

ST LUKE'S CHURCH ECCLESTON

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2020



Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

St Luke's Church Eccleston, St Helens.

The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:-

St Luke's Church
Knowsley Road, Eccleston, St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 4PU.
Tel No 01744 21173
Email address: - info.stlukeeccleston@gmail.com

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the church.

For the period 1st January 2020 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Priest-in-Charge	Rev H Coffey*	Team Rector	
Lay Readers	Mr D Foxford		Retired ACPM 2020
	Mr D Thorpe		Retired ACPM 2020
	Miss D Wright*	Lay Chair Deanery Synod Rep	
Churchwardens	Mr K Lancaster*		
	Mrs L Rose*	Treasurer	
	Mr B Callaghan		Retired ACPM 2020
	Mrs K Grant		
	Mrs D Kelly		Appointed ACPM 2020
	Mr T Kelly		Appointed ACPM 2020
	Miss A Hayes		
	Mr R Lee		Retired ACPM 2020
	Mrs L Llewellyn		
	Mrs J Massey	Deanery Synod Rep	Retired ACPM 2020
	Dr. L Miles		Retired ACPM 2020
	Mrs J Moore	PCC Secretary	
	Mrs A Parry		Deceased March 2021
	Mr P Anderson	Assistant Treasurer	Co-opted member
	Mrs K Sawyer	Minutes Secretary	Co-opted member

Ex-Officio members are indicated by *

The following were appointed at the PCC meeting on 2nd November 2020 as Sides persons: -

Mrs. B. Bird
Mrs. A. Callaghan
Mr. B. Callaghan
Mr. D. Foxford
Mrs. S. Foxford
Mrs. M. Rew

The following have responsibility roles: -

Safeguarding Officer	Miss. D. Wright
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mrs J Thorpe
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs. D. Follis
Health & Safety Officer	Mr. K. Lancaster
Bereavement Support Co-ordinator	Mrs L Fairclough
Prayer Ministry Co-ordinator	Mrs E Fletcher
House Managers	Mr B Callaghan, Mrs E Fletcher.

Team Rector: - Rev Helen Coffey, St James Vicarage, 159a St Helens Rd, Eccleston Park, Prescot, Merseyside.
Tel No: - 07742 590672. Email: - helentcoffey@gmail.com

Bankers: - Royal Bank of Scotland, Ormskirk Street, St Helens, Merseyside,

Independent Examiner: - Mr. P. Horton, c/o St Luke's Church, Knowsley Rd, St. Helens.

Architect: - Nicholas Rank, Butress, Manchester

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules as at 2017.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a charity currently excepted by order from registration with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC meets on a monthly basis except for January, August and December.

Day to Day management of the church is exercised by the Standing Committee, the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact PCC business between PCC meetings and considers strategic issues which may affect the church.

Members of the Standing Committee are: -

Miss. D. Wright (Lay Chair)
Mrs. L. Rose (Church Warden)
Mr. K. Lancaster (Church Warden)
Mrs. J. Moore (PCC Secretary)
Rev. H. Coffey (Team Rector)

Related Parties:

Queen's Park Primary School, St. Helens – the Priest-in-Charge of St Luke's Church, Eccleston is an ex-officio member of the school governors. This is Rev. Helen Coffey, Eccleston Team Rector.

Individual PCC members receive external training as and when deemed appropriate by the PCC. Training may include trustee responsibility training, basic health and safety, risk assessment and management and child protection procedures.

Financial Risk:

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC at every meeting. The investments held by the PCC are only made in approved low risk funds approved for charity use. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling are implemented.

Compliance with Law and Regulation:

The Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines (Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a safer church) have been adopted by the PCC. The PCC have the ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Safeguarding at St. Luke's. Safer Recruitment procedures are followed as directed by the Liverpool Diocesan Safeguarding team and all appointments need to be referred to Rev. Helen Coffey, the Team Rector.

The Diocesan policy gives clear guidelines for procedures to follow regarding recruiting. It also gives clear guidance to follow in the event of a Safeguarding issue.

The Diocese use an online system for DBS checks and all those in positions requiring a check have gone through this process. Currently, many of our members are undergoing a renewal of their DBS check.

All leaders and helpers in groups involving Children and/or Vulnerable Adults are required to complete a confidential internal information form.

All PCC members have undergone an online DBS check.

Safeguarding training for the Eccleston Team took place in May 2019. This was led by the Liverpool Diocesan Safeguarding team. Due to the current pandemic situation in the country at the time of preparing this report and the increase in online worship, the PCC have recently ensured that all Safeguarding procedures are in place for online worship etc.

