THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

England & Wales · Charity number 1175130

Details

Other names	ST. LAURENCE CHORLEY PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2017-10-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Lawrences Church Union Street Chorley PR7 1EB
Phone	01257 231360
Email	office@stlaurencechorley.co.uk
Website	www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, PASTORAL, EVANGELISTIC, SOCIAL AND ECUMENICAL

Activities: The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chorley St Laurence operates under the Parochial Church Council(Powers) Measure 1956.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1175130

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£415,752	£490,014	-	-
2023-12-31	£204,129	£231,450	-	-
2022-12-31	£188,993	£195,565	-	-
2021-12-31	£133,820	£156,617	-	-
2020-12-31	£139,705	£133,140	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1175130

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Canon Neil George Kelley	Chair	2017-06-27
Alexander Forbes Cruickshank Barrack		2022-11-01
Andrew William Walkden		2025-04-24
Antony Checker		2020-09-21
Bernard Oakley		2023-05-22
Brian Nigel Hall		2025-04-25
Emma Jane Barraclough		2023-05-22
Flora Oakley		2026-05-07
Lucy Anne Hubberstey		2024-04-25
Michelle Clare Wareham		2026-05-07
Neal Bennet-Williams		2023-05-22
Nicola Carolin Pilkington		2023-05-22
Rachel Louise Singleton		2026-05-07
Rev Cornelius Asghar		2024-06-29
Rev Mark John Yates		2026-05-15

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1175130

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1175130

Accounts

Annual Report 2024

Parish Church of Chorley

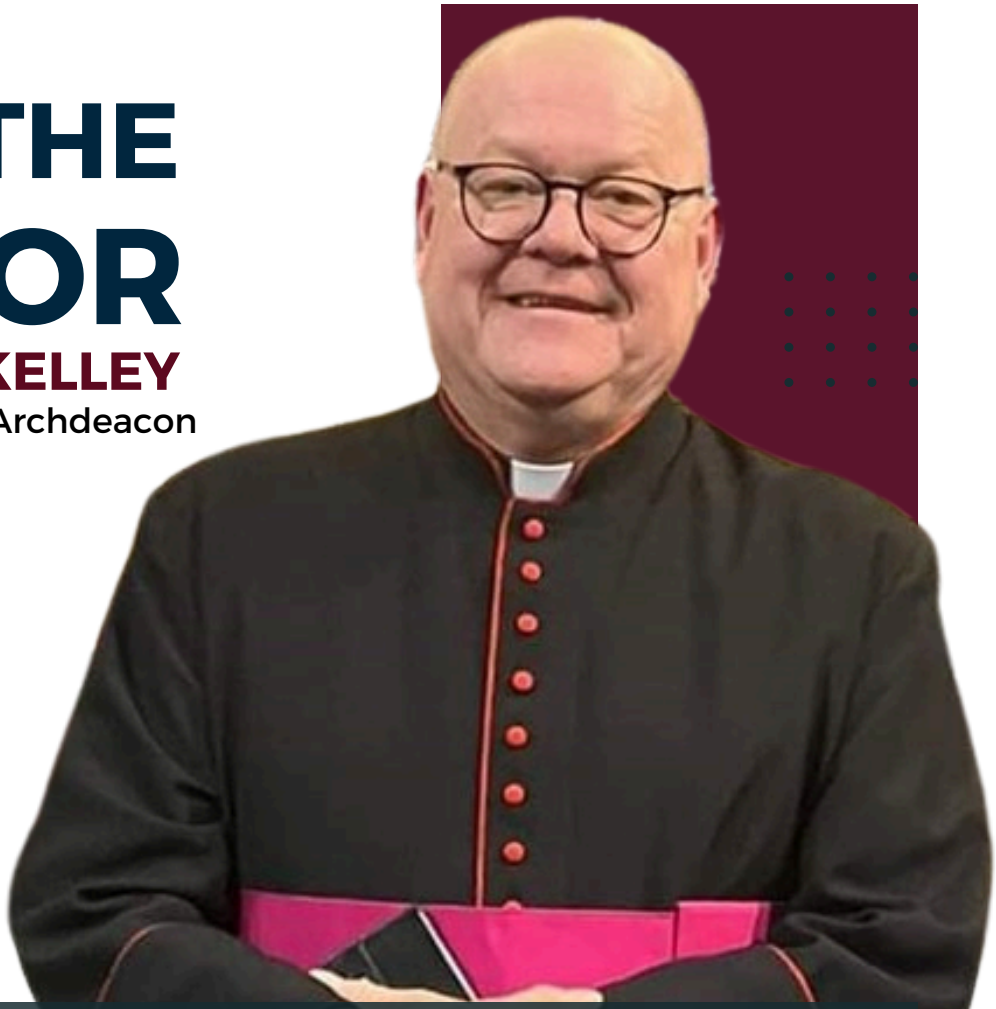
St. Laurence

St. Laurence's Chorley is a
Registered Charity
no. 1175130

FROM THE RECTOR

CANON NEIL KELLEY

Rector and Assistant Archdeacon for Clergy Wellbeing



The year 2024 saw a number of things happening to our building as a result of much needed work done, all part of our longer term strategy to deal with a long list of structural problems which has grown over quite some years now.

Of course, the church is the people, not the building, but we are called to be good stewards of all that God has given us; loving our building and caring for it is a responsibility placed on the shoulders of all those who regard St. Laurence's as their spiritual home.

When I came to Chorley many people loved to refer to St. Laurence's as "the parish church" – but what does it mean to be a "parish church?" it means that we take seriously our call to care for everyone in our parish boundary, whether of the same faith as us, or a different faith or no faith at all". That's what it means to be a Parish Church. The late Archbishop William Temple once said that "the Church of England is the only organisation that exists for those who are not yet its members".

As we continue our plans to grow our worshipping community as well as our weekday ministry, may we hear again that call to be a proper parish church – a church that reaches out to all in the name of Christ, especially the last, the least and the lost.

As you read this report you will become aware of a fantastic and thoroughly dedicated team of people – some who worship with us and many who don't – without that dedication we could not be a parish church. Or, rather, we would only be a parish church in word and not in deed. My grateful thanks go to everyone who enable us to serve in the name of Christ.

Fr. Neil Kelley

VESTRY MEETING | APCM

25 APRIL 2024

Vestry Meeting
Election of Churchwardens
Alex Barrack was appointed Warden for the coming year.

APCM
Fr Neil welcomed everyone to the APCM.

Apologies
Cornelius Asghar, Bob Berry, Chris Berry, Linda Hall, Chris Pryor, Fraser Marlton Thomas

Minutes of the previous APCM - 2023
The PCC stated that they were happy with minutes from last year.

Reports
(Please see annual report)

- The PCC
- The Electoral Roll
- The Financial Statements
- Church Fabric
- The Deanery Synod

Approval of the Annual Report
Proposed: Rob Kelly
Seconded: Bernard Oakley

Elections and Appointments

Deanery Synod Members

- Tony Checker
- Phil Hall
- Fiona Pattison

PCC Members

- Alan Winstanley
- Chris Pryor
- Nicola Pilkington
- Fraser Marlton-Thomas
- Emma Barraclough
- Kirsty Marlton-Thomas
- Neal Bennet-Williams
- Lucy Hubberstey

Warden

- Alex Barrack

Deputy Warden

- Tony Checker
- Bernard Oakley

Independent Examiner

- John Schofield

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Fr. Neil took the opportunity to say thank you to everyone, noting the vast amount of people who do a huge amount and thanked everyone for their contributions. The following was also noted:

- Taste café 21,760 covers served
- Four year anniversary food parcels some 2,000
- Tuesday marks the first year of the Wellness Hub
- 27 people supported re debt to become debt free
- 312 people received emotional support from open table
- Unusual not to have a day where there is a suicide conversation
- 3,496 hours of support from volunteers over last year alone
- Number of finance challenges - full time job for James
- Volunteer posts not optional they are necessary
- In terms of volunteer hours we have around 160 volunteers- each week requires 153 hours of church time. Around £100,000 volunteer hours based on minimum wage
- Facing challenges there is more we need to deal with
- Increase in the number of people coming to church services 239 over the three services average
- As numbers have grown the pastoral team has shrunk slightly

21,760
TASTE CAFE COVERS

2,000
FOOD PARCELS OVER FOUR YEARS

1 YEAR
WELLNESS HUB ANNIVERSARY

3,496
VOLUNTEER HOURS

312
PEOPLE RECEIVED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

239
AVERAGE CHURCH ATTENDANCE

STRUCTURE MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chorley St Laurence operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1175130.
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC hold regular meetings during the year. Reports from PCC sub committees have been received and considered regularly at PCC meetings.

The PCC has a Safeguarding Policy in place.

In 2024 the PCC operated the following sub-committees that report back to it as necessary and their deliberations are discussed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PARISH FINANCE AND FABRIC COMMITTEE
Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler (Chair), Phil Hall, David Ward, Joy Barrack, Alex Barrack

SAFEGUARDING GROUP
Rector (ex-officio), Parish Safeguarding Officer, Fiona Pattison

REDEVELOPMENT GROUP
Becky Gilbert-Rule (chair), Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler (ex-officio), Jill Smith, David Ward, Dan Hubberstey, Andrew Walkden, Darren Nicholson, Alan Winstanley, Churchwardens (ex-officio)

RAISE THE ROOF COMMITTEE
Rector (ex-officio), Karen Pemberton (Chair), Cheryl Winstanley, Pat Roberts, Anne Watts, Joyce Fielding

HOSPITALITY GROUP
Rector (ex-officio), Rachel Gilkes (Chair), Brian Clarke, Chris Hedges, Fiona Pattison, John Handforth, Margaret Shackleton, Alan Winstanley

HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUP
Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler, Joan Hayward, David Ward

THANK YOU!
Elspeth thanked Fr Neil on everyone's behalf to recognise all the effort that goes into the work that he does.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

THE PARISH OF CHORLEY ST LAURENCE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175130
THE PARISH IS PART OF THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN WITHIN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
THE CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS IS: ST LAURENCE PARISH OFFICE, UNION STREET, CHORLEY, PR7 1EB

Website	www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk
Rector	Canon Neil Kelley (PCC Chairman)
Ordinand in Training	Cornelius Asghar (until June)
Assistant Curate	Fr. Cornelius Asghar (from June)
Assisting Clergy	Canon Ken Barrett, Rev David Ward, Fr Edmund Straszak, Fr Robert Moore, Rev Mike Hatton
ALMs	Phil Hall, Tony Checker, Neal Bennet-Williams, Michelle Wareham (from September)
Parish Administrator	Natalie Print
Rectors PA	Jackie Gemson (resigned June), Mandy Stanton (from August)
Ops Manager	Irene Preston
Project Administrator	Jill Smith
Parish Nurse	Lisa Corbet (resigned March)
CAP Debt Centre Manager	Rachel Gilkes
Kitchen Manager	Rachel Gilkes (resigned July)
Wellness Co-ordinator	Rachel Gilkes (from July)
PCC Treasurer	James Laidler
PCC Secretary	Tracy Earl
Churchwardens	Alex Barrack (ex-officio PCC), Neal Bennet-Williams (from December, ex-officio PCC)
Deputy Churchwardens	Tony Checker, Bernard Oakley
Deanery Synod Reps	Phil Hall (2026), Tony Checker (2026), Fiona Pattison (2026)
Elected PCC Members	James Laidler (2025), Joyce Fielding (2025), Betty Kelly (2025) (resigned December), Alan Winstanley (2026), Chris Pryor (2026), Fraser Marlton-Thomas (2026), Karen Pemberton (2026) (resigned April), Kirsty Marlton-Thomas (2026), Nicola Pilkington (2026), Tracy Earl (2026), Neal Bennet-Williams (until December), Emma Barraclough (2026), Lucy Hubberstey (2027)
Electoral Roll Officer	Natalie Print
Finance and Fabric Group	James Laidler (chair)
Health and Safety	David Ward, James Laidler, Joan Hayward, Colin Christie (from July 2024)
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Nicola Pilkington
Redevelopment Group	Becky Gilbert-Rule (chair)
Raise the Roof Committee	Karen Pemberton (Chair)
Parish Bankers	Virgin Money
Independent Examiner	John Schofield BA (Oxon), 126 Deerfold, Chorley, PR7 1UH
Architect	John Coward Architects Ltd, 3 Unsworth's Yard, Ford Road, LA11 6PG

DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF THE CHURCH IS EXERCISED BY THE INCUMBENT, CANON NEIL KELLEY AND THE CHURCHWARDENS, ALEX BARRACK AND NEAL BENNET-WILLIAMS, CONTACTABLE THROUGH ST. LAURENCE PARISH OFFICE, UNION STREET, CHORLEY PR7 1EB, TEL: 01257 231360

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

This report is made available to the PCC and all members of the Parish Church of St Laurence, Chorley, under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.

This has been another very busy year in the life of St Laurence's, with so many activities taking place. We are blessed to have such strong leadership and support from our Clergy and Admin Team. Therefore, I will take this opportunity to give them our thanks. Thanks also to the retired priests who support some of the many services held in the church. Their contributions are very much appreciated. A highlight of the year took place in June when we celebrated the Ordination of Cornelius Asghar as Deacon, which was followed by a meal in Church with Cornelius and his family.

Church services throughout the year continue to be well attended, and we have welcomed many new members and families to the church family. The Christmas crib services were both very well attended.

Our church continues to serve our wider community providing hot meals through open table on a Monday evening, Taste Café Tuesday to Friday, Mental health support on a Tuesday, Christians Against Poverty, offering advice and support. Free emergency food parcels are supplied and delivered to those in most urgent need. The Wellness Hub celebrated its first anniversary in April. There are many more activities to support members of the community. Well done to all the volunteers who make all these activities happen.

The friends of St Laurence have continued to support the Church, and I thank Alistair Morwood and his team for all their hard work raising funds towards the upkeep of the Church.

We are extremely fortunate to have a Church Tower with a ring of 8 bells. Our thanks go to the ringers for calling people to worship on a Sunday morning as well as other occasions. There is still opportunity for more members of the Church to learn how to handle the ropes.

The Standish Stitchers contributed a wonderful display of mice for the flower show with a church building created by David Jones. The mice were then sold to raise funds towards the roof repairs. New crafts people are always welcome, please contact Jane Morwood or Anne Wray.

The shop has grown over the year offering a wide range of products and gifts, raising funds towards the upkeep of the Church, thanks to Anne Wray and her team of volunteers for their hard work and the support they gave to the flower show, with the Raise the Roof theme.

As is discussed further in the Fabric Report, this year was also a busy year for works in the Church and fundraising.

There is so much which goes on at St Laurence's, through the church services and activities, and also through the outreach to our local community. We are grateful to all who make this possible.

Since our last Church Warden's report, there have been some 'staff' changes. Darren Nicholson stepped down as a Churchwarden and Bernard Oakley became a Deputy Warden during 2024. In December 2024, Neal Bennet-Williams was appointed Churchwarden.

Alex Barrack
Neal Bennett-Williams
Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD

Joyful Generous Stewards

Presented by Christy Sawyer, (Diocesan Stewardship Resourcing Officer)
Chorley Deanery Synod - 24 June 2024, St John's Church, Whittle-le-Woods

The meeting focused of 'all aspects of stewardship'. Including: Key principles, mechanisms of giving, impact reporting, building trust, inspiring generosity, discipleship, and ideas to activate generosity in your church.

Key Principles

1. Giving is rooted in the character of God, who is the giver of all good gifts
2. Giving joyfully is part of our worship
3. Generous giving is part of Christian discipleship – as we grow in the likeness of Jesus, we grow in the grace of giving
4. Giving is part of our stewardship of God's creation
5. God is not a God of scarcity but of abundance
6. Giving is an act of faith
7. Giving within the diocese is an expression of our mutual dependence as the Body of Christ
8. Giving in the New Testament is a response to grace
9. We enable and channel the giving of the willing, we don't put anyone under pressure
10. In prayer, we seek God's guidance, surrender our worries, and offer gratitude for His provision

Mechanisms

1. Contactless devices
2. Parish giving scheme
3. Digital giving
4. Legacies

Impact Reporting

Focus on outcomes, not just outputs. For example, instead of saying a lunch club served 30 meals, highlight that it reduced loneliness and isolation. Describe your church's work by it's outcomes to convey true impact effectively.

Building Trust

1. Say thank you regularly
2. Explain what was given and how it was spent on a six monthly or annual basis
3. Ensure those involved in encouraging giving have read and understand the code of fundraising practice

Inspiring generosity, discipleship, and ideas to activate generosity

1. Generosity week: Eight days of service and worship materials for churches to use to encourage people to live generously.
2. Generous harvest: Commit as a church to raise enough in 11 months for all the annual costs. Then, for Harvest month, give away everything you are given.
3. Encourage % increase in line with inflation and/or income.
4. Allow the congregation to decide how the church's offertory is used can be impactful.

VISION2026
HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Tony Checker
Deanery Synod Member

FABRIC REPORT

There has been a considerable amount of work carried out on the Church over the last year, the roof being a main concern as we have continued to have ingress of rain during periods of inclement weather.

The Roof
A contractor was brought in to improve drainage of the South channel of the Lady Chapel. New guttering was installed to assist in taking water off the roof.

A water throw off was inserted above the drain pipe on the South side of the Church, a new lead was cut in to the external side of the crenelations, the full length of the South Isle.
We had a contractor to look at the level of dampness in the Lady Chapel and the sub drainage channel running the length of the channel. Plaster was removed from the loft area in the Standish room and measurements taken, demonstrating a high level of moisture.

The loft was subsequently emptied as much as possible, a high-power socket was fitted (now changed to a normal socket) to allow the area to be dried, and over a period of 16 weeks or so, the channel was dried out with infrared heat. The heater was then sold. The water damage and remove plaster panels have now been replaced. There is still an enormous amount of works to be carried out on the other roof areas at later date.
The roof alarm system has had its annual service completed and was tested to ensure it is working correctly.

The Gutters
The gutters have been cleared of leaves and seeds twice recently. The situation with leaves should improve following the removal of overhanging parts of the trees that were trespassing the Church yard.

Taste Café Kitchen
A new power supply and fuse board was fitted in the kitchen including a dedicated socket for a hot water geezer. The geezer was subsequently plumbed in by Deakins. The kitchen was then stripped out by restoration contractors in order to carry out other woks. A temporary kitchen area was set up in Church with a reduced service.

The West Window
Prior to the work on the window, the organ pipes were covered with tarpaulin sheeting to avoid any ingress of dust from the works, the Kitchen was stripped out, the roof the café cleared and stored in a container on site. Stone masons and glazing contractors removed the window, then refitted it with new stonework and glazing. There were two occasion Church was closed due to dust from the works. The contactor brought in cube air filters and set about cleaning the church.
Following completion of the works, the roof was put back on the café and the roof replaced (as much as possible due to the state of the wall). The kitchen was then refitted.

The Walls
There are still many areas of plaster damaged by water ingress that will have to be addressed in the future.

Pews
With faculty permission five more pews have removed. There are some stored behind the artwork the others are in the rectory garage and St. Peters Vicarage garage. More pews will be removed when new chairs arrive.

Heating
A grant was obtained to assist with the cost of repairs to the heating, the pipe by the organ pipes had been leaking for some considerable time. The system was drained and a new coupling fitted. At the same time, the radiator by the café was removed as it was causing a bottle neck in that area. The boilers had their annual service. Boiler 3 was turned off due to a fault, with the option to repair or replace. The decision was taken to repair (due to cost). Work has finally been completed. The radiators in the upper room continue to require regular bleeding. The boilers were turned off for a few days in November due to a major gas leak as the supply pipe had become disconnected from the mains.

Organ
The organ was giving some concern when playing for prolonged periods, it was given a complete overhaul, repairing the bellows and sub structure. A few minor tweaks have been carried out since then.

Parquet Flooring
As with the previous report, the have been some areas of flooring becoming loose, these have been reglued. More may be identified as the pews are removed. Chris Pryor has made repairs to several of the floor vents.

Lighting
All the lights in the Church have been changed to LED. It has been quite a large piece of work. New security lights have been fitted to the rear of the property and new flood lighting to the front of Church. This will make a significant dent in our electricity usage.

Fire
All the extinguishers have been checked as well as the alarm system and a log sheet printed to record any events.

Car Park
The car park was closed during the works to the West window. On completion of the work and removal of the containers it was reopened. We now have a parking policy, which makes us compliant with our insurance.

Church Yard
The council has continued to look after the grass and trees in the yard, the yew tree at the SE corner was damaged when a dead tree fell, this has now been trimmed back. The trees on the West side have been cut back, to the North a tree surgeon was brought in by the council following a discussion with them regarding private nuisance and trespass from the adjacent property, several trees were taken down and the others were cut back, taking them off our property. There are two remaining trees that will require further work this year. The benches will need some attention when the weather improve. One of the benches has been sanded and retreated.

