

Parish of St. Luke Farnworth with Cronton Mission

Annual Trustees Report of the Parochial Church Council 2024

COMMUNITY - Eco Nature Day



COMMUNITY - Heritage Day



CONCERTS - 6th form college



CONCERTS - Mayor's Carol service



CHILDREN - Sunday Club



CHILDREN - Jam Club



Yours sincerely

Name Surname
Title

CRONTON - Ecumenical service



CRONTON - School 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

Priest in charge Reverend Canon Peter Dawkin



Local Ministers

ott and Lesley Firth

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

Web site St-luke.co.uk **Charity Number** 1133042 **Parish number** 744

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

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

Team Administrator Lesley Howell 07399784219

eastwidnesteam.2942@gmail.com

Bankers Barclays Bank

Legal Advisor Hill Dickinson & Co LLP

Independent Examiner Nadia Hague FCA Vanguard Accountancy Ltd

Architect Finlason Partnership Limited, 4 Beech House, Hale, Cheshire

1. AIM and PURPOSE

AIM - To promote the mission of St. Luke's church and Cronton Mission pastorally, evangelistically, socially and ecumenically. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

PURPOSE - To provide a church family within which people can grow as Christians and help one another and the community.

PCC members	Position	Until
Reverend Peter Dawkin	Chair	
Barry Horabin	Warden 2016 & Deanery Synod ex-officio	2025
Pat Johnson	Warden 2018 & Deanery Synod ex-officio	2025
Rob Leech	Warden 2020 ex-officio	2025
Colleen Harper	Warden 2020 ex-officio	2025
Lesley Runcorn	Deanery Synod ex-officio	2025
Yvonne Horabin	Deanery Synod ex-officio & Treasurer	2025
	Join ed	
Sandra Vanezis	Eco 2021 Officer	2025
Alma Marshall	Baptism 2012 Assistant	2025
Margaret Campbell	Safeguarding Officer & Deputy Warden 2018	2025
Jeff Evans	Assistant 2020 Treasurer	2025
Lynn Keeling	Sunday 2000 Club Leader	2026
Sue Smither	Lay 2019 Minister	2026
Ray Roberts	Fabric 2020 subgroup	2026
Deborah Doyle	Cronton 2020 representative	2026
Clare Liptrott	Lay 2024 Minister	2027
Gail Beswick	Baptism 2024 Assistant	2027
Dorothy Lightfoot	Magazine 2024 Distributor	2027
George Telfer	Health & Safety 2024 Officer	2027
Co-options		
Owen Mullarkey	Fabric 2024 subgroup	2025
Sandra Lacey	Secretary 2024	2025

2. OVERVIEW of 2024

On 23rd September 2024 a Licensing service was held to mark the beginning of a new ministry with Reverend Canon Peter William Dawkin as Priest in Charge of Farnworth St Luke with Cronton Mission. Reverend Peter as Area Dean had supported our Lay Ministers who had to oversee three congregations - St Luke's church, St Ambrose and

Cronton Mission church. Lay Minister Sue Smither was granted permission by Archdeacon Simon to continue to lead services of Holy Communion by Extension after Reverend Peter's appointment as the number of clergy in the Deanery was reduced to 3 – Reverend Peter, Reverend Linda Dawkin and Reverend Greg Sharples. PCC is indebted to Sue for taking on an extra workload at St Luke's church and Lay Ministers Clare and Lesley at Cronton Mission so the pattern of worship could continue. A thank you to our church wardens for covering the services too.

After numerous fund-raising events and successful grant applications work started on our major project the installation of toilets and a servery on 27th November and should be completed by Easter 2025. PCC would like to thank everyone who donated to enable this work to be undertaken to enhance the mission and ministry in our Parish.

We were all shocked when Geoff Poole died unexpectedly on March 14th. A gentle giant, a true and learned, multi-talented gentleman, it goes without saying that Geoff has been very sorely missed. In September we were so very sad to learn of the death of Alma Marshall, our dear friend and a member of PCC. Alma Marshall. Alma's strong faith underpinned all that she was and did; she was so kind and caring, where she saw a need Alma stepped right in, there was never any need to ask, she was always just there. In November we were shocked to hear of the untimely death of Pat Beesley, an MU and choir member.

Events and services in 2024

January

Quiz at Widnes Cricket Club prize matched with £500 from HSBC.

The first 'River of Light' walk, a joint venture between school and church. The procession from Farnworth CE school was followed by a service in church when several people spoke about their role in the community.

February

Free concert given by students from Cronton 6th Form performing Arts Department who showcased the various talents they will be using for their exams.

East Widnes Team Lent study groups in St Ambrose Church Hall.

March

The first Café style worship held during the school day at Cronton CE School. Lay Minister Clare led the short informal service. This is now a monthly event on the last Friday of the month.

Lent Soup and Sandwich lunches.

Sunday Club involved in Mothering Sunday service.

April

Experience Easter for children of Farnworth School with Sue and at Cronton School with Clare.

Good Friday Jam Club.

May

The first Nature & Heritage to appreciate the nature in the churchyard -learn about the plants in the churchyard, their uses and their importance in the ecosystem.

Cubs from Farnworth Methodist Church met in church to learn the history of our church. This visit was part of their Local Knowledge Badge.

June

Children from Farnworth and Lunts Heath schools involved in a D Day Service of Commemoration at Victoria Park led by Sue

Our Rose Queen and retinue opened the Summer Festival at Farnworth CE School.

Summer Concert Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Cronton 6th Form College Performing Arts

Children from Farnworth School Y5 came to church to join in a mid-week worship with us

July

Farnworth reception classes visit church.

Patsy Clifford's sky dive raised over £2,000 for the toilet and servery project

August

September

National Heritage Open Day with Guided Church tour, Farnworth Village Heritage Walk, Self-guided churchyard quiz, Eco craft activities, tombola and eco inspired games.

December

Nine lessons and carols service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Eve Christingle services 3pm & 5pm.

Christmas Eve HOLY COMMUNION 11pm

Christmas Day HOLY COMMUNION 10am

Review of Objectives set for 2024

a) MISSION and MINISTRY

Technology including WhatsApp is used to outreach & interact with a wider and more diverse population.

Net Zero check list completed as directed by the Diocese.

b) CHILDREN'S and YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

Children and adults confirmed.

The implementation of the Diocesan 'Growing Faith Adventure' which replaces the Child Friendly Award is ongoing.

Our Rose Queen and retinue opened the Farnworth School Summer Festival.

Schools welcomed in church for their own services and performances as well as at 9.30am Wednesday services.

Schools supported in their initiative to raise funds for a Library Pod.

c) OCCASIONAL / PASTORAL SERVICES

A Blue service in the period before Christmas was not held.

The second Walk of Light and service in church with children from Farnworth school took place.

d) FESTIVALS

School children involved in the Remembrance Day service.

e) MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE

Bring One Friend and Back to Church Sundays did not take place.

Foodbank and Kings Cross Project supported.

Lent and Advent Soup and sandwich lunches held in church.

f) RULE of LIFE

A bible study/prayer group and/or meditations to be held in 2025.

The Parish Giving Scheme to be promoted across the church and Mission.

To emphasise the need for the congregation at Cronton Café Style to support the ministry to promote Outreach and pastoral care there through regular giving. This is ongoing.

A 'Good Box' has not yet been put permanently at Cronton Mission for online giving.

A service of thanksgiving for volunteers (every 2 years) was not held.

g) PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS

To investigate ideas to take the church to the people. This is ongoing.

h) CONSERVATION PROJECT

Eco Nature and Heritage Day held to encourage awareness of the nature in the churchyard and raise awareness of eco issues.

3. CHALLENGES for 2025

When the work on the Toilets and Servery is completed groups who have previously shown an interest in holding their meetings in church will be approached. In the past the lack of facilities prevented groups using the building. The building stands empty during the week except Wednesday, so it is imperative that the building is used for a

range of activities to benefit the community and make our church sustainable. All parishes in the Liverpool Diocese have to produce a budget and sustainability plan for the next 10 years to show why their church should not be closed. At present our Parish is running at a loss as expenses are higher than income so if you would consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) it would be appreciated as we need to ensure the church stands as a beacon in the town for generations to come. **THE PAST IS OUR INHERITANCE THE FUTURE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

If **100** people donated just **£10** a month this would add **£12,000** a year to our funds, and if it was gift aided that would add a further **£2,500**. To join PGS call **0333 002 1260** and Quote our unique church code **22062210**. One- off donations can also be made this way, and you can gift aid it too.

Objectives for 2025

a) MISSION and MINISTRY

To produce a sustainability report with short, medium and long term plans to enhance mission and ministry.

To investigate methods to outreach & interact with a wider and more diverse population.

To action points in the Net Zero check list.

b) CHILDREN'S and YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

To encourage children and adults to consider confirmation.

To re-introduce Communion before Confirmation for Sunday Club.

To implement the Diocesan 'Growing Faith Adventure' which replaces the Child Friendly Award.

To maintain the tradition of having a Rose Queen and retinue.

To be involved in the School Summer Festival if invited.

To welcome schools in church and support schools in their initiatives.

c) OCCASIONAL / PASTORAL SERVICES

To hold a Blue service in the period before Christmas.

To make the Walk of Light and service an annual event.

d) FESTIVALS

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

To hold Experience Easter in church or school.

e) MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE

To hold a 'Bring One Friend and Back to Church' service.

To continue to support Foodbank and Kings Cross Project.

To hold Lent and Advent Soup and sandwich lunches with bible study and/or meditation.

f) RULE of LIFE

To hold a bible study/prayer group and/or meditations.

To instigate a Giving Campaign to promote the Parish Giving Scheme.

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

To have 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 investigate ideas to take the church to the people.

h) CONSERVATION PROJECT

To hold an Eco Nature and Heritage Day held to encourage awareness of the nature in the churchyard and raise awareness of eco issues.

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. 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.

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.

GOVERNANCE

PCC members are committed to making good use of the funds and resources with a focus on achieving the desired outcomes whilst ensuring the charity follows the law, produces policies and, where issues arise, these are dealt with efficiently and quickly. Potential risks are considered, progress is monitored and actions taken 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. Therefore, we 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 consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits, 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 - 166 on the 2024 roll. (New roll in 2025)

5. CHURCH GROUPS

Bell Ringers

If you love to hear the church bells, Nigel, Tower Captain 07860632096. Practice Tuesdays 6.30pm. Training given.

Choir

leads us in song every Sunday morning and at Festivals. If you enjoy music and

Fellowship contact Director of Music Paul 07778042553. Practice Thursdays 6pm.

Church Cleaning

10.30 to 12noon once a month on the last Wednesday and as required for special services. All

equipment and materials provided. Just call in, many hands make light work.

Flower Arranging team

If you would like to help Wednesday & Friday mornings Lesley 01514231759

Friends of St Luke's Church

organise fund raising events ranging from quizzes to concerts. Ideas for fund raising always

welcome. If you would like to join our Whatsapp group contact Sandra 0776672030

Mothers' Union

meet second Wednesday each month in church 7pm for prayer and fellowship with a variety of

speakers. Colleen 01514244351.

Jam Club

Second Sunday each month 3-4pm join Clare and Jack (our church puppet) for worship focussed on families and the young at heart - bible story, songs and crafts. Also Good Friday Family Service 10am to 11am Clare 07976549410

Open Door Wednesday

10am to 3pm church is open. Pop in for a chat and cuppa. People on hand to welcome you and show you around our beautiful church.

Games Galore Wednesday

1pm to 3pm Come and join us for 2 hours of light-hearted fun playing games Scrabble,

Dominos and many more and chatting. Coffee and cake too. Pat 07717522878

Open Door Saturday

First Saturday each month 10am to 11.30am for fellowship, a look around and chat or for a quiet space to sit and spend some time with your thoughts, or with God. Tea and teacakes, coffee and crumpets provided. Contact Sue 07962012916

Sunday Club

In the Bridewell 10.30am on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays during term time, stories of our faith are told in a lively way, with craft activities. The children come into Church at 11.15am to share what they have done with the congregation. Lynn 07741494261

Uniformed Organisations Clare Liptrott 07976549410

Parish Review

If you would like to input to the magazine, or have a magazine delivered to you or would like an advert in the magazine please contact farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk Philip 07710030973

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.

