**Minutes for 2020**

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners held in St Luke’s Church Sunday 18thOctober 2020 at 11.45am**

**1. Welcome**

Notice of this meeting has been posted on the church door, in the church magazine, on the church website and on Facebook. This meeting should have taken place in April 2020 but delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reverend Bob gave the safety instructions in case church must be evacuated. The wardens will direct the congregation out of church by the main doors and the clergy, choir and Director of Music will leave by the vestry door. The assembly point is the car park of the Ring O Bells.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Reverend Bob opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

It was proposed by Sandra Vanezis, seconded by Clare Liptrott and unanimously agreed that Sandra Lacey would act as Clerk for both meetings.

**4. Apologies**

Pat Johnson, Dorothy Lightfoot, George Telfer, Lesley Firth and Lynn Keeling

32 people attended (16 in church and 16 on Zoom) Attendance list below.

**5. Minutes of meeting held Sunday April 14th 2019 at 12 noon in St Luke’s Church**

No paper copies allowed in church so minutes on church website with annual report for 2019 and accounts, minutes circulated to PCC members and people on WhatsApp group for St. Luke’s and WhatsApp group for Cronton emailed minutes if requested.

Amendments none

Approval proposed by Sue Smither and seconded by Barry Horabin.

Unanimously agreed.

Reverend Bob signed the minutes as a true record.

**6. Matters arising**

None.

**7. Election of Church Wardens for October 2020 to May 2021**

There are 4 warden positions within the Parish of Farnworth. Barry Ingram and George Telfer have completed 6 years as Bishop’s wardens so have to step down. George is taking a break and Barry is nominated for deputy warden.

Reverend Bob thanked Barry Ingram, George Telfer, Barry Horabin and Pat Johnson for serving as wardens in 2019/2020. He thanked Barry for standing for Deputy warden

To stand as church wardens for the forthcoming year (2020-2021) nominations were received for

Barry Horabin (2016) Proposer Sue Smither Seconder Sandra Lacey

Pat Johnson (2018) Proposer Sue Smither Seconder Sandra Lacey

Rob Leech Proposer Sue Smither Seconder Sandra Lacey

Colleen Harper Proposer Margaret Campbell Seconder Yvonne Horabin

The church wardens are ex-officio members. All are not disqualified from standing and all agreed to stand. Unanimously agreed

Wardens serve for 6 years then must take a 2-year break before being eligible to take on a Bishop’s warden role again. Reverend Bob thanked Pat and Barry H for continuing and welcomed Colleen and Rob on board.

**8. Election of Deputy Church Wardens for October 2020 to May 2021**

Barry Ingram Proposer Sue Smither Seconder Sandra Lacey

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

All agreed.

Reverend Bob thanked Barry Ingram.

**9. Closing prayer**

Reverend Bob closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting closed at 11.55am.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting held at St Luke’s Church on Sunday 18th October 2020 at 11.55**

**1. Welcome**

Notice of this meeting has been posted on the church door, in the church magazine, on the church website and on Facebook. This meeting should have taken place in April 2020 but delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Reverend Bob opened the meeting with a prayer. He pointed out that there is Any Other Business at the end but invited people to ask questions at any time during the meeting

**3. Apologies**

Pat Johnson, Dorothy Lightfoot, George Telfer, Lesley Firth and Lynn Keeling

32 people attended (16 in church and 16 on Zoom) Attendance list below.

**4. Minutes of meeting held April 22nd 2018 at 12.25pm in St Luke’s Church**

Approval proposed by Clare Liptrott and seconded by Lesley Runcorn

Unanimously agreed

Reverend Bob signed the minutes as a true record.

**5. Matters arising (not on the agenda)**

None.

**6. Report on the Electoral Roll as of 18th October 2020 Sandra Lacey, Electoral Roll Officer,**

155 in 2019, 5 removed 7 added 157. Additions can be made to the Roll at any time following this meeting. The 2020 Electoral Roll is displayed in church. Names are listed in accordance with privacy rules.