Alex Barrack
Neal Bennett-Williams
Churchwardens

Raise the Roof Abseil with Bishop Philip, Sir Lindsay Hoyle and BBC Radio Lancashire's Graham Liver

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Parish of Chorley St. Laurence demonstrates public benefit with the following activities

- Regular public worship open to all
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick, frail and bereaved
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools
- Promotion of Christianity through staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature
- Promotion of the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents, toddlers, young people and other special needs groups
- Teaching and discussion of Christian Ethics
- Environmental/Ethical issues e.g. supporting other charities in the UK and overseas
- Community involvement, including the support of local cultural events (music, artistic, Chorley Live etc.) and social action (CAP, Open Table, Taste, foodbank, supporting the homeless and street pastors)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC: is to co-operate with the Minister in providing in the ecclesiastical parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical
- We continue to develop within the Diocesan Vision 2026 programme which focuses on making disciples of Jesus Christ, being witnesses to Jesus Christ and growing leaders for Jesus Christ
- Our mission continues to be to proclaim the Gospel according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and assists in the involvement of the many groups that that live within the parish

Achievements and Performance

See Churchwardens Report.

Approved by the PCC at the meeting on 01 April 2025.

Signed on their behalf by

Fr. Neil Kelley

CANON NEIL KELLEY, RECTOR AND PCC CHAIR

Approved by the APCM on 24 April 2025.

Fr. Neil Kelley

CANON NEIL KELLEY, RECTOR AND PCC CHAIR

JAMES LAIDLER, TREASURER

SAFEGUARDING

The PCC and the safeguarding officer have particular responsibilities, but making sure everyone is safe is a commitment that all member of our community share.

The PCC have complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.

Overview of Safeguarding at St. Laurence's Church

Parish Safeguarding Officer is:
Nicola Pilkington
e. safeguarding@stlaurencechorley.co.uk
t. 07736 312859

Fiona Pattinson oversees the induction of all new volunteers and completes all DBS for all the relevant volunteers. Fiona can be contacted on volunteers@stlaurencechorley.co.uk

In 2025 we are looking to expand the safeguarding team further.

Training/DBS

- As of December 2024, all PCC members were up to date with the safeguarding training (having done three modules; churchwardens do four)
- All volunteers receive an induction, which includes how to handle safeguarding concerns and who to speak to
- All DBS's are up to date for PCC and Volunteers. There are a several which will need renewing in 2025 and Fiona is on with this

Display

On display in Church we have the following:

1. A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'. This should be signed on behalf of the PCC
2. Contact details of the PSO, Churchwarden and any other local leaders
3. Contact details for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team – including phone, email and website details
4. Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues, domestic abuse and key helplines e.g. ChildLine (See separate 'Model Safeguarding in parishes-who's who')
5. Provide access to a hard copy Parish Safeguarding Handbook (see separate Handbook)
6. Provide access to a hard copy of the Diocese Safeguarding Manual

Safeguarding Concerns/Actions

- There have been 12 safeguarding referrals within the past 12 months which have involved referral to other agencies or further safeguarding support from St Laurence's Church.
- Two safety plans have been completed with the Diocese Safeguarding officer. A Safety Plan sets out the expectations, actions and arrangements that will be delivered by named members of the Church body and the subject of the Plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the church community, including the person named in the Plan
- Parish Safeguarding Officer also responds to calls from volunteers and signposts them to the relevant people or agencies.
- Summary Action Plan from the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is shred regularly with the PCC to ensure they are up to date. Further templates and documents can be found here: https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy-practice-guidance/templates-and-resources

N C Pilkington

Nicola Pilkington
Parish Safeguarding Officer

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Annual Report 2024

ELECTORAL ROLL

161

This is a decrease of 64 from 2024 (224)

AVERAGE WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

246

This is an increase of 7 from 2023 (239)

AVERAGE WEEKDAY ATTENDANCE

30

This is a decrease of 18 from 2023 (48)

20	01	03	27
FUNERALS	BURIAL OF ASHES	WEDDINGS	BAPTISMS

FINANCE REPORT

Statement of Financial Activities 2024

The consolidated statement of financial activities shows our total funds decreased over the year by £70,477. Our total resources comprising unrestricted, designated and restricted funds at the year-end stood at £489,293.

Much has been achieved in 2024 as we progress to renovate and re-order the Church building namely:

- Renovation of the West window
- Repairs to the Lady Chapel Roof
- Further works to the organ
- Installation of LED lighting throughout the building

In 2025 we will continue with the refurbishment of the 'Taste' kitchen and re-ordering of pews, work which is already funded. Work to the north aisle roof still has to be fully assessed and funded.

There will remain challenges as we strive to fund our continuing community services and improve income to our general funds to meet the cost of ministry and our day to day overheads.

FINANCE REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

The Churches financial resources are contained within five funds as follows:

1. The Emergency Food Parcel Fund
This fund was established in 2023 to show this activity separately from our other community activities.

The funds income in the last 12 months came from a grant from Jigsaw Homes

In addition, personal and supermarket food donations have been received at an estimated worth of £12,277 (£10,470). These donations are not included in the accounts.

Total number of parcels delivered during the year was 750 (976) with a value of around £17,000 (£20,000). £23 per bag.

2. Community fund
This fund is in place to finance the Wellness Hub, Taste Cafe, Monday Open table and Christmas lunch.

The fund has also been used to a small extent to grant emergency funds to those in critical need through the Rector's discretionary fund.

The fund finances the employment costs of the Kitchen Manager, Operations Administrator and the Wellness Hub Manager.

As agreed by the PCC the fund shares the costs of utilities and insurance costs with the general fund.

Grants totalling £56,02323 received during the year include:

- Places for People - £2,000
- Cinamon Trust - £2,000
- Rank Foundation - £2,000
- CO-OP - £2,273
- Lancashire CC £500
- NHS Lancashire - £5,000
- ASDA- £1,000
- National Lottery Community Fund - £20,000
- Chorley BC via the Household Support Fund - £21,250

Thanks must go to Jill Smith, Project Administrator, for the work in building relationships with our funders and undertaking considerable work with grant applications.

As at the year end the fund had a balance of £36,018 of which £13,897 is committed by specific grants, which are not fully expended to the following items:

Post year end events
With the Vision 2026 grant from the Diocese supporting our CAP project, now expended, all CAP expenditure will now be funded through the Community Fund. Accordingly, the PCC have agreed that the restricted deposit funds of £12,913 designated for this purpose be transferred to community funds.

FINANCE REPORT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

3 Fabric Fund

This was established at the start of 2023 to focus on the repair and re-ordering of the Church. It is also been used to fund continued renovation works to the Church organ.

During the year the following works have been completed and expenditures made:

- Repair to the roof of the Lady Chapel
- Additional works to the organ
- Installation of LED lighting throughout the Church building
- Complete restoration of the West Window
- Purchase of new chairs
- Professional fees

Grants have been received from:

- Jessica Lofthouse Trust re Lady Chapel - £10,317
- Lancashire Environmental Fund re West Window - £40,000
- Benefact Trust- re new kitchen and roof repairs - £58,000
- LPW Grants Scheme re Vat paid- £4,715

Thanks again must go to Jill Smith, Project Administrator for the work in sourcing this funding and undertaking considerable work with grant applications.

Balance of the fund at the year-end stood at £245,566.

FINANCE REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

3. Fabric cont.

The following grants have been received but not yet spent for their purpose:

- Benefact Trust December 2023 - £6,950 for kitchen refurbishment
- Benefact Trust November 2024 - £58,000for kitchen refurbishment and contribution to roof repairs

During the year the PCC agreed that interest accrued on the Fabric Fund should for the time being be applied to the General Funds of the Church. This is a change in policy from 2023.

Post year end events

A grant from groundwork UK for 100% of the cost of installing LED was agreed during the year. The grant will be claimed in January 2025 with an associated grant under the LPW scheme for VAT paid. The sum recoverable to the fabric fund is estimated at £11,800.

A grant application under the LPW scheme for reclaiming Vat on the works incurred during the year will be submitted in January 2025. It is estimated that £26,300 will be recoverable to the fabric fund.

4. General Fund

GENERAL FUND

£5,487 **DEFICIT**

The accounts for the year show a deficit on the general fund of £5,487.

PLANNED GIVING

7.6% **INCREASE**

Planned giving through STO, Green envelopes and Parish Giving Scheme, including gift aid recovered, increased by 7.6%. We have 70 (52) parishioners using PGS.

ANNUAL INCOME

£215,844

Total income for the year was £215,844 an increase of £11,715 on 2023.

LOOSE PLATE COLLECTIONS

19% **DECREASE**

Loose plate collections and card donation in church fell by 19% to £10,151. Card donations taken in December totalling £1,319 were not received until after the year end.

Recurring grants from the Diocese supported CAP costs, the Project Manager and Deanery Assistant. All grants had been expended by the year end.

Shop sales - the figure includes gross art/craft sales. The shop continued to make a significant contribution to Church funds.

Our costs totalled £221,331. A decrease of £10,119.

FINANCE REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

Parish share payments were met in full. During the year the Diocese granted a reduction in share in consideration of the Rector's responsibilities to St Peters Church. The Diocese also granted Parish Share Support of £20,446.

The costs of the CAP project were met through the Diocese grant (see above) and funds drawn from a restricted deposit account held at the Diocese.

Gas and electricity costs of £22,345 reduced by 26% on the previous year as expected. Other costs were broadly in line with budget.

Fund transfers
With the agreement of the Charity Commission withdrawal of funds from restricted investments totalling £12,500 was made to finance the ongoing work of the Project Administrator until the end of September 2025.

Prior year adjustments in respect of restricted funds used to finance CAP have been made totalling £30,436.

General funds as at the year-end stood at £46,119.

5. Restricted funds
These are investments held from historical legacies.

With the agreement of the Charity Commission withdrawal of funds totalling £12,500 was made to finance the ongoing work of the Project Administrator until the end of September 2025.

The value of the investments has shown an increase to £155,342 from £151,557 at the start of the year (2.5%). The balance sheet figure is shown net of the amount of the withdrawal above.

There is a discrepancy between the balance sheet value of investments which are correctly stated and the figure shown in the receipts and payments account, due to a computer error. The correct figure is shown in the balance sheet as described above.

The revaluation reserve of £30,633 relates back to 2019. This figure does not form part of the accounts and is not an asset included in the overall reserves.

Provisions
Provision has been made in the accounts for the following:

- £1,118 of funeral and wedding fees payable to the Diocese

Appreciation
I would like to record my continued thanks to John Schofield, Hon Examiner of our accounts for his work and continued commitment to this task over many years.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer
February 2025

FINANCE REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP 2024

The Finance Group held three formal and one informal quarterly meetings over the past 12 months. The guidelines, below, agreed by the PCC, were met with quarterly accounts reviewed and submitted to PCC. The finance function of the PCC was maintained over the year namely:

- Oversee the work of the Treasurer and review financial information on a quarterly basis
- Oversee the arrangements for cash handling and banking
- Oversee the arrangements for gift aid claims from HMRC
- Review quotations for significant expenditure outside items dealt with by the fabric group
- Be permitted to agree expenditure outside of normal day to day running expenses up to £500 without reference to the PCC
- Advise the PCC on the Churches financial position both short and long term
- Prepare and recommend an annual budget to the PCC
- Prepare and recommend communications to the Parishioners and Diocese in matters relating to Parish finances
- Oversee stewardship and agree action required.

With regard to payments, ongoing issues remained with regard to using the bank debit card for online purchases. Investigations are ongoing. Re-imbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC by staff and parishioners, were made immediately on production of receipts.

My thanks go to all members of the Group for their contribution to the work of the Church and especially to Alan and Jean Fishwick and Joy Barrack for undertaking cash reconciliation and banking during the year. Alan and Jean retired from their duties in the autumn and we welcomed Barbara Coates to assist with this work.

I would like to record our thanks to Ian Knell of Mike Hankey and Co Ltd, of Bamber Bridge, who generously provides payroll services to the Church.

I would also like to thank Tom Wray again for his support with technical issues arising from card payments.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer
February 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Consolidated Receipts and Payments

for the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	358,437	—	—	358,437	362,812
Income from charitable activities	4,987	—	—	4,987	2,175
Other trading activities	28,312	—	—	28,312	35,895
Investments	24,014	—	—	24,014	14,049
Other income	—	—	—	—	39,821
Total income and endowments from:	**415,752**	**—**	**—**	**415,752**	**454,754**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4,409	—	—	4,409	2,339
Expenditure on charitable activities	460,180	—	—	460,180	312,422
Other expenditure	25,425	—	—	25,425	47,896
Total expenditure on:	**490,014**	**—**	**—**	**490,014**	**362,658**
Net income / (expenditure)	**(74,262)**	**—**	**—**	**(74,262)**	**92,095**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	42,936	—	—	42,936	424,430
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	(42,936)	—	(42,936)	(424,430)
Net income / (expenditure)	**(31,326)**	**(42,936)**	**—**	**(74,262)**	**92,095**
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	3,784	—	3,784	13,046
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	**(31,326)**	**(39,151)**	**—**	**(70,477)**	**105,141**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**364,863**	**194,907**	**—**	**559,771**	**454,629**
Total funds carried forward	**333,537**	**155,756**	**—**	**489,293**	**559,771**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Note	From To	01 January 2024 31 December 2024	01 January 2023 31 December 2023
EFP - Emergency Food Parcels (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations appeals etc		60	101
Non-recurring one-off grants		6,000	13,500
	Total Donations and legacies	*6,060*	*13,601*
Total income and endowments		**6,060**	**13,601**
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Church office - telephone and internet		41	96
Emergency Food parcels		5,276	10,415
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities	*5,318*	*10,512*
Total expenditure		**5,318**	**10,512**
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		742	3,089
Brought forward balance		5,089	—
Transfers to/(from)		—	2,000
Total carried forward balance		**5,831**	**5,089**
HF - Community Fund (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Card donations via sum up		—	347
Donations appeals etc		2,513	17,606
Taste Cafe donations		6,099	10,316
Fund Raising - other activities		3,698	3,060
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		—	3,725
Non-recurring one-off grants		56,023	35,325
	Total Donations and legacies	*68,336*	*70,381*
Total income and endowments		**68,336**	**70,381**
Expenditure			
Raising funds			
Costs of fetes & other events		921	—
	Total Raising funds	*921*	—
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Taste Co-ordinator		5,258	8,809
Operations administrator		8,905	6,855
Parish Nurse salary		2,496	6,848
Parish Nurse - expenses		308	972
Wellness Hub Manager		3,569	—
Wellness Hub Expenses		8,546	—
Rector's Discretionary Fund		450	2,600
Church equipment and office purchases		225	3,374
Education		—	292
Parish training and mission		—	50
Church office - telephone and internet		185	84

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Note		From To	01 January 2024 31 December 2024	01 January 2023 31 December 2023
	Cleaning		3,306	2,777
	Hospitality and Gifts of thanks		264	406
	Monday Open Kitchen and Christmas lunch		4,794	3,050
	Taste Cafe expenses		7,104	8,376
	Church running Health & Safety		246	104
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*45,661*	*44,603*
	Other expenditure			
	Contribution to Church overheads		14,288	22,000
	Total Other expenditure		*14,288*	*22,000*
	Total expenditure		**60,870**	**66,603**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		7,465	3,778
	Brought forward balance		28,553	26,775
	Transfers to/(from)		—	(2,000)
	Total carried forward balance		**36,018**	**28,553**
	Fabric - Fabric Fund (Designated) Fund			
	Income and endowments			
	Donations and legacies			
	Donations appeals etc		1,440	100,088
	Fund Raising - other activities		9,390	7,949
	Fund Raising Church Fayres		1,648	—
	Non-recurring one-off grants		113,032	17,772
	Total Donations and legacies		*125,512*	*125,810*
	Investments			
	Bank and building society interest		—	2,012
	Total Investments		—	*2,012*
	Other income			
	Surplus - sales of fixed assets		—	38,818
	Total Other income		—	*38,818*
	Total income and endowments		**125,512**	**166,641**
	Expenditure			
	Raising funds			
	Costs of fetes & other events		1,408	525
	Total Raising funds		*1,408*	*525*
	Expenditure on charitable activities			
	Church equipment and office purchases		1,491	—
	Organ / piano tuning		13,153	27,670
	Church maintenance		745	—
	Church major repairs - structure		159,090	—
	Church major repairs - installation		15,469	—
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*189,949*	*27,670*
	Other expenditure			
	Church Major Structure - Fees		11,137	25,896
	Total Other expenditure		*11,137*	*25,896*
	Total expenditure		**202,494**	**54,092**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(76,982)	112,548

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Note		From To	01 January 2024 31 December 2024	01 January 2023 31 December 2023
	Brought forward balance		322,548	—
	Transfers to/(from)		—	210,000
	Total carried forward balance		**245,566**	**322,548**
	General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
	Income and endowments			
	Donations and legacies			
	Gift Aid - Stewardship STOS		13,170	18,671
	Gift Aid - Stewardship Green Envelopes		8,138	6,814
	Gift Aid - Parish Giving Scheme		55,136	45,532
	Loose plate collections		4,798	5,448
	Card donations via sum up		5,353	7,020
	Donations appeals etc		8,411	9,101
	Fund Raising - other activities		2,128	3,405
	Fund Raising Sunday Recitals		1,609	2,244
	Fund Raising Church Fayres		50	—
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		20,737	19,965
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid (Prior year)		124	209
	Legacies		15,000	—
	Recurring grants		17,965	22,080
	Non-recurring one-off grants		1,320	10,529
	Other funds generated		2,257	1,101
	Flower donations		70	90
	Photocopier receipts		—	30
	Fees for weddings		1,470	489
	In Memorium		787	228
	Wedding Banns Fees		—	54
	Total Donations and legacies		*158,529*	*153,017*
	Income from charitable activities			
	Fees for funerals		4,987	2,175
	Total Income from charitable activities		*4,987*	*2,175*
	Other trading activities			
	Merchandise sales and art commission		10,713	9,489
	Church room lettings - fund raising		3,161	3,899
	Church main area lettings - fund rasing		150	506
	Contribution from Community Fund		14,288	22,000
	Total Other trading activities		*28,312*	*35,895*
	Investments			
	Investment Income		5,140	4,142
	Bank and building society interest		18,874	2,498
	Rent from lands or buildings		—	5,395
	Total Investments		*24,014*	*12,037*
	Other income			
	Insurance claims		—	1,003
	Total Other income		—	*1,003*
	Total income and endowments		**215,844**	**204,129**
	Expenditure			
	Raising funds			
	Costs of fetes & other events		2,079	1,814
	Total Raising funds		*2,079*	*1,814*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Receipts and Payments by fund

for the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Note	From To	01 January 2024 31 December 2024	01 January 2023 31 December 2023
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Giving to missionary societies		30	—
Ministry parish share etc		85,515	92,062
Senior Administrator		1,047	—
Youth Ministry		89	243
CAP Salary		12,100	11,223
CAP expenses		9,249	8,037
Administrator		6,979	5,576
Rectors Personal Assistant		8,405	9,313
Pension costs		991	1,018
Deanery assistant		198	4,662
Project Administrator		12,138	11,367
Working expenses of incumbent		2,674	1,902
Working expenses of Trainee/Curate		1,070	290
Council tax		2,378	2,276
Rectory other expenses		37	—
Church equipment and office purchases		4,568	2,769
Water rates - Rectory		868	784
Vicar's telephone line and internet		1,921	1,511
Education		1,183	1,559
Parish training and mission		442	756
Church running - insurance		6,168	5,878
Church office - telephone and internet		1,684	1,197
Church office -computer expenses		1,012	1,050
Photocopier		1,524	1,637
Photocopier lease		932	601
Organ / piano tuning		—	462
Organist and Relief Organists		3,399	3,024
Church maintenance		6,067	4,022
Upkeep of services		3,519	2,980
Administration		—	1,080
Hospitality and Gifts of thanks		5,632	3,749
Visiting speakers / locums		50	—
Church running - electric		8,088	10,931
Church running Health & Safety		2,519	1,991
Church running - alarm costs		2,835	3,090
Church running - gas		14,257	19,374
Church running - water		437	603
Flowers for Church		192	363
Funeral Expenses		2,009	1,068
Wedding expenses		270	—
Merchandise purchases		6,760	4,058
Church major repairs - installation		—	5,149
Other PCC property upkeep - Park Road		—	1,964
Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*219,251*	*229,636*
Total expenditure		**221,331**	**231,450**
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(5,487)	(27,321)
Brought forward balance		8,671	33,562
Transfers to/(from)		42,936	2,430
Total carried forward balance		**46,119**	**8,671**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

PCC St. Laurence Chorley
Receipts and Payments by fund
for the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Note	From To	01 January 2024 31 December 2024	01 January 2023 31 December 2023
Restric - Restricted Fund Endowments held by Diocese (Restricted) Fund			
Brought forward balance		164,274	151,228
Transfers to/(from)		(42,936)	—
Gains & losses		3,784	13,046
Total carried forward balance		**125,122**	**164,274**
ZReval - Revaluation reserves (Restricted) Fund			
Brought forward balance		30,633	30,633
Total carried forward balance		**30,633**	**30,633**
TF - Talents Fund (Designated) Fund			
Brought forward balance		—	1,700
Transfers to/(from)		—	(1,700)
Total carried forward balance		**—**	**—**
PRF - Park Road Fund (Designated) Fund			
Brought forward balance		—	210,000
Transfers to/(from)		—	(210,000)
Total carried forward balance		**—**	**—**
CAP - CAP Fund (Designated) Fund			
Brought forward balance		—	730
Transfers to/(from)		—	(730)
Total carried forward balance		**—**	**—**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024

PCC St. Laurence Chorley

Balance sheet as at 31 Decmeber 2024

		As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Fixed assets			
	6435: Curate's House	—	—
	6440: Investements held at Diocese	142,841.66	151,557.00
	Total Fixed assets	**142,841.66**	**151,557.00**
Current assets			
	1510: HMRC	1,500.00	2,625.00
	6501: Current Account - Yorkshire Bank	14,309.15	31,256.43
	6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account restricted fu	—	—
	6511: Short Term Deposits - Diocese	318,820.44	350,230.76
	6512: CAP Deposit a/c - restricted	12,913.74	25,024.84
	6590: Cash in hand and in transit to bank	26.64	64.14
	Total Current assets	**347,569.97**	**409,201.17**
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	1,118.00	987.00
	Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	**1,118.00**	**987.00**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**489,293.63**	**559,771.17**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(74,262.20)	92,095.94
	Z01: Starting balances	546,725.17	454,629.23
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	16,830.66	13,046.00
	Total Reserves	**489,293.63**	**559,771.17**

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	46,119.86	8,671.19
Designated	287,417.37	356,192.24
Restricted	155,756.40	194,907.74
Endowment	—	—
Total	**489,293.63**	**559,771.17**

There may be discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not shown

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LAURENCE CHORLEY
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST LAURENCE'S

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 as set out in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees 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 statements 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 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or
(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr John Schofield BA (Oxon)
126 Deerfold
Chorley
Lancashire

14 March 2025

Parish Church of Chorley

St. Laurence

Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB

r. Canon Neil Kelley

t. 01257 231360

e. office@stlaurencechorley.co.uk

www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1175130

Accounts

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PARISH CHURCH OF CHORLEY ST. LAURENCE

St. Laurence’s Chorley is a
Registered Charity
no. 1175130

RECTORS REPORT

One of the most significant events in 2023 was the launching of the St. Laurence's Wellness Hub. At one level, this offers nothing completely new, but at another level it is significant, for it seeks to bring together all aspects of our parish life under one umbrella – that of caring for the whole person, body, mind and spirit.