Readers are required to complete Diocesan Safeguarding training and St. Luke's Readers have either completed the training or are due to attend training in the near future.

The PCC continues to be diligent in monitoring legal compliance and changes to legislation.

AIMS AND PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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

St. Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of Church & Community Centre, Knowsley Road, St Helens.

When planning our objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guide on public benefit.

Mission and Outreach Support

Although general funds were tight, by drawing on the unrestricted reserves held in investment funds, the commitment to contribute 10% of the income to missions and charities was maintained. The PCC authorised the distribution as follows: - (*figures in brackets relates to FYE 2019*)

CMS (Eric & Sandra Reed)	£1,260	(£1,415)
CPAS	£315	(£475)
Bible Society	£315	(£475)
Evangelical Alliance	£315	(£475)
SGM Lifewords	£315	(£475)
St Helens Street Pastors	£630	(£475)
Tear Fund	£1,260	(£1,180)
United Christians Broadcasting	£315	(£475)
Hope from Above (Tim & Carol Derbyshires)	£630	(£715)
St Helens Safer Families	£630	(£0)
Hope Centre	£315	£0)

“Vicar’s” Report:

2020 was of course the strangest of years – I’m sure that St Luke’s and the community we serve had not experienced anything like it outside of the war years.

These verses from 2 Corinthians come to mind ...

‘We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body’ ... 2 Cor 4:8-10

As I write this, we are still in Step one of coming out of lockdown. It has been a tough year, during which we have lost some dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We have demonstrated amazing resilience and creativity, and we have reflected long and hard on what it means to be a community of faith.

It seems clear that we have also learned some really important lessons about those aspects of being a church that we would previously have considered vital and unchanging before we closed the church doors in March 2020. And I’d like to offer the following reflections on this time:

- We quickly established how to keep in touch with everyone – updated contact details to ensure older, more vulnerable members of the church family were supported. We offered phone calls, support with shopping and collecting prescriptions.
- There was no public worship between mid-March and September and then a further gap during the second lockdown in November. However, we have kept the life of prayer and worship alive within the parish by using smart phone and internet technology. We quickly established a weekly prayer and praise

session on our WhatsApp group. Similarly, with our fortnightly prayer meeting. In the first lockdown, we encouraged people to join online worship and excellent teaching wherever they felt drawn. By the second lockdown, we'd established an online team service. We've had a Sunday evening gathering for most of the lockdown, and in September, we established a joint kids and families gathering early on Sunday mornings. We were able to have church open for most of Advent and those Christmas services that were safe to hold, and Holy Communion was offered both in church and on the doorsteps of those unable to come to church. And we've sent out a series of discipleship packs to all those on our Electoral Roll who are not able to access the internet.

- Money isn't everything, but losing our cash-based giving as well as our rentals at the centre severely impacted our finances. We have all worked incredibly hard to move towards direct debit giving via the Parish Giving Scheme, digital giving by QR smart phone or text giving, to improve our cash flow.
- Outreach – this is where folk at St Luke's have been incredibly inventive and creative – posters, banners, scarecrows, Father Christmas, a community Christmas tree constantly replenished with free gifts, the noticeboard signs that St Luke's are famous for to name but a few! The church may have been closed but St Luke's have been seen and heard in the community as we've embraced a 'Church inside-out' ethos! We commissioned a brand-new website www.stlukeeccleston.org as our digital shop window, and have boosted our social media presence on twitter and facebook. This has increased our reach further beyond our church doors than we would have dreamed possible before lockdown.
- We've continued to support Queens Park school, both in terms of the provision of online assemblies and pastoral support for the staff, but also meeting the practical needs of families in need – food, clothing, a new cooker, Easter eggs, Christmas gifts. Mrs Kellett, our Head Teacher, knows that she only needs to send a message and the church family will respond to any need as a priority. We donated, collated and delivered care bags to every single member of staff across the school, as well as to the staff of three residential and nursing homes in the parish.
- In terms of the life of discipleship outside Sunday worship, we've offered Alpha online several times during 2020, and a shortened form currently form part of the preparation for Baptism parents and brides and grooms seeking to get married at St Luke's. This has helped us grow in relationship with some of our fringe families. We've also formed a couple of small groups from church members who've joined Alpha or done The Bible Course. As the nature of Sunday worship continues to change, belonging to a small group who meet mid-week is a priority for discipleship.
- We have certainly grown together as a team of churches, particularly as a result of the buildings being closed. We've learned to share resources and ideas and we've grown in relationship too through our online coffee morning and crafty zoom, and our occasional quiz nights. We've welcomed Rev Gregor Stewart and his family as a stipendiary curate in the team, and a priority in 2021 is the appointment of a 2nd Team Vicar.

