

# Parish of St. Luke Farnworth with Cronton Mission Annual Trustees Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2022

## Range of Services and Activities for young and old

**JAM CLUB**



**OPEN DOOR**



**SUNDAY CLUB**



**CRONTON CAFÉ STYLE**



### 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 to*      *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

**Local Ministers** Sue Smither, Clare Liptrott and Lesley Firth

**Wardens** Barry Horabin, Pat Johnson, Rob Leech and Colleen Harper

**Web site** [St-luke.co.uk](http://St-luke.co.uk)

St. Luke's church  
Pit Lane Farnworth  
Widnes WA8 9HU

Cronton Mission Church  
held in Cronton School  
Smithy Lane Widnes WA8 5DF

## **1. AIMS and PURPOSES**

The most important aim is working with Team Rector Reverend Bob, 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. 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.

Reverend Lyn, Team Vicar retired in November, so Team Rector Reverend Bob supported by our Lay Readers now has to oversee three congregations - St Luke's church, St Ambrose and Cronton Mission church. Help has been offered by Archdeacon Simon, Area Dean, Peter and lay readers across Widnes.

Our main purpose is to provide a church family within which people can grow as Christians and help one another and the community around us and to maintain the church building for generations to come. At present fund raising is underway to be able to apply for grants to provide toilets and a kitchen in church to make the building fit for purpose.

## **2. OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES**

Reintroduce whole school service at St Luke's for Cronton CE children

Clare to take over leading the Ethos group at Cronton CE and provide a link to Cronton Mission through leading café style worship monthly.

### **Objectives for 2023**

#### **a) MISSION and MINISTRY**

To produce a welcome slideshow promoting services and events to be shown before services.

To use technology to help us to outreach & interact with a wider and more diverse population.

To work towards Net Zero as directed by the Diocese and improve on our first step towards this directive which is the elimination of the use of paper - 10.30am services and baptism services are presented on the screen. To assist us in this action a presentation will be given in a 10.30am service and advice will be requested from the Diocese.

To appoint Lay Reader Clare as leader of the Ethos group at Cronton CE School and provide a link to Cronton Mission through leading café style worship monthly.

#### **b) CHILDREN'S and YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY**

To encourage children and adults to consider confirmation.

To be involved in the Diocesan 'Growing Faith Adventure' which is to be launched in October and replaces the Child Friendly Award.

To continue the tradition of crowning a Rose Queen who is a member of Sunday Club by holding a special event.

To reintroduce whole-school service at St Luke's for Cronton CE School children.

#### **c) OCCASIONAL / PASTORAL SERVICES**

To hold a Blue service in the period before Christmas.

#### **d) FESTIVALS**

To explore innovative ideas to promote Easter and Harvest festivals.

To introduce Remembering Festival Experience for school children and church families.

#### **e) MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE**

To hold Bring One Friend and Back to Church Sundays.

To support a local charity for a year.

To hold Lent lunches.

#### **f) *RULE of LIFE***

To hold a bible study/prayer group.

To continue to promote the Parish Giving Scheme across the church and Mission.

To inform the congregation at Cronton Café Style of the need to support the ministry to promote Outreach and pastoral care there through regular giving.

To provide a 'Good Box' permanently at Cronton Mission for online giving.

To hold a service of thanksgiving for volunteers (every 2 years).

#### **g) *PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS***

To take the church to the people with continued involvement by our Lay Reader with the Scout and Guide group who visit church and are involved in services.

#### **h) *CONSERVATION PROJECT***

To encourage educational use of the churchyard.

To create an 'eco' group to promote our natural and cultural heritage and the importance of God's world by setting up a 'Community Sow and Grow' initiative.

### **Review of 2022 Objectives**

#### **a) *MISSION and MINISTRY***

Services 10.30am on Sundays on Zoom as people who are infirm or ill are not excluded.

Open Door Wednesday promoted to the wider community via posters, Facebook and website.

#### **b) *CHILDREN'S and YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY***

JAM Club and services for children have been promoted on WhatsApp, Facebook, our website and by text marketer to result in an increase in attendance.

Sunday Club children took part in several services - Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Advent and provided crafts to display in church for these festivals, as well as a nativity performance at Christmas.

Welcome and Leavers services for children from local schools have taken place as well as Christmas performances by Farnworth and Lunt's Heath schools.

Our Lay Reader has led church historic tours for the local schools, and more are planned.