I want to thank our phenomenally committed team of volunteers and staff who are providing as much as we can for our congregations and the wider community. I also want to say a big thank you upfront for all that will happen this year. It is exciting to lead such a vibrant community but we must remember that, as we care for our community, so we need to care for ourselves too. I hope that our year will not just see 'events' but also times when we can 'rest'. Resting in the love of God, or resting socially with one another is essential if we are to be a healthy church transforming our community. St. Laurence's is a seven-day-a-week church where both worship and community service are the beating heart of all we do. It is of course notable that, as we have grown closer to our community, so more people have been drawn to God in worship. Whilst many churches still struggle to regain life post-pandemic, we have witnessed growth in all areas of church life.

I look forward to sharing many activities and times of rest and relaxation with you as we journey through 2024. With my good wishes and prayers and grateful thanks for all that is done to serve God and neighbour in this parish.

Fr. Neil Kelley

CANON NEIL KELLEY
RECTOR OF ST. LAURENCE CHORLEY

VESTRY MEETING

22 MAY 2023

Fr Neil welcomed everyone to the APCM.

Election of Churchwardens
Bernard Oakley and Darren Nicholson have been elected as Wardens for the coming year.

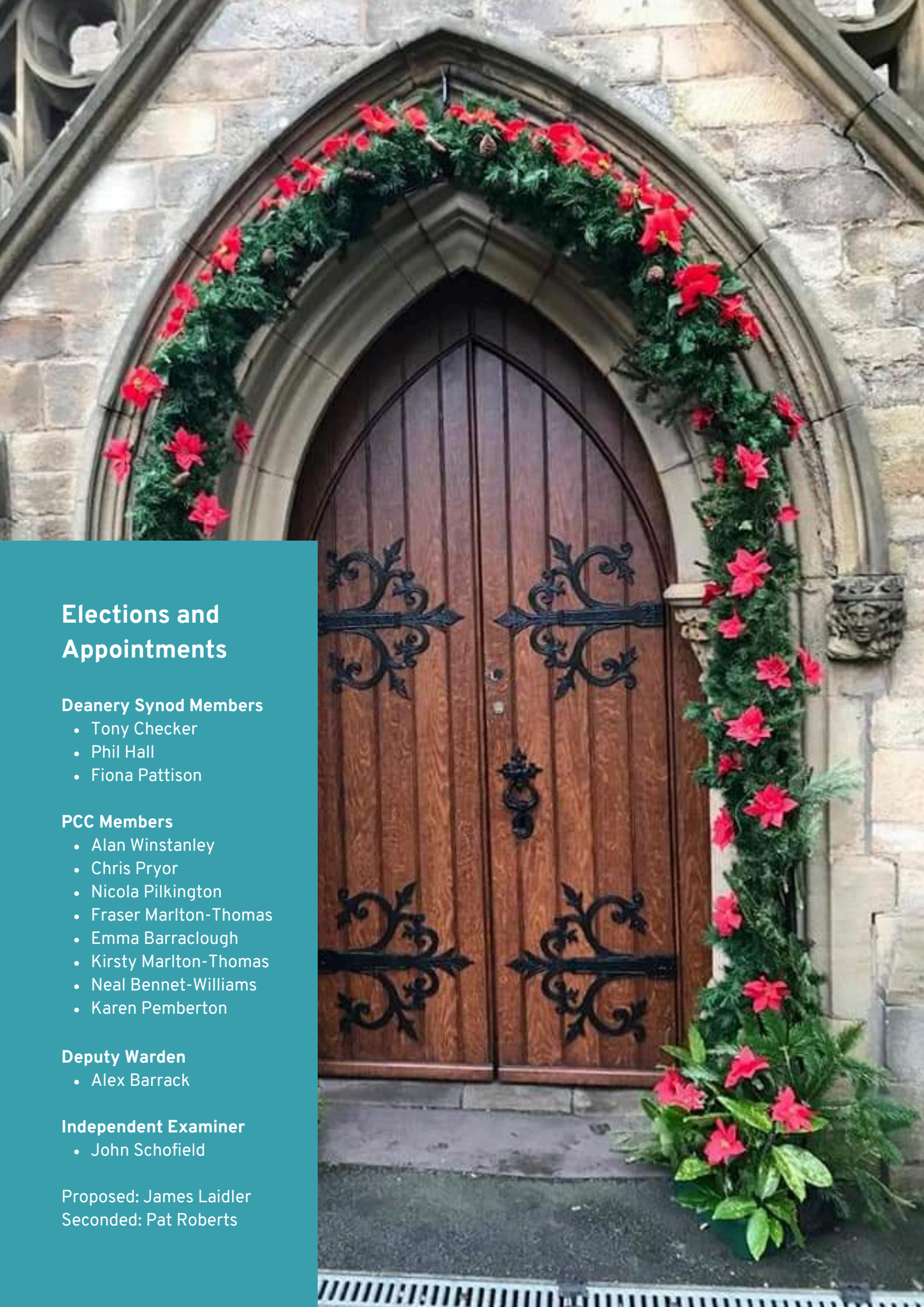
Apologies
Darren Nicholson; Joan Davies;
Joan Heywood; Sandra Dickinson; Tracy Earl;
Kirsty Marlton-Thomas; Nicola Pilkington;
Andrew Walkden

Minutes of the previous APCM - 05 May 2022
Proposed: Bob Berry
Seconded: Bernard Oakley

Reports
(Please see annual report)

- The PCC (page 5-6)
- The Electoral Roll (page 7) since report was published the electoral roll now sits at 223 members as of 22 May 2023
- The Financial Statements of the PCC (page 14) – noted that there has been an increase in giving
- Church Fabric (page 12-13)
- The Deanery Synod (page 9)

Approval of 2022 Annual Report
Proposed: Phil Hall
Seconded: Dan Hubbersty



Elections and Appointments

Deanery Synod Members

- Tony Checker
- Phil Hall
- Fiona Pattison

PCC Members

- Alan Winstanley
- Chris Pryor
- Nicola Pilkington
- Fraser Marlton-Thomas
- Emma Barraclough
- Kirsty Marlton-Thomas
- Neal Bennet-Williams
- Karen Pemberton

Deputy Warden

- Alex Barrack

Independent Examiner

- John Schofield

Proposed: James Laidler
Seconded: Pat Roberts

CHAIRMANS REMARKS

Fr. Neil thanked everyone for the effort that has been put into bringing the report this year to fruition.
Fr. Neil asked for a moments silence to remember those we have lost this past year.
Fr. Neil highlighted the appointment of Natalie Print as parish administrator; Alex Barrack as Tower Captain; Jill Smith as project administrator.
This year we have joined the national places of welcome scheme, marked the death of the Queen, provided an early response to the Ukraine appeal.
Fr. Neil also thanked the Friends of St Laurence for the fundraising they have done to secure the organ roof. With the money raised so far and a substantial donation that has been received, the majority of the work will be able to be undertaken.
Grateful thanks to Fiona Pattison for taking on the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator. It was acknowledged the amount of work that is undertaken by the volunteer community which has aided the growth in the day to day ministry of the church and we have also seen a growth in church service attendance.
Fr. Neil hoped that people could see the hard work that is paying off.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concern was raised regarding the car park and the proposal to limit access during the day and the impact this may have on volunteers who attend during the week having to go out to their cars to move them to secure another car parking ticket. Fr. Neil pointed out that without a risk assessment being undertaken we are not insured. With the volume of work that is being undertaken we need to ensure that we are operating in a safe and legal way. There are often occasions when there is double/triple parking that is happening.
A proposal was put forward to ask the council if there could be an exemption made for volunteers having to move their cars after 3 hours to another car park if they needed to be at church longer. Emma Barraclough has offered to ask the council if this could be an option for us.
Rachel Gilkes has offered to look at the Taste Café Rota to see if the times volunteers attend could be staggered in light of the restriction of three hours in the car park opposite church. Fr. Neil advised that James had secured two spaces at the bowling club but as of yet nobody has taken up these spaces. He also advised that his drive is available for use as well if required.
Elspeth thanked Fr. Neil for his leadership over the past year and also thanked everyone else for all the support they provide to the church over the past year.
Alan confirmed that the organ work will begin beginning of July.
Question was raised regarding when the next lot of pews will be removed. The PCC are looking to apply for a faculty later this year.
Fr. Neil advised that on Sunday 28 May an appeal will be launched for the new chairs to be used in the space created by the removal of some of the pews by the organ pipes. The congregation will have the opportunity to purchase a chair and this will be recorded in a book (not on the chair itself).
A question was raised regarding the sale of the pews and if there was a market for them. Fr. Neil advised that he has already received several offers to purchase the pews when they are removed.
Dan advised that the tenants currently in 57 Park Road are in the process of buying the property. Completion date of September/ October 2023.
Fr Neil closed the meeting at 19:47.

STRUCTURE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England.
The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chorley St Laurence operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.
The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1175130.
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.
All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC hold regular meetings during the year.
Reports from PCC sub committees have been received and considered regularly at PCC meetings.
The PCC has a Safeguarding Policy in place.
In 2023 the PCC operated the following sub-committees that report back to it as necessary and their deliberations are discussed.

PARISH FINANCE AND FABRIC COMMITTEE

Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler (Chair), Phil Hall, David Ward, Joy Barrack, Alex Barrack

SAFEGUARDING GROUP

Rector (ex-officio), Parish Safeguarding Officer, Fiona Pattison

REDEVELOPMENT GROUP

Becky Gilbert-Rule (chair), Rector (ex-officio), Jill Smith, Dan Hubberstey, Andrew Walkden, Darren Nicholson, Alan Winstanley, David Ward

RAISE THE ROOF COMMITTEE

Karen Pemberton (Chair), Cheryl Winstanley, Pat Roberts, Anne Watts, Joyce Fielding

HOSPITALITY GROUP

Rector (ex-officio), Rachel Gilkes (Chair), Brian Clarke, Chris Hedges, Fiona Pattison, John Handforth, Margaret Shackleton, James Laidler, Alan Winstanley

HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUP

James Laidler, Joan Hayward, David Ward

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

THE PARISH OF CHORLEY ST LAURENCE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175130
THE PARISH IS PART OF THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN WITHIN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
THE CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS IS: ST LAURENCE PARISH OFFICE, UNION STREET, CHORLEY, PR7 1EB

Website	www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk
Rector	Fr. Neil Kelley (PCC Chairman)
Ordinand in Training	Cornelius Asghar
Assisting Clergy	Canon Ken Barrett, Rev David Ward, Fr Edmund Straszak, Fr Robert Moore, Rev Mike Hatton
LLM	Joan Hayward (retired 16 April 2023)
ALMs	Phil Hall, Tony Checker, Neal Bennet-Williams
Parish Administrator	Natalie Print
Rectors PA	Jackie Gemson
Kitchen Manager	Rachel Gilkes
Ops Manager	Irene Preston
Project Administrator	Jill Smith
Parish Nurse	Lisa Corbet
CAP Debt Centre Manager	Rachel Gilkes
PCC Treasurer	James Laidler
PCC Secretary	Michelle Wareham (until 22 May 2023), Tracy Earl (from 31 August 2023)
Churchwardens	Bernard Oakley (ex-officio PCC), Darren Nicholson (ex-officio PCC)
Deputy Churchwardens	Elle Greenhough and Michelle Wareham (until 22 May 2023), Alex Barrack (from 23 May 2023)
Deanery Synod Reps	Phil Hall (2026), Tony Checker (2026), Fiona Pattison (2026)
Elected PCC Members	Andrew Walkden (2024), Dan Hubberstey (2024), James Laidler (2025) Joyce Fielding (2025), Betty Kelly (2025), Alan Winstanley (2026), Chris Pryor (2026), Fraser Marlton-Thomas (2026), Karen Pemberton (2026), Kirsty Marlton-Thomas (2026), Nicola Pilkington (2026), Tracy Earl (2026), Neal Bennet-Williams (2026), Emma Barraclough (2025), Alex Barrack (2025) from June 2023
Co-opted PCC Members	Alex Barrack (2025) until May 2023
Electoral Roll Officer	Natalie Print
Finance Committee	James Laidler until June 2023 when the Parish Finance and Fabric Group was formed
Fabric Committee	Chris Pryor until June 2023 when the Parish Finance and Fabric Group was formed
Finance and Fabric Group	James Laidler (committee formed in July 2023)
Health and Safety Officers	Neal Bennet-Williams (until July2023), John Handforth and Chris Sweeney, SkW construction Consultancy (external consultants) from July 2023
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Nicola Pilkington
Redevelopment Group	Becky Gilbert-Rule (chair), Fr Neil Kelley, David Ward, Jill Smith, Dan Hubberstey, Andrew Walkden, Darren Nicholson, Alan Winstanley
Raise the Roof Committee	Karen Pemberton (Chair), Cheryl Winstanley, Pat Roberts, Anne Watts, Joyce Fielding
Parish Bankers	Yorkshire Bank, Preston
Independent Examiner	John Schofield BA (Oxon), ACA, 126 Deerfold, Chorley, PR7 1UH
Architect	John Coward Architects Ltd, 3 Unsworth's Yard, Ford Road, LA11 6PG

DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF THE CHURCH IS EXERCISED BY THE INCUMBENT, FR NEIL KELLEY AND THE CHURCHWARDENS, BERNARD OAKLEY AND DARREN NICHOLSON, CONTACTABLE THROUGH ST LAURENCE PARISH OFFICE, UNION STREET, CHORLEY PR7 1EB, TEL: 01257 231360

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

This report is made available to the PCC and all members of the Parish Church of St Laurence's, Chorley, under Section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.

A very active year for our church this year with so much happening. I don't know where to begin, so I'll start by offering congratulations to Fr Neil on his new role of Assistant Archdeacon and also becoming a Canon for which a service was held at Blackburn Cathedral on Friday, 02 February and a service for the celebration of becoming Assistant Archdeacon on Sunday 11 February.

The Friends of St Laurence's continue to make great strides forward and now have a new leader in Alistair Morwood, who has taken over from Michael Welsh, to whom I offer my thanks for his leadership over the period that he has been at the head of FOSL.

The church bells have been ringing for Sunday services and other events, so thank you to the ringers and welcome to the new faces; it's really nice to hear them on Sundays.

The church has also been lucky to have several retired priests to help out, so I offer them a warm welcome and thanks; their services are greatly appreciated.

We are a church for the community providing many services for people in need, whether it be for health reasons, financial problems or other reasons. Many people are involved providing help and assistance in so many ways and I would just like to say thanks to them for making things happen.

The shop and the Standish Stitchers continue to work well together, providing some great gifts and also getting involved with the Chorley Flower Show which won the team the top award, so well done to one and all.

The church attendance is still on an even keel with 200 plus over the weekend services. The Christmas services were spread over two separate events with both having 200 in attendance.

Fund raising has been a big feature this year with events taking place to raise money, not just for repairs but to keep the church running, the church roof still being a big concern.Cornelius, Anne Watts and Andrew Walkden all did funding raising events and up to now I understand they have raised £10,000; great stuff and well done! Other events are taking place in the near future.

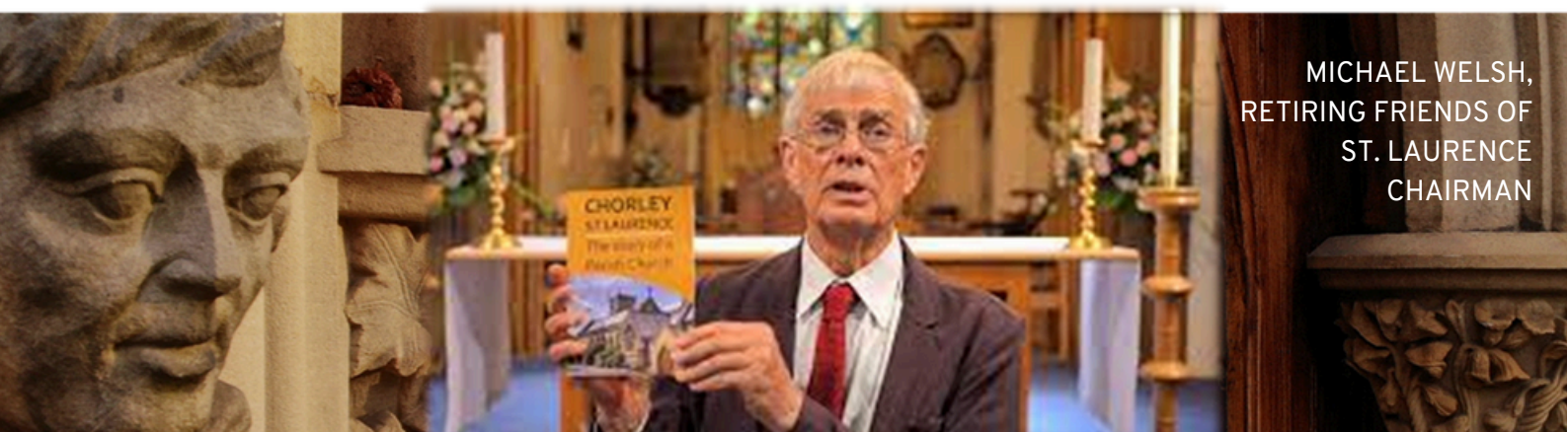
Alex Barrack has now been appointed as Churchwarden, so having completed my six years as Churchwarden, I will step back to become a Deputy Churchwarden.

I can't say thank you to everybody who has worked so hard to make things happen and keep things running because the list is endless, but I just want to let them know that their work is very much appreciated.

Several people who we know have unfortunately sadly passed away during the last 12 months. My thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families; their faces and memories will forever stay with us.

Prayers and blessings to you all from the Wardens.

Churchwardens: Bernard Oakley, Darren Nicholson and Alex Barrack



MICHAEL WELSH, RETIRING FRIENDS OF ST. LAURENCE CHAIRMAN

DEANERY SYNOD

The Chorley Deanery Synod has met twice since the last Annual Report, as well as an informal meet and greet social evening held in the grounds of the Rectory in Chorley during last summer.

The first meeting was held at St Peter's, Chorley, on 12 October 2023. Fr Neil pointed out that ensuring reports and requirements are met is our shared responsibility, and he introduced Fr Alan to lead the next session, which was the main item on the agenda.

Alan introduced himself as a retired clergyman residing in St Peter's parish, who is an Accredited Independent Examiner who has extensive knowledge of PCC accounts with turnovers in excess of £100,000 which legally require specialist supervision.

He reminded us of the legal status and responsibilities of PCCs, which should be set out at the start of the annual report. He explained the difference between 'Registered Charity' and 'Excepted Charity' status. In due course all churches will require to become 'Registered Charities'.

He explained how some people were reluctant to become PCC members because of the possibility of liability. The key to this is good practice, for example ensuring the Fit and Proper Persons forms are routinely filled in. There are many helpful sources to help with this and guidance was given on this.