I have been humbled and amazed by the faithfulness and determination of the church family here at St Luke's, in the most trying of circumstances. I have seen you rely on God as you support each other, and meet human need beyond yourselves. So many people have stepped forward to offer new gifts, new ideas, recognising new opportunities - we have much to be grateful for.

Verse 7 of 2Corinthians 4 says this *'But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us'*. From one cracked clay jar to another, may I express my thanks to you all – but most particularly to our Wardens and Lay Readers, who have stepped forward in the most incredible ways, far beyond their role descriptions; and to whom I owe an enormous debt as they have supported me through a unique period of church leadership that was definitely not covered in my ordination training 😊

In conclusion, my words of encouragement for 2021, as we continue our journey of change, remain the same – that together, we will allow God to remove and plant whatever he wants, so that, while St Luke's might be smaller, it will also be more agile and responsive to the urgent need for people of this community to hear the Good news of God's saving love for themselves.

As always, my door is open and the kettle is always on – so if you have any concerns, questions, hopes or dreams for the future, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

God bless

Helen

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The PCC is delighted with its achievements set out in the previous and following section.

The following section highlights the areas of activity and performance.

The electoral roll (April 2019- 99) is now 105 people, 67 of whom are non resident in the parish.

Worship: - This year the average attendance has been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. The church building has been closed for a number of months and when it re-opened, it was with the restricted number of 30 people maximum being able to attend. Before the closure the average attendance at Sunday Services remained constant at 65 over 2 services each week, except for the 5th Sunday in the month, when there was only 1 service.

However, this does not include baptism services, in total 2 during the year, funeral services – 8 at church and 5 at the crematorium and wedding services, of which there were none.

Church Buildings – The Church and Community Centre had to close in March 2020 due to the national lockdown and all services and group activities were suspended. During the summer we concentrated on preparing the Church building to re-open following the Government Covid Guidelines and restrictions. A risk assessment was completed and agreed by the PCC in August. This enabled us to re-open for Public Worship in September. Following this we concentrated on preparing the Community Centre and producing a Risk Assessment following Covid Government Guidance and restrictions. The dance group was able to start back for a short period of time before the Government put Merseyside back into lockdown again for a period of 5 weeks in November. We re-opened the Church building again in December for Public Worship Services.

The annual inspections of the heating boilers and fire extinguishers took place. With the building being closed for most of 2020 this has impacted on the financial income received. As a result, works, which we had planned for 2020 such as, changing more of the light fittings to LED and the re-painting of inside the church have been put on hold until the financial situation improves. The grant we started to draw on for the ECO garden in front of the Community Centre has also been affected. The Grant Funder has put this on hold until we can re-start the project again, hopefully in 2021.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Prayer Ministry - Co-ordinator Enid Fletcher

First of all, I would like to thank all current members of the Prayer teams for their continued support and dedication to this vital service of offering pray in the side chapel after each service.

Unfortunately, since March 2020 with covid and the restrictions within the church we have been unable to offer this support after a service.

As soon as we are able, we will start the Prayer ministry again. We are looking for volunteers, if you are interested please get in touch.

In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:6

St. Luke's Prayer Meeting - Co-Ordinator Stina Foxford

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020

The Prayer meeting began the year meeting at St. Luke's Church fortnightly on Mondays 8 pm for an hour. Meetings started with encouraging worship followed by reflection/Bible study and introduction of the prayer themes for the evening. We had prayer pointers, but everyone was welcome to bring their own prayer requests. We finished the time of prayer with a song.

We had good time sharing and uplifting each other and we also went out for a meal together in January.

The prayer topics until 9th March included Iran, Brexit, Australian wildfires, St. Luke's Sick lists, HFA, China, Lent, Mental health and Coronavirus. We had four meetings in the church until the first lockdown.

Our first Prayer Group via WhatsApp took place on 30th March. It is open to all the Eccleston Team churches and beyond – this is the benefit of modern technology! Dave Foxford has been very faithfully taking care of the practicalities to get everyone who wants to on board the WhatsApp Prayer Group.

I have led sixteen meetings and, in August, Anita Fath and Gregor Stewart kindly led one meeting each.

We still meet fortnightly on Mondays, but only for half an hour. Prayer pointers is sent beforehand for participants to use as they wish. This makes it possible for people to take part either in real time or otherwise.

WhatsApp Prayer Group includes encouraging worship songs at the beginning and at the end, reflection and prayer pointers.

Prayer topics have always included the NHS. We have also prayed for the victims of domestic abuse, India, Africa, COVID-19 patients, Persecuted Christians, Poor, Homeless, Hospital Chaplains, the Church, Sick, Bereaved, Child labourers, Migrant workers in India, Yemen, USA, Scientists, Street children, 2nd Wave of the COVID-19, Development of the vaccine, Church finances, South Asia, Rohingya refugees, Middle East, South Sudan, Mental health, Foodbanks, Education, Partners of Christian Charities, Elderly/ Isolated/ Vulnerable, Economic wellbeing in UK, Advent and Vaccination process.

On the 14th September, we were all encouraged to pray for our Neighbourhood – by walking safely at a social distance or at home in our minds.

We can safely say that we have been praying hard!!!! But, the true thanks go to God for He has been with us all along and we have seen many prayers answered!

Plans were made to open up the In-person Prayer meeting again in Autumn as well as running the WhatsApp Prayer Group. A robust Risk Assessment was completed with the help of Lorraine Rose and Jean Moore. Unfortunately, the 2nd wave of COVID-19 altered the plans and therefore, we stayed only as a WhatsApp Group.

It has been a very challenging year, but many new people have come along to pray, which has been a great encouragement to carry on regardless.

We have also had the privilege of joining in the Town Wide Prayer Gathering Online a couple of times, which is held once a month on Mondays via Zoom

We will never run out of the need to pray, and together we are always stronger, no matter what we face.

Thank you so much to everyone who has taken the time and opportunity to pray. I know that it's not always easy!

On behalf of the St. Luke's Prayer meeting and Monday WhatsApp Prayer Group.

Helping Hearts Bereavement Support – Co-ordinator Linda Fairclough

It's been a strange year since our last Bereavement Support update. Helping hearts in-person meeting had to close due to covid and the team got worried about being unable to cope if we were unfortunate enough to get lots of people bereaved due to covid. Thankfully that didn't happen and we continued to support people who are struggling with loss.

We couldn't have a memorial service but did send out memorial boxes to all bereaved people around the team. Each box contained a card, a tea light, written prayers and a wooden holding cross, we really hope they helped people with their grief.

I'm very proud of the team, Barbara, Dorothy and Irene do an amazing job, it's not always easy but is very rewarding. Most people really appreciate the phone call and give some lovely feedback. We are always open to volunteers if you'd like to join us.

The Net – Co-ordinator Jean Moore

The Net met 3 times between January and March 2020. As usual we provided a variety of crafts on a theme and provided a lunch for those who attended. The themes we covered were New Year; Love and Water. We put bible verses on these themes around the room and used a "menu" to promote discussion through questions. Between 13 -15 adults attended over the 3 months and the number of children ranged from 3-10. We continued to have a small team downstairs who chatted to leisure centre users and invited them to join us upstairs if they wished to do so. Sadly, although people took the information from us, we did not get people taking us up on the offer. We felt though, that it was still worthwhile as there were several people who were there regularly for exercises classes and we were building up a relationship with them. In February, we had to relocate to the church centre as there was flooding at Queens Park Leisure centre so we could not access the Boundary Suite.

We had been encouraged in recent months as a family that had started to come to church and parents and children who had come along to Family events were starting to come on a more regular basis.

Obviously, we have not met since March as although the leisure centre did re-open, the format of our meeting did not lend itself to the stringent Covid 19 precautions that would need to be in place. Reluctantly, we have informed the Leisure Centre that they should not hold the booking open for us as we did not know when we would be able to restart and it seemed morally wrong to deprive them of possible income. The Centre Manager said that they had loved having us at the Leisure Centre and they would be happy to have us back.

When things return to “normal” the Net team will have to meet up with the clergy team to discuss whether or not we should restart the Net and if so, what changes we might need to make and a suitable time and venue. Please pray for any decisions that are made that we may be acting according to the Lord’s will for outreach ministry at St. Luke’s.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

“Teddies” Toddler Group

The Teddies group continued to meet until March 2020, when we had to close due to the national lockdown. Sadly, we have been unable to open since then. Parents and Carers have kept in touch via a WhatsApp group. During this time and after much prayer, a number of our volunteers have decided it is time to retire. We would like to thank them all for the dedication and care which they have shown towards our ‘Teddies’ families – they have all been a terrific witness for the Lord and there is no doubt that many seeds will have been sown.