Endowment funds £170,760, up on previous year by £3,893 due to increase in stock market valuations

2. Restricted and Designated funds - This is for monies for specific purposes, i.e., Major Repairs, Bridewell etc. Restricted funds, including Friends account £168,446 which is mainly for the church toilet project. Designated funds £2,309.

3. General Fund - This covers the income and expenditure of the day to day running costs of the church. It is this section which yet again has seen a noticeable drop in income.

Mainly due to the loss of some of our regular givers who have sadly died in the year. At the start of 2024 we still owed £56,000 to the Diocese for parish share for 2023. We have managed to pay £22,000 towards this creditor, leaving £34,000 still outstanding plus the current years parish share figure of £72,000, giving a total of £106,000 outstanding to the Diocese at end of December 2024. We are presently in discussions with the Diocese about the outstanding Parish share . People have been very generous in giving to the toilet fund for these much needed facilities. Hopefully the general fund will benefit from extra income once they are built.

The income from regular givers has continued to drop, although people using the parish giving scheme has increased slightly, mainly with regular givers changing from giving by enveloped and standing orders rather than from new regular givers .

.Charitable Giving

Children's Society - £500 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.

Farnworth CE School Bag to School weigh in - the PTA was delighted to receive our donations to this initiative to raise funds for a library pod and promote the reuse of clothes & shoes to

help build a more sustainable future.

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 on 2024 was approved at a meeting of PCC members on 7th April 2024.

If you spot any mistakes, please contact PCC Secretary 07761672030

sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk so amendments can be made before the report goes to the

Diocese and the Charity' Commission. Thank you.

4a STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	10,085	9,922
Social Security Costs		-
Pension Costs		-
	<u>10,085</u>	<u>9,922</u>

During the year the PCC employed an organist and some monthly payments were large enough to attract social security costs. Also employed, was an Administrator for booking Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms. Payments were made to Retired clergy and Readers for funeral services of £5,948 (2023 = £2,263). A contra against PCC fees was in relation to these fees. The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2023 - 4).

4b PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member for their services provided as a PCC member for the year ended 31 December 2024, nor for the year end 31 December 2023.

During the year services were provided by S Smither as an employee of St Lukes Church, for funeral services only, at a cost of £2,987. This was in addition to services provided as a PCC member on a voluntary basis.

5 FIXED ASSETS

5(a) Tangible

No Capital expenditure was incurred in 2024 (2023 - nil).

5(b) Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value at 1st January 2024	166,867	152,553
Disposal at carrying value		
Income from investments	32	30
Revaluation gain/(loss)	3,861	14,284
	<u>170,760</u>	<u>166,867</u>
Market value at 31st December 2024		

6 DEBTORS (unrestricted funds)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Tax recoverable	12,040	22,157
Prepayments and Accrued Interest		
Other Debtors	138,862	2,000
	<u>150,902</u>	<u>24,157</u>

7 LIABILITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year (unrestricted funds)		
Accruals for utilities and other costs	110,397	59,419
Other creditors	5,000	12,000
Loans	<u>115,397</u>	<u>71,419</u>
Amounts falling due after one year		
Loans	<u>-</u>	<u>2,500</u>

8 FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets						
Investment fixed assets				170,760	170,760	166,867
Current Assets					179,557	83,167
Bank	8,282	2,830	168,445		150,902	24,157
Debtors	150,902					
Liabilities	-				-	115,397
Amounts falling due within 1 year						- 71,419
Amounts falling due after 1 year						- 2,500
Fund balance	<u>43,787</u>	<u>2,830</u>	<u>168,445</u>	<u>170,760</u>	<u>385,822</u>	<u>200,272</u>

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of ST LUKE'S, FARNWORTH, WIDNES

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. Luke's, Farnworth on the accounts for the year end

31 December 2024, as set out on pages 1 to 7 of Appendix 1 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the 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 of 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2006 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met.
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: _____

Mrs N Hague FCA

Date: 24th April 2026