There is no requirement for the incumbent to write up or produce the annual report but he has a managerial responsibility to see that it is done. The annual report is the PCC's account of its work done that year and all members are responsible for ensuring it is accurate.

In discussing accounting, he explained the difference between Receipts and Payments and Accruals. Accruals method is required where income exceeds £250,000.
The appointment of officers was made at this meeting.
The second meeting was held on 13 February 2024 at St Laurence's Church following refreshments, including pancakes, and Evening Prayer, which included the licensing of Revd. Jo Smith from Euxton Parish Church as the new Area Dean.
The main item of business was a discussion on the Deanery Mission which is to take place between 17 to 19 May 2024 (Pentecost).

The objective is for parishes to either organise a parish activity, or attend another parish's activity, and invite people from the wider community to participate. We were invited to discuss in our parish groups some possible activities that we might undertake. One suggestion made, to be followed up, is a Christian magician. Canon Neil advised that whatever we decided upon would have to have an aspect of faith connected to it.
Bishop Philip reminded us of the need to pray and to rely on God and not our own efforts.
We concluded with the Mission Prayer.

Phil Hall
Deanery Synod Member

BISHOP PHILIP, REV'D JO SMITH, ARCHDEACON MARK IRELAND

FABRIC REPORT

2022/3 has seen quite a few changes and needs of the fabric of the Church as we have opened up post Covid and emerged into a cost of living crisis. The needs of the Church and the building being another year older has meant work to be done.

Things done, areas looked at

Roof

Work has been done of the roof, replacing cracked tiles, clearing the gutters and renewal of the roofing over the organ over the past year. The replacement of the roof over the organ was paid for by the Friends of St Laurence's to whom we are most grateful. There is a deal to do on the roof in general and West End window in particular. Much of this is detailed in the Quinquennial report.

Standish Room

This room doubles as the emergency food store room, shop overflow, lost property, wheelchair storage and recently things that were in the loft. New shelving has been put up to help with the food, the shop is to get shelving and the loft is to be reordered with shelving once the plastering has been done up there.

Drains

The former men's toilets has been causing problems over the year. Blocked then the following day flowing properly. Leading us to think that the problem had solved itself. Until it blocked and stayed blocked. Digging out the drain from a manhole cover behind Church and replacing the air admittance valve look to have solved the blocking and smell problems.

Loft

During roof repairs the loft needed to be cleared. The cushions have been put back on the pews. (They were taken out of use during Covid.) Some of the items up there have been put on the back refectory roof (this is designed to take extra weight).

A deal of loft contents - old boxes, mangled Christmas trees etc have been thrown away.

Plaster

The area of wall opposite the organ pipes was losing chunks following past water damage. We applied for a faculty to remove this area of plaster before pieces fell onto people. The area will need to dry thoroughly and be re-plastered later. It has to be done using traditional lime plaster.

Trees

Last summer a tree just outside the car park blew down and knocked a section of wall down. This was from the Council's land. They knew that the tree was potentially unsafe and had been told by us too. Insurance should be paying for the wall to be made good.

Walls

The South wall had a few damp areas. It was thought that the trees growing outside were the cause. These have been pruned right back and the walls seem drier. It also means the gutters and downspouts are less likely to get blocked with leaves.

Kitchens

Repaired crumbling plaster and repainted wall in the back refectory. Shelves in cupboard.

Pews

With the permission of a faculty we have removed a number of pews. Four are secured behind the art display boards. The remainder are stored in the Rectory garage. We are required to keep them in case we change our minds and wish to return the Church to its former self.

Floors

Several small areas of the parquet flooring have had loose tiles. These have been glued back but the removal of pews has uncovered new areas to re-glue.

Lights

Several lights in the main body of the Church have been rewired. This was because moisture was entering the fittings and corroding the wiring.

Heating
The heating boilers have been serviced. The water heater in Hazel's kitchen has been replaced as it had burnt out and could not be repaired.

Equipment
Water boilers descaled, video projector mains input socket fixed, trolleys mended. PAT testing completed.

Criminal damage
Sadly we have experienced two breaking/damage. Windows were broken in an attempt to breaking to Hazel's kitchen area. This was spotted before anything was taken. The bushes inform to the windows have been removed/lowered as it was an easy place to hide whilst trying to break in.
There have been people on the roof - looking for lead? None was taken but some tiles were damaged. These have been replaced.

Front gate
Following a funeral a driver miscalculated the 3m+ width and knocked the LH gate from its hinge. This has been fixed and the gate is undamaged.

Where things have gone
Following the loft clearance items there are now on top of the back refectory, in the Rectory garage, in the Standish room, at the tip. When the plastering has been completed much will go back, neatly.

Things not covered in this report
Organ renovations and repairs. Issues arising out of the Quinquennial review.

Still to do
Teak oil several of the benches outside. This needs drier warmer weather. One at a time so that there is still seating available. Checking and repairing the newly exposed floor areas.
Those involved in various works, repairs, lifting, advice; Alex Barrack, Neal Bennet-Williams, Tony Checker, Julian Garside, David Jones, Rob Kelly, Bernard Oakley and David Thistlethwaite.

Chris Pryor

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Parish of Chorley St. Laurence demonstrates public benefit with the following activities

- Regular public worship open to all
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick, frail and bereaved
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools
- Promotion of Christianity through staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature
- Promotion of the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents, toddlers, young people and other special needs groups
- Teaching and discussion of Christian Ethics
- Environmental/Ethical issues e.g. supporting other charities in the UK and overseas
- Community involvement, including the support of local cultural events (music, artistic, Chorley Live etc.) and social action (CAP, Open Table, Taste, foodbank, supporting the homeless and street pastors)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC: is to co-operate with the Minister in providing in the ecclesiastical parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical
- We continue to develop within the Diocesan Vision 2026 programme which focuses on making disciples of Jesus Christ, being witnesses to Jesus Christ and growing leaders for Jesus Christ
- Our mission continues to be to proclaim the Gospel according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and assists in the involvement of the many groups that that live within the parish

Achievements and Performance

See Churchwardens Report.

Approved by the PCC at the meeting on 12 March 2024.

Signed on their behalf by

Fr. Neil Kelley

FR. NEIL KELLEY, RECTOR AND PCC CHAIR

Approved by the APCM on 25 April 2024.

Fr. Neil Kelley

FR. NEIL KELLEY, RECTOR AND PCC CHAIR

JAMES LAIDLER, TREASURER

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

224

On the electoral roll.
This remains the same as 2022 (224)

239

Average weekend service attendance in 2023.
This is an increase of 31 from 2022 (208)

48

Average weekday service attendance in 2023.
This is a decrease of 06 from 2022 (54)

15
Funerals

02
Burials of Ashes

01
Weddings

31
Baptisms

FINANCE REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2023

Summary General Funds
The accounts for the year show a deficit on the general fund of £27,321. This sum is however reduced by the transfer of restricted funds to general funds used to partially finance the CAP project of £11,357 giving a true deficit of £15,964.

Total income for the year was £204,129 an increase of £56,233 on 2022.

Planned giving through STO, green envelopes and Parish Giving Scheme, including gift aid recovered increased by 4.6%. We have 52 parishioners using PGS out of around 100 regular givers.

Loose plate collections and card donation in church rose by 33% to £12,468.

Non recurring grants towards utility costs totalling £20,000 were received. These were split 50/50 with the community fund. The community fund contributed £22,000 towards the costs of utilities, insurance, health and safety.

Recurring grants from the Diocese supported CAP costs, The Project Manager and Deanery Assistant.

Shop sales
The figure includes gross art sales. The shop continued to make a significant contribution to Church funds.

Our costs totalled £231,450, an increase of £63,651.

Parish share payments were met in full.

The costs of the CAP project were met through the Diocese grant (see above) and funds drawn from a restricted deposit account held at the Diocese.

Gas and electricity costs were 230% up on the previous year as expected.

Insurance claims
We have received claim monies of £1,003 in respect to storm damage to the east boundary wall. This work estimated at £1,400 will be paid for in January 2024. Costs incurred of £1,830 in respect of roof alarms damaged by an intruder will be subject to an insurance claim in 2024.

Other funds

Community fund is in place to finance Taste Café, Monday Open Table and Christmas lunch. The fund has also been used to grant emergency funds to those in critical need through the Rector's discretionary fund.

The fund also finances the employment costs of the Taste Co-Ordinator, Operations Administrator and the Parish Nurse.

Equipment for the Wellness Hub and two laptop computers for staff were purchased through the fund during the year.

As agreed by the PCC the fund shares the costs of utilities, insurance and health and safety costs with the general fund.

We continue to receive generous individual donations and where possible gift aid has been claimed.

As at the year end the fund had a balance of £28,553 of which £9,719 is committed by specific donation and grant to the ongoing work of the Parish Nurse.

The Emergency Food Parcel Fund

This fund was established at the start of the year to separately show this activity from our other community activities. The funds income has primarily derived from grant support from Chorley BC and Lancashire CC. We are also grateful to Julia and Hans Rausing for their grant of £8,750. In addition, personal and supermarket food donations have been received and valued at £10,470. Total number of parcels delivered during the year was 976 with a value of £20,000.

Fabric Fund

This was established at the start of the year to focus of the repair and re-ordering of the Church. It has also been used to fund renovation works to the Church organ which has also been funded by a substantial contribution from the Friends of St Laurence.

Funds have been received from:

- Sale of Park Road
- Substantial personal donation of £100,000 to be split 50/50 between organ works and re-ordering
- Fundraising activities of parishioners £7,949
- Grants of £9,322 from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme in respect of VAT paid on organ works
- Grants of £1,500 for kitchen upgrade and £6,950 for repairs to the west window. Both these sums are held in trust until works are complete
- Owing to a change in accounting systems of CCIA interest for the quarter to December 2023 was not applied. A sum of approximately £4,500 will be added to the fabric fund in the first quarter of 2024
- Professional fees totalling £25,896 have been incurred during the year

Restricted funds held by the Diocese

These are investments held from historical legacies. With the agreement of the Charity Commission two capital withdrawals totalling £60,000 have been made to finance mission through CAP in the last five years.

The value of investments has shown a rise to £151,557 from £138,511 at the start of the year (9.4%).

There is a discrepancy between the balance sheet value of investments which are correctly stated and the figure shown in the receipts and payments account due to a computer error. The correct figure is shown in the balance sheet as described above.

The revaluation reserve of £30,633 relates back to 2019. This figure does not form part of the accounts and is not an asset included in the overall reserves.

- The talents fund was closed at the start of the year
- The CAP fund was closed at the start of the year
- The Park Road fund has closed following the sale of the property in September with proceeds going to the fabric fund. The sale produced a surplus over book value of £38,818 which has been added to the fabric fund

Provision has been made in the accounts for the following:

- £1,107 of funeral and wedding fees payable to the Diocese
- -£120 Walsingham 2024 deposits owing

Appreciation

I would like to record my thanks to John Schofield, Hon Examiner of our accounts for his work and continued commitment to this task over many years.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer

FINANCE GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP 2023

The Finance Group held one formal and three informal quarterly meetings over the past 12 months. The guidelines, below, agreed by the PCC, were met with quarterly accounts reviewed and submitted to PCC. The finance function of the PCC was maintained over the year namely:

- Oversee the work of the Treasurer and review financial information on a quarterly basis
- Oversee the arrangements for cash handling and banking
- Oversee the arrangements for gift aid claims from HMRC
- Review quotations for significant expenditure
- Be permitted to agree expenditure outside to normal day to day running expenses of up to £500 without reference to the PCC
- Advise the PCC on the Churches financial position both short and long term
- Prepare and recommend an annual budget to the PCC
- Prepare and recommend communications to the Parishioners and Diocese in matters relating to Parish finances
- Oversee stewardship and agree action required.

My thanks go to all members of the Group for their contribution to the work of the Church and especially to Alan and Jean Fishwick and Joy Barrack for undertaking cash reconciliation and banking during the year. I would also like to thank Tom Wray for his support with issues arising from card payments.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer
March 2024

BALANCE SHEET

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP 2023

PCC ST. LAURENCE CHORLEY
BALANCE SHEET DETAILED

		As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets			
	6435: Curate's House	—	210,000.00
	6440: Investements held at Diocese	151,557.00	138,511.00
	Total Fixed assets	**151,557.00**	**348,511.00**
Current assets			
	1510: HMRC	2,625.00	3,050.00
	6501: Current Account - Yorkshire Bank	31,256.43	67,443.85
	6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account restricted fu	—	—
	6511: Short Term Deposits - Diocese	350,230.76	0.37
	6512: CAP Deposit a/c - restricted	25,024.84	36,382.64
	6590: Cash in hand and in transit to bank	64.14	24.37
	Total Current assets	**409,201.17**	**106,901.23**
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	987.00	783.00
	Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	**987.00**	**783.00**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**559,771.17**	**454,629.23**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	92,095.94	(6,971.60)
	Z01: Starting balances	454,629.23	483,484.46
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	13,046.00	(21,883.63)
	Total Reserves	**559,771.17**	**454,629.23**

Represented by Funds

Unrestricted	8,671.19	33,562.23
Designated	356,192.24	239,205.26
Restricted	194,907.74	181,861.74
Endowment	—	—
Total	**559,771.17**	**454,629.23**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP 2023

PCC ST. LAURENCE CHORLEY
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
SELECTED PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

Note	From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
EFP - Emergency Food Parcels (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations appeals etc		101	—
Non-recurring one-off grants		13,500	—
Total Donations and legacies		*13,601*	—
Total income and endowments		**13,601**	—
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Church office - telephone and internet		96	—
Emergency Food parcels		10,415	—
Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*10,512*	—
Total expenditure		**10,512**	—
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		3,089	—
Brought forward balance		—	—
Transfers to/(from)		2,000	—
Total carried forward balance		**5,089**	—
HF - Community Fund (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Card donations via sum up		347	—
Donations appeals etc		17,606	10,651
Taste Cafe donations		10,316	6,486
Fund Raising - other activities		3,060	—
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		3,725	1,550
Non-recurring one-off grants		35,325	22,400
Total Donations and legacies		*70,381*	*41,087*
Total income and endowments		**70,381**	**41,087**
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Giving - relief and development agencies		—	100
Taste Co-ordinator		8,809	4,594
Operations administrator		6,855	—
Parish Nurse salary		6,848	—
Parish Nurse - expenses		972	—
Rector's Discretionary Fund		2,600	3,404
Church equipment and office purchases		3,374	1,023
Education		292	410
Parish training and mission		50	—
Church office - telephone and internet		84	81
Cleaning		2,777	449
Hospitality and Gifts of thanks		406	134

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP 2023

Note		From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
	Monday Open Kitchen and Christmas lunch		3,050	2,828
	Taste Cafe expenses		8,376	4,106
	Emergency Food parcels		—	8,350
	Church running Health & Safety		104	82
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*44,603*	*25,566*
	Other expenditure			
	Contribution to Church overheads		22,000	2,600
	Total Other expenditure		*22,000*	*2,600*
	Total expenditure		**66,603**	**28,166**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		3,778	12,921
	Brought forward balance		26,775	13,853
	Transfers to/(from)		(2,000)	—
	Total carried forward balance		**28,553**	**26,775**
	Fabric - Fabric Fund (Designated) Fund			
	Income and endowments			
	Donations and legacies			
	Donations appeals etc		100,088	—
	Fund Raising - other activities		7,949	—
	Non-recurring one-off grants		17,772	—
	Total Donations and legacies		*125,810*	—
	Investments			
	Bank and building society interest		2,012	—
	Total Investments		*2,012*	—
	Other income			
	Surplus - sales of fixed assets		38,818	—
	Total Other income		*38,818*	—
	Total income and endowments		**166,641**	—
	Expenditure			
	Raising funds			
	Costs of fetes & other events		525	—
	Total Raising funds		*525*	—
	Expenditure on charitable activities			
	Organ / piano tuning		27,670	—
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*27,670*	—
	Other expenditure			
	Church Major Structure - Fees		25,896	—
	Total Other expenditure		*25,896*	—
	Total expenditure		**54,092**	—
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		112,548	—
	Brought forward balance		—	—
	Transfers to/(from)		210,000	—
	Total carried forward balance		**322,548**	—

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP 2023

Note	From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Gift Aid - Stewardship STOS		18,671	30,195
Gift Aid - Stewardship Green Envelopes		6,814	7,467
Gift Aid - Parish Giving Scheme		45,532	31,804
Loose plate collections		5,448	3,910
Card donations via sum up		7,020	5,466
Gift Aid - Pink Envelopes		—	50
Donations appeals etc		9,101	3,939
Fund Raising - other activities		3,405	1,574
Fund Raising Sunday Recitals		2,244	1,944
Fund Raising Church Fayres		—	175
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		19,965	17,694
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid (Prior year)		209	34
Legacies		—	750
Recurring grants		22,080	6,292
Non-recurring one-off grants		10,529	1,824
Other funds generated		1,101	872
Flower donations		90	30
Photocopier receipts		30	17
Fees for weddings		489	1,542
In Memorium		228	2,716
Wedding Banns Fees		54	97
Total Donations and legacies		*153,017*	*118,397*
Income from charitable activities			
Fees for funerals		2,175	1,932
Total Income from charitable activities		*2,175*	*1,932*
Other trading activities			
Merchandise sales and art commission		9,489	11,363
Church room lettings - fund raising		3,899	2,002
Church main area lettings - fund rasing		506	2,250
Contribution from Community Fund		22,000	—
Total Other trading activities		*35,895*	*15,616*
Investments			
Investment Income		4,142	4,558
Bank and building society interest		2,498	218
Rent from lands or buildings		5,395	7,183
Total Investments		*12,037*	*11,961*
Other income			
Insurance claims		1,003	—
Total Other income		*1,003*	—
Total income and endowments		**204,129**	**147,906**
Expenditure			
Raising funds			
Costs of fetes & other events		1,814	1,066
Total Raising funds		*1,814*	*1,066*
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Giving - relief and development agencies		—	450
Ministry parish share etc		92,062	79,686
Youth Ministry		243	131
CAP Salary		11,223	7,175

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP 2023

Note		From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
	CAP expenses		8,037	4,591
	Administrator		5,576	4,636
	Rectors Personal Assistant		9,313	8,338
	Pension costs		1,018	65
	Deanery assistant		4,662	1,399
	Project Administrator		11,367	—
	Working expenses of incumbent		1,902	2,433
	Working expenses of Trainee/Curate		290	107
	Council tax		2,276	2,184
	Church equipment and office purchases		2,769	2,353
	Water rates - Rectory		784	822
	Vicar's telephone line and internet		1,511	1,416
	Education		1,559	267
	Parish training and mission		756	170
	Church running - insurance		5,878	5,440
	Church office - telephone and internet		1,197	1,124
	Church office -computer expenses		1,050	897
	Photocopier		1,637	1,141
	Photocopier lease		601	781
	Organ / piano tuning		462	—
	Organist and Relief Organists		3,024	3,104
	Church maintenance		4,022	2,707
	Cleaning		—	91
	Upkeep of services		2,980	2,793
	Administration		1,080	—
	Hospitality and Gifts of thanks		3,749	1,761
	Visiting speakers / locums		—	333
	Monday Open Kitchen and Christmas lunch		—	89
	Church running - electric		10,931	4,552
	Church running Health & Safety		1,991	1,815
	Church running - alarm costs		3,090	1,055
	Church running - gas		19,374	8,603
	Church running - water		603	1,108
	Flowers for Church		363	670
	Funeral Expenses		1,068	1,100
	Wedding expenses		—	496
	Magazine expenses		—	61
	Merchandise purchases		4,058	6,291
	Church major repairs - structure		—	786
	Church major repairs - installation		5,149	1,752
	Other PCC property upkeep - Park Road		1,964	1,940
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*229,636*	*166,733*
Total expenditure			**231,450**	**167,799**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(27,321)	(19,893)
	Brought forward balance		33,562	53,455
	Transfers to/(from)		2,430	—
Total carried forward balance			**8,671**	**33,562**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE GROUP 2023

Note	From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
Restric - Restricted Fund Endowments held by Diocese (Restricted) Fund			
Brought forward balance		151,228	173,111
Gains & losses		13,046	(21,883)
Total carried forward balance		**164,274**	**151,228**
ZReval - Revaluation reserves (Restricted) Fund			
Brought forward balance		30,633	30,633
Total carried forward balance		**30,633**	**30,633**
TF - Talents Fund (Designated) Fund			
Brought forward balance		1,700	1,700
Transfers to/(from)		(1,700)	—
Total carried forward balance		**—**	**1,700**
PRF - Park Road Fund (Designated) Fund			
Brought forward balance		210,000	210,000
Transfers to/(from)		(210,000)	—
Total carried forward balance		**—**	**210,000**
CAP - CAP Fund (Designated) Fund			
Brought forward balance		730	730
Transfers to/(from)		(730)	—
Total carried forward balance		**—**	**730**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

INDEPENDENT EXAMINIER'S REPORT

TO THE PCC OF ST. LAURENCE'S

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 as set out in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 (2)) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees 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 statements below.