It is with great sadness that we report that our dear friend and Teddies co-ordinator, Anne Parry, went to be with her Lord in March 2021. Just a couple of weeks prior to that, she was looking forward to the re-opening of the group and praying for guidance re’ new volunteers within the team. Anne was an enthusiastic leader and she loved being with the children and their families. Her ultimate aim was to share God’s love with each member of the group. She will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Mark, her son and his family at this time.

Please be prayerful about the future of this group. At the present, time we have not got enough volunteers to run the group successfully. If you feel that God is calling you or someone that you know into ministry in the Teddies group, please contact Rev Helen Coffey or one of the Church Wardens.

5th Eccleston St Luke’s Brownies – Leader Eagle Owl Sue Brindley

We started the year with a ‘welcome back’ games night and some Promise activities. We picked some countries to look at Brownies around the world and had a beetle drive on our second week. Bev ran a very successful night about Iceland, Isabel then ran a night about Egypt and the girls all wrote their names in hieroglyphics. Helen ran a night about her visit to Sri Lanka with Girlguiding and Sue K finished off the half term with a night about Spain. The two weeks after half term we did ‘fajita fun’ making fajitas in two groups and did some preparation for Pack Holiday making table mats and colouring charts.

On 6th to 8th March, we had a Pack Holiday at Woodbank. A Harry Potter theme was enjoyed by everyone and it was hard to realise we were only a mile from home. Girls enjoyed looking after their home, helping to prepare food, and a wide range of games and activities. The little sock owls organised by Sue K were sewn on Saturday morning and the girls enjoyed a magic wide game on Saturday afternoon. Helen was non-stop as Guider in Charge, Sue B cooked with help from Isabel who also helped Helen and Bev was our First Aider. Monday 9th March, we had off to recover!

On Monday 16th March we were doing the preparation for Mother’s Day when the government announced vulnerable people should shield. As Sue B is in total renal failure and Sue K’s son has a heart problem and knowing how busy Bev would be as an Intensive Care Nurse, we did quick notes for the girls and met them on the carpark to say we were cancelling Brownies for a couple of weeks and hand out kit left on Pack Holiday. Little did we know at the time this would be a Pandemic and we would not see the girls in person for well over a year!

Summer Term with no chance of meeting, from the 21st March we sent out emailed activity packs for the girls to pick and choose activities to do. We sent out packs for 15 weeks to the 26th June 2020. Each week we included a Brownie Badge, Promise or Law activity, a physical activity, some science to do at home, a simple craft and a puzzle.

Towards the end of June Girlguiding had organised a deal for Leaders to get a cheap deal for zoom meetings. Sue got onto zoom with Helen’s help and we held a few one-hour meetings on zoom for girls who wanted to zoom. Over the Summer and early Autumn this proved very popular even though the girl’s numbers were halved the girls who took part were very keen.

We had a Leaders chat online and Isabel dropped out to concentrate on her teacher training year. Bev also decided with pressure of work she could no longer commit to helping and left the Unit. We thank Bev for all her time and

skills and hope to see Isabel back after her training. Helen graduated as a Service Engineer and moved south so Sue B and Sue K continued on zoom, but it was agreed we would need more help before we met face to face with the girls. Helen will continue to help as needed on zoom and for trips and holidays in the future.

During the Autumn half term, a selection of Christmas crafts were prepared in individual bags for each girl. Then parents were asked for payment (to cover these and a bit for insurance due in February), as they picked up the packs from Sue B's home. We demonstrated the crafts for the girls to follow. We made Christmas cards, snowmen tree ornaments, photo baubles, calendars with a month on each side, Santa door hangers and crackers. Although we were very disappointed not to be able to have an end of year party, we made a promise to the girls that at the end of January we would hold a zoom 'sleep over'.

Sue Brindley Unit Leader, Sue Kirkham Unit Helper & Helen Brindley Occasional Leader.

St Luke's Family Events – Co-ordinator Jean Moore

In February, we held a Messy Lent event which was well attended. There were crafts associated with Lent. At the end of the craft making time, we joined together and talked about the meaning of Lent. We then sat down and enjoyed pancakes together with a variety of toppings.

The next event was due to be a Mad Hatter's Tea Party but this was cancelled owing to the Covid 19 pandemic. We had already started a Whats App group to inform parents/carers who came along of future events and we have used this to keep in touch with people over the last months of lockdowns and restrictions.

