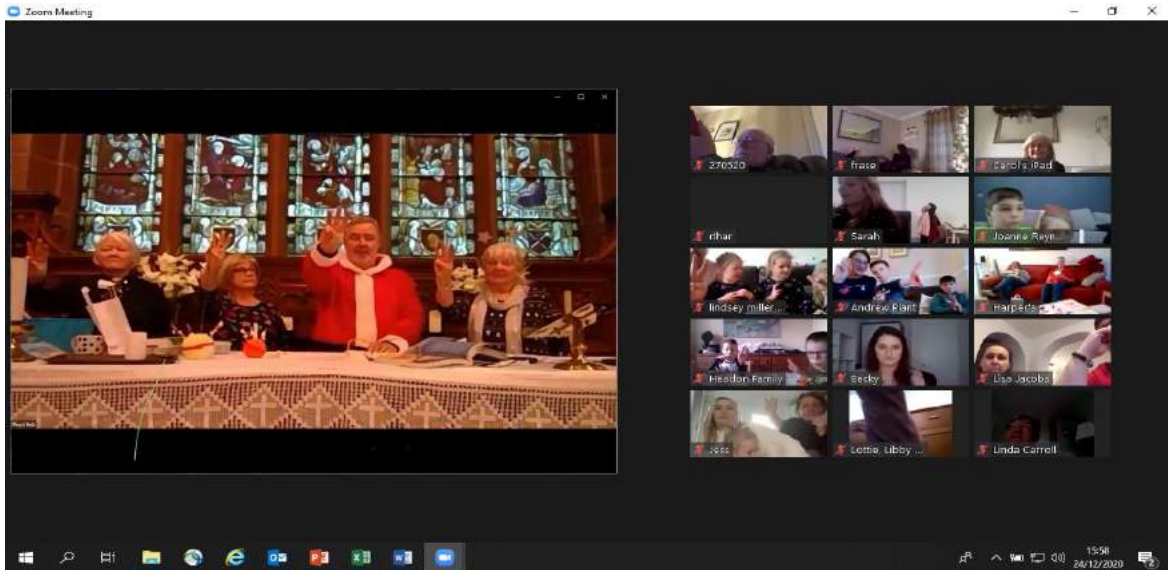


Parish of St. Luke Farnworth with Cronton Mission Annual Trustees Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2020



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. INTRODUCTION

The restrictions of the pandemic meant church had to close after the service on 15th March. Unfortunately, the Mothering Sunday service planned for 22nd March was cancelled. The last fund-raising event for the year was the Rose Queen Quiz on Friday 13th March at Widnes Cricket Club which was enjoyed by all present, thanks to Lynn and Alan Keeling for organising this popular evening.

On Wednesday 27th May Rev'd Bob led our first Morning Prayer by Zoom and little did we know that this way of communicating would become invaluable as government restrictions and advice from the Diocese closed our church throughout the year. Even when services were held in church they were also 'Zoomed' so all people had the opportunity to worship. Communication with our congregation, our local community and further afield became more important. Our website was updated weekly to keep people informed of services. Photographs from services were uploaded and videos taken by Alison Pearson of inside the church and in the churchyard were also uploaded. The Contact Us facility provided a point of contact to make an enquiry. Text Marketer was used successfully to keep in touch with members of Toddler church and Messy church, as unfortunately the groups could only meet virtually. Our parish magazine which is distributed bi-monthly thanks to a dedicated band of deliverers was also circulated by email and was on the church website. This outreach kept people informed of the important matters affecting our church and articles that helped to develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Children, the future generation of worshippers, are important to us and were welcomed at Zoom services. Thanks to our Lay Reader Clare assisted by Rev'd Bob, Rev'd Lyn and Lay Reader Sue the Christingle services was 'Zoomed' and the families enjoyed the interaction especially the 'sparks'.

Worship at Cronton Mission also stopped in March, so Sunday School did not meet after the closure. Families from Cronton joined services at St. Luke's church on Zoom. It is hoped to provide online activities for children to complete and share on Zoom and set up a Whatsapp group to keep in touch with Cronton parishioners. Due to the pandemic Rev'd Bob has used Zoom since March for collective worship in school to maintain the links and the children have adapted well to worship on Zoom. The mission has a third party use agreement with school for use of the building, this replaced the energy contribution several years ago (there have been no payments this year).