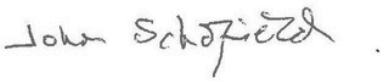
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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 2011 Act
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr John Schofield BA (Oxon)
126 Deerfold
Chorley

29 February 2024

UNION STREET, CHORLEY, PR7 1EB
T. 01257 231360
E. OFFICE@STLAURENCECHORLEY.CO.UK
W. STLAURENCECHORLEY.CO.UK

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1175130

Accounts

Parish Church of
Chorley, St. Laurence
2022 Annual Report

St. Laurence's Chorley is a
Registered Charity
no. 1175130

Rector's Report

Frank Sinatra sang "it was a very good year" and 2022 has been just that. Whilst 2021 saw an overall decline in attendance all over the diocese of some -30%, at St. Laurence's we saw some 26% growth in service attendances. 2022 continued the trend with a further growth of around 12% (we don't want too much more than that each year or it becomes unsustainable). In addition, at the end of November, we celebrated the growth in our volunteer team and at the time of writing we have over 100 volunteers on the books (though the real number is much more than that!).

This shows that we have a very solid base for moving forward. Year of endless discussion about money, with no particular vision or plan in place to halt the financial decline over the ten years before I came, have given way to a plan to develop our church building for greater community use and worship.

I want to place on record my sadness at the deaths of Joyce Deakin, Hilda Rouse, Matthew Klemm, Joan Gent, Eric Crompton, Brian Ditchfield and Marion Rawnsley who passed away in 2022. We thank God for their lives and for what they have given to this community. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

2022 saw us say goodbye to Ruth Fowler as Parish Administrator and we appointed Natalie Print to take over from her. We said farewell to Rev. Mo whose curacy here came to an end and we continue to hold her in our prayers. We welcomed Cornelius who is on a two-year placement as part of his training for priesthood and we also welcomed Fiona Pattison to a new (and much needed role) of Volunteer Coordinator and Alex Barrack as Tower Captain. At the end of 2022, thanks to a grant from the diocese, we were able to appoint Jill Smith as project administrator to help us take our plans for the future forward.

We continue to be a Church which is open 24/7 which is just what a Town Centre Church should be. Our Taste Café, Art Exhibition, lunchtime services and Gift Shop continue to draw many people into St. Laurence's Church.

The war in Ukraine has dominated the headlines, and our prayers, for the last year. It was good that St. Laurence's could play an active part in the early formation of a group designed to help send aid to Ukraine as well as support Ukrainians who have made their home in Chorley.

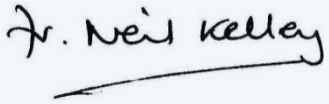
Of course, without doubt, the most profound occurrence was the death of our Late Queen Elizabeth II. Opening our doors from dawn to dusk each day we saw hundreds of people coming in to sign books of condolence as well as light candles and sit to reflect. Thanks to detailed plans drawn up earlier in the year, the moment the Queen's death was announced St. Laurence's moved into action to offer support to the parish and town. This included a special Civic Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's life a few days before her funeral. May she now enjoy the heavenly reward of her labours.

Friendship is part of life and we all need friends. St. Laurence's is fortunate to have the Friends of St. Laurence's (FOSL) who have worked so hard throughout the year and successfully completed a project to repair part of the roof over the organ chamber. This paves the way for long-overdue work on the organ to begin, again thanks to FOSL and its support which is second to none.

2022 saw a new Pastoral Team formed which aims to meet weekly and helps us to care for young and old alike. 2023 will see the official launch of a Wellness Hub at St. Laurence's, something that has come about as a result of the Rector's mini-sabbatical in the Autumn. It was also good to reinstate our regular Healing Services, the pattern of which had been interrupted by Covid and the related restrictions.

On 17 October 2022 I gave thanks to God for the five years of having the privilege to be your Rector and Parish Priest. May God continue to guide us over the next five years too!

For the past, thanks. To the future – yes!



Fr. Neil Kelley
PCC Chairman
Lent 2023

The 2022 Vestry Meeting and APCM (The 2021 Annual Report)

Vestry meeting

There were two candidates who had proposers and seconders:

- Bernard Oakley
- Darren Nicholson

These were duly elected. The Rector thanked them for serving in the previous year.

Minutes of the APCM held on 05 May at 18.15 (within the context of the Eucharist)

Chair: Fr Neil Kelley

There were 32 members present and 12 apologies.

All those elected were eligible to stand for their various positions and had been proposed and seconded by members of the Electoral Roll.

The 2021 Annual Report

- The Electoral Roll Report
- The PCC Report
- The Financial Statements of the PCC
- The Church Fabric (Buildings Group)
- The Deanery Synod

James spoke to the Financial report.

The Annual Report was proposed by Darren Nicholson and seconded by Rob Kelly, unanimously approved.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

James Laidler proposed John Schofield. Seconded Tony Checker, unanimously approved.

Chairman's Remarks

Fr. Neil outlined the two options that had been previously shared with the congregation, the consequences being an exciting future or managing decline and closure. Despite requests, no one had come forward with any alternative proposals to what the Rector had outlined in both the February congregational meeting and the APCM itself.

After reflecting on the two options as illustrated, during a time of prayer those present were asked to indicate which option they preferred. The unanimous outcome was to explore an exciting new future for St. Laurence's.

Fr. Neil said that, if we claimed we loved St. Laurence's, the mature response to saying that is to do something about it! Saying we loved the church but allowing it to be neglected and to fall into disrepair, is not a mature response to the love of God. Neither is allowing it to decline and close. These are matters of spiritual life or spiritual death.

Election of PCC members and Deputy Wardens

Michelle Wareham and Elle Greenhough were re-elected as Deputy Wardens. James Laidler, Betty Kelly and Joyce Fielding were elected to join the PCC.

A vote of thanks for offered to the Chairman and the evening concluded with the singing of a final hymn and the blessing.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Chorley St Laurence is a Registered Charity number 1175130

The Parish is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England

The correspondence address is: St Laurence Parish Office, Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB

Website:	www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk
Rector:	Fr Neil Kelley (PCC Chairman)
Ordinand in Training:	Cornelius Aghar (from October 2022)
Assisting Clergy:	Canon Ken Barrett, Rev David Ward, Fr Edmund Straszak, Fr Robert Moore, Rev Mike Hatton
LLM:	Joan Hayward (ex-officio PCC)
ALMs:	Phil Hall, Tony Checker and Neal Bennet-Williams (from October 2022)
Parish Administrator:	Ruth Fowler (until December 2022)
Rector's PA:	Jackie Gemson
Kitchen Manager:	Rachel Gilkes
CAP Debt Centre Manager:	Rachel Gilkes
PCC Treasurer:	James Laidler
PCC Secretary:	Michelle Wareham
Church Wardens:	Bernard Oakley (ex-officio PCC) and Darren Nicholson (ex-officio PCC)
Deputy Church Wardens:	Elle Greenhough and Michelle Wareham
Deanery Synod Reps:	Alan Winstanley (2023), Chris Pryor (2023), Karen Pemberton (2023)
Elected PCC members:	Tony Checker (2023), Phil Hall (2023), Fiona Pattison (2023), Caroline Walmsley (2023), Fay Winstanley (2023), Andrew Walkden (2024), Dan Hubberstey (2024), James Laidler (2025), Joyce Fielding (2025), Betty Kelly (2025)
Co-opted PCC members:	Alex Barrack (2025)
Chair of Parish Fabric Group:	Chris Pryor
Chair of the Finance Group:	James Laidler
Health and Safety Officers:	Neal Bennett- Williams, John Handforth
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Nicola Pilkington
Parish Bankers:	Yorkshire Bank, Preston
Independent Examiner:	Mr John Schofield, BA (Oxon). ACA, 126 Deerfold, Chorley, PR7 1UH
Architect:	John Coward Architects Ltd, No 3 Unsworth's Yard, Ford Road, Cartmel, LA11 6PG

Day to day management control of the church is exercised by the Incumbent, Fr Neil Kelley and the Churchwardens, Bernard Oakley and Darren Nicholson, contactable through St Laurence Parish Office, Union Street, Chorley PR7 1EB Tel: 01257 231360

Structure, Management and Governance

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chorley St Laurence operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1175130.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC held regular meetings during the year.

Reports from PCC sub committees have been received and considered regularly at PCC meetings.

The PCC has a Safeguarding Policy in place.

In 2022 the PCC operated the following sub-committees that report back to it as necessary and their deliberations are discussed.

Parish Fabric Committee:

Rector (ex-officio), Chris Pryor (Chair), David Thistlethwaite, Julian Garstang, Bernard Oakley, Tony Checker, David Jones

Parish Finance Group:

Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler (Chair), Phil Hall, Alan Fishwick, Joy Barrack

Hospitality Group:

Rachel Gilkes (Chair), Phil Hall (until October 2022), Alan Winstanley, Joan Hayward, Margaret Shackleton, Karen Pemberton, John Handforth, Chris Hedges (from October 2022)

Safeguarding Group:

Rector (ex-officio), Parish Safeguarding Officer, Joan Hayward, Fiona Pattison, Michelle Wareham

Church Attendance

The average weekend service attendances in 2022 were **208** (2021 = 170)

The average weekday service attendances in 2021 were **54** (2021 = 50)

Electoral Roll - there are currently **224** people on the Electoral Roll

Funerals	Weddings	Baptisms	Burial of Ashes
22	02	37	02

Statement of Public Benefit

The Parish of Chorley St. Laurence demonstrates public benefit with the following activities

- Regular public worship open to all
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick, frail and bereaved
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools
- Promotion of Christianity through staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature
- Promotion of the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents, toddlers, young people and other special needs groups
- Teaching and discussion of Christian Ethics
- Environmental/Ethical issues e.g. supporting other charities in the UK and overseas
- Community involvement, including the support of local cultural events (music, artistic, Chorley Live etc.) and social action (CAP, Open Table, Taste, foodbank, supporting the homeless and street pastors)

Objectives and Activities

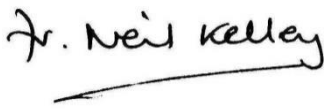
- The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC: is to co-operate with the Minister in providing in the ecclesiastical parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- We continue to develop within the Diocesan Vision 2026 programme which focusses on making disciples of Jesus Christ, being witnesses to Jesus Christ and growing leaders for Jesus Christ.
- Our mission continues to be to proclaim the Gospel according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and assists in the involvement of the many groups that that live within the parish.

Achievements and Performance

See Churchwardens Report.

Approved by the PCC at the meeting on 13 March 2023.

Signed on their behalf by



Fr. Neil Kelley, Rector and PCC Chair

‘Healthy churches transforming communities’

Deanery Synod

The Chorley Deanery Synod has met twice since the last Annual Report. The first meeting was held in October 2022 at All Saints' Church, Chorley. The main item was given to introducing members to The Vine Community.

Archdeacon Mark Ireland was the speaker and he spoke about his hope that it would be something all churches in the Diocese will aim to promote and encourage individuals to join in order to deepen our discipleship and prayer life across our County and in our churches and communities. Here are some of the points he made:

The Vine Community : A flexible framework for the Christian life

- It is a simple and flexible framework for living out a Christian life; sometimes called a 'rule of life'.
- We want as many as possible to sign up and pledge to be part of The Vine Community.
- There was a service of commitment in Blackburn Cathedral in June 2022 but there will be other events beyond then as this is a long-term commitment.
- Whatever your situation, there are three questions to help you explore what faith means to you already, and how to make the most of it.
- This isn't necessarily about doing something 'extra', but about giving yourself the space to be the person God has made, and to grow in your relationship with Him, with an active, practical response to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Deanery Mission

Fr Mike Print gave us provisional details of a Deanery Mission to take place in May 2023. (More details will be provided early in 2024 because of the Coronation of King Charles III this event has been postponed by twelve months.)

Our second meeting took place at St. Laurence's on Shrove Tuesday. Karen Pemberton and I made over 50 pancakes for deanery members which were well received. Fr Neil and Bishop Philip having seconds!

It was good to welcome Bishop Philip as our principal speaker not long after being officially named the next and tenth Bishop of Blackburn.

He used the occasion to outline his vision for the Diocese. Here are the three things Bishop Philip says he will be labouring tirelessly in the years to come:

Firstly, "I am committed to continuing the growth of the church in Lancashire, helping to build joyful Christian communities.

Secondly, I would love to see the Church of England in Lancashire being an ever-stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest.

And thirdly, I believe children and young people need to be at the very heart of all that we do. The current generation of young people is such an impressive one, with a real desire to build a better world.

Bishop Philip cited good practice across the Diocese to when he expanded on the three points above. On two occasions he commented on the good work undertaken here in the community and the flexible approach we adopt to services over the weekend.

At both meetings Rosemary Lyon (St Mary's Rufford and Holy Trinity Tarleton) and a member of the General Synod brought us up to date with developments at the General Synod, some of the issues being more controversial than others.

Alan Winstanley
Deanery Synod Rep

Churchwardens

This report is made available to the PCC and all members of the Parish Church of St Laurence's, Chorley, under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.

I can open my report by stating that Bishop Julian has now retired and that Bishop Philip has taken over his role, so a big welcome to him.

St Laurence's Church is steadily getting back on its feet with a 26% growth in attendance from the previous year which was still affected by the Coronavirus. There is also an 8% increase in stewardship.

The church volunteers who come to help us has now reached 100 people, helping to carry our church forward.

The church shop continues to do well selling many items of interest, supplied sometimes by the Standish Stitchers, who meet once a month making things for the shop.

The Taste Café opens four days per week from Tuesday until Friday and is thriving, only restricted by the space available which will improve in the near future when pews are to be removed.

Open Table is open on Monday evenings and is also doing well giving out on average 50 meals to people who are in need, some of whom are now attending the 18.15 service.

The Christians Against Poverty service has assisted several people and continues to function, so thank you to all the people who help to keep these things going.

The emergency food parcel service also needs to be remembered for all of the work that is carried out including deliveries to people's houses etc.

I will briefly touch on the subject of the church building; it is no secret that we need something in the region of £1,000,000 to repair the roof, starting with the North Aisle and West Window which alone will need approximately £470,000. As I go to print people are already doing things to raise money; we have a marathon runner and a three peaks challenge walk on the go, plus Bishop Philip offering to do an abseil, so thank you to them.

The Friends of St Laurence's have also done well managing to raise money for the organ roof and are now in the process of money raising for repairs to the organ, our thanks go to them also.

Helping us to keep the forward momentum we have some additional help with Becky Gilbert-Rule, an architect who has offered her services for free, also Jill Smith who is our part time Projects Administrator with us for 18 months to assist in organising our Community Uplift Programme. We also welcome our new Parish Administrator, Natalie Print, and Trainee Cornelius Aghar and his wife, Mona.

The Walk of Witness went ahead his year on 18 June and was well supported by churches from the surrounding area.

I am pleased to say that the church bells are ringing again with new ropes being fitted and Alex Barrack has taken on the role of Bell Tower Captain. They had a Bell Tower Open Day on 13 August to encourage people to have a go.

I must say thank you to James Laidler, the church treasurer, who has a difficult job to do, particularly in the present climate.

Chris Pryor, who oversees the Fabric Group, has done some sterling work to the inside of the church and also David Jones has done some important clearing of the church grounds and drains; thank you both.

Report

The Alpha course is due to start lasting for 12 weeks, so our thoughts and prayers will be given for all those taking part.

Chorley Live took place and was very well attended over the two nights on 7 and 8 October. It was so busy that more wrist bands had to be sent for. I would like to thank all of the people who assisted myself and Darren to put this on.

The church attendance now stands on average at 200 for the combined Saturday and Sunday services, with new faces showing up most weeks.

The Christmas services were split into two crib services to avoid overcrowding with a candle walk to the crib.

The church cleaning, mostly done by Alex Barrack and his wife, Joy, is a never ending task. I know others help too, so thank you all.

On 26 November we had a volunteers night at the school to show our appreciation for their invaluable contribution over the last 12 months. Another will be held as this was a well-attended night enjoyed by all.

Finally, the Wardens would like to thank all our volunteers who help to keep the church running, not to mention our thanks to Fr Neil and all of the retired priests who have kept our services running throughout the year.

Prayers and blessings for you all from the Wardens.

Bernard Oakley and Darren Nicholson
Church Wardens

Michelle Wareham and Elle Greenough
Deputy Wardens

Points of Interest

16 April	Easter Vigil took place
26 May	St George's Church Ascension Day service
18 June	Procession of Witness Walk
05 July	Bishop Julian's farewell service
17 July	Sunday Garden Party at the Rectory
27 July	Church walk and BBQ
13 August	Bell Tower Open Day
05 September	Scaffolding erected for work to start
10 October	Scaffolding taken down
26 November	Volunteers night
5 December	Gutters cleaned

Parish Walk

Preparing for the afternoon tea

Welcome and Thank You evening

Fabric Report

Events, work done, work to be done

There is a deal of work to be done next year - much of this be done by external contractors, funds permitting. There is also a Quinquinennial report due. This is likely to bring other matters to our attention.

Break in

Sadly just before Christmas 2022 we had a break in. Access was gained by breaking one of the refectory windows at the front of Church. The thieves broke some interior glazing and gathered items to take later. The alarm was raised before they were able to remove what they had stashed away. The windows have since been repaired.

Following the break in it was realised that the bushes at the front of Church allowed windows to be broken, people climb through and not be seen. It was decided that it would be best if they were removed and so expose the windows and front of Church.

This has caused an unforeseen problem - drivers not seeing the edge (not noticing they've driven up the kerb) and going over the edge. There are now some small white posts there but a better solution needs putting in place and will be soon.

Car park

The markings will need to be looked at in the near future as the space markings are now near invisible. Car parking in general is being looked at as space is at a premium, the gradient and layout makes parking difficult and potentially dangerous for all users both in cars and pedestrians.

Internal plaster

Plaster on the North side of the Chancel, an area to the front (East end) of this wall had been affected by damp in the past. This has resulted in some areas looking precarious. We consulted the DEC and asked if we could remove a section so that:

a) it could be removed before it fell and

b) we could allow the wall to dry out/see if and where water was coming in.

The condition of us doing this is that it will be re-plastered in an approved and traditional manner. No date was given for completion of this.

Internal flooding

The extensive foliage around the South windows has caused some problems. Leaves from these, plus others, have collected in the gutter hoppers causing them to overflow. The water has leaked in through the windows collecting on the floor inside. The foliage's presence has also made it hard for the wall, and internal plaster, to dry out. It is likely that their roots are damaging the foundations. Clearing this area should help this area.

Gutters

It's a long climb up to the roof and once up there movement isn't easy/safe. We therefore paid for contractors to come and do this from the ground. One of the downspouts needed additional clearing by us as it was blocked and causing damp inside on the South wall.

Notice board

In recent bad weather the noticeboard suffered damage. Thanks to David Jones for mending the board he made some years ago.

Boilers

We have had work done on the central heating boilers (a previous leak had damaged a circuit board) as well as their annual service.

The hot water taps are fed by local, under counter boilers. One of these was replaced as it had broken and was unrepairable.

The water boiler in the refectory now works reliably as it has been descaled.

Benches

Two of the memorial benches, at the front of Church, have been repaired and have been revarnished. Another new one has been installed. To do this some greenery was removed and the ground levelled and paved. (When doing this we were caught by a google camera car and have been immortalised on google street view.) Two will need oiling over the next year. The chains and their posts marking the consecrated ground need a little attention.

Parquet Flooring

The area near the rear kitchen is getting more wear. Quite a few were reglued last year and others need to be looked at. It is likely that the removal of some pews will reveal more that need to be looked at.

Pews

When some of the pews are removed it is likely that their absence will reveal work to be done such as filling in screw holes, repairing the floor previously beneath them etc.

West end kitchen

There have been a number of small jobs and repairs in the back kitchen and cupboards.

Upper room

This has changed its use a number of times recently. The back storeroom is now has a lockable door.

57 Park Road and its hedge

This was getting out of control and beyond a DIY remedy. Contractors were hired and the hedge reduced to a more acceptable size.

Organ roof

One of the bigger jobs this year was the repair/renovation of part of the roof over the organ. This was in a poor state and any leaks would have severely damaged the organ. The work was financed by the Friends of St Laurence. A faculty was applied for and approved contractors did the work. As the work was round the back of Church apart from the polythene sheet over the organ few saw what was being done.

Organ bellows

The organ currently works but during loud and/or prolonged notes it runs out of steam. Inside there is a large accumulator that supplies air for such musical events. These are like bellows and have folded leather sheets to give an airtight flexible seal. This is nearing the end of its life and needs replacement. The replacement is being funded by the Friends of St Laurence.

With thanks to Alex Barrack, David Jones, David Thistlethwaite, Bernard Oakley, Tony Checker, Rob Kelly, Alan Winstanley and many more.

Chris Pryor
Fabric Chair for 2022

- Fabric cont -

Treasurers Report

Statement of Financial Activities 2022

Summary

The accounts for the year show a deficit on the general fund of £19,893. This sum is however reduced by the transfer of restricted funds to general funds used to partially finance the CAP project of £6,968 giving a true deficit of £11,340.

Total income for the year was £147,906 an increase of £14,086 on 2021.

Highlights

Planned giving through STO, green envelopes and PGS increased by 8.2%. We have 44 parishioners using PGS out of around 80 regular givers.

Loose plate collections and card donation in church rose by 87% to £9,300.