Additions can be made to the Roll at any time following this meeting. The Electoral Roll is displayed in church. Names are listed in accordance with current privacy rules.

The PCC allocation is based on the Electoral Roll number. As less than 200 members on the Electoral Roll the number of members on P.C.C. is 12 elected members plus 2 co-opted for 2019.

Reverend Bob thanked Sandra.

**7. Election of Parochial Church Councillors for October 2020 to May 2021**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Proposer | Seconder | Term | From | For | until |
| Clare Liptrott | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 10/2020 | 3yrs | 2021 |
| Gail Beswick | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2018 | 3yrs | 2021 |
| Dorothy Lightfoot | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2018 | 3yrs | 2021 |
| Lesley Firth | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2018 | 3yrs | 2021 |
| Lynn Keeling | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2017 | 3yrs | 2020 |
| Sue Smither | Yvonne Horabin | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2018 | 2yrs | 2020 |
| Barry Ingram | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2018 | 2yrs | 2020 |
| Deborah Doyle | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2018 | 2yrs | 2020 |
| Sandra Lacey | Sue Smither | Yvonne Horabin | 1yr | 5/2019 | 3yrs | 2022 |
| Alma Marshall | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2019 | 3yrs | 2022 |
| Margaret Campbell | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2019 | 3yrs | 2022 |
| Jeff Evans | Sue Smither | Sandra Lacey | 1yr | 5/2019 | 3yrs | 2022 |

Reverend Bob thanked PCC members who served in 2019/20 and those willing to continue.

Ian Taylor and Robert Critchley do not wish to continue. Reverend Bob thanked them both, especially Ian Taylor for his numerous years of service on PCC and welcomed Jeff Evans and Deborah Doyle.

If anyone is interested, they can be co-opted at a PCC meeting, please speak to Reverend Bob or a warden.

**8.Cronton Mission - Ratification of Committee members Oct 2020 to May 2021**

Lesley Firth Chair Barry Ingram vice chair

Denis Bray Treasurer Deborah Doyle Cherrill Edge

Safeguarding officer vacancy and Secretary vacancy

Reverend Bob has met with the members on Zoom and they have decided the time is not right to open Cronton Mission yet. Reverend Bob has set up a WhatsApp group to keep in touch with people who worshipped at Cronton. Reverend Bob thanked the members for continuing.

**9.Election of Deanery Synod representatives December 2020 to May 2021**

Nominations Lesley Runcorn Barry Horabin

Pat Johnson Yvonne Horabin

Proposer Sue Smither Seconder Sandra Lacey All agreed.

Deanery Synod representatives are ex-officio.

Reverend Ian thanked Deanery Synod Representatives who had served in 2019/20. He thanked Barry, Pat and Lesley for continuing to be Deanery Synod representatives and welcomed Yvonne to this important role. He also thanked Sue for her numerous years on Deanery Synod and Deanery Mission and Pastoral committee.

**10.Election of representative on Deanery Mission and Pastoral committee December 2020 to May 2021**

Nomination Rev Bob Proposer Sue Smither Seconder Sandra Lacey All agreed

**11.Team Council**

Since St John’s church left the East Widnes Team to join St Pail’s church to be part of Transform Widnes this committee has not met. Rev Bob and Rev Lyn keep in contact with the treasurers - Joan Webster St Ambrose and our Treasurer Yvonne Horabin

**12.Appointment of Independent Examiner for the financial affairs of the PCC 2021**

Nadia Hague FCA Vanguard Accountancy Ltd, Liverpool All agreed.

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

There were 6 PCC meetings and 1 extraordinary one, which just means a meeting called at short notice. The extraordinary meeting in April agreed to the withdrawing of £10,000 if necessary, from Endowment funds to offset our deficit. It was necessary! Yvonne, our treasurer will be telling you more about our finances later.