Unfortunately, the provision of more space at the back of church was not utilised as we had wished, because of the restrictions on social distancing. The Faculty for the installation of toilets and a kitchenette was finally approved but is now on hold. Eventually 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 will last well into the next Century. This will require a great deal of support from not only the congregation but also the wider public. 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.**

2. AIMS and PURPOSE

The first and most important aim of the St Luke's Church with Cronton Mission Parochial Church Council (PCC) is working with Rev'd 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.

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 faced by individuals.

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.

3. OBJECTIVES for 2021

St. Luke's church

Owing to the pandemic, despite having a calendar of services and events planned only the following objectives were achieved:

- To use the screen to promote church services and events.

- To continually review our Risk Assessment as necessary to ensure church is a safe environment for worship in the present situation re pandemic restrictions.

- To promote our website at every opportunity.

- To hold a Toy Service at the All Age Worship service in November.

The other objectives will become objectives for 2021:

- To hold Bring One Friend and Back to Church Sundays.

- To organise a Giving in Grace Stewardship appeal.

- To revise the Baptism service.

- To provide more services for the bereaved and lonely people.

- To improve the welcome to church and update our 'Church near You' entry.

- To make the Toy Service at the All Age Worship service in November an annual event.

- To continue to use Zoom to take church into the home.

- To use Zoom to hold events such as a quiz.

Cronton Mission

Due to the pandemic restrictions the following objectives were not achieved and will become the objectives for 2021.

- To facilitate the community to be self supporting in taking over the drop in sessions.

- To further develop links with Cronton CE Primary School through provision of weekly collective worship in school and joint services, the work of foundation governors in strategic school decisions to ensure continued outstanding education provision,

Christian distinctiveness and work with school staff in preparation for SIAMS inspection.

To take part in *Giving in Grace Stewardship Appeal*

To continue to incorporate *The Rule of Life and Bigger Church*, bigger difference into *Café Church*

4. FINANCIAL REVIEW Yvonne Horabin

St. Luke's church

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. However, there were 2 deposit accounts in that fund which have been closed - £3174, of which £2300 was transferred to Major repairs in Restricted funds and the balance of £874 to the General fund

2. **Restricted and Designated funds** - This is for monies for specific purposes, i.e., Major Repairs, Bridewell etc. it also included £25299 for Mission and Growth, which initially was the money received from the Diocese from the sale of the vicarage and land. However, this has had to be transferred to the General fund to cover the shortfall in income, because of the pandemic, to pay the Parish share. Originally this money was to be used to buy kitchen equipment and more furniture for the rear of the church once the installation of the toilets and kitchen has been done. More fundraising will now be required to do this.

3. **General Fund** - This covers the income and expenditure of the day to day running costs of the church which have been running at an exceptionally large deficit again this year of £27895. This deficit is before the transfer of the monies from the Restricted Fund above of £25299 and £874 from the Endowment Funds.

Balances @ 31/12/2020 - Endowment Funds £152,370, Restricted funds £11,018, Designated funds £2,102 and General Fund £4,201.

Cronton Mission

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

Total receipts were £2,025.74:

Collections of cash and through the envelope scheme £465.74 Standing orders - £1,560

Fundraising - £0 and Funeral Income £0 Eligible tax reclaim - £ 500

Total payments were £105.24:

Direct petty cash - £27.24

upkeep of services School energy contribution - £0 (third party use agreement with school for use of the building, this replaced the energy contribution several years ago)

Readers licence - £0 CCLI, copyright cost for use of CD recordings - £78

Charitable Giving The following donations were made:

Children's Society - As the Christingle was held online, people attending the Zoom service were asked to make donations on line to the Children's Society.

Christian Aid - Due to the pandemic restrictions, no fund raising was possible for Christian Aid. Details were distributed asking people to donate direct to Christian Aid.

Ignite - This group has now disbanded and has been incorporated within Transform Widnes. .

Foodbank – As well as 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 such as the new toys for the Toy Appeal were posted on the website and on Facebook, circulated to schools and published in the magazine. Parents and children from Farnworth School and Cronton School continued to support Foodbank.

Toy Service – new initiative for 2020 which will now be an annual event. The generosity of people donating toys for the Trinity Kings Cross Appeal was over whelming.

5. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. 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 Farnworth. PCC members receive Health and Safety training and are CRB checked. Other training includes trustee responsibilities, risk assessment and safeguarding 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 considered 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 all 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 – 157 on the 2020 roll. (new roll in 2025)

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	Position	Until	
Reverend Bob Pearson	Team Rector ex-officio		
Reverend Lyn McIver	Team Vicar ex-officio		
Barry Horabin	Warden 2016 ex-officio Project Manager, Funeral Verger, H&S, Deanery Synod & Chair of Friends	2021	
Pat Johnson	Warden 2018 ex-officio Funeral Verger, Deanery Synod & H&S	2021	
Rob Leech	Warden 2020 Oct ex-officio Website Facilitator	2021	
Colleen Harper	Warden 2020 Oct ex-officio Funeral Verger & H&S	2021	
Lesley Runcorn	Deanery Synod ex-officio, Flower Arranger leader & Cathedral representative	2021	
Yvonne Horabin	Deanery Synod ex-officio, Treasurer & Wedding Verger	2021	
Reverend Bob Pearson	Deanery Mission & Pastoral committee	2021	
Clare Liptrott	Lay Reader	2021	
Gail Beswick	Sides people contact	2021	
Dorothy Lightfoot	Children's Society	2021	
Lesley Firth	LML Cronton	2021	
Sandra Lacey	Secretary & Electoral Roll Officer	2022	
Alma Marshall	Baptism Assistant	2022	
Margaret Campbell	Safeguarding Officer & Wedding Verger	2022	
Jeff Evans	Asst Treasurer	2022	
Lynn Keeling	Sunday Club Leader	2023	
Sue Smither	Lay Reader	2023	
Barry Ingram	Deputy Warden, Lay Chair & Foodbank	2023	
Deborah Doyle	Cronton representative	2023	
Cronton Mission Committee Members			
Lesley Firth LML	Chair	Rota Monitor	Chair
Vacancy	Secretary	Barry Ingram	Vice Chair
Denis Bray	Treasurer	Debbie Doyle	PCC & Safeguarding officer
Cherrill Edge			

Worship Attendance Barry Ingram

St Luke's	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sunday 8am average	16	16	14	No services
Sunday 10.30am average	65	62	68	26 (20 Zoom)
Sunday 6.00pm average	14	21	19	No services

Wed 9.30am average	17	16	19	12
Baptisms	38C	56C	53C 4A	17 until March
Baptism monthly average	210A	118A 35C	110A 27C	82A 28C
Confirmation (inc Cronton)	2A	7C	2C	11
Funerals Church	27	27	16	14
Funerals crematorium	13	11	16	?
Weddings	10	11	9	0
Christingle	429	569	663	60 on Zoom
Christmas Eve Midnight	76A	103A	83A	35 (5 Zoom)
Christmas Day 1030am	47A 3C	43A 1C	41A 1C	22A 1C
9 Lessons & Carols	89A 17C	88A 26C	123A 20C	No service
Cronton	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sunday 1030am average	24A 10C	33A 14C	17A 9C	25 until March
Christingle	21A 20C	26A 23C	32A 23C	No service
School Nativity	127A 104C	105A 95C	No record	No service
Christmas Day	No service	31A 13C	No service	No service
Baptisms	4	2	1	0
School Eucharist	100A 120C	100A 120C	No record	No record

These figures were affected by the pandemic.

Giving and Stewardship Barry Ingram

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic and its effect on attendance at church our deficit has been increased. 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. For more information on giving please contact Barry Ingram.

Gift Aid	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tax reclaim	86	69	53 SO & 27 envelopes	47 SO & 29 envelopes
St Luke's Cronton	11	9	12	6
Regular	£8706.50	£6936.82	£9380.21	£4778.84
Yellow	£602.00	£709.23	£959.52	£237.50
Total	£9309.00	£7646.05	£10339.21	£5026.34
Stewardship scheme	2017	2018	2019	
St Luke's	46	45	41	38
Cronton	11	8	11	10
Total number	57	53	52	48
Value	£14636.75	£14566.67	13,087.34	£5400.81
SOs	2017	2018	2019	
General Fund	48	40	39	42
Fabric Fund	8	6	5	8
Value	£21,973.00	£16,451	£16,248	£14398

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	2	3	5	2	3	13	3		1	32
SO		6	7	3	4	9	3	3	3	
Fabric fund			5	1	1	1				

Total	2	9	17	6	8	23	6	3	4	78
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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	2	1	2	2	2	6				15
SO					1	1	1		1	4
Fabric fund										
Total	2	1	2	2	3	7	1		1	19

The Small Donation Gift Aid Scheme yielded for St Luke's church £2000 and for Cronton £303.80. 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 35 - £13,303.75 received £3,188.51 tax refunded.

Please note all these figures were affected by the church closure for long periods due to the pandemic.

7. REPORTS ON CHURCH LIFE

Safeguarding for Children & Vulnerable Adults and GPDR

Margaret Campbell 0151 424 6039 07376112836

Within this difficult year of the pandemic, we continue to be committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. At the back of the Church there is a printed copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and Policies and procedures for a Safer Church, I would encourage members of this committee and the church congregation to read them. Also, there is a list of contact numbers of people to be informed if anyone has concerns, with regards to a safeguarding issue. We utilise The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for volunteers working with Children and Vulnerable Adults. However, the PCC have overall responsibility to ensure that all activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults are professionally managed and supervised. We continue to work closely with Pauline Ruth and the Halton Safeguarding Children and Adults Board. There are no safeguarding issues to report

Vision - To encourage volunteers working with Children, young people and vulnerable adults to attend the Liverpool diocesan training sessions. **GPDR** - To continue to store all the congregation's information in a safe place and respect the individual's privacy, and do not share their personal information with other organisations.

Pastoral care and service in our community Sue Smither

Baptisms - During the early months Rev'd Bob 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/carers were also told about JAM Crèche, Sunday Club, Toddler Church, All Age Worship and Messy Church events. At the start of the year before church had to close Baptism families came to these services which was really encouraging.

Funerals - Before Lockdown was announced in March, Clergy and Lay Reader Sue Smither visited bereaved families to minister, support and help plan funeral services and to offer post funeral care. Unfortunately, once the restrictions came in place personal visits were not possible and funerals were planned with families on Zoom and Facetime or with telephone

calls. For a while, we were unable to offer Funeral services in church, which some families found extremely difficult, as did we as a ministry team. All services had to be held at Widnes Crematorium Chapel where numbers were restricted to facilitate social distancing, services were relayed to family and friends standing outside and Live Streaming was offered through Halton Borough Council. 2020 was definitely challenging in so many ways and the ministry we offered was not ideal, but it was the best we could prayerfully offer given the Restrictions and Government Guidelines we had to follow and our funeral Ministry had to adapt accordingly.

Pastoral Outreach - Until March, members of the Clergy, Sue Smither, Clare Liptrott, Barry Ingram and Christine Turner provided ongoing pastoral care. During the Lockdown this took on many different forms. The post service Breakout Rooms after Zoom services became an important way of keeping contact and sharing information and a huge debt of gratitude must be given to those people in our church who set up and facilitated Zoom. Other communication mostly came through posting information on the church notice board and on our church website and in local shops thanks to Stuart and Val Anderson. There were some socially distanced front doorstep house calls, many personal one-to-one texts and phone calls and this is where the use of social media was so beneficial. None of this, of course, could replace the personal contact we all craved. Early in 2020, 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, with people continuing throughout Lockdown to take their donations to the Food Bank Office in Widnes Cemetery. Donations of toiletries, bedding and other items were regularly taken to the Widnes Changing Lives House.

Vision - To meet to all necessary Diocesan Safeguarding requirements and to prayerfully meet the Pastoral needs in the Parish.

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 £1096 and other donations amounted to £421. This money is used to support the current restoration projects. The main work of the Friends group is to support the various fundraising events and fairs. Unfortunately owing to the pandemic restrictions there was only 1 event in March. A Spring Raffle and Quiz night raised £1432, which HSBC matched £500 as part of their support for charities so a total of £1932 for church funds. Thanks to Barry Horabin the Heritage Open Day was held in September. Despite the restrictions the numbers attending were only slightly down on previous years. Church was open and there were guided tours of the church and the village. The national focus was Hidden Nature. Sue Smither produced a self-guided tour of the churchyard to enjoy the nature in the churchyard and discover some interesting facts.

Health and Safety Wardens

All church policies are posted under Policies tab on the church website and are reviewed 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.

Despite the pandemic restrictions, our team of volunteers worked socially distanced on Monday mornings, battling with the brambles and nettles. The team work on the graveyard from 9.30am to 12.30pm. We are vigilant about the security of the church and your safety. A list of current First Aiders is in church.

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 - To continue to review Risk Assessments and ensure all equipment is serviced and maintained.

Toddler Church, Clare Liptrott

Toddler Church is for families with pre-school age children, the services usually take 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. 2020 started as 'normal' for our toddler church families, meeting for our monthly worship in January and February, but then due to pandemic restrictions worship together in church had to be suspended. For the remainder of the year the families were encouraged to engage with the monthly recorded stories and craft activities that were posted on the church website and we have continued to keep in contact with our Toddler Church families directly using text messaging and by encouraging them to access information on our website and Facebook pages.

Vision - For as long as is necessary due to the pandemic restrictions, we will continue to engage with our Toddler Church families with recorded stories and crafts. When it is safe and appropriate to do so, we will re-start our monthly worship in church and look to rebuild our Toddler Church family back up, with those who were with us before along with new families with young children.

Messy Church, Clare Liptrott

Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults who do not 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. There were no Messy Church services planned for the very beginning of 2020 and then due to pandemic restrictions worship together in church had to be suspended meaning that in 2020 there were no 'traditional' Messy Church services. Our Messy Church families were encouraged to engage with the monthly recorded stories and craft activities that were posted on the church website and we have continued to keep in contact with them directly using text messaging and by encouraging them to access information on our website and Facebook pages.

Vision - For as long as is necessary due to the pandemic restrictions, we will continue to engage with our Messy Church families with recorded stories and crafts. When it is safe and appropriate to do so, we will re-start Messy Church in our church and look to rebuild our Messy Church family back up, with those who were with us before along with new families.

Uniformed Organisations, Clare Liptrott

The uniformed groups meet at Moon Meadow HQ, which is just down the road from St Luke's Church, on Farnworth Street. The year began as 'normal' with all the groups meeting for their regular weekly meetings, as well as attending monthly All Age Worship services at St Luke's Church. In March there was a massive weekend spring clean of the HQ which went well but unfortunately this turned out to be the last time the groups were able to enter the building, as the pandemic hit, and the resulting restrictions meant that the groups could not meet in person. Since then, some of the groups have continued to meet virtually via Zoom, whilst other groups have taken advantage of national scouting virtual activities to keep the children engaged. In 2020, in the background, the work continued to raise the funds required for the urgent roof repairs to Moon Meadow HQ. As the year progressed plans for the work were submitted to HBC for planning permission, which was granted, and the fundraising target was achieved meaning the project could now progress.

Vision - For as long as is necessary due to the pandemic restrictions, groups will continue to meet virtually and even make use of outside space for meetings (in accordance with social distancing requirements) as the weather gets warmer, and the evenings get lighter.

The urgent repair work for Moon Meadow is scheduled to take place in June, July and August 2021 and none of the groups will be meeting inside the building now until after this work has taken place. We are hopeful that a grand re-opening of the HQ can take place in September 2021 and the groups can then begin to meet once again in the building.

SUNDAY CLUB at St. Luke's church Lynn Keeling

9 on roll - 8 girls and 1 boy, age range 4 to 11. Sadly, this last year has been a very strange one because of the pandemic and Sunday Club has been unable to meet. However, we have kept in touch through the power of technology and Zoom. The children took part in special services - Father's Day, the Toy Giving and Mothering Sunday. Many of the children accessed the Zoom service for the Christingle service too. At the end of summer, the children came to my house for their annual Teddy bear's Picnic and Mrs Smither very kindly gave them their annual Attendance Awards. It was a lovely day with very precious time spent together. Sadly, there was no Rose Queen or Summer Fair or any of the other fundraising events which the children and their parents normally fully support. Any money needed to buy items for Sunday Club comes directly from church funds. We always try and give the children good quality resources. We use the scheme of work set out in the Pebbles and Rocks books but diversify to suit what is going on in church at times. The children learn about God's love and how He cares for them. We have such a lovely group of young people and I say this all the time, but they are a joy to be with when guidelines allow. Sunday Club has been 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. However, Lesley has now stepped down from her role so there is a gap that hopefully will be filled.

Vision - To actively raise the profile of Sunday Club and its wonderful children in our church community, to encourage more children to come to Sunday Club, so we 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

The creche has been closed owing to the pandemic restrictions.

Vision - To recruit members of the congregation to help to oversee the Jam Crèche ensuring that suitable Safeguarding and Health and Safety Training are met.

OPEN THE BOOK Sue Smither

Due to many different reasons, the Open the Book Team were unable to go into school at all during 2020 to deliver Open the Book.

Vision-To work with Farnworth CE School's Head Teacher, Mr Redman and liaise with Kathy O'Grady, the RE and Collective worship lead.

Farnworth CE Primary School Sue Smither

Rev'd Bob is a Governor and Mrs Ann Mather is the PCC representative on the Governing Board. Good links were not only maintained but flourished between Church and School throughout 2020. Rev'd Bob and Sue Smither were involved in Collective Worship on a regular basis even once Lockdown was announced. Mr Andrew Redman has certainly faced some challenges during his first full year as Headteacher, but he has done this admirably and has gained huge respect from all the staff, governors and parents for the manner in which he has handled the ever changing situation with school closures etc and having vulnerable and key worker's children in school. The staff adapted wonderfully well to online teaching and again due praise has been heaped on them by grateful parents and carers. For my part, it was both a privilege and a pleasure to maintain such strong links with the school, with the very committed and talented staff and the wonderful pupils.

Vision - To continue to build on the strong foundation, links and initiatives between church and the school.

Lunt's Heath C.P. School Sue Smither

Due to pandemic restrictions, there were no visits in person but contact through email sending thanks and best wishes from St Luke's to all staff and children for their commitment under such difficult circumstances.

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

Mothers' Union (MU) Colleen Harper

We could only meet between January and March 2020, with all other meetings and our annual trip having to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Sadly, that suspension has continued into the first quarter of 2020, although members have agreed to maintain their subscriptions which go to help the wider MU work. Sadly, we lost two of our members last year, Dorothy Wall and Doreen Whimperley, RIP. If the roadmap out of the pandemic continues as at time of writing, our meetings should resume in Church from April 2021, again on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7.30 pm, except for August. We will rearrange our trip to Sudley House in Mossley Hill once it reopens.

New members would be very welcome to join us at meetings, when we pray together and learn of work that is ongoing in our community and how we may help. We are happy for guests to

join us for a taster session or two and take advantage of the special arrangements for our trip. Please contact me for further information.

CHOIR Director of Music Paul Delaney

What a 'strange' year for everybody! I've purposefully left Sunday March 22nd on the hymns board because that was the Sunday that never was! We had our choir practice on Monday 16th March and chose those hymns for the following Sunday. Alas, those hymns were never sung. Church was suddenly closed, and we all know why, of course. It was certainly strange in the initial lockdowns waking up and having NO church. Equally strange was Easter 2020 with nowhere to go. But the Zoom services have been great, and I enjoyed singing the various hymns and often making a mess of the second and third verses. (Reading the music and glancing over to the words on the other page, despite YouTube practices!) Of course, I didn't see the choir for such a long time, and we still haven't been able to practise. It was also so strange not playing the organ for such a long time too. Slowly, we could resume, of course and sing the 2 hymns and now we are allowed to sing at Communion. Christmas again was strange with limited services too BUT we have, like everybody else, managed! And so hopefully soon, we will find some normality...

Rachel has now joined us and is a welcome addition to our small group of dedicated volunteers. Hopefully soon, we will be able to meet again to rehearse once we are allowed and learn some new songs and hymns. I would like to thank the choir who have since returned for their dedication too. Let us hope 2021 is a better year for singing

Bellringers Tower Captain Nigel Goulding

Ringling continued normally during January. In February and March, we were really struggling for numbers, so on some Sundays there was no ringing or was limited to only 3 or 4 bells. We began to teach a recruit during the autumn and winter. She was making good progress and would have been shortly able to join the Sunday band. Ringling was curtailed on a national basis from middle of March so in common with the rest of the Church of England we shut down for 3 months. When the first lock-down ended we started ringing only 3 bells on a Sunday to maintain "social distancing" The ability to do this required family or bubble members to ring close together. We were unable to manage this arrangement after the second lock-down. It would appear unlikely that there will be any ringing until all restrictions are lifted in June 2021. There were no weddings during the year. We rang the bells for Mike Dodd's funeral at the end of February.

In 2021 we do need to address the need to paint the bell frame and repair or replace the sound control shuttering.

Deanery Synod Pat Johnson

The initial meeting of Deanery Synod was 2nd March 2020 and held here at St Luke's. The only face to face meeting as pandemic restrictions had just begun and the rest as they say, 'is history'. A successful Deanery Day was held at Halton Stadium in March primarily to share vision and planning for the Deanery. St Luke's was well represented.

TRANSFORM has flourished during 2020. St Paul's & St John's are now one parish, each retaining their own identities but working as a partnership. Not without teething problems but overall agreed better working together than apart. Serious concerns regarding financing

the partnership were raised, and the Area Dean wrote to Deanery Synod with his observations and thoughts on the way forward. This is still ongoing. A challenge facing all churches in the Deanery in many respects is lack of young people attending. Initially IGNITE attracted good numbers, however circumstances have changed and as a result Clare Moss who led this group feels it 'has run its course'. TRANSFORM now appears to fulfil spiritual aspirations of the age group who attended IGNITE. A proposal was made that when the situation permits, to hold a celebration event - acknowledging the work done by leaders during its time. All churches will be informed of this event. Deanery Synod proved challenging as a result of pandemic restrictions - Zoom transmissions proved invaluable but hopefully we will be able to get back to 'face to face' meetings in the not too distant future.

Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee Sue Smither

Deanery Day planned for February went ahead - details in Synod Report. Focus of DMP group was to be GROWTH but it was also deemed necessary to look at finance generally in the Deanery with churches struggling to pay their Parish Share. The decision was taken to form a separate Deanery Finance Committee. This Finance Group would have an overview of the whole Deanery. Due to the pandemic, all DMP meetings were conducted via Zoom. Notice was received from the Diocese that all clergy appointments were to be frozen for three years. Widnes currently has 6 stipends which is achievable. Approval was given to use portion of DMPC funds to support each Parish with their Parish Share. Due to the pandemic, the Consultation period for the joining of St John's and St Pauls to become Transform Widnes was extended. Discussion took place several times over the allocation of DMP funds to support Widnes Transform. Sue Smither stepped down from DMPC. Rev'd Bob took her place. Vision - To support the work of both the DMPC and the newly formed Finance Group

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, 2019 and 2020 the Team Council did not meet, but when necessary, Clergy, Readers, Wardens and Treasurers met to discuss the way forward for the Team.

Church groups contact details

Bell Ringers	Tuesday practice 6.30pm Nigel Goulding 01514953894
Churchyard working party	Monday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Barry Horabin 01514249887
Choir	Thursday practice adults 6.30pm Paul Delaney 07778042553
Church Cleaning group	Wednesdays and as required. Yvonne Horabin 01514249887
Flower Arranging team	Wednesday & Friday mornings. Lesley Runcorn 01514231759
Parish Review	Philip Lacey 07710030973 farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk

Church Events

Bridewell	Barry Ingram 01514232492
Aladdin's Cave	Second Saturday each month 10am to 1pm in the Bridewell. Sale of quality nearly new and used goods & bric-a-brac.

Booksale First Saturday in the month 11am to 3pm in the Bridewell.
Bookings The Bridewell is available for use by small groups.
Mothers' Union M.U. Second Wednesday 7.30pm in church Colleen Harper 01514244351
Open Door in church Barry Ingram 0151 423 2492 Wednesdays 10am to 4pm
Knit & Natter 10am to noon & Games Galore 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

This report was approved at a meeting of PCC members on 5th May 2021. If you spot any mistakes please contact PCC Secretary 07761672030 sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk so amendments can be made before the report 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.