We received a one-off grant of £1,683 from the Church Commissioners towards utility costs.

Recurring grants from the Diocese supported CAP costs.

We received two legacies during the year.

Immemorial included £1,000 in memory of Matthew Klemm. A use for these monies has not yet been identified.

Shop sales - the figure includes gross art sales. After stock take and purchases net contribution from the shop to Church funds is £5,191

Our costs totalled £167,799. An increase of £11,182

Highlights

Parish share payments fell £16,056 short of the assessment. The Diocese have recommended to the Board of Finance that the shortfall be supported by a grant in view of growth in the Parish.

The costs of the CAP project were met through the Diocese grant (see above) and funds drawn from a restricted deposit account held at the Diocese.

Church maintenance costs include £1,200 of electrical repairs to lighting through water ingress.

Utility costs are 57% up on the previous year. Invoices however run one month in arrears and therefore include one month of 'winter' usage. The full effect of the increases will be felt in the first half of 2023.

Fees have been paid the architect totalling £2,536 in respect of planning for re-ordering the Church.

Other funds

1. Community fund (previously Hardship fund) is in place to finance Taste Café, Monday Open table, Christmas lunch and the provision of emergency food parcels. The fund has also been used to grant emergency funds to those in critical need through the Rector's discretionary fund.

Grants received during the year

Chorley BC – four grants totalling £13,500

Lancashire CC – two grants totalling £5,700

ASDA - £1,000

Arnold Clark - £2,500

Grants have been granted for specific uses and payments are monitored to ensure funds are correctly applied.

We continue to receive generous individual donations and where possible gift aid has been claimed.

2. The CAP fund was established to start a fund towards the continuation of CAP services.

3. The talents fund was established following the generous gift of a parishioner to fund project in line with the Parable of the Talents. £3,000 of the fund was used in 2020 to purchase computer equipment to improve online productions through the St Laurence YouTube channel and Facebook channel.
4. The Park Road fund simply shows the value of the Curates House as a noncash asset. The property is not designated.

Provision has been made in the accounts for the following:

- £618 of funeral fees payable to the Diocese
- £160 Walsingham 2023 deposits
- £5.00 due to the Friends of St Laurence

Balance sheet

The revaluation of investments (restricted funds) has produced a deficit of £21,883 as at the year end.

With the agreement of the Charity Commission investments with a value of £30,000 were sold and placed in the restricted CAP deposit account to be used to finance costs associated with the Christians against Poverty Debt Centre.

Appreciation

I would like to record my thanks to John Schofield, Hon Examiner of our accounts for his work and continued commitment to this task over many years. John has also given valuable advice with regarding the structure of the accounts going forward.

James Laidler

Parish Treasurer
April 2023

Annual Report of the Finance Group 2022

The Finance Group held one formal and three informal quarterly meetings over the past 12 months. The guidelines, below, agreed by the PCC, were met with quarterly accounts reviewed and submitted to PCC. The finance function of the PCC was maintained over the year namely:

- Oversee the work of the Treasurer and review financial information on a quarterly basis
- Oversee the arrangements for cash handling and banking
- Oversee the arrangements for gift aid claims from HMRC
- Review quotations for significant expenditure.
- Be permitted to agree expenditure outside to normal day to day running expenses of up to £500 without reference to the PCC
- Advise the PCC on the Churches financial position both short and long term
- Prepare and recommend an annual budget to the PCC
- Prepare and recommend communications to the Parishioners and Diocese in matters relating to Parish finances.
- Oversee stewardship and agree action required.

My thanks go to all members of the Group for their contribution to the work of the Church and especially to Alan, Jean and Joy for undertaking cash reconciliation and banking during the year.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer
April 2023

PCC St Laurence Chorley
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Note		From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
EFP - Emergency Food Parcels (Designated) Fund				
	Brought forward balance		—	—
	Total carried forward balance		—	—
HF - Community Fund (Designated) Fund				
	Income and endowments			
	Donations and legacies			
	Donations appeals etc		10,651	12,139
	Taste Cafe donations		6,486	2,730
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		1,550	500
	Non-recurring one-off grants		22,400	12,580
	Total Donations and legacies		*41,087*	*27,950*
	Total income and endowments		**41,087**	**27,950**
	Expenditure			
	Expenditure on charitable activities			
	Giving - relief and development agencies		100	575
	Taste Co-ordinator		4,594	1,409
	Rector's Discretionary Fund		3,404	2,811
	Church equipment and office purchases		1,023	2,426
	Education		410	—
	Parish training and mission		—	288
	Church office - telephone and internet		81	24
	Church maintenance		—	120
	Cleaning		449	—
	Hospitality and Gifts of thanks		134	34
	Monday Open Kitchen		2,828	1,275
	Taste Cafe expenses		4,106	4,673
	Emergency Food parcels		8,350	2,775
	Church running Health & Safety		82	—
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*25,566*	*16,414*
	Other expenditure			
	Contribution to Church overheads		2,600	3,620
	Total Other expenditure		*2,600*	*3,620*
	Total expenditure		**28,166**	**20,034**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		12,921	7,916
	Brought forward balance		13,853	5,937
	Total carried forward balance		**26,775**	**13,853**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund				
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies				
	Gift Aid - Stewardship STOS		30,195	51,732
	Gift Aid - Stewardship Green Envelopes		7,467	7,124
	Gift Aid - Parish Giving Scheme		31,804	5,344
	Loose plate collections		3,910	3,353
	Card donations via sum up		5,466	1,663
	Gift Aid - Pink Envelopes		50	—
	Donations appeals etc		3,939	11,377
	Fund Raising - other activities		1,574	535
	Fund Raising Sunday Recitals		1,944	469
	Fund Raising Church Fayres		175	—
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		17,694	17,350
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid (Prior year)		34	97
	Legacies		750	—
	Recurring grants		6,292	7,196
	Non-recurring one-off grants		1,824	500
	Other funds generated		872	282
	Flower donations		30	90
	Photocopier receipts		17	—
	Fees for weddings		1,542	1,165
	In Memorium		2,716	589
	Wedding Banns Fees		97	96
	Total Donations and legacies		*118,397*	*108,967*
Income from charitable activities				
	Fees for funerals		1,932	1,381
	Total Income from charitable activities		*1,932*	*1,381*
Other trading activities				
	Merchandise sales and art commission		11,363	4,827
	Church room lettings - fund raising		2,002	5,792
	Church main area lettings - fund rasing		2,250	402
	Parish magazine sales		—	30
	Total Other trading activities		*15,616*	*11,051*
Investments				
	Investment Income		4,558	4,838
	Bank and building society interest		218	43
	Rent from lands or buildings		7,183	7,539
	Total Investments		*11,961*	*12,420*
Total income and endowments			**147,906**	**133,820**
Expenditure				
Raising funds				
	Costs of fetes & other events		1,066	42
	Total Raising funds		*1,066*	*42*
Expenditure on charitable activities				
	Giving to missionary societies		—	86
	Giving - relief and development agencies		450	300
	Ministry parish share etc		79,686	87,468
	Youth Ministry		131	—
	CAP Salary		7,175	10,547
	CAP expenses		4,591	7,416
	Administrator		4,636	4,617
	Rectors Personal Assistant		8,338	3,315
	Pension costs		65	1,121

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
	Deanery assistant		1,399	—
	Working expenses of incumbent		2,433	1,643
	Working expenses of Trainee		107	490
	Council tax		2,184	2,101
	Church equipment and office purchases		2,353	1,911
	Water rates - Rectory		822	728
	Vicar's telephone line and internet		1,416	1,394
	Education		267	44
	Parish training and mission		170	—
	Church running - insurance		5,440	5,148
	Church office - telephone and internet		1,124	1,300
	Church office -computer expenses		897	75
	Photocopier		1,141	580
	Photocopier lease		781	601
	Organ / piano tuning		—	880
	Organist and Relief Organists		3,104	2,550
	Church maintenance		2,707	693
	Cleaning		91	330
	Upkeep of services		2,793	5,637
	Hospitality and Gifts of thanks		1,761	1,099
	Visiting speakers / locums		333	43
	Monday Open Kitchen		89	28
	Refectory expenses		—	21
	Church running - electric		4,552	2,424
	Church running Health & Safety		1,815	1,694
	Church running - alarm costs		1,055	955
	Church running - gas		8,603	5,332
	Church running - water		1,108	411
	Flowers for Church		670	142
	Funeral Expenses		1,100	555
	Wedding expenses		496	165
	Magazine expenses		61	—
	Merchandise purchases		6,291	2,090
	Church major repairs - structure		786	—
	Church major repairs - installation		1,752	—
	Other PCC property upkeep - Park Road		1,940	624
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*166,733*	*156,574*
Total expenditure			**167,799**	**156,617**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(19,893)	(22,797)
	Brought forward balance		53,455	25,424
	Transfers to/(from)		—	50,827
Total carried forward balance			**33,562**	**53,455**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
Restric - Restricted Fund (Restricted) Fund				
	Income and endowments			
	Investments			
	Bank Interest - Restricted deposit		—	0
	Total Investments		—	*0*
	Total income and endowments		**—**	**0**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		—	0
	Brought forward balance		173,111	167,282
	Transfers to/(from)		—	(18,106)
	Gains & losses		(21,883)	23,934
	Total carried forward balance		**151,228**	**173,111**
ZReval - Revaluation reserves (Restricted) Fund				
	Brought forward balance		30,633	30,633
	Total carried forward balance		**30,633**	**30,633**
TF - Talents Fund (Designated) Fund				
	Brought forward balance		1,700	1,700
	Total carried forward balance		**1,700**	**1,700**
PRF - Park Road Fund (Designated) Fund				
	Brought forward balance		210,000	210,000
	Total carried forward balance		**210,000**	**210,000**
CAP - CAP Fund (Designated) Fund				
	Income and endowments			
	Donations and legacies			
	Donations appeals etc		—	20
	Total Donations and legacies		—	*20*
	Total income and endowments		**—**	**20**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		—	20
	Brought forward balance		730	710
	Total carried forward balance		**730**	**730**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
Fabric - Fabric Fund (Designated) Fund				
	Expenditure			
	Expenditure on charitable activities			
	Church maintenance		—	240
	Church major repairs - installation		—	1,910
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		—	*2,150*
	Total expenditure		**—**	**2,150**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		—	(2,150)
	Brought forward balance		—	34,871
	Transfers to/(from)		—	(32,721)
	Total carried forward balance		**—**	**—**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

PCC St Laurence Chorley

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
Fixed assets			
	6435: Curate's House	210,000.00	210,000.00
	6440: Investements held at Diocese	138,511.00	190,394.63
	Total Fixed assets	**348,511.00**	**400,394.63**
Current assets			
	1510: HMRC	3,050.00	4,375.00
	6501: Current Account - Yorkshire Bank	67,443.85	66,925.83
	6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account restricted fu	—	—
	6511: Short Term Deposits - Diocese	0.37	0.37
	6512: CAP Deposit a/c - restricted	36,382.64	13,350.74
	6590: Cash in hand and in transit to bank	24.37	43.39
	Total Current assets	**106,901.23**	**84,695.33**
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	783.00	1,605.50
	Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	**783.00**	**1,605.50**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**454,629.23**	**483,484.46**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(6,971.60)	(17,010.72)
	Z01: Starting balances	483,484.46	476,560.20
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	(21,883.63)	23,934.98
	Total Reserves	**454,629.23**	**483,484.46**

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	33,562.23	53,455.30
Designated	239,205.26	226,283.79
Restricted	181,861.74	203,745.37
Endowment	—	—
Total	**454,629.23**	**483,484.46**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. LAURENCE CHORLEY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINIER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. LAURENCE'S

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 as set out in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity' trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 (22) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINTER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees 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 sets out in the statements 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 2011 Act
   - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

Have not been met; or

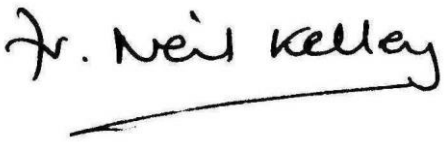
2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr John Schofield BA (Oxon) ACA
126 Deerfold
Chorley

02 March 2023

Approved by the APCM on 22nd May 2022

and signed on their behalf by



……

Fr. Neil Kelley, Rector and PCC Chairman

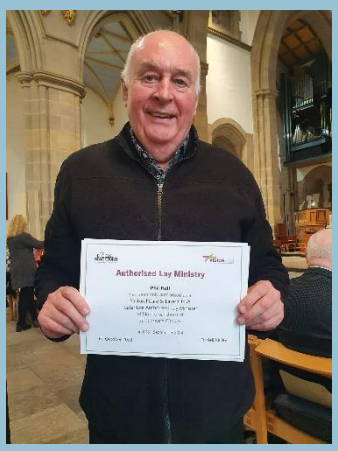
James Laidler

……

James Laidler, Treasurer

Walking Day 2022

Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmation



Licensing of our LLMs, Phil and Neal

Death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

Parish Church of

Chorley, St. Laurence

Union Street
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1EB

t. 01257 231360

e. office@stlaurencechorley.co.uk

www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk

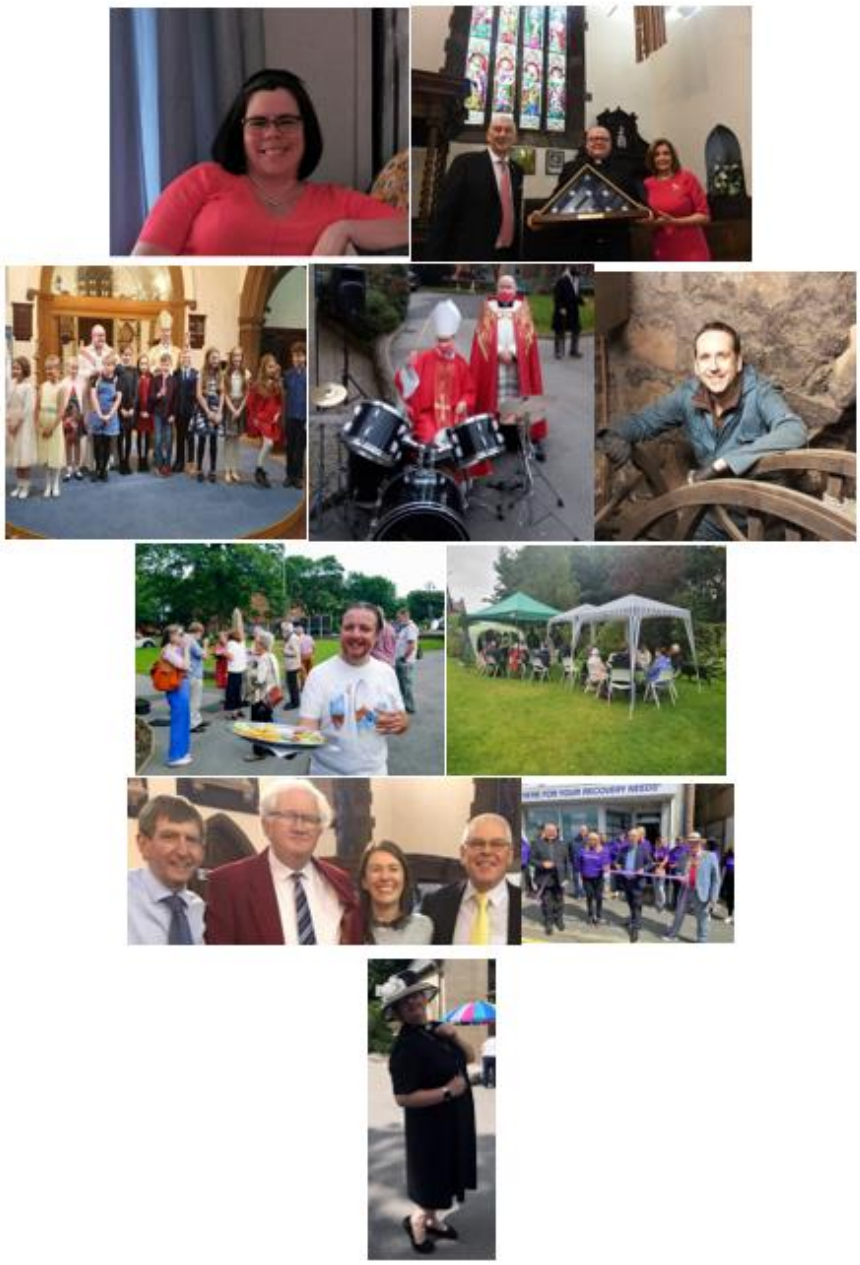
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1175130

Accounts

Chorley Parish Church of St. Laurence

In the Church of England Diocese of Blackburn



2021 Annual Report

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Rector's Report: 2021

Once again the Annual Meeting will hear how we have done during an unexpectedly difficult year! We thought 2020 was bad enough; however, 2021 was not plain sailing by any means. With the gradual return to that which was familiar came the dawning realisation that we were not returning to where we left off. Lots of people stayed away from church, their attendance habits built slowly over many years dashed with the first lockdown, but remarkably a lot of new people joined us. One day it will be interesting to read a history of the full extent of the covid pandemic upon our communities. For now, suffice it to say that we are very grateful that we are as near normal as we will ever be. I have always felt normality to be overrated anyway!

So many challenges face us – more than ever before. But (and this is the reason I always hold an APCM in the Easter season) we are an Easter people (said St. Augustine) and alleluia is our song. We are not people of gloom or doom (well, we're not supposed to be) – we are called to be people of hope and joy.

With the resumption of our hospitality ministry, our excellent Gift Shop and a regular gallery of artists we are finding that more and more people are coming through the doors of our church seven days a week. This is how a town centre church should be.

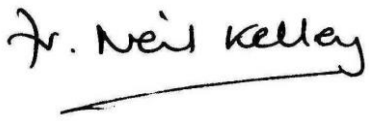
We've had some highs and lows this year – we were thrilled to welcome Nancy Pelosi to St. Laurence's (not once, but twice) when Sir Lindsay invited the Speakers of the G7 countries to Chorley. In contrast, at the end of the year, we were sorry to hear that Rev. Mo had another period of illness that has prevented her from ministering with us. We have been keeping her in our prayers and hope that she will soon be well. It was good to welcome Tony Checker to the preachers rota and (at the time of writing) I'm glad to report that there are four members of the ministry team who are looking to go on courses covering community ministry, children's work and youth work.

The Diocesan Vision Strategy – Vision 2026 – continues to serve as our missional focus. Our Sunday School has given way to a Saturday Club. What's in a name?

I'm very grateful to the Friends of St. Laurence's for their steady (and sometimes unnoticed) work and care for the fabric of our building. Sunday recitals have resumed adding to the list of artistic celebrations on offer to the wider community.

There are so many people who deserve a thank you – and you all know who you are (and God knows who you are too!). I am enormously grateful for the vast army of people who play their part, respond to God's call and enable St. Laurence's to go from strength to strength.

In conclusion, as I reflect upon 2021 and look to the opportunities of 2022, I remain grateful to so many people who enable all aspects of worship and ministry here at St. Laurence's not just to happen, but to flourish.



Fr. Neil Kelley, PCC Chairman, Lent 2022

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

The 2021 Vestry Meeting and APCM (The 2010 Annual Report)

Vestry meeting – 17th May 2021

The evening opened in prayer.

Election of Two Churchwardens
Bernard Oakley and Darren Nicholson were elected as church wardens.

Minutes of the APCM held on 17 May 2021

Present:
Chair Fr Neil Kelley
Treasurer James Laidler
Secretary Michelle Wareham

Attendance As per register

Apologies:
Anne Watts
Joan and Ken Dickinson Andrew Walkden Tony Checker Linda Hall

Fr Neil welcomed everyone to the meeting tonight. The big plan for the 2020 APCM was due to take place during the Sunday service which unfortunately couldn't take place due to the Pandemic, the same applies unfortunately for this year as well.

Bernard Oakley and Darren Nicholson were elected at the Vestry meeting as Church Wardens.

Minutes of the previous APCM held on 21st September 2020 (pgs 5 & 6 of Annual Report).
Proposed: Karen Pemberton
Seconded: Sally Calley
Agreed by those in attendance.

Reports – included in the Annual Report circulated prior to the meeting.

- Rector's Reflection

o Fr Neil wished to make special reference to church services going forward as there have been a number of questions. The question to ask however is "Do we wish to be a growing church". Pre Covid we were reaching 170-180 people attending at the 10am Sunday Service and were getting to the stage that there was no room for growth given the seating capacity. Covid has given us the capacity to look at how services can be provided differently and whilst there are some services that don't appear to have a large number attending it does give us room for growth.

Since the report was written, the priest in charge of St Peter's has retired and whilst they are in interregnum, services are being shared across St Laurence and St George. The way the services are structured now gives us the opportunity to be able to support St Peter's but also future prepares us when Rev Mo completes her curacy and we move back to 1 stipend priest.

This past year has been very challenging but has also brought a lot of positive actions out into the open and into the wider community. As a church we have emerged into a very different place than we were.

Concern was raised about whether we were in danger of splitting into two different congregations. Fr Neil reflected that when he first came to St Laurence's although we had an 8am and a 10am the 10am service very much felt like two congregations even though we were all under the same roof. It is important that we work together and build on what we have.