I would like to thank all those from St. Luke's fellowship who come along faithfully to help at these events. It would not be possible to put them on without their help. I would also like to thank the hospitality team for their generous donation to our funds.

As yet we do not know when we would be able to start up our Family events again but we hope and pray that we will be able to continue to reach out to the families in the parish in some way or other physically in the future.

Luke Inn – Co-ordinator Dave Foxford

Annual Report from January – December 2020

Luke Inn is a social event that is held on the second Monday of each month, except for July and August. There is a team of seven people who organise Luke Inn. This is can be setting up the room with tables and chairs, baking cakes, making tea, being the treasurer, and organising the entertainment. There is a great team work and everything is organised well. This is due to everyone doing their part and helping others when needed. Open communication is evident within the team especially during the meeting that we have before Luke Inn starts.

Luke Inn is for all ages, but the older generation are the ones who attend.

On average 18 people attended Luke Inn.

We continued to announce each Luke Inn, along with that month's entertainment, in different places by putting a notice in Frans Newsagent, Costa Coffee and Parish Church in the town centre, Christchurch on Church Lane, as well as in St. Luke's Notice Sheet in order to try and increase the numbers.

At the beginning of each meeting there are announcements about the next Luke Inn, celebrating of birthdays and a short talk. It is then handed over to those who are providing the entertainment.

Luke Inn has a variety of entertainers. This year's entertainers were:

- Joanne Halliwell with part three of Betsy: Live Happily Ever After;
- Keith Lancaster, St. Luke's Church Warden who sang Folk and Older Pop and played the guitar
- Peter Roberts whom spoke about the Toxteth Riots

Normally Luke Inn would have a Summer outing, which would have included a meal. Also, Luke Inn would normally have a Christmas Dinner and entertainment. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was not possible.

9th March 2020 was the last Luke Inn before it was closed due to Lockdown and to keep everyone safe.

Due to Lockdown, Self-Isolation, and restricted activities, some of the Members of Luke Inn have been contacted by phone to see how they were. Also, Birthday Cards from the Team, which are normally given out at Luke Inn, are being sent to the Luke Inners.

St Luke's Men's Fellowship Group – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Bernard Cragg & Charles Johnson

We had barely started our 2020 programme of meetings when the pandemic brought a sudden end to our monthly gatherings on the last Wednesday of the month. We had a great start to the year when Lynn Aconley (yes, a female speaker at the men's meeting! What next? Female vicars? Oh, hang on a minute.....) came to tell us of her experiences in amateur dramatics and also as an extra in some TV productions like "Last Tango in Halifax" alongside stars like Sir Derek Jacobi. For those of us who have attempted acting at the front of church it was reassuring to hear that the great professional thespians don't always know their lines! We had no meeting in February due to Ash Wednesday being the last Wednesday of the month and we were all set in March to listen to Ali Hassan talk about his homeland of Cyprus, when we got the instruction to stay at home. Let's hope that we can start up again before too long as the numbers attending have been very encouraging. Thanks to Alan and Bernard for all their work in organising these meetings and to Black Bull for the use of the room.

St Luke's Indoor Bowls – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Allan Taggart & Charles Johnson

We were approaching the end of the Indoor Bowls season when we had to curtail our activities due to the spread of the coronavirus. Our regular Thursday meetings had been well attended with friends from St Luke's, from Christ Church and Prescot and Odyssey Bowling Club coming along to make use of our 4 mats. One notable newcomer was none other than our Churchwarden who said that she had never bowled before but then proceeded to display an astonishing array of skills. We were unable to start again in September 2020 so we shall have to hope for an opportunity to bowl on the greens in the summer in order to prepare for a full indoor season in the Autumn of 2021. We know that some people have been watching the experts in the Indoor Bowls on television hoping to pick up some tips. We shall see if they can match Lorraine when the mats are eventually rolled out (no doubt she has found somewhere to practise and will beat us all handsomely). I hope that we can all remember the difference between thumb and finger, that we remember to keep quiet when our resident engineer is bowling, and that the biscuit tin is well stocked (Lorraine, did we mention that winners buy the biscuits?). Here's to some great Thursday afternoons in the Church Centre –you are all welcome to join us.

Other regular community activities

St Luke's Walking Group – meet the first Saturday of the month in the morning normally starting approximately 9am. This is a walking group at a gentle pace with a place for lunch at the end of the walk for fellowship. If people are unable to come on the walk you are welcome to join for lunch. Unfortunately, since March 2020 this has ceased due to covid. We are looking forward towards the future when we can re-start the walks and fellowship again.

Finance

Regular giving and donations have decreased again by just over 4.5%, compared to the same for 2019, whereas, our regular commitments (parish share, gas, electricity, water, insurance, etc) have only decreased by just over 2.5% even though the buildings were closed for the majority of the year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the buildings being closed, a large majority of people who used to donate via the collection plate have changed their way of giving to either standing order or through the Parish Giving Scheme.

Payments associated with the vicarage have slightly increased compared to 2019, although it now does only account for the telephone line and broadband connection.

All other costs associated with the vicarage (i.e. council tax, water rates, etc.), which are now incurred due to it being occupied by Rev Gregor Stewart during his Curacy, are now accounted for separately under the 'curacy costs' line and are paid for by the 4 churches of the Eccleston Team as shown in the 'curacy income' row under the income section. The rent of the vicarage is covered by a curacy grant from Liverpool Diocese.

A one-off maintenance cost was incurred during 2020 for the repainting of the church centre kitchen (£550) along with various other costs associated with making the church and centre COVID-Secure (£545), with all other maintenance costs being for the general upkeep and servicing of the buildings.

We have received a total of £11,552 in tax recovery from both regular income and small donations which is higher than during 2019 as only 10 months had been claimed during 2019 whereas a total of 15 months has been claimed during 2020.

Income from hall lettings have dramatically decreased by nearly 70% due to the hall being closed for the majority of the year.

We have received investment income totalling £3,200 from the investment fund created from a large bequest donation received in 2017 which is available for the PCC without any restrictions. A total of £21,264 was withdrawn from this fund to enable the Parish Share for September to December to be paid up front and ease the pressure on the general funds. Despite this withdrawal, the capital investment only decreased in value by £17,128 over the year and is also still available to the PCC at any time without any restrictions should the need arise.

Performance of Investments from the fund accounts held with the Central Board of Finance from the sale of the school have been good with dividend payments and interest achieving £2,636 which is available to the PCC for restricted items, the market value of the actual shares has increased by 4.9%.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the year, between the main deposit and current accounts there was a total of £5,194 available as general funds, there is also £7,915 available for church upgrade works and a further £740 received from Liverpool Diocese and the team churches towards the curacy costs.

There is also £11 remaining in the Community Centre account which is available for works required within the hall or for repairs associated with any of the works covered by the recent grants.

The market value of the investment fund from the bequest donations was £76,576 which is available to the PCC without any restrictions. There was also a further £12,478 in restricted funds which are available for the PCC to use for restricted purposes.

Agent Transactions

The PCC acted as a financial agent for the following people / organisations: -

- Liverpool Diocesan - £1,913.00 was received in regards to Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals from the wedding couple and funeral directors which has been forwarded to the diocesan board of finance
- Retired Clergy / SSM Ministers / LTO Readers - £335 was received from funeral directors in regards to Assigned Fees which were payable to the retired clergy / SSM Ministers / LTO Readers who officiated at funerals in place of the vicar which have been forwarded to the relevant people.
- Organist Fees - £350 was received from funeral directors and wedding couples respectively which has been forwarded to the relevant organist.
- Tear Fund - £239.80 was found within the safe from a special service held in a previous year for the works by Tear Fund which has been forwarded.

Plans for the Future

- We will continue to develop with our vision for St. Luke's Church: -

"Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others".

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart, soul and strength. *Deuteronomy 6:4*

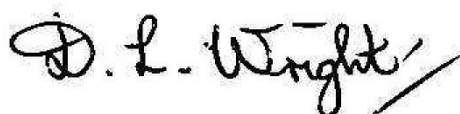
MAY THE GOD OF HOPE fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him. *Romans 15:13*

- We will continue to work with the other churches and develop relationships within the Eccleston Team, developing and supporting best practices, worshipping styles and new ideas across the Team.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signature: -



Full Name: - Miss Diane Wright
Position: - Lay Chair
Date: - 12th April 2021



ST LUKE'S CHURCH ECCLESTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2020

Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Eccleston
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2020
Receipts & Payments Account**

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Regular Giving					
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	29,014			29,014	32,446
Planned Giving - Parish Giving Scheme	4,327			4,327	360
Planned Giving - Other	4,859			4,859	5,598
Loose Plate Collections	2,800			2,800	4,586
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	10,493			10,493	6,768
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid on Small Donations	1,059			1,059	1,603
in memoriam	404			404	2,408
members' payments		422		422	1,705
grants	353			353	100
other donations	3,534	394		3,928	1,817
special appeals				0	0
				57,659	57,392
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
refreshments		48		48	193
copy printer income				0	0
hall lettings	2,791			2,791	9,137
other income (incl cards)	359			359	387
				3,198	9,717
Receipts from Church activities					
PCC Fees	1,710			1,710	4,081
Donations from Verger				0	0
				1,710	4,081
Receipts from investments					
Bank & CBF interest/dividends	3,204		2,636	5,840	6,519
				5,840	6,519
Other receipts					
Weekend income / outings				0	1,930
Insurance claim				0	0
Curacy Income			7,775	7,775	0
				7,775	1,930
Total Receipts	64,906	864	10,411	76,181	79,639
Payments					
Church activities					
Missionary giving	6,308	1,039		7,347	6,713
Parish share	51,035			51,035	51,415
Working expenses	1,377			1,377	431
Vicarage costs	640			640	559
Curacy Costs			7,035	7,035	0
Church heat/light	2,288			2,288	3,068
Church insurance	2,905			2,905	2,792
Evangelism (incl anniversary)	239	16	44	300	617
Church Maintenance	1,603			1,603	1,380
Upkeep of services		179		179	547
Equipment	493			493	333
Copier lease/mtce	701			701	1,065
Community centre maintenance	2,047			2,047	2,647
Community centre running costs	5,193			5,193	5,859
Weekend accommodation/ outings				0	2,039
Refreshments		92		92	129
Other working exps	1,654	365		2,019	3,051
Church upgrade works			1,632	1,632	2,669
Total Payments	76,482.90	1,691.00	8,710.86	86,885	85,312
Excess of Receipts over Payments				(10,704)	(5,673)

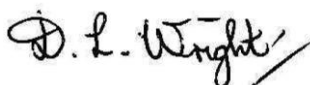
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St. Luke's, Ecclestone
For the year ended 31 December 2020**

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	(8,286)			(8,286)	(6,871)
Bank deposit account	13,481		8,656	22,136	7,469
Community Centre account		11		11	11
Church Board of Finance Deposit Fund		1,279		1,279	1,279
Church Board of Finance Deposit Account (764001)			1,953	1,953	3,817
Fund bank accounts and cash		2,237		2,237	3,064
Total bank current and deposit accounts	5,194	3,527	10,609	19,329	8,769
Investment Assets					
CBF Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764002) **			37,451	37,451	35,032
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764003) **			48,045	48,045	46,431
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Bequest) (764004)	44,990		6,623	51,613	63,246
CBF Investment Fund (Bequest) (764005)	31,586		3,902	35,488	40,508
				172,597	185,218
Other Monetary Assets (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
Income tax recoverable from HMRC from December 2020				603	3,160
Liabilities (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
None				0	0

** Investment Assets were previously managed by the trustees of Greenhalls Ecclesiastical Charity. These have now been transferred to St Lukes Parochial Church Council.

Approved by the PCC on 12th April 2021 and signed on their behalf



Diane L Wright
PCC Lay Chairman



Peter Anderson
PCC Assistant Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS:

1. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but are not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:
Freehold land and buildings comprising the Church Centre
Various items of ICT and audio visual equipment
Various tables and chairs purchased in 2010
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.
No other payments were made to PCC members.
4. The movements in designated funds during the year were:

	b/fwd			c/fwd
	1 Jan 2020	Receipts	Payments	31 Dec 2020
Discretionary fund	357	29	0	386
Flower Fund	3	288	179	111
Hospitality	178	48	128	99
Ladies' Fellowship	465	0	465	0
Family Events Fund	31	67	40	57
Boys Brigade	204	0	0	204
Teddies Tuesday	820	304	716	408
Luke Inn	555	128	139	544
Luke There	428	0	0	428
St Lukes Puppeteers	24	0	24	0
	3,064	864	1,691	2,237

5. Receipts and payments for the Community Centre are included within the PCC accounts but are identified separately as follows:

	£	£
	2020	2019
Receipts		
Hall lettings	2,791	9,137
Grants	0	0
Contribution from (to) St Luke's Church	4,450	(631)
Total Income	<u>7,240</u>	<u>8,506</u>
Payments		
Community centre maintenance	2,047	2,647
Community centre running costs	5,193	5,859
Total Expenditure	<u>7,240</u>	<u>8,506</u>

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke's, Eccleston (764) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020, as set out on pages 12 to 14 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: 22nd April 2021

Paul Horton, Eccleston, St Helens