict rules called 'Data Protection Principles'. They must make sure that the information is

- Used fairly, lawfully and transparently
- Used for a specified, explicit purpose
- Used in a way that is adequate, relevant and limited to only what is necessary
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- Kept for no longer than is necessary. We keep data in accordance set out in the guide "Keep or Bin: Care of Your Parish Records" which is available from the Church of England website. Specifically, we retain Electoral Roll data while it is still current; Gift Aid declarations and associated paperwork for up to 6 years after the calendar year to which they relate; and parish registers (baptism, marriages, and funerals) permanently.
- Handled in a way that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unlawful or unauthorised processing, access, loss destruction or damage

Your rights Under the Data Protection Act 2018: You have the right to find out information the government and other organisations store about you. These include the right to:

- Be informed about how your data is being used
- Access personal data
- Have incorrect data updated
- Have data erased
- Stop or restrict the processing of you data
- Data portability (allowing you to get and reuse your data for different services)
- Object to how your data is processed in certain circumstances

What is the legal basis for processing your personal data?

- Explicit consent of the data subject so that we can keep you informed about news, events, activities and services and process your Gift Aid donations and keep you informed about both Church and diocesan events.
- There is no disclosure to a third party without consent.

Contact Details

To exercise all relevant rights, queries of complaints please in the first instance contact the Data Controller Margaret Campbell via the Team Administrator church mobile 07399784219.or Reverend Bob 07904320542 contact via Contact page on the church website st-luke.co.uk

Friends of St Luke's Yvonne Horabin

We are continually grateful to the people who support the Friends group with their monthly donations by standing order. These regular donations amounted to £1466 and are used to support the current restoration projects. Other donations to Friends were from our Virgin Giving page of £254.65 and other donations of £50.

The main work of the Friends group is to support the various fund raising events and fairs.

The second joint Summer Fair with St. Luke's Scout and Guide group was held in June and was a huge success. £3530.06 was raised, and £1812 from the raffle less costs of £1564.68 and giving a net figure of £3777.38 of which £2000 was given to St Luke's Scouts and Guide group for their roof appeal.

A Spring Raffle and Quiz night raised £1538.50, which HSBC matched £ for £ (up to £1000) as part of their support for charities so a total of £2538.50 for church funds. Other events included 2 concerts by Warrington West Concert band, a games room at the School PTA Christmas Market, a Quiz night in October and Greenall's Brass Band Concert, raising £1613.35 in total.

Heritage Open Day was held in September. Lots of people came to view the church and do the walk around the village. Even though not a fund raising event £157.38 was raised for church funds.

In 2020 there will be a Spring Raffle and Quiz Night for which HSBC will match £ for £ (up to £1000) as part of their support for charities. PCC is indebted to Gayle Lacey C.O.O. HSBC Commercial for supporting our charity for the third time. There will hopefully also be concerts by the Liverpool Festival Choir, Greenall's Brass Band and Warrington West Band.

Health and Safety George Telfer

All church polices are reviewed annually by our H&S consultant Graham McGregor. There are over 3,500 graves in the churchyard so the inspection of graves is a time consuming task that will always be ongoing. The Commonwealth graves plaques presented by War Graves commission are displayed in the churchyard.

Our team of volunteers continue to provide a first class service every Monday morning working on an ever increasing battle with brambles and nettles; they work all year round and are never put off by the weather. The team work on the graveyard from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Our team consists of me and 15 volunteers, Barry Horabin, Andrew and Linda Strickland, Heather Guthrie, Alan Deans, Arthur Turner, Dot Kelsall, Hazel Easton, Lilian Woodstock, Mark Potts, Les Lightfoot, Iris Davenport, Ian Taylor, Val Hennessey and Geoff Poole.

We are vigilant about the security of the church and your safety.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact one of the Churchwardens, who are totally committed to all aspects of Health & Safety.

Vision for 2020

- To continue to review risk assessments.
- To organise First Aid training
- To review evacuation procedures.
- To set up a sub group for H&S issues.
- To ensure all equipment is serviced and maintained

Pastoral care and service in our community Sue Smither

Baptisms

Reverend Lyn McIver, Reverend Ian Hopkins and Lay Reader Sue Smither made home visits to Baptism families to chat, answer questions, provide Pastoral Support and to offer follow-up visits.

At pre Baptism visits parents are told about JAM Crèche, Sunday Club, Toddler Church, All Age Worship and Messy Church events.

We saw an increase in the numbers of Baptism families coming to these services which was really encouraging.

Funerals

Clergy and Lay Reader Sue Smither visited bereaved families to minister, support and help plan funeral services and to offer post funeral care. Lay Reader Clare Liptrott also ministered to one family. Our funeral ministry at St Luke's is hugely appreciated and as a result of this ministry we have had several people join us for regular worship this year.

Pastoral Outreach

Clergy, Sue Smither, Clare Liptrott, Barry Ingram and Christine Turner provided ongoing pastoral care. Home Communion was taken to the housebound and those parishioners living in Residential Care, some of whom now live out of our Parish but are still keen to maintain their links with St Luke's.

Collections for Food Bank were well supported throughout the year, as were congregation donations of toiletries, bedding and other items, which are regularly taken to the Widnes Changing Lives House and Street Pastors.

Vision for 2020

- To meet regularly to pray together, offer support and be a 'listening ear'.
- To ensure that all volunteers meet Safe Guarding requirements and to attend appropriate Diocesan training.
- To ensure that the team is meeting the needs of the congregation.
- To continue to support Food Bank, the Changing Lives House and Street Pastors.

Toddler Church, Clare Liptrott

Toddler Church is for families with pre-school age children, the service takes place on the second Sunday in every month from 4pm till 5pm. Jack, the puppet dog, loves to help lead the worship, especially story time and singing and playing the instruments but his favourite part is getting involved with the craft activities, although he also quite likes 'toast time' too - an opportunity for everyone to share freshly buttered toast and a drink before saying goodbye till next time.

Toddler Church has now been running for almost 4 years and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the small but faithful team of volunteers for their dedication to this important work.

Some of our Toddler Church children have now started school and have moved on to attend Sunday School and / or Uniformed Groups connected to our church. Some of these children also still continue to be part of our Toddler Church family which is lovely as the younger children look up to them and follow their lead as they all learn about Jesus together. It is also lovely to see families grow, with some of our children now attending along with their younger brothers or sisters too!

The adults who attend, parents and grandparents, are also slowly being fed spiritually in a light way and everyone has grown closer as a family in Christ.

In 2019 we focused on engaging with and build on this worshipping community and as part of this plan we re-initiated monthly communication with families via text messaging (in line with GDPR) – this has proved to be very successful!

Vision for 2020

- To continue to engage with and build and grow this worshipping community and volunteers are crucial to the success of this venture.
- To recruit further volunteers, so if you feel this maybe something for you to try, please come and long and see what Toddler Church is all about.

Messy Church, Clare Liptrott

Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults who don't already belong to another form of church. Each Messy church is based on a different biblical theme and involves worship and a bible story plus messy craft activities that support further exploration of the theme. Each Messy Church session ends with everyone sharing food together.

Throughout 2019 Messy Church continued with many of our regular Messy Church congregation returning plus new children and families joining us.

In April we held Messy Easter on Good Friday which involved the children and families moving round the church on a journey towards the cross and they got messy with our themed activities including 'egg paint bombs' nails on a cross and empty tomb biscuits. Then in July we held Messy Baptism, which also happened to be the first Messy Church Service for our new vicar, Reverend Bob. Activities at this service included making doves and candles and making promise bracelets. And our last Messy Church for 2019 was held at the end of November and this was Messy Advent and everyone thought about preparations for Christmas. Making advent calendars and wreaths, painting stained glass windows and decorating angel biscuits.

Our younger children also continue to enjoy sharing our worship as 'Little Stars', with all our services having activities available for this younger age group too.

Of course none of this would be possible without the volunteers that come along to support the worship and lead crafts and organise refreshments, as well as our church volunteers we were also very grateful to welcome volunteer support from some of our uniformed group leaders. All our Messy Church volunteers deserve thanks for their continued dedication to this important work – thank you!

Vision for 2020

- To engage with and build and grow this worshipping community and volunteers are crucial to the success of this venture.
- To recruit further volunteers, so if you feel this maybe something for you to try, please come and long and see what Messy Church is all about.
- To look forward to continuing to worship together, exploring our faith and coming to a closer relationship with God and Jesus.

SUNDAY CLUB at St. Luke's Church Lynn Keeling

We have 9 on roll at the moment eight girls and one boy. Age range is from 4 years old to 11 years. The children learn about God's love and how He cares for them; they learn about their church community and how they are an important part of it.

They have taken part in church services such as Mothering Sunday, the Easter Service, Harvest, Advent and of course the Christmas Nativity. There is an Annual Awards Ceremony when the children are presented with a book and this is followed by a Teddy Bear Picnic.

The children support fundraising for the church and also support the Field day by continuing the lovely tradition of having a Rose Queen and Retinue. Olivia has been our Rose Queen for 2019 and has carried out her duties well. Thank you Olivia.

We have held 2 quizzes to help raise the funds needed to buy items for the Rose Queen and retinue and prizes for the games at the Field Day. One of the quizzes was price matched by Gayle Lacey, COO on behalf of HSBC bank so over £2000 was raised to go into church funds. Thanks to Gayle and all involved.

The weekly collection goes straight into church as part of the offertory and is taken by one of the children who is chosen each week as our "special person" and they also read a prayer.

Any money needed to buy items for Sunday club comes directly from church funds. We always try and give the children good quality resources and it is also used to fund Christmas Gifts, food for the Christmas party, the Teddy Bears Picnic and the Attendance awards.

We use the scheme of work set out in the Pebbles and Rocks books a lot but diversify to suit what is going on in church at times.

We have such a lovely group of young people at Sunday Club, and I say this all the time but they are a joy, and it is a privilege to be with them each Sunday.

Sunday Club is very lucky to be supported each week by Lesley Lomax as Assistant Leader as well as Amanda Mines; grateful thanks goes to them for their continued help and support as well as their friendship.

We were also delighted that 2019 saw St Luke's Church achieve the Child Friendly Award again for the second time. Sunday Club played an active part in helping the church achieve this special award.

Our hopes for 2020

- To encourage more children to come to Sunday Club, so our numbers grow.
- To actively raise the profile of Sunday Club and its wonderful children in our church community.
- To continue to help and nurture our young people to grow in faith and to help them form a personal relationship with God.

JAM Crèche Sue Smither

Following a recommendation from Sue Mitchell, Liverpool Diocese' Family Missioner, the area in Cuerdley Chapel used by young families with little ones was renamed the JAM Crèche [JAM=Jesus and Me]. Signs were put in place to direct families to this facility; some new equipment was purchased thanks to a successful bid to the DMPC fund and generous donations were made to purchase big floor cushions and new 'Children round the world' rug that is both washable and non-slip and recommended for use in such areas. Additional cushions and throws brighten the Crèche and many families now take advantage of the Crèche. Tables and chairs are set out with toys, activities and colouring sheets that are relevant to the church season.

Vision for 2020

- To recruit members of the congregation to help to oversee the Jam Crèche ensuring that suitable Safeguarding and Health and Safety Training are met.
- To provide activities offered are current to the church season.

SUNDAY SCHOOL at Cronton Mission Lesley Wright

Sunday School has changed in terms of the age of the children - this is now a pre-school group. Very enthusiastic in their engagement in activities linked to the weekly gospel and showing some exciting emerging artistic talent. They are learning to pray and sing to Jesus (remembering actions is of course coming along faster than the words). Kerrie Yates has continued to provide Sunday School teaching and a number of mums ably support her. Philippa Wynn has contributed excellent activity ideas when she takes the lead. We are grateful to all our helpers and grateful for our children.

OPEN THE BOOK Sue Smither

The Open the Book Team of Lead member Sue Smither and team members Gail Beswick, Barry Ingram, Pat Johnson, Lynne Taylor and George Telfer went into Farnworth CE School to present stories from the Bible using dialogue, simple costumes and props. The OTB Assemblies were presented to KS1 children and occasionally to KS2 assemblies. Children were invited to dress in simple tabards and join us as actors. The current OTB Team all comply with the school's DBS Vetting in line with recent changes in the Open the Book Guidelines.

Open the Book supports the school in reinforcing their termly Fruits of the Spirit values. Scripts are written to include action and repetition so that ALL pupils are engaged in the story.

The children continue to impress the Team with their growing knowledge and understanding of New and Old Testament Bible stories.

Mrs Stillings and her staff always makes us welcome and I would want to express thanks to them and of course the children.

Vision for 2020

- To work with school's new Head Teacher, Mr Redman, and liaise with the newly appointed RE and Collective worship lead, Kathy O'Grady
- To hold OTB assemblies for KS2 at least once per half term.
- To further develop the scripts so that there is more children participation

IGNITE Sue Smither

Following Reverend Janice Collier leaving Widnes to take up a new post in Whitney, Ignite, the Deanery Youth Church, was taken over by Lay Reader Clare Moss who has a specific Reader role for Ignite Youth Church Ministry.

There have been a few issues with trying to find new leaders but Widnes Transform Church is now on-board with this, with Deanery approved funding they have recently employed a specific youth worker. Every church in the Deanery supported Ignite with an annual donation of £60.

The group catered specifically for young people, aged 11 to 17 years from the churches throughout Deanery; they met on Sunday evenings between 6.30pm and 8.30pm in various venues. St Luke's Confirmation Club children were encouraged to attend and given information.

Vision for 2020

- To continue to support Ignite financially
- To invite IGNITE to lead an All Age Worship Service
- To provide information for the children who are to be confirmed in 2020 and encourage them to attend IGNITE.

Cronton Mission and CE Primary School

We have continued to share the Word and worship in a welcoming and relaxed setting, sowing seeds of faith in the unchurched and de-churched whilst maintaining traditional services for those with a mature faith and experienced churchmanship. Our links with school remain strong and the children are taking an increasingly active part in services and worship.

Vision for 2020

- To involve Ethos group and confirmed children in Sunday services
- To start a post-confirmation after-school club linked to church on Sundays
- To encourage school governors to attend church at Cronton
- To populate the church page on the school website
- To put Cronton on the 'Find a church near you' website

Farnworth CE Primary School Sue Smither

Good links were not only maintained but flourished between Church and School. Sue Smither led whole school and KS1 Collective Worship and Open the Book. Reverend Bob is now a Governor, he supported Collective Worship. The School Choir continued to flourish, even with an 8am start. Whole school Celebration Services in church were led by the Ethos group at Easter and Harvest; there were presentations from Y3/4 for Advent and Y5/6 for Christmas. A Leaving Service for Y6 pupils was held at St Luke's in July and the Foundation Stage Welcome Service in November; Holy Communion with Children services for Y6 and Y5 were held in church.

Sue Smither prepared children for Confirmation; just two Y6 children were confirmed at a wonderful service at St Ambrose; they were supported by parents, friends and congregation members. Mrs Stillings also attended. Both boys continue to worship with us.

Mrs Stillings resigned from her post as Head Teacher in December 2019 to take up a role as an Ofsted Inspector. Mrs Stillings' final act as HT of Farnworth was to read at the Nine Lessons and Carols Service after which she was presented with a Book of Celtic Prayers and a Journal. We wish her every success in her new post. Mr Andrew Redman was appointed as the new Head Teacher. For my part, it was both a privilege and a pleasure to maintain such strong links with the school, with Mrs Stillings, her very committed and talented staff and the wonderful pupils.

Vision for 2020

- To continue to build on the strong foundation, links and initiatives, between church and school.
- To encourage classes to regularly attend church for midweek services.
- To encourage more children from Y5 and Y6 to consider Confirmation.

Lunts Heath C.P. School Sue Smither

Good links were maintained with Lunts Heath CP School and St Luke's. Lower KS2 children came to church to present their Advent service. The Upper KS2 classes told the Christmas Story in rhyme and song. Both events were well attended and appreciated by parents and carers. Sue Smither went into school to lead two Collective Worship sessions; one of which was a whole school Harvest Service led by children from Y3. Donations of food were accepted and sent to Food Bank. Sue Smither also led a history walk around church and Farnworth village with two different classes of Y2 children.

Vision for 2020

- To maintain and further develop the links between school and church
- To make staff aware of the church and the churchyard as a resource for many different areas of the curriculum.

SCOUTING Sandra Markey Group Scout Leader, 12th Widnes St Luke's Scout & Guide Group. Since the launch of Moon Meadow Raise the Roof Campaign in November 2017 at our usual, and always well supported Singa – Longa – Santa event, we have managed to raise in the region of £75,000, well done to those concerned with all the hard work that entails. We also have £1,442.16p in the Co-op community fund. If you are a member and have a card for the co-op, you too can join us with this fundraising effort each time you shop there. 2018 saw a collaboration between the church and our group for the annual fair at Farnworth School, where we raised money whilst having an enjoyable time, always a bonus. Some of our leadership team have been helping at Messy Church too, and we as a Scout & Guide group occasionally help at the morning service.

Beavers, age range 6 to 8 years, the youngest, at present at least, members of the scouting family have been to the pantomime. There have been sleep-overs and visits from the police, and we have learned about lots of different things which affect our community. The Beavers are a lively and curious group of youngsters, always ready to engage in what is on offer from their leadership team. They also went on their annual District Camp and joined the Annual Group Camp, where the weather made for a great time for all units involved. Busy Beavers!

Cubs, age range 8 to 10 ½ years are busy gaining badges so that we can have a Coffee and Badge Presentation Evening, where the cubs watch their parents play the same games they do. This is always a fun night and we raised over £100 for the roof. The Cubs have been on a group camp, a sleepover at the Catalyst Museum: that was fantastic but oh so cold during in the night! We had a Burns Night trying haggis and making bagpipes, Taekwondo Presentations by a young leader, we learned about disability with a presentation from a person with a computerised hand, The questions on that were illuminating! And there was also a Swimming Gala. Very busy Cubs!

Scouts, age range 10 ½ to 14 years. Two Scouts have successfully interviewed and been accepted for a place on Eurojam 2020, not an easy task so very well done to both, and now both are committed to fundraising for that. The Scout Unit, have been on group camp, Annual Cold Camp (it lived up to the name). They enjoy planning and cooking meals outdoors, sometimes successful but not always. Pioneering and many other activities outdoors led to more badges. Scouts of all ages love badges! There were Night Hikes with the District and there is also a new leader, Pippa. Busy Scouts!

Explorers, age range 14 to 18 years. Their parents should be proud of these young people, I am certainly proud to be associated with them. One Scout has interviewed and been accepted for Jamboree 2019, very well done, and not an easy task. Two have also been successful in gaining a place on Eurojam 2020, well done to them too. They are taking part in a Skills for Life programme, and so far, have completed the following: ironed clothes, wired a plug, some sewing and boiling an egg, all very important, if mundane parts of life. A group of them joined our scout troop at cold camp. Busy explorers even though year 11's have an important school year too, they always manage to combine the two successfully.

As Group Scout Leader, I must thank all those leaders and very important helper outers, who make St Luke's what it is today, successful. And of course, our Executive Committee, who work tirelessly to maintain and control the building and fundraising, and who are now joined by a group

of mums from Scouting who are dedicated to help raise funds for the roof, the New Friends of Moon Meadow. Their events have so far been very enjoyable and successful. Lastly, without the youngsters, who make life very interesting indeed, we would not have such a huge and happy Scouting family at St Luke's.

GUIDING

16th Rainbows Michelle Harper

In 2019 we had a fun filled packed year with our Rainbows and here are a few of the activities that we took part in. We were very excited with the start of our new programme for Rainbows within Girl Guiding. The Rainbows have the opportunity to learn new skills in our weekly meetings and earn their interest badges which are completed at home. These are then given at our presentation nights when family members are invited to attend. We celebrated our 30th Birthday as a unit with games and activities popular throughout the years. We have also enjoyed taking part in All Age Worship, Messy Church and fund raising events for the church and our Head Quarters, Moon Meadow, including the Summer Fair held at Farnworth School.

2020 will be another busy year with learning about our local area, joining in with Thinking Day celebrations and taking part in fund raising events. We will be learning new skills on our theme of Feeling Good and we are looking forward to another year of a full unit of eager Rainbows and their energetic leaders.

SCOUTING and GUIDING UNIT MEETING DETAILS

Monday 5pm to 6.15pm 17th Rainbows (age 5 to 7 years) Emma Cooke 07917152501

Monday 6.30pm to 8pm 16th Brownies (age 7 to 10.5 years) Clare Moss 07954149497

Tuesday 6.30pm to 8pm 17th Brownies (age 7 to 10.5 years) Michelle Simpson 01514202278

Wednesday 6pm to 7pm 12th Beavers (age 6 to 8 years) Caroline Myers 01514202278

Wednesday 6.30pm to 8pm 12th Cubs (age 8 to 10.5 years) Linda Carroll 01514202861

Wednesday 7.15pm to 9pm 12th Scouts (age 10.5 to 14 years) Stephen Liptrott 07966516112

Thursday District Explorer Scouts 7.15pm (age 14 to 18 years) Michelle Eager 07742226228

Friday 5.45pm to 7pm 16th Rainbows (age 5 to 7 years): Michelle Harper 01514202645

Mothers' Union (MU) Colleen Harper

The St Luke's Branch of Mothers' Union is part of the Widnes Deanery which itself is a member of the Liverpool Diocese. Liverpool is part of the Northern England (York) Province, one of five covering the UK and Ireland. The movement has now spread to 84 countries and the current Worldwide President is Sheran Harper from Guyana, the first to be appointed from outside the UK. Last November Sheran should have been visiting the Liverpool Diocese, particularly to meet the Mini MU Branch, another worldwide first! Unfortunately, weather and travel conditions meant that she was unable to get across the Pennines but there are plans for her to visit in 2020.

We are grateful to the people who have informed and entertained us at our monthly meetings during 2019. Amongst them, we were pleased to hear from Reverend Ian Hopkins before he had to leave St Luke's for pastures new and choir member Marjorie Blennerhassett regaled us with stories from her varied and interesting life. Caroline Collins, Diocesan President for Liverpool, came to us twice, the second time accompanied by the Northern Province President, June Houghton, for my installation as Deanery President for Widnes. We were also joined by our friends from St Michael's Branch and the service in Church was wonderfully led by our own Reverend Bob. At one meeting, the planned speaker was unable to attend but the evening was not lost – we all spoke about our own histories and how we came to join MU. We have some amazing people in our group!

A Committee organises our events with Jackie Whitehead and Christine Turner sharing the Branch Leader role with myself (Secretary). Jackie is Treasurer, she also attends Deanery meetings with me. Christine provides Home Communion to our Indoor members and assists at the Child Support Centre. Janet Littler keeps in touch with all our Indoor members on a regular basis while Rita Poole prepares the report for the Parish Magazine. This is just a taste of their involvement and they all do a great job so thank you, Ladies.

For most of 2019 our events were held in the Bridewell but we are thankful that the PCC have agreed that we can meet in Church from now on. Membership is not restricted to women nor even to mothers. We are a group of people who like to know what is happening in our neighbourhood and to see if we can help. If that sounds like you too, please come and join us on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), starting at 7.30 pm. A year's membership costs £23.00 but a couple of taster sessions would be free of charge! I look forward to more joining us when you feel ready.

CHOIR Director of Music Paul Delaney

The choir, consisting of a dedicated team of singers, rehearses every MONDAY at 6.30pm. Often, when I am away, for example, working in a London school, this rehearsal moves to a Thursday. Since I arrived, I have slowly introduced several new hymns, many of which are becoming a staple part of our worship. These hymns include: Love is his word, All that I am, In bread we bring you, Lord and Gifts of bread and wine. A new hymn has been aired for the last few weeks, a lovely communion hymn called 'I am the bread of life.' The 'Bread of life' mass, composed by Margaret Rizza is now being sung most Sundays and I do think the congregation are now joining in the singing much better, after initial 'resistance' to change. I have several more masses to 'explore' and these will be practised / aired in the future too, otherwise, we run the risk of singing the same mass for ten years!

With VERY limited numbers of singers, no bass singers and Norman as our only tenor, four part harmony is possible. Therefore, I often choose 2 part / 3 part pieces, such as the lilting and delightful Advent lullaby. Recruitment is always a problem, as it was in my last parish church (St Paul's Catholic church, West Derby, Liverpool) but you never know, we may attract several new members interested in singing. However, HOW this will happen I'm not sure - perhaps as in my old church, a plea from the pulpit. This said, the choir at the moment are singing well and are a dedicated group of people, often coming to rehearsals in freezing cold wind and rain. And so I'd like to finish by thanking them all for their dedicated service.

Vision for 2020

- To assist Colleen in her learning the descants for the 'Mass of the bread of life'. (Rizza)
- To learn the 'Mass of the new century', composed by Andrew Moore (Not in hymn book)
- To continue to introduce new hymns into the Sunday services
- To generate ideas for the recruitment of new future choir singers.

Bellringers Tower Captain Nigel Goulding

Keeping the bells of St Luke's ringing for services during the year has been difficult due to a general lack of Ringers, exacerbated by holidays, shift working, injuries and family commitments. This has resulted in there being no bells on some Sunday mornings. On a positive note, we did ring for all the weddings for which the bells were requested, but this did require calling on help from Ringers at other churches.

We welcomed a new recruit during the year but unfortunately his progress has been interrupted for personal reasons. We hope to welcome him back in the near future and we hope that Reverend Bob's volunteering initiative will stimulate some interest.

The Bellringers are pleased to have been involved in the project to make the back of the Church a more versatile area and look forward to the time when we will be able to look down on the congregation. Visiting Bellringers to any Church often look for the "facilities" so we shall then be in a position to say yes to them in the future.

We continue to do our best to ring the bells on Sunday mornings and will continue to hold practices on Tuesday evenings, numbers permitting. Anyone wishing to learn to ring would be very welcome.

Vision for 2020

- To plan to clean and paint the bell frame and fittings, in the not too distant future.
- To consider repairs to or replacement of the sound control shutters that were installed back in the 1970s.

Deanery Synod Pat Johnson

Synod met 4 times during 2019.

Clare Moss spoke at one meeting on behalf of IGNITE updating us on the situation vis a vis accommodation for their monthly 6.30pm Sunday evening meeting. They rotate as and where there is room. A power point presentation by Clare was most informative – this was followed by an urgent appeal for help with the group as there are now only two leaders. The group is willing to visit churches and lead worship.

TRANSFORM is established at St John's church and attracting new young families. They have run some successful ALPHA courses during the year. A youth worker was appointed.

Funding for Mission and Growth projects is available via applications to the Deanery Mission & Pastoral Committee by all churches in the Deanery. We were fortunate enough to receive a grant toward Bibles and Holding Crosses for our Confirmation children; also a further grant towards chairs and tables for the space at back of church. We appreciate these grants.

Finance, Parish Share and Mission & Growth have dominated most meetings during 2019. It is quite apparent there are going to be some major changes taking place in the coming year and to try and encapsulate such an important subject in this summary is very difficult.

Vision for 2020

- To encourage everyone to pray for those who are searching for the solutions
- To support our clergy, PCC, wardens and all who manage our wonderful church

Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee Sue Smither

The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee promotes mission and growth in the Deanery.

The Deanery receive £27,000 p.a. from the Diocese on the condition that ALL churches pay 100% of their allocated Parish Share. The Diocese stipulate that this £27,000 must be used for Mission and Growth in the Deanery.

In previous years, one third of this amount (£9,000) was allocated to support the Area Dean in their role. Bids may be made by individual churches for grants from the remaining £18,000, to fund mission initiatives in their individual parishes.

St Luke's was successful in applying for two grants; one of £279 FOR Bibles and Holding Crosses for EWT Confirmation candidates, and £936 for tables and chairs for the west end of church.

In September a new Area Dean, Reverend Canon Roland Harvey, was installed. In December Roland, generously allocated £500 to each church in the Deanery from his Area Dean allocation of money. This was hugely appreciated by St Luke's PCC; it will help towards the Parish Share.

Vision for 2020

- To consider further opportunities to apply for Grants from the DMP Committee to promote Mission and Growth at St Luke's.
- To support a new format for the DMPC which will see two groups being developed, one with a focus on Mission and the other on Finance.

East Widnes Team Council

The Team Council is made up of the Team Rector, the Team Vicar along with 3 elected members from each PCC, 2 representatives from Cronton Mission Church Committee and a Treasurer who may be a Team Council member or an additional member. It was agreed that members should serve for no more than 3 years.

In 2018 and 2019 the Team Council did not meet, but when necessary Clergy. Readers, Wardens and Treasurers may meet to discuss the way forward for the Team.

Foodbank Lesley Howell

St Luke's Church, Farnworth School, Cronton Mission and Cronton School have continued to actively support Widnes Foodbank, through food donations from the congregation (6241 kg since we opened in 2012), with regular prayer during Sunday services and financial support.

The roles of managing the warehouse and member of the strategy group are still held by Lesley Howell from St Luke's. Other members of the congregation volunteer at the warehouse, as drivers and for Tesco collection days. Although the Foodbank strategy group was successful in managing

the Foodbank, since the volunteer co-ordinator left, it has been quite a load for all the members of the group and although most are retired, they all have other commitments. So, a part-time salaried co-ordinator Vicky Ferguson was recruited in 2019.

Our main distribution centre is Crossing Point on Lugsdale Road which opens on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning plus St Mary's Westbank, which is open Thursday morning and St Paul's is open on Friday afternoon. Plans to open Crossing Point on Tuesday are well in hand. We started to work in partnership with Fairshare at the end of 2019 so can now offer some fresh fruit and vegetables to our clients which is much appreciated.

Vision for 2020

- To continue to keep efficient provision of emergency food for all clients referred by our agencies.
- To recruit and train new volunteers to ensure we always have sufficient people available to ensure the smooth running of the centres, office and warehouse.
- To increase our presence on social media and our connections with other nearby Foodbanks.
- To hold a thank you event for the volunteers who give their time so selflessly over the years.
- To ensure all volunteers have regular update training so that our processes continue to run smoothly.

Church groups contact details

Bell Ringers

Nigel Goulding 0151 495 3894

Tuesday practice 6.30pm in Church

Churchyard working party

George Telfer 01514234640 and Barry Horabin 01514249887

Monday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Choir

Director of Music Paul Delaney

Thursday practice adults 6.30pm in Church

07778042553

Church Cleaning group

Yvonne Horabin 0151 424 9887

Wednesdays and as required

Flower Arranging team

Lesley Runcorn 0151 423 1759

If you can help with church cleaning please contact Yvonne

Wednesday & Friday mornings

If you would like to help please contact Lesley

Parish Review

Philip Lacey 07710030973

farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk

Church Events

Aladdin's Cave

Second Saturday each month 10am to 1pm in the Bridewell.

Sale of quality nearly new and used goods & bric-a-brac.

First Saturday in the month 11am to 3pm in the Bridewell.

Booksale

Barry Ingram 0151 423 2492

Bridewell Bookings

Barry Ingram 0151 423 2492

The Bridewell is available for use for small groups. Charges are £20 for first two hours and £5 per hour thereafter.

Mothers' Union M.U.

Colleen Harper 0151 424 4351

Second Wednesday 7.30pm in church

Open Door

Barry Ingram 0151 423 2492

Wednesdays 10am to 4pm. Knit and Natter 10am to noon and

Games Galore 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

This report was approved at a meeting of PCC members on 18th May 2020. If you spot any mistakes please email PCC Secretary sandalacey47@yahoo.co.uk so amendments can be made before it goes in the public domain.

8.ACCOUNTS

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.