- Electoral Roll
  - At the end of 2020 there were 194 people on the electoral roll and as of now we have 203.

- Churchwarden's Report

- Financial Statements of the PCC
  - Question was put to the Treasure in terms of whether we would meet our Parish Share and also the vision for how we would meet the costs of repairs required on the building. Both answers deferred until the presentation at the end of the meeting.

- Church Fabric
  - Fr Neil thanked Tony Checker for his work on leading the fabric committee. Chris Pryor has taken over from Tony.

- The Deanery Synod
  - Fr Neil gave a brief overview of the role of the Deanery Synod.

Approval of 2020 Annual Report
Proposed: Rob Kelly
Seconded: Darren Nicholson
Agreed by those in attendance

Elections and Appointments

- Deputy Wardens

Michelle Wareham & Elle Greenough were duly elected.

- PCC Members

Dan Hubbersty and Andrew Walkden have been elected to the PCC.

- Sides-People

- Appointment of Independent Examiner

John Schofield has been appointed.

Proposed by James Laidler
Seconded by Sally Calley

- Deanery Synod

Karen Pemberton and Alan Winstanley were elected.

Chairman's Remarks and Presentation by Parish Treasure

Fr Neil reflected that it is still unclear what the road ahead holds for us and we just have to wait with patience for further guidance.

As you might have noticed we have had a lot of repainting done which has been carried out by Luke Tate and his firm who have kindly undertaken this work. Fr Neil thanked Luke for his kindness and generosity in undertaking this work without charge.

James was asked to address the APCM on our current financial position. James reflected that he has been parish treasurer for nearly 4 years now. When he was first involved back in 2017 the church had a sustainable income of around £100k a year but had costs of £125k a year. Without the assistance of a sizeable donation we would have struggled to break even. With Fr Neil arriving in 2018 income steadily increased but so did the costs. In 2019 we established the music programme and the shop and we ended the year in a better position. However, building work required to meet the quinquenial report requires a substantial investment. This was prior to Covid which impacted us financially through regular giving. However, this past year we have achieved great strides. We have launched the Taste café, given out emergency food parcels, launched Christian's Against Poverty, the shop has moved online. We have liaised much closer with the council and also other churches.

James reflected that our core congregation have continued to give generously. It is clear that many of our congregation have a heart for service and we have attracted new people to the church as well.
So what of the future – when I started with a blank sheet of paper last November to plan the budget for this year there was no clear idea of when we might return to normal or what things would look like. 80% of stewardship does come from those of pensionable age which of course is a risk. Our CAP centre has 2 years of funding left and then what?. We have continued to heat, light and insure this huge building when the majority of the building is only used for services at a weekend.

Some might say that we are a church on the brink of collapse however there are great signs of potential. We have a number of assets including the Curate's house on Park Street. As a PCC we have discussed the finances at length. We could limp along and hope for the best. We could sell Park Road and fix the roof or we could take a fresh look at what we do. The PCC have agreed that we need to take a fresh look at the future and discussions are continuing.

Our immediate priorities are that we must meet our Parish Share which is approximately £85k a year. If we don't the diocese will notice and could be a threat to full time clergy provision at St Laurence's in the future. Another consequence is that we will not be able to apply for faculties and we will not be able to apply for grants from the diocese either.

Secondly we must encourage more generous giving. We need to progress our initiatives and work with the community. It is through that work that we will get noticed and attract more people which in turn will allow us to apply for more grants to undertake the work that is needed.

Any Other Business
A vote of thanks was given to Fr Neil for his leadership over this past year and also to the PCC, those who clean, prepare the food parcels and undertake all manner of work behind the scenes that we don't see.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Chorley St Laurence is a Registered Charity number 1175130
The Parish is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England
The correspondence address is: St Laurence Parish Office, Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB
Website: www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk

Rector:	Fr Neil Kelley (PCC Chairman)
Curate:	Rev Mo Baldwin
Assisting Clergy:	Canon Ken Barrett
Reader (LLM from Sept):	Joan Hayward (ex-officio PCC)
Pastoral Assistants :	Phil Hall; Dodie Jones (until September)
ALM:	Phil Hall and Tony Checker (from September)
Parish Administrator:	Susan Boult until May 2021, Ruth Fowler from May 2021 until present
Rector's PA:	Susan Boult
CAP Debt Centre Manager:	Susan Boult
PCC Treasurer:	James Laidler
PCC Secretary:	Michelle Wareham
Church Wardens:	Bernard Oakley (ex-officio PCC) and Darren Nicholson (ex-officio PCC)
Deputy Church Wardens:	Elle Greenhough and Michelle Wareham
Deanery Synod Reps:	Alan Winstanley, Chris Pryor, Karen Pemberton
Elected PCC members:	Tony Checker (2023), Phil Hall (2023), Fiona Pattison (2023), Caroline Walmsley (2023), Fay Winstanley (2023), Andrew Walkden (2024), Dan Hubberstey (2024)
Chair of Parish Fabric Group:	Chris Pryor
Chair of the Finance Group:	James Laidler
Health and Safety Officers:	Neal Bennett- Williams, John Handforth
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Mark Wilkinson (until June 2021); Nicola Pilkington (from July 2021)
Parish Bankers:	Yorkshire Bank, Preston
Independent Examiner:	Mr John Schofield, BA (Oxon). ACA, 126 Deerfold, Chorley, PR7 1UH
Architect:	John Coward Architects Ltd, No 3 Unsworth's Yard, Ford Road, Cartmel, LA11 6PG

Day to day management control of the church is exercised by the Incumbent, Fr Neil Kelley and the Churchwardens, Bernard Oakley and Darren Nicholson, contactable through St Laurence Parish Office, Union Street, Chorley PR7 1EB, Tel: 01257 231360

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Structure, Management and Governance

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chorley St Laurence operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1175130.
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. All PCC meetings are public meetings and all members of the congregation are invited to attend (though only PCC members have a vote). The PCC held meetings during the year, via Zoom.

Reports from PCC sub committees have been received and considered regularly at PCC meetings.

The PCC has a Safeguarding Policy in place.

In 2021 the PCC operated the following sub-committees that report back to it as necessary and their deliberations are discussed.

Parish Fabric Committee: Rector (ex-officio), Chris Pryor (Chair), David Thistlethwaite, Julian Garstang, Bernard Oakley, Tony Checker, David Jones
Parish Finance Group: Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler (Chair), Phil Hall, Alan Fishwick, Sally Calley, Joy Barrack
Hospitality Group: Rector (ex-officio), Rev. Mo (Chair until October; Fr. Neil from October), Phil Hall, Alan Winstanley, Joan Hayward, Margaret Shackleton, Karen Pembteron, John Handforth
Safeguarding Group: Rector (ex-officio), Parish Safeguarding Officer, Joan Hayward, Fiona Pattison, Michelle Wareham
Policies Group: Karen Pemberton (Chair), Joan Hayward, Alan Winstanley, Neal Bennet-Williams
PCC members receive information on trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk management and safeguarding procedures.

Church Attendance

The average **weekend** service attendances in 2021 were 170 (2020 = 100)
The average **weekday** service attendaces in 2021 were 50

Electoral Roll: there are currently **228** people on the Electoral Roll.

Occasional Offices

Funerals:	16	Weddings:	2	Baptisms:	23	Burial of Ashes:	0

Statement of Public Benefit

The Parish of Chorley Saint Laurence demonstrates public benefit with the following activities

- Regular public worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick, frail and bereaved.
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature.
- Promotion of the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents, toddlers, young people and other special needs groups.
- Teaching and discussion of Christian Ethics.
- Environmental/Ethical issues e.g. supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.
- Community involvement, including the support of local cultural events (music, artistic, Chorley Live etc) and social action (CAP, Open Table, Taste, foodbank, supporting the homeless and street pastors).

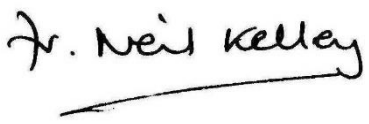
Objectives and Activities

- The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC: is to co-operate with the Minister in providing in the ecclesiastical parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- We continue to develop within the Diocesan *Vision 2026* programme which focusses on making disciples of Jesus Christ, being witnesses to Jesus Christ and growing leaders for Jesus Christ
- Our mission continues to be to proclaim the Gospel according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and assists in the involvement of the many groups that that live within the parish.

Achievements and Performance *see Churchwardens Report*

Approved by the PCC by email on 5th / 6th April 2022

signed on their behalf by



Fr. Neil Kelley, Rector and PCC Chair

Churchwardens' Report: 2021

This report is made available to the PCC and all members of the Parish Church of St Laurence, Chorley under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.

You may say what a year again with Corona Virus continuing to make life difficult in more than one way, however things have settled, allowing us to return to do things in church in a normal way.

General

What comes next, a brutal war in the Ukraine, which involved the church being a centre for the collection of clothes and medical supplies etc. The volunteers did a great job unloading and loading supplies that were brought to us by members of the public, so thank you to all the people who volunteered to help.

In January we were informed that Rev Mo had cancer which thank God is no longer the case, however Rev Mo still has some medical problems which are being treated so she will be away for some time yet, please keep her in your prayers.

Father Neil was made Area Dean on the 14th June which will have increased his workload. Some of you may have noticed that on occasion he will have done the service at St Peters or St Georges before our service at St Laurence's.

The church still needs quite a considerable amount of money spending on it for roof repairs, so we will need to move forward with our thinking about the way we use the church for the good of the community to enable us to be successful in applying for grants.

The PPC met to discuss the removal of some of the pews and voted to explore this in order to provide a more flexible space for worship and community events. The architect Mike Darwell has been to our church to offer his advice on the removal of the pews, and this will take place soon.

We would like to thank so many people who have helped during the past year for without their help things could not be done, so thanks to all of you.

A welcome sight to see Tony Checker doing his ALM and doing his first sermon, well done Tony.

We have welcomed Stuart Longworth to our church as a trainee vicar. Along with Tony he has made his home available to run a Lent course on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm, thank you for this.

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

We want to mention people providing meals for Open Table and the Church Café you are doing a great job serving the community and bringing people into Church. We know the numbers of people coming on have risen so thanks to all.

The church bells are ringing again, and we have several new ringers being trained by David Thistlewaite.

On the 19th of September we held a service for representatives of the G7 summit of which included the speaker of the USA House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi. She presented to the church an American flag from the USA that fellow over the capitol during the inauguration of Joe Biden.

Many of you will know the funeral of Phil Staziker took place on 17th June, Phil was our ever present in our church and will be missed by many.

A requiem to pray for Sue Boult tool place on 6th January, as you know she passed away earlier in that week and there will be a service for her at St Laurence's on the 24th of March, Sue did great work and will be missed us all.

The Friends of St Laurence continue to do great work and would welcome any church members to join then in their quest to raise money for the organ roof.

The procession of witness will take place this year starting in Cunliffe Street, to be there for 2pm for a 2.30pm start on the 18th of June.

Bernard's personal prayer list seems to have got longer recently due to things that have taken place either from as personal level or church related. Like Bernard we will all continue to pray for the church and all those events going on around us.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 10th May, Ruth Fowler started as Parish Administrator
- 14th June, Father Neil made Area Dean
- Light Classics started again 25th July
- Singing at services started 8th August
- 19th September, Fr. Neil licensed as priest-in-charge of St. Peter's
- Nov 28th, Winter market held
- 12th Dec, Christmas Market held
- 25th Dec, Christmas meals provided in church
- Jan 2022, death of Sue Bolt
- 18th June, procession of witness to be held

Finally

The wardens would like to thank all our volunteers who help to keep church running, this help is very much appreciated.
Prayers and blessings for you and for our church, form the church wardens

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Bernard Oakley & Darren Nicholson
Church Wardens

Michelle Wareham & Elle Greenough
Deputy Wardens

Deanery Synod Report: 2021

The Deanery Synod is the third tier of the governance in the Church of England. This is followed by the Diocesan Synod and finally the General Synod. The Deanery Synod is made up of 2 to 4 members of each of the twenty or so parishes which make up the Deanery of Chorley.

I, Chris Pryor and Karen Pemberton have been elected by the PCC to serve on the Deanery Synod. It meets three times each year. Due to lock down restrictions meetings did not take place so it was good to join with members of other churches firstly informally in Fr Neil's garden in August for drinks before our first official meeting in October at St James' the Great, Wrightington.

The meeting began with tea and cake before we were given a brief report about the bank balance of Deanery Synod (some £2000) before the main item of the evening which was introduced prayerfully by Fr Neil. It was an opportunity to share what people had missed over the past eighteen months.

I'm sure that the list will not come as a surprise: sharing the peace, singing, sharing the chalice, having coffee after the service, not meeting in person, not being able to comfort people with a hug or a squeeze, not being able to attend a funeral of a friend or parishioner due to limited numbers. It was reassuring that we all felt the same, some having different priorities.

We also discussed the slow return of members, the disruption to children's ministry, the isolation felt by older members not being able to take part in what were regular activities and of course the financial difficulties that all parishes are facing.

The meeting closed with the Laying on of Hands for Sue Boult, received on her behalf by her husband Steven, before the Office of Compline was offered by Fr Stef Dnistrianskji, the Vicar of St James' Wrightington.

Alan Winstanley

Fabric Report: 2021

Since the near total closure of the Church in 2020 things have opened up somewhat. Consequently there has been more to do regarding the fabric and the changing uses of the building.

The initial closure came quickly and things were put away quickly meaning that they were not always in the right places when we were able to reopen albeit in a restricted manner.

Things done….

The upper rooms had been used as a store room. To use them as open airy offices meant that the contents had to be found new homes. Mainly…. The loft, Fr Neil's garage or the tip.

The Standish room had been used as an office but in the light of advice about ventilation and the need for a food store was changed. Tall metal shelving was bought and secured to the walls along the East end of the room. This room is now the food store for those in need.

In PCC meeting discussions it had been decided to use what had been the creche as a food preparation and serving room. This makes it easier to serve food in the body of the church rather than walking through from the refectory (which is still in use) This mean that the flower arranging equipment needed to be moved and shelves put up in cupboards.
The disabled toilet came under discussion. Initially we proposed to construct an additional set of doors across its entrance. However when it came to light that the toilet was originally for just wees not more serious visits. (Not that was there anything ever on the door or in the room to tell of this) we looked further into its installation. It did not discharge into a proper sewer just into the grey water drain. This is illegal. So we removed the entire toilet and replaced it with
a basin. Shelving was fitted round the room and its now the flower arrangers store room.

The two toilets near the stairs have now been undesignated.
The one of the left - formerly the Men's is slightly larger and will be the disabled toilet. Both currently have sanitary disposal bins in them and a baby changing table will be installed as well as changing the door opening on the left hand toilet so that its easier to get in when sitting on a wheel chair.

Nancy Pelosi's Visit. This visit caused a deal of work, much by outside bodies. The main part was to dig up the floor of the chancel with the idea of gaining access to the Standish vault underneath. This hadn't been accessed in living memory. . A faculty was applied for and was approved. The area was tented off to prevent dust spreading and the slabs removed. After a day or two of digging it was found that the whole vault had been filled in years ago and any further digging would be pointless. Cameras showed that were were some girders underneath, supporting the floor, that were showing signs of corrosion. It was felt that there wasn't and cause for concern about this. The hold was filled in and the slabs replaced

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

with and inscription to show that the vault was underneath. Chorley Borough paid for this work.

The chancel area was repainted in time for her visit. This work was donated. With thanks to Luke Tate.

The lighting in the main body of the Church was also looked at and fixed. Whilst we don't have a problem with it now the bulbs are getting increasingly hard to find and the fittings all but obsolete. There are a couple of spare bulbs.
There are 30 uplighters. They fasten to the wall and are now around 20 years old. Over the years moisture has corroded some of their internal parts. At some stage we will need to consider their replacement.
.
Art Exhibition Work. One of the ideas proposed before the 2020 lockdown was to use the church as an exhibition area. We were given around 20 large display boards to help display pictures.
During lockdown the boards were in storage. These have been fastened securely to the North and South walls and round the organ. They lock together and have fastenings to hang pictures from.

Memorial Bench. The family of the late Sheila Sharples donated money for a memorial bench. After discussion it was decided to place it at the end of the consecrated ground to mirror the existing bench. It is secured securely onto some stone paving stones. It will need oiling annually to help keep it in good condition.

Railings. The original wooden posts by the side of the parking area had rotted. They were over 20 years old and not treated with preservative. On their removal there was little holding up the side tarmac of the parking area, it was also easy, with careless parking to drive a car over the edge. David Jones kindly took it upon himself to reconstruct the area. The edge of the parking area is firmly supported by cast concrete and firm and secure railings installed.
There is a little more to do but the area that was potentially dangerous is now fixed.

Refectory + Gas Servicing. The old range cooker had been causing some problems - mainly not lighting/staying lit. Rev Mo obtained a new one which was installed by Dakins. They services the boilers at the same time. The old cooker was disposed of.

Parquet flooring. Some areas of this , near the old crèche doorway were getting a little loose at the blocks' glue had dried out. About 100 have been removed, cleaned up and reglued.

Roof. In recent gales one or two slates were noted to have slipped. Bernard contacted roofers who sorted these out. They were only noticeable from the top of the tower.

Clock+ Tower. Its timekeeping is sometimes a little erratic. Chris Pryor has got his head round how it works and will try to sort out why sometimes its ahead, sometimes slow . Neal Bennet-Williams organised the purchase of safety equipment to make access to the bells and the tower roof safer. The harnesses make for more confidence when up there.

Water supply. This comes into the Church under the carpeted platforms by the statue of St Laurence. When installing the basin in the old creche toilet the water needed to be turned off using the stop cock under there stop cock is under there. At the time it was noticed that one of the pipes in that area had a small leak at a junction. This has been fixed.

The Rectory. Storm damage has caused several elderly fence panels to be blown out. They were long past their best and were replaced by the diocese.

Ongoing and future work.

The stonework around the West End windows will need work on them in the not too distant future. This also includes the plaster work on the inside walls in that area. We will be advised by what the quinquennial review recommends here.

The Friends of St Laurence are raising money with an aim to replace part of the roof above the organ pipes. The Church architect has drawn up plans. A faculty and more money raising are in the pipeline to allow this to work to start. .

I would like to thank the Fabric team and others …..Neal Bennet-Williams, Tony Checker, Julian Garside, David Jones, Rob Kelly, Bernard Oakley, Luke Tate (and his work team) and David Thistlethwaite.

Chris Pryor
Fabric Chair

Treasurer's Report: 2021

Statement of Financial Activities 2021

Summary

The accounts for the year show a deficit on the general fund of £22,797. This sum is however reduced by the transfer of restricted funds to general funds used to partially finance the CAP project.

Total income for the year was £133,820 down £5,895 on 2020.

Highlights

Stewardship income continued to hold up. Parishioners have continued to transfer from envelopes to giving by standing order. The Parish Giving Scheme was adopted on a trial basis in the autumn. This will be rolled out to all the congregation in Lent 2022.
We received some very generous donations, some for specific purposes and others for general use.

Recurring grant income is from the Diocese to support the CAP project.

The hardship fund made a contribution of £3,620 to the general Church overheads to contribute to heat, light, power, insurance and health and safety (PPE) costs incurred by the Church in providing community services.

The Parish Shop has continued to trade through the pandemic thanks to the efforts of Anne Wray and her team. Stock in the shop as at the 8th January 2020 was estimated at cost at £2,000. Art Exhibition sales produced commission of around £600.

Our costs totalled £156,999.

Highlights

Parish share payments were met in full.

The costs of the CAP project were met through the Diocese grant (see above) and funds drawn from a restricted deposit account held at the Diocese.

Extraordinary costs under Upkeep of Services for the altar top and frontal had been funded by a donation received in the previous year.

Other funds

1. Hardship fund is in place to finance the Taste Café and the provision of emergency food parcels through the pandemic. The fund has also been used to grant emergency funds to those in critical need through the Rector's discretionary fund.

2. The talents fund was established following the generous gift of a parishioner to fund project in line with the Parable of the Talents. £3,000 of the fund was used in 2020 to purchase computer equipment to improve on line productions through the St Laurence You Tube channel and Facebook channel.

3. The CAP fund was established to start a fund towards the continuation of CAP services.

4. The fabric fund was closed during the year with the balance transferred with PCC approval to general funds.

5. The Park Road fund simply shows the value of the Curates House as a non cash asset. The property is not designated.

Provision has been made in the accounts for the following:

- £1,393 of funeral fees payable to the Diocese.
- £97.50 due to Chorley Artists
- £115.00 due to the Friends of St Laurence

Balance sheet

The revaluation of investments (restricted funds) has produced a surplus of £24,000 as at the year end.

Appreciation

I would like to record my thanks to John Schofield, Hon Examiner of our accounts for his work and continued commitment to this task over many years.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer
April 2022

Annual Report of the Finance Group 2021

.