Cronton School Ethos group led termly Café Style worship at Cronton Mission.

Despite the Cronton Sixth Form College having their own theatre they love the atmosphere and acoustics that church offers so continue to perform in church for us.

#### **c) *OCCASIONAL / PASTORAL SERVICES***

**OPEN DOOR SATURDAY** monthly drop-in for fellowship and prayer is enjoyed by those who attend, and attendance is growing.

#### **d) *FESTIVALS***

**SERMONS on PARISH GIVING SCHEME** worked with the Diocesan Giving team to increase uptake.

#### **e) *MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE***

**ADVENT LUNCHEAS** held in church to encourage the community to come into church.

**M.U. MEETINGS** now held in church to provide a spiritual experience.

**FOLLOW the STAR** initiative from the Diocese was followed at Christmas. Stars in homes and an amazing display in church thanks to our Flower Arranging team, wardens, Sunday Club

and children from Farnworth School. We are grateful for local shopkeepers Stuart and Val Anderson's organisation of poppies and stars, etc decorating streetlamps in the area, reinforcing the bond between school, church and the community. This has continued into 2023 with egg drawings for Easter and decorations for the Coronation.

#### **f) RULE of LIFE**

**DISPLAY of DOVES** in Bold Chapel provided a peaceful place for prayer and the opportunity to write a prayer on a dove, the templates for doves had to be reissued to meet the demand. Children from Sunday Club, Jam Club, Farnworth CE and Cronton CE Schools were involved.

#### **g) PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS**

Continued involvement with local groups via Facebook by our Lay Reader.

#### **h) CONSERVATION PROJECT**

**CHURCHYARD** Thanks to the Justice Department workers who have created an atmosphere which is comforting to grieving visitors. Heritage Day treasure hunt was enjoyed by visitors. Wildflowers in the churchyard provide a habitat for wildlife.

The use and promotion of Fairtrade products was investigated but considered not feasible.

**CHURCH BUILDING** Thanks to an anonymous benefactor the Gargoyle was reinstated outside Cuerdley Chapel, it had for many years been in the porch. Also, thanks and appreciation to Austin, the stonemason, who worked relentlessly despite the weather to reinstate our Gargoyle and illustrate his undoubted skills as a master craftsman. Gargoyles were added to churches as decoration but if they had an angry face, as ours does they were designed to ward off evil spirits.

### **4. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT**

#### **STRUCTURE**

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. Church members registered on the Electoral Roll are eligible to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC operates two subcommittees: The Standing Committee and Friends of St Luke Farnworth. PCC members are CRB checked and receive Health & Safety and Safeguarding training. Mothers' Union is a charitable trust. Its membership includes people from St Luke's, St Ambrose's and St John's churches. The Widnes Deanery Trustee is also a churchwarden at St Luke's and keeps in regular contact with members at St Michael's & St Thomas's Church.

#### **GOVERNANCE**

**PCC** show leadership to make good use of the funds and resources with a focus on achieving the desired outcomes, and make sure the charity follows the law, produces policies and, where issues arise, that these are dealt with quickly. Potential risks are considered, and progress is monitored, making changes when necessary.

#### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER & LEAD RECRUITER Margaret Campbell 07376112836**

Safeguarding Officer for Cronton and Deputy Recruiter for Cronton is Debbie Doyle. Deputy Recruiter for St Luke's church is Lynn Keeling. Safeguarding is of vital importance, to St Luke's and Cronton Mission. We need to be welcoming but also a safe place. We, therefore, follow the Diocese of Liverpool Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance 2016. This refers to the whole recruitment process for volunteers and paid workers.

## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

All the congregation's information is stored in a safe place, privacy is respected, and personal information is not shared with other organisations.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

## MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

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.

**BUDGET** - An annual budget is prepared to monitor short-term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC quarterly. The investments are reviewed. All assets are insured.

**RESERVES POLICY** - No charity can operate for any length of time without reserves. The available reserves are low, so a major effort will be needed to re-build reserves to a working level, and to re-build a contingency for future maintenance costs.

**CONTINGENCY PLANS** - The Scout and Guide building can be used for services in the event of the Church becoming unusable for a limited period.

**ELECTORAL ROLL** - 163 on the 2022 roll. (New roll in 2025)

## 5. 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.

PCC members	Position	Until
Reverend Bob Pearson	Team Rector ex-officio	
Reverend Lyn McIver	Team Vicar ex-officio retired October 2022	
Barry Horabin	Warden 2016 & Deanery Synod ex-officio	2023
Pat Johnson	Warden 2018 & Deanery Synod ex-officio	2023
Rob Leech	Warden 2020 ex-officio	2023
Colleen Harper	Warden 2020 ex-officio	2023
Lesley Runcorn	Deanery Synod ex-officio	2023
Yvonne Horabin	Deanery Synod ex-officio & Treasurer	2023
	Joined	
Sandra Vanezis	Eco Officer	2021 2025
Alma Marshall	Baptism Assistant	2012 2025

Margaret Campbell	Safeguarding Officer	2018	2025
Jeff Evans	Reader in church	2020	2025
Lynn Keeling	Sunday Club Leader	2000	2023
Sue Smither	Lay Minister	2019	2023
Barry Ingram	Deputy Warden	2020	2023
Deborah Doyle	Cronton representative	2020	2023
Clare Liptrott	Lay Minister	2019	2024
Gail Beswick	Baptism Assistant	2000	2024
Dorothy Lightfoot	Children's Society	2000	2024
Malcolm French	H & S (co-option) resigned 23/02/2023	2022	2024
Sandra Lacey	Secretary (co-option)	2000	2023

## CHURCH GROUPS

<b>Bell Ringers</b>	Tuesday practice 6.30pm Nigel 01514953894
<b>Bridewell Bookings</b>	Barry 01514232492 available for hire by small groups.
<b>Churchyard working party</b>	Monday 9.30am to 12.30pm. Barry 01514249887
<b>Choir</b>	Thursdays practice 6.15pm Director of Music Paul Delaney 07778042553
<b>Church Cleaning group</b>	Wednesdays and as required. Yvonne 01514249887
<b>Flower Arranging team</b>	Wednesday & Friday mornings. Lesley 01514231759
<b>Friends of St Luke's Church</b>	contact Barry Horabin
<b>Mothers' Union M.U.</b>	Second Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm in church Colleen 07946 389162
<b>Open Door Wednesday</b>	10am to 4pm 1.30pm to 3.30pm Games Galore Pat 01512577737
<b>Open Door Saturday</b>	First of each month, 10am to 11.30am. Join us for coffee, fellowship and prayer Sue 07962012916
<b>Parish Review</b>	<a href="mailto:farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk">farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk</a> Philip 07710030973
<b>Sunday Club</b>	10.30am in the Bridewell Lynn 01514243142
<b>Uniformed Organisations</b>	Clare Liptrott 07976549410

## 6.FINANCE

### a)FINANCIAL REVIEW

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. There have been NO withdrawals from Investments.
2. Restricted and Designated funds - This is for monies for specific purposes, i.e., Major Repairs, Bridewell etc.
3. General Fund - This covers the income and expenditure of the day to day running costs of the church which this year resulted in a small surplus of just under £3000, which was purely as a result of the grant received from church commissioners in the year of £33,270 to cover the outstanding parish share from 2021 of £26000 and the remaining £7270 towards £2022 parish share, however we still owe £26000 to the diocese for parish share at the end of the accounting year, which is going to be difficult to repay as well as the current years amount. The 2023 parish share has been reduced by £12,000 from £84,000 to £72,000.

A further £2000 was received towards heating and lighting costs of which £1300 has been allocated to 2022 and the remaining £700 carried forward to 2023

The Income from Regular givers this year has continued to drop, although people using the Parish giving scheme has increased , mainly with regular givers changing from giving by envelopes and standing orders rather than from new regular givers Balances @ 31/12/2022 - Endowment Funds £152553, down by over £20,000 due to fall in stock market, Restricted funds £69,652, which is mainly for the church toilets project which has been boosted this year by a generous donation of £25,000 from Abbeyfield Ltd .Designated funds £2,381 and General Fund a deficit of (£6615)

### **Charitable Giving**

Children's Society - £454 from Christingles

Christian Aid - people were encouraged to donate direct to Christian Aid.

Foodbank - As well as food donations on a regular basis and at special services such as Harvest. Farnworth School and Cronton School continue to support Foodbank.

Toy Service - the response from the congregation, the schools and the community donating toys, gifts and toiletries for the Trinity Kings Cross Appeal was overwhelming.

### **b)ACCOUNTS**

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

This report was approved at a meeting of PCC members on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. If you spot any mistakes, please contact PCC Secretary 07761672030 [sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk) so amendments can be made before the report goes to the Diocese and the Charity' Commission.