The PCC meetings covered topics ranging from finding a vicar which we did so our prayers were answered to securing a temporary faculty to re locate the font which eventually happened thanks to Baz. Also, we are indebted to Clare and Steve who spent many hours trying to fix the Wi-Fi in church with boosters until a fibre connection was installed and now we have the technology to take church into your home, which has been essential this year.

In June we said goodbye to our Interim Vicar Rev Ian and hello to Rev Bob and Alison who attended the second joint summer fair with the Scout and Guide group which was a great church and community activity. Bob and Alison also attended the Lunts Heath School fair and Cronton carnival so Bob met a lot of people in a short space of time, I wonder how many names he can remember? But I am sure they remembered you Bob.

In July at Bob’s first PCC meeting he suggested a whatsapp group for PCC to keep in touch. Little did he know that WhatsApp would become an essential way to communicate in 2020. We now have WhatsApp groups for St Luke’s friends, cronton friends, standing committee, funerals, baptisms and weddings.

In September Sue Mitchell presented the Child Friendly Award to Lynn Keeling and the Sunday Club children. This was a proud moment for the children who then presented Sue with the Children’s Charter they had written. Also, in September Heritage Day attracted lots of interest thanks to Baz and his team. All credit to Baz who kept this event going in 2020 despite the restrictions.

In November MU decided to move their meeting into church and celebrated their Christmas service with Rev Bob. And we decided to impress Bob and produce a timetable of events for 2020 with concerts, special services and other events, first time we had put this into a church calendar. Well as you know the Rose Queen Quiz on 13th March was the last time people enjoyed a night together. Now the church is open special services are taking place so that is a blessing.

In December Bob held a service to commission volunteers which was well attended. Over 100 people were invited. Volunteers do not expect thanks but are pleased when their efforts are recognized and appreciated. On Christmas Eve 2 Christingles were held – attendance 380 at 3pm and 300 at 5pm, so at the end of 2019 we thought this was now an established tradition. But church life has changed and how will Christingle be celebrated in 2020? This is now being discussed. 700 people on Zoom would be mind boggling but amazing.

As stated in the Annual report for 2019 the PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. This has certainly been of major importance in 2020 and sometimes a challenge but thanks to the energy and time of PCC and church members worship has been possible in church and on Zoom by computer and telephone. So on behalf of the PCC I would like to thank you all for your support and patience as we adapt to these challenging times.

Reverend Bob thanked Sandra for her report.

**14.Safeguarding, Child Protection and Protection of Vulnerable Adults – Margaret Campbell Safe guarding officer**

Safeguarding is a Christian imperative and a responsibility that we must undertake with thoughtfulness, commitment and Safeguarding 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 have been appointed by the PCC as Safeguarding Coordinator responsible for ensuring and promoting the best possible safeguarding culture and expects 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. Reports their concerns to the Vicar or Safeguarding Coordinator.

Throughout 2019 the system for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) remains the same with PCC being responsible. It is important that we do not rely on a DBS check to ensure that we get a safe person, to ensure that all activities involving children, young people, and vulnerable adults, are professionally managed and supervised. We need to utilise Liverpool Diocese Safer Recruitment process and practice an essential part of the recruitment and appointment of volunteers. 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.** They are then required to attend an interview, fill in an application form, with two referees and to complete a Self-Decoration 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 sighs 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 extremely useful, for the role and responsibilities that they have.

In view of the situation in 2020 with the Corvid19 virus, Church Services and church activities reduced. The need for the congregation to self-isolate, wear face covering and to keep 2.5 metre distance. Thank you to the people who operate the Zoom technology to enable church services to be relayed to members of the congregation who wish to access Church Services.

Throughout these difficult times, we do however, need to stay alert to the possibility of Child and Domestic Abuse. Planning and meeting the objectives for 2020 will be difficult to achieve. We hope with the Grace of God to be able to continue our work and worship.

**15.General Data Protection Regulation - Margaret Campbell Data Controller**

St Luke’s and Cronton Mission have agreed a data protection policy in line with 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, funeral and baptisms. All data is stored in a safe place, locked cabinet in St Luke’s vestry.

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

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 sharing your personal data.

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be shared with other members of the church to carry out a service to other church members or for the purpose connected with the church. We will only share your data with third parties outside of the parish with your 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 073998419.or contact via Contact page on the church website st-luke.co.uk

Reverend Bob thanked Margaret for her comprehensive report and stated how lucky we were to have someone so knowledgeable and diligent she should be delivering courses for the Diocese.

**16.Health and Safety – Sandra Lacey**

The safety of people in church and in the churchyard is of paramount importance to us. First aid training was undertaken by 15 people and a defibrillator is in church. A team of dedicated gardeners look after the churchyard and Arthur Turner has renewed paths to avoid trip hazards.

Our church policies 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.

To streamline our maintenance of the boiler, the alarm system and monitoring facility and PAT testing we are investigating having all with one company.

All events held in church are risk assessed as we were hoping to hold more events in church but that has not been possible this year. Unfortunately, a risk assessment had to be undertaken to open the church and this assessment is reviewed at PCC meetings.

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

We plan to have a sub committee to oversee health and safety so if you have expertise on this matter or know someone who has please speak to a church warden,

Reverend Bob thanked Sandra for this report in the absence of George.

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

Endowments held on behalf of PCC @ 31/12/2019 and Restricted and Designated Funds are per page 7 of accounts

General Fund - This fund is for the general day to day expenditure of the church. Yet again 2019 has been a very worrying year. Deficit £26,107. It was necessary to cash in £25,359 of shares from the endowments to cover this year’s deficit.

Page 4 - Incoming resources this year were £101,148 compared to £101,975 in the previous year, a slight decrease of £827. Planned giving and open plate collections are down on previous years, and fund raising from fairs, raffles, quizzes and other fund-raising events but only by £418.

Page 5 - Resources expended have increased from £125,609 in 2018 to £127,255 this year, an increase of £1646 which considering the fact that the Parish share rose by £2721 to £82,112, which amounts to 64.5% of the total expenses, this was a good result. We have tried to keep costs down as much as possible.

It is exceedingly difficult to budget on the general fund as a large proportion of it is fixed expenditure for which we have no control over. In 2019 we no longer qualified for free banking and this resulted in extra expenses of £511. In addition, the Parish share for 2020 has gone up to £83,480, an increase of £1,368.

The whole of the PCC has a duty to look after the day to day running of the church, and to collectively work at finding new ways of increasing the income on a regular basis. Promote the use of the Parish giving scheme instead of envelopes or loose plate. Explore the use of a contactless card machine in church now that we have got the broadband working in the main part of the church. We need younger PCC members who understand and can embrace this new technology, for the benefit of all. As we have seen in this Pandemic the use of cash has been discouraged.

Like all businesses and charities, the regulations covering all aspects of the day to day work are changing all of the time, and the main standing committee group within the PCC have to keep abreast of all of the changes. We need younger PCC members who are familiar with IT and online working.

The above is a summary of what happened in the year ended 31st December 2019. I do not think any of us could have foresaw what was in store for us all in 2020, not just in this country but the whole world. It has had a serious effect on funds for all charities not just our church. We have been very fortunate in receiving two generous legacies this year of over £18,000, and this, together with the £25,359 from the endowment funds at the end of last year, and also transferring the “Mission and Growth” monies, previously in restricted funds to the General fund enabled the parish share to be paid for 10 months. A big “thank you” to all who changed their giving in this period from envelopes or cash to the Parish Giving Scheme. This regular monthly income has increased from £760 to £1,430 per month, plus the monthly tax refunds of £338, have increased from £186. Having this regular income, in addition to the monthly standing orders, Rents, Dividend Income etc of £1,300+pmnth, covers our regular outgoings for Insurance, utilities, clergy expenses etc is a relief , but still falls drastically short of the £9,000-£10,000 per month it costs to keep the church open. There has been no income from Weddings and funerals since March and not likely to be until 2021. All fees for funerals at the crematorium are for the diocese, not the church. In addition to this, there have been no fundraising events, which as well as the money, the loss of fellowship from these events, has been missed by all.

In December 2019 over 2,500 people came through the church doors, for school concerts, brass band concerts, not to forget the two popular Christingle services on Christmas Eve, attended by over 700 people, young and old. We must think of ideas to reach out to everyone to keep this fellowship strong. Everyone needs to play their part in this, not just expect the Clergy, Readers and Wardens to do it. Let them know your ideas or if you can help in any way, please get in touch.

Question from Geoff Poole - Why are we paying parish share if we cannot afford it? Yvonne replied the allocation of the parish share across the Deanery is under discussion, but if parish share not paid across the Deanery it may result in deduction in number of clergy.

Reverend Bob thanked Yvonne for her expertise in this area and the hours she must spend on church finances.

**18.Fabric, goods and ornaments of the parish – Barry Horabin Warden**

From a frustrating 2019 with difficulties with an intransigent DAC in Liverpool to a disappointing end in 2020. The failure to achieve funding for the toilet project in church and then the emergence of COVID 19, these previous years have tested our resilience to the full. Towards the end of last year we were buoyed by the success of being granted a Faculty for the work on the toilet project only to fall at the final hurdle being unable to achieve the full 50% required match funding. After all the negotiations with the DAC which

had gone on for two years, we had finally achieved a decision and a Faculty was applied for. At this stage we thought we had achieved our goal but unfortunately objections where raised by the Victorian Society, Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings and the

Church’s Trust. These objections were so close to the closing date for grant applications at the end of October that it seemed impossible for us to comply. All objections were answered, some of which were obvious, but making judgements from a distance is

always problematic. At this point our case was supported by the Chancellor himself, His Honour Judge Graham Wood QC, who eventually dismissed all objections. This turn of events came after he personally visited the church and attended the Holy Communion

Service and the Christenings afterwards and saw for himself what we were trying to achieve. He stated that his perspective of the project was improved by highlighting the proposed area in black and yellow tape which was a helpful addition as he was able see our intentions more clearly. He stated that there would be a degree of harm which had to be weighed against the benefits the project would produce. He highlighted the fact that the demograph of the congregation was at an age when toilet facilities were of an important factor as the nearest one was at least sixty yards away in the Bridewell. Subsequently the modest harm was outweighed by the benefits of the programme and the Faculty approved.

All this was to no avail as we did not acquire all the necessary financial requirements for grant aid. To add to the problems, we had we had to deal with the outbreak of the pandemic COVID 19 which plunged the country into total lockdown and resulted in a suspension of all church activities for months. Having experienced this setback, it was decided to try and achieve a restoration project for the rest of the church (Choir Vestry Roof, The Nave Roof and the Tower). To achieve this, we decided to resurrect The Friends of Farnworth Church, which still existed although now small in numbers. This group had been formed ten years previously when we first set out on our Restoration Project.

When applying for grant aid it must be done via a support group connected to the church with a written constitution. To date they have achieved the restoration of the Chancel Roof, the Cuerdley Chapel Roof, Full Central Heating System, Restoration of the Organ

Restoration of the Lighting System and new Oak Doors to the North and South vestibules and many smaller projects. A quick estimation of the costs so far expended amounts to almost £750 thousand of which quite a considerable amount that has been raised by grants

with the support of the Friends Group. The next Restoration project could as I have previously estimated be in excess of 1 million but as most of the work is roof orientated

then Heritage England readily fund those projects generously. To achieve these goals, we have set ourselves we need support, volunteers to help to achieve these ambitions. Volunteers with skills they did not realise they had and those who are experienced in

these areas. We need volunteers to help in the churchyard on Monday mornings to help clear the grass and undergrowth. We as a congregation are getting older and we need some younger people to join us in our quest.

This church has stood as a beacon of faith for many for almost nine hundred years, a place to be married from, to have your children baptised and finally a place for your friends to say farewell.

If you feel you can help in any way please step forward and join us, you will be assured of a warm welcome. The Friends have a Motto which says The Past is our Inheritance, the future is our responsibility

Please accept the challenge and the responsibility of maintaining this building, this beacon

of faith for the next nine hundred years and for generations to come.

Reverend Bob thanked Barry for his commitment to ensuring this beautiful church is maintained for generations in the future to enjoy.

**19.Cronton Mission – Barry Ingram Warden**

The Mission continued to hold Sunday Worship in the School Hall and we are grateful to Alan Hill who prepares the hall for services each week. Attendance remained steady throughout the year with several families including both parents. The congregation have appreciated the regular contact with Rev Bob conducting services of Holy Communion which has made them feel connected to St Luke’s. Rev Ray Jones continues to take occasional services for us and attends other services with Pam when he is available. We would like to send our best wishes to Ray for a speedy and full recovery following his recent stroke. We shared services with the Methodist congregation on Rogation and Palm Sundays and with the Methodist and Roman Catholic churches on Remembrance Sunday and at Christmas. Children from school joined us for Harvest and Christingle services.

Reverend Bob thanked Barry for stepping in for LML Lesley Firth who is taking a sabbatical.

**20.Deanery Synod – Sue Smither Deanery Synod rep**

In 2019 the Deanery Synod met five times to share and debate items emerging from parishes or those referred by the Diocesan or General Synods. One of the remits for 2019 was to develop the Deanery Mission Plan to support the Liverpool Diocese Growth Agenda.  St Luke’s has 4 lay representatives plus clergy.

The items for discussion in 2019 were

* The Deanery Review
* The issues surrounding the Youth for Christ worker
* Promotion of the Diocesan initiative Tell, Serve, Give.
* The Northern Bishops in Mission visit from March 7th to 10th
* The new Diocesan system of calculating Parish Share for implementation in 2020
* A presentation by Mike Eastwood on the above
* The issues and difficulties felt by each of the churches with the increases in Parish share
* The funding of Transform Church and its role in the Deanery

**21.Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee – Sue Smither DM&P committee rep**

The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee feeds into the Deanery Synod and aims to have an overview of the Deanery with representation from each of the churches in the Deanery.

* Their main remit is to promote mission and growth in the Deanery.
* In 2019, Widnes Deanery received £27,000 from the Diocese; money to be used specifically for Mission and Growth in the Deanery. This money is conditional on ALL churches in the Deanery paying 100% of their Parish Share which was achieved. This is to be celebrated as many Deaneries fell far short of their target.
* In 2019 St Luke’s was successful in applying for two bids: £279 for Bibles and Holding Crosses for the East Widnes Team Confirmation candidates and £936 for tables and chairs for the west end of church.
* In September 2019, Rev’d Canon Roland Harvey, was installed as our new Area Dean; he is based at St Mary’s Church Hale. Much of the discussion centred on the financial implications of increasing Parish Share and the onerous demands made on each of the churches. In December, Area Dean Roland, generously allocated £500 to each church in the Deanery towards their Parish Share from his £9,000 Area Dean allocation. This was hugely appreciated by St Luke’s PCC and a letter of thanks sent.

Rev Bob thanked Sue for her many years on Deanery Synod and her valuable input to the Deanery Mission and Pastoral committee.

**22.Dates**

* 1. Monday 26th October 7pm by Zoom PCC to appoint officers and sides people
  2. Monday 23rd November 7pm PCC
  3. Visitations online – Monday 9th November 19:30, Sunday 15th November 18:30 and Thursday 19th November 19:30
  4. Date & time of 2021 APM & ACPM Sunday April 18th 11.45am in St Luke’s church
  5. Date and time of 2021 Cronton Mission AGM 11.45am in Cronton Mission tbc

**23.AOB none**

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

Let me begin by saying that this is the first of what I hope will be many annual meetings that I get to share with you. My wife Alison, mother-in-law Beryl and I are extremely grateful for the warm welcome that you have given us – you have left us in no doubt that you are pleased God has called us to join you.

Looking through the minutes of last year’s annual meetings I read that Revd Ian said his goodbyes to you with a picture he had of, ‘The ground now cleared for us for a new and exciting season for St Luke’s Church, Cronton Mission and EWT with the right leadership at the right time.’

Someone reminded me recently of something she remembered I had said in one of my early sermons after joining you, “We don’t know what the future holds but we know who holds the future.”

No-one, including Rev Ian or me, could have ever foreseen what God knew was about to happen! But God is in charge and I believe that no matter what other surprises may come he will lead us through them if we remain close to him in prayer.

God even knew that I would be commuting from my old vicarage in Wigan following my appointment in June 2019 to our finally moving into Farnworth a couple of weeks before Christmas!

It is probably a huge understatement to say that we are all in a unique and very confusing situation today. This report is supposed to cover the year up to the end of December last year, but as we all know the time since then with church closures and lockdowns very much occupies our thoughts today.

The annual meetings are usually held in April but because of the restrictions we are now in late October having grappled with 10 months of the strangest time we have ever known.

However, I will try to be disciplined and leave the information about the new ways of being church and the new skills that have been developed for next year’s report.

Personally, one deep regret I have is that because of Covid-19 we are still in the process of getting to know one another properly. Even in more ‘normal’ times trust and affection takes time to develop, but I hope that you are at least convinced by now that I have the very best interests of God’s church in East Widnes always uppermost in my mind. It is very important to me that you can come to eventually regard me as your friend as well as your church leader.

There will inevitably be some difficult decisions made in the coming years and I hope that those who might hold different views about the way forward from mine will always find me approachable and willing to listen. After all, we all want the same things – for God’s kingdom to increase and for all the people of East Widnes to come to know and love the Lord Jesus.

I now turn to the most important part of what I want to say and that is a huge thank you on behalf of all of us to everyone who has contributed to the mission and ministry of EWT in 2019.

I am very blessed to have colleagues like Sue and Clare, Lesley and Rev Lyn – all very gifted in ministry in different ways and very generous with their time - they have made it very easy for me to settle into my new ministry.

I know that many of you, like me, are deeply appreciative of their important work amongst us both in preaching and teaching, in children’s and school’s work, in their prayerful and gentle pastoral work, ministry with the bereaved and in a hundred other ways – they are a vital part of St Luke’s with Cronton Mission and I know that their ministry is widely appreciated and admired by us all.

ChurchWardens/deputies – They say that you can never have too much of a good thing and we are blessed with double the usual number of wardens! My thanks to Pat, George, Barry and Baz for the way they have organised themselves as a team and covered for one another when necessary. However, all good things must come to an end and as George and Barry step down, having completed their maximum 6 year term of office, Colleen and Rob know that they have very big shoes to fill but with God’s help will undoubtedly build on what has gone before.

George Telfer. As a PCC member, George brought his expertise on Health and Safety. As the Verger at Funeral services he had a great rapport with Funeral Directors and a considerate, gentle way with mourners. George worked hard as part of the Churchyard working party and was always ready to lend a hand with whatever was needed. At meetings he was often quiet, but he was a very deep-thinking, thoughtful member of any group in which he was involved, and his contributions were always valuable. George was one of those men who did much in the background without drawing attention to himself. Happy fishing George!

Barry Ingram. He has also completed his term of office as Governor at Cronton CE School, but I am delighted that Barry will continue as a Deputy Warden. Our grateful thanks to Barry for all that he has done, and thankfully, he will continue in many of those roles…including… as a member of the PCC, contributing to services with intercessions and reading, overseeing Church Banking, as Gift Aid Secretary, organising the Envelope Giving scheme, St Luke’s Coordinator for Christian Aid and when we are eventually permitted, setting up and running the monthly Bridewell Book Sale…..AND many other jobs that he just quietly gets on with in the background.

Church Treasurer, Yvonne – does a tremendous job involving many hours of often complicated work in the background and we thank her for the immaculate way she has managed our parish finances throughout the year.

Honourable Secretary, Sandra – for the conscientious way she continues to manage our PCC business and a dozen of other things – including me! I thank her personally for her timely reminders and suggestions – always given out of a desire to make the best of any missional opportunities that arise.

Team Administrator, Lesley – for being our point of contact for baptism, wedding and funeral enquiries and for dealing with all the paperwork even though she no longer has an office to work from. Hopefully, in the not too distant future she will be able to share my office at the Rectory.

I must also thank Ian Taylor who stepped down from the PCC earlier due to health issues. He had been a member of the PCC for many, many years and had contributed much. He was a sidesperson, regularly read at services, was one of the team of Monday’s Churchyard working part, a tour guide on Heritage Days, a cleaner when required…..in fact, whenever help was called for Ian would step up. As PCC Treasurer, Ian led us through some significant changes; he was also Treasurer of the East Widnes Team, the Friends of St Luke’s and Fairs Committee and many other church based organisations. He was involved in lots of fund raising initiatives and his financial skills and expertise were valued not only at Parish and Deanery levels but also within the Diocese.

You may remember that we held a Commissioning Service for all our volunteers - and it was a very long list! So that you get home before dark I will content myself with just reminding you that we all have a debt of gratitude to those who give their love, time and expertise to us by working in various roles: as a PCC member,Deanery Synod reps, church cleaners, administering the chalice, Margaret our safe guarding and GDPR officer, Baz leading our project managing, sidespersons, choir and Paul our Director of Music, welcomers, Lesley and her flower arrangers, Lynn and her helpers at Sunday Club, Tea ladies, Clare and her helpers at Toddler church and Messy church, Gardening working party, Open Door helpers, Parish Review editors and contributors, Children's Society Rep, Bible readers, intercessors, Christian Aid Rep, Bell ringers, Creche helpers, Bridewell activities, collection counters, Baptism Verger/helpers, Wedding Verger/helpers, Funeral Verger/helpers, School Governors, Friends of Farnworth (Fairs), Rob managing our church website, Child Friendly Church, Foodbank, Home Communion providers, Refreshment servers, Heritage Day organisers and helpers, Scouts & Guides, First Aiders, Open/close gates, Open the Book and Mothers’ Union.

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

**25.Vote of thanks**

On behalf of the PCC and the people at the meeting I would like to thank Bob for his closing remarks. As he said please talk to him rather than to each other and tell him what you think so he can help. We thank him for continuing to provide worship during these unprecedented times.

**26.Closing prayer to say together**

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

**Attendance List**

16 in church 16 on Zoom

Rev’d Bob Pearson Sandra Lacey

Clare Liptrott Rob Leach

Sue Smither Margaret Campbell

Barry Horabin Deborah Doyle

Yvonne Horabin Gail Beswick

Barry Ingram Derek Beswick

Lesley Howell Ian Taylor

Sandra Vanezis Brenda Taylor

Pat Waring Alma Marshall

Alison Pearson Scott Caton

Beryl Cain Alison Caton

Paul Delaney Stephanie Couzons

Colleen Harper Chris Cannon

Geoff Poole Georgia Howard

Lesley Runcorn Doreen Hough

Rev’d Lyn McIver Terri Adams