The Finance Group quarterly meetings over the past 12 months. The guidelines, below, agreed by the PCC, were met with quarterly accounts reviewed and submitted to PCC. The finance function of the PCC was maintained over the year namely:

- Oversee the work of the Treasurer and review financial information on a quarterly basis
- Oversee the arrangements for cash handling and banking
- Oversee the arrangements for gift aid claims from HMRC
- Review quotations for significant expenditure.
- Be permitted to agree expenditure outside to normal day to day running expenses of up to £500 without reference to the PCC
- Advise the PCC on the Churches financial position both short and long term
- Prepare and recommend an annual budget to the PCC
- Prepare and recommend communications to the Parishioners and Diocese in matters relating to Parish finances.
- Oversee stewardship and agree action required.

My thanks go to all members of the Group for their contribution to the work of the Church and especially to Alan and Sally for maintaining cash reconciliation and banking during the year. Jean Fishwick has also assisted.

It was with regret that Sally relinquished her position in the group at the end of the year. Joy Barrack has agreed to take Sally's place as a bank signatory.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer

The Reserves Policy

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

In setting the following policy it should be understood:

All charities need to develop a policy on reserves which establishes a level of reserves that is right for the Church and clearly explains to its parishioners and other stakeholders why holding these reserves is necessary.

Charity trustees (The PCC) have a general legal duty to spend income within a reasonable time of receipt. Trustees may spend this income to fund charitable activities, in acquiring assets to use in the Church's work, and in meeting the day to day running costs of the Church. To hold income in reserve rather than spending it, trustees rely on an explicit or implicit power to hold reserves and they must use that power in the Church's best interests.

The reserves policy explains how reserves are used to manage short term uncertainty and in respect of longer term projects it will explain how and when the reserves will be spent. The reserves policies provide assurance that the finances of the Church are actively managed and its activities are sustainable.

Reserves exclude funds within the Church's accounts which have particular restrictions on how they can be used.

Operating Reserve

The Operating Reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds to meet unforeseen or unbudgeted expenses connected with the day to day running expenses of the Church which should include the Parish Share to the Diocese of Blackburn which comprises 54% of the Parish's budgeted expenses.

It is the policy of the PCC that giving through stewardship and envelope collections coupled with sustainable income from other income streams such as the refectory, room hire and property income should meet the day to day expenses of the PCC in the maintenance of the Ministry.

Therefore, the maintenance of an operating reserves of a maximum of £15,000 should be the objective going forward.

As at the date of this policy statement, the PCC is forecasting an operating deficit of £48,000 for the year commencing January 2021.

It is therefore recommended that operating reserves of £50,000 should be available as at 31st December 2020 to ensure that the PCC can meet its commitments in 2021. This may vary if the Diocese is agreeable to provide grant support to enable the Parish to meet its share in the year.

Use of operating reserve

In terms of unbudgeted expenses all sums in excess of £500 for an individual item require the agreement of PCC either at a meeting or by circular email. Items under £500 may be approved by the Rector and Churchwardens with the support of the Treasurer.

Review of operating reserve

The policy will normally be reviewable annually when the PCC sets its budget. However interim reviews may be warranted in light of changes in the pattern of income or expenses. Changes to the policy will be recommended to the PCC by the Finance Committee.

Project Reserve

The Church buildings by the nature of its age and construction has heavy maintenance and renewal needs. The same consideration may apply to the organ. The Church also owns the Curate's House in Park Avenue and major expenditure may be required to maintain the property from time to time.

It is recommended that a Project Reserve be established and funds raised outside the regular income of the Church to build up resources to meet the capital needs of the Church on a 5 year rolling basis as identified by the Fabric Committee.

Use of Project Reserve

The Fabric Committee should plan a schedule of works to coincide with the annual budget for agreement by the PCC. This plan may exceed the resources currently available and stretch forward beyond the current financial year but they should identify the level and timing of fundraising required.

All use of Project Reserve funds should be agreed by PCC before commitment of funds.

Treasurer
January 2021

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
Fixed assets			
	6435: Curate's House	210,000.00	210,000.00
	6440: Investements held at Diocese	190,394.63	166,459.65
	Total Fixed assets	**400,394.63**	**376,459.65**
Current assets			
	1510: HMRC	4,375.00	5,000.00
	6501: Current Account - Yorkshire Bank	66,925.83	26,922.86
	6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account restricted fu	—	1,456.15
	6511: Short Term Deposits - Diocese	0.37	41,731.41
	6512: CAP Deposit a/c - restricted	13,350.74	24,146.67
	6590: Cash in hand and in transit to bank	43.39	901.46
	Total Current assets	**84,695.33**	**100,158.55**
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	1,605.50	58.00
	Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	**1,605.50**	**58.00**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**483,484.46**	**476,560.20**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(17,010.72)	14,090.74
	Z01: Starting balances	476,560.20	452,619.33
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	23,934.98	9,850.13
	Total Reserves	**483,484.46**	**476,560.20**

Represented by Funds

Unrestricted	53,455.30	25,424.88
Designated	226,283.79	253,219.52
Restricted	203,745.37	197,915.80
Endowment	—	—
Total	**483,484.46**	**476,560.20**

PCC St Laurence Chorley
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Note		From 01 January 2021 To 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
CAP - CAP Fund (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
	Donations appeals etc	20	710
	Total Donations and legacies	20	710
Total income and endowments		**20**	**710**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	20	710
	Brought forward balance	710	—
Total carried forward balance		**730**	**710**
Fabric - Fabric Fund (Designated) Fund			
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
	Church maintenance	240	—
	Church major repairs - installation	1,910	838
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities	2,150	838
Total expenditure		**2,150**	**838**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(2,150)	(838)
	Brought forward balance	34,871	800
	Transfers to/(from)	(32,721)	34,909
Total carried forward balance		—	**34,871**
HF - Hardship Fund (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
	Donations appeals etc	12,139	8,208
	Taste Cafe donations	2,730	1,580
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	500	1,625
	Non-recurring one-off grants	12,580	6,000
	Total Donations and legacies	27,950	17,413
Total income and endowments		**27,950**	**17,413**
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
	Giving - relief and development agencies	575	—
	Taste Co-ordinator	1,409	—
	Rector's Discretionary Fund	2,811	2,977
	Church equipment and office purchases	2,428	—
	Parish training and mission	288	—
	Church office - telephone and internet	24	—
	Church maintenance	120	—
	Hospitality	34	—

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Note		From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
	Monday Open Kitchen		1,275	—
	Taste Cafe expenses		4,673	1,906
	Emergency Food parcels		2,775	991
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*16,414*	*5,876*
	Other expenditure			
	Contribution to Church overheads		3,620	5,600
	Total Other expenditure		*3,620*	*5,600*
	Total expenditure		**20,034**	**11,476**
	Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		7,916	5,937
	Brought forward balance		5,937	—
	Total carried forward balance		**13,853**	**5,937**
	PRF - Park Road Fund (Designated) Fund			
	Brought forward balance		210,000	—
	Transfers to/(from)		—	210,000
	Total carried forward balance		**210,000**	**210,000**
	TF - Talents Fund (Designated) Fund			
	Income and endowments			
	Donations and legacies			
	Donations appeals etc		—	4,000
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		—	1,000
	Total Donations and legacies		—	*5,000*
	Total income and endowments		**—**	**5,000**
	Expenditure			
	Expenditure on charitable activities			
	Church equipment and office purchases		—	3,000
	Upkeep of services		—	300
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		—	*3,300*
	Total expenditure		**—**	**3,300**
	Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		—	1,700
	Brought forward balance		1,700	—
	Total carried forward balance		**1,700**	**1,700**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund				
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies				
	Gift Aid - Stewardship STOS		51,732	53,549
	Gift Aid - Stewardship Green Envelopes		7,124	11,106
	Gift Aid - Parish Giving Scheme		5,344	—
	Loose plate collections		3,353	3,591
	Card donations via sum up		1,663	676
	Gift Aid - Pink Envelopes		—	1,082
	Donations appeals etc		11,377	7,847
	Fund Raising - other activities		535	380
	Fund Raising Sunday Recitals		469	1,733
	Fund Raising - Christmas Tree Festival		—	6
	Fundrasing - May Ball 2020		—	(105)
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		17,360	16,293
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid (Prior year)		97	147
	Recurring grants		7,196	3,902
	Non-recurring one-off grants		500	6,983
	Other funds generated		282	374
	Flower donations		90	80
	Refectory Income		—	1,596
	Coffee after Services		—	246
	Photocopier receipts		—	50
	Fees for weddings		1,166	524
	In Memorium		589	351
	Wedding Banns Fees		96	95
		Total Donations and legacies	*108,967*	*110,491*
Income from charitable activities				
	Fees for funerals		1,381	3,677
		Total Income from charitable activities	*1,381*	*3,677*
Other trading activities				
	Merchandise sales - fund raising		4,827	3,536
	Church room lettings - fund raising		5,792	9,212
	Church main area lettings - fund rasing		402	—
	Parish magazine sales		30	—
		Total Other trading activities	*11,051*	*12,749*
Investments				
	Investment Income		4,838	5,128
	Bank and building society interest		43	189
	Rent from lands or buildings		7,539	7,479
		Total Investments	*12,420*	*12,798*
Total income and endowments			**133,820**	**139,715**
Expenditure				
Raising funds				
	Costs of fetes & other events		42	699
		Total Raising funds	*42*	*699*
Expenditure on charitable activities				
	Giving to missionary societies		86	56
	Giving - relief and development agencies		300	50
	Ministry parish share etc		87,466	65,824
	Verger		—	200
	CAP Salary		10,547	5,220
	CAP expenses		7,416	4,593

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Note		From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
	Administrator		4,617	5,507
	Rectors Personal Assistant		3,315	4,952
	Pension costs		1,121	—
	Working expenses of incumbent		1,643	1,332
	Working expenses of Curate		490	304
	Council tax		2,101	2,021
	Church equipment and office purchases		1,911	1,879
	Water rates - Rectory		728	807
	Vicar's telephone line and internet		1,394	1,984
	Education		44	434
	Church running - insurance		5,148	5,074
	Church office - telephone and internet		1,300	1,248
	Church office -computer expenses		75	416
	Photocopier		580	637
	Photocopier lease		601	601
	Organ / piano tuning		880	440
	Organist and Relief Organists		2,560	1,815
	Church maintenance		693	3,283
	Cleaning		330	414
	Upkeep of services		5,637	2,315
	Administration		—	212
	Hospitality		1,099	570
	Visiting speakers / locums		43	80
	Monday Open Kitchen		28	297
	Refectory expenses		21	247
	Church running - electric		2,424	2,512
	Church running Health & Safety		1,694	3,154
	Church running - alarm costs		956	1,193
	Church running - gas		5,332	5,426
	Church running - water		411	380
	Flowers for Church		142	105
	Funeral Expenses		555	499
	Wedding expenses		165	—
	Merchandise purchases		2,090	1,917
	Church major repairs - structure		—	189
	Church major repairs - installation		—	1,450
	Other PCC property upkeep - Park Road		624	2,789
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*156,574*	*132,441*
Total expenditure			**156,617**	**133,140**
	Excess of income and endowments over Expenditure		(22,797)	6,574
	Brought forward balance		25,424	263,759
	Transfers to/(from)		50,827	(244,909)
Total carried forward balance			**53,455**	**25,424**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
Restric - Restricted Fund (Restricted) Fund				
Income and endowments				
Investments				
	Bank Interest - Restricted deposit		0	6
		Total Investments	*0*	*6*
Total income and endowments			**0**	**6**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		0	6
	Brought forward balance		167,282	157,426
	Transfers to/(from)		(18,106)	—
	Gains & losses		23,934	9,850
Total carried forward balance			**173,111**	**167,282**
ZReval - Revaluation reserves (Restricted) Fund				
	Brought forward balance		30,633	30,633
Total carried forward balance			**30,633**	**30,633**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LAURENCE CHORLEY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PCC OF ST LAURENCE'S

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021 as set out in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees 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 statements 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 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Schofield

Mr John Schofield BA (Oxon) ACA
126 Deerfold
Chorley

29th March 2022

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Approved by the APCM on 5th May 2022

and signed on their behalf by

……
Fr. Neil Kelley, Rector and PCC Chairman

……
James Laidler, Treasurer

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

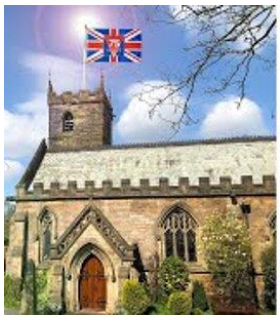
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

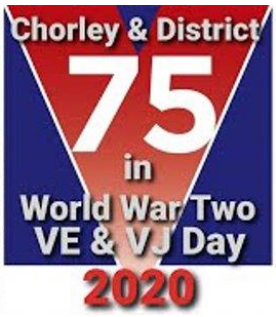
England & Wales - Charity number 1175130

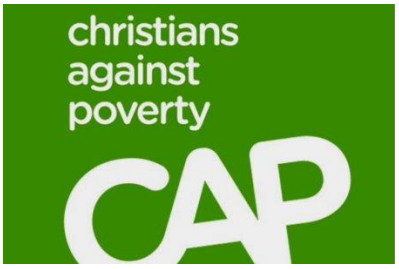
Accounts

Chorley Parish Church of St. Laurence

In the Church of England Diocese of Blackburn







2020 Annual Report

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Chairman's Remarks

or

Rector's Roadmap

Annual Report 2020

If the Prime Minister can have a 'roadmap' then so can the Rector. Since the Prime Minister made his announcement on the evening of February 22nd many people have been asking about how the coming months will see the return of some activities at St. Laurence's. The quick answer is that there is still so much that is unknown, but we eagerly await developments as they arrive. The Annual Report for 2020 may be a bit slimmer than that for previous years, but we know that despite the challenges of 2020, the church came alive as the building closed its doors for worship. So that we do not get tempted to go down a 'pre-Covid' versus 'post-Covid' tug of war, it is perhaps important to stand back and reflect on the much bigger picture of the mission of this parish. The Parish Profile in 2017 effectively gave me my role description and started very clearly what the parish expected of me. It contains your priorities – not mine. As you know, I refer to this document often for in it you expressed your hopes and dreams for the years ahead, way before I was on the scene! So how have the events of 2020 helped these areas of church life to develop and grow?

Let's be reminded of what the 2017 Parish Profile said.

Our Opportunities

- Though we have a lot going for us as a parish, we recognise that there is more that we can do on Astley Village and in new housing developments
- We are open to change and new ideas and look forward to working with an incumbent who can drive change forward
- Revisit our parish mission action plan and refresh our networking scheme
- More involvement of children and young people in our services
- Though we have always met our parish share, our financial position is quite tight and further education is needed on giving levels. We recently ran a mini stewardship campaign which had a modicum of success
- We are open to the idea of exploring new technology for use in our services
- An increase in the numbers for our Bible study group and introduction of more courses
- We need to be more pro-active in implementing strategies to address the issues above

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Astley Village and new housing developments.

Although we do not have a specific 'new' area of ministry connected to this aspiration, from the early days of the Pandemic we have made connections with individuals who live on Astley Village and have ministered to them through providing resources for shopping, emergency food parcel delivery and general support. There has been an initial conversation about whether our hot food provision might extend to the Community Centre on Astley Village but it's not a conversation that has developed. It is a fact that the most pressing area of social need within our parish boundary is on the opposite side of the park to where our church building is situated so there is scope for developing this area of ministry at some point.

Open to change and new ideas and look forward to working with an incumbent who can drive change forward.

Continuing to explore how we develop our Monday – Saturday ministry, and building on the work of Open Table begun under my predecessor, has led us to the new Taste Café initiative (pay what you can) which opened in August 2020 and we look forward to re-exploring other activities (art gallery etc) as and when the lifting of restrictions allow. Most significantly is the support given by the PCC recently to the proposals for looking at how we might redevelop our church building for more missional and community use. We are hoping from Easter to return to Taste serving 4 days a week and with gazebos, chairs and tables returning to the outside sometime in May. Placing our work 'outside' has definitely brought more opportunities for people to see what is going on – something that is lost if the activity happens within a building. Many donations have come as a result of passers-by seeing what is physically going on. Outreach has been publicly evidenced in a way we could never have previously imagined.

Our work with CAP is growing at a pace and our emergency food parcel provision likewise. At the time of writing, for example, we saw a 266% increase in emergency food parcel demand from one week to the next.

Mission Action Plan and networking scheme.

With moving from 2 Sunday congregations to 3 in 2020 (Saturday evening being Sunday) it has given more of an opportunity for people to see who is there and who isn't. As we re-open for public worship the pastoral team has spoken about how we might develop new systems of pastoral care, one system for each of the Sunday congregations. Somewhat smaller gatherings will help this be more effective. In 2019 our Parish Vision Day focussed on our mission priorities for 2020 but, alas, our initial plans in this area were shelved because of lockdown.

More involvement of children and young people in our services.

Prior to Covid, our model for developing the spirituality of younger people was to send them out during the liturgy, whilst the "grown-ups" were permitted to stay in church for their learning. A combination of negative attitudes whenever new musical developments (and new people) were introduced in 2018 led to some painful conflicts which resulted in people either leaving the church completely or feeling that their contribution was unwelcome. Sadly, not for the first time. Add to that the people who stayed away on the 2nd Sunday when we had an 'all age' service and we see how difficult it has been to really move this area of church life forward. Inclusion and diversity are not universally welcomed. Where divisions find their expression in worship, the devil is given a place of honour at the table.

However, during the 2020 pandemic our worship patterns changed. With the provision of two all-age eucharists at the weekend we now offer younger people the same chance to learn about Jesus within the same context as the grown-ups, and not just monthly, but weekly! With a positive offering of 'contemporary and classical' over the weekend as a whole, we have been able to develop worship in different styles (neither of which are mutually exclusive) and it has brought a refreshing diversity to how we worship. We have moved on from 'trying to be all things to all people' and people have been able to select the service that most suits their spiritual needs. And with the introduction of the Saturday Vigil Eucharist we are no longer saying to young people they have to chose between football and God on a Sunday morning! **All are welcome now means all are welcome.**

Our financial position is quite tight.

Before the Covid pandemic hit us, St. Laurence's was already a church struggling to play catch-up. A pattern of financial decline over, roughly, the ten years to 2018 saw a build-up of work needing to be done on the building which would cost somewhere in the region of £360k (as of the 2nd November 2019).

One of the outcomes of the discussion which took place in December 2020 with the Rector, Curate and Treasurer of St. Laurence's, with the Archdeacon of Blackburn and other diocesan officials was to acknowledge the fact that 2021 had to be the year where we faced the tough question of whether we are financially viable or not.

Exploring new technology.

What a journey! We have moved from printing large volumes of single use paper service sheets to being much more environmentally friendly. Technology has made its mark in church giving us much greener credentials. A year ago we were not offering any online worship, now we have a YouTube channel with nearly 5K subscribers! (The YT channel of Westminster Abbey has 3.4K subscribers, York Minster 1.6k , Blackburn Cathedral 245 and the Diocese of Blackburn 1.56K). It's not a race or competition, but this data is simply to show what has happened to us here over the past 12 months. Something I, for one, would never have imagined. But people are engaging with what we have offered using the technology available. Our worship is now shared in by people from, quite literally, all over the world. With different worship styles, and a re-imagining of our worship space, it will be possible in the future to have some services where we can develop the use of digital technology even further.

Bible Study and more courses.

Building upon the work of the Bible Book Club, a Zoom Bible Study was established from the early days of Covid. This is still happening although in a slightly different format and adapting to include Advent and Lent study courses within it. It is possible for people to join this by telephone if they do not have internet access. Whilst numbers remain low this is still a priority area.

Young people were prepared for their First Holy Communion via Zoom. An Alpha course began in January 2020 and another Alpha course is planned as is a Start! course for enquirers.

Fellowship comes in many forms and is something that people have valued in the past. It is an integral part of discipleship. Once restrictions are lifted and circumstances change, we hope to develop this area of spiritual growth further by encouraging groups of people to meet together in one another's homes for prayer, study and fellowship. This is the pattern given by the early Church as described in the book of Acts. The Ministry Team will be on hand to help any groups with resources and ideas.

Proactive in implementing strategies.

Watch this space! A strategy is never too far away.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as I reflect upon 2020 and look to the opportunities of 2021, I remain grateful to so many people who enable all aspects of worship and ministry here at St. Laurence's not just to happen, but to flourish.

Fr. Neil Kelley, PCC Chairman, Lent 2021

The 2020 Vestry Meeting and APCM (The 2019 Annual Report)

Vestry meeting – 21st September 2020

The evening opened in prayer.

Election of Two Churchwardens
There being no other nominations, Bernard Oakley will serve another year in this role.

Minutes of the APCM held on 21st September 2020

The Meeting opened with prayer.

Attending:
Kathie Bentley, Bob Berry, Chris Berry, Sally Calley, Eric Crompton, Tarnia Crompton, Joyce Fielding, Claire Hale, Linda Hall, Philip Hall, Joan Hayward (Notes), Fr Neil Kelley (Chair), Betty Kelly, Rob Kelly, Dorothy Klemm, James Laidler, Darren Nicholson, Bernard Oakley, Karen Pemberton, Margaret Shackleton, Anne Watts, Alan Winstanley, Rev. Mo. Baldwin.

In attendance:
Sue Boult (Church Administrator)

Apologies for absence:
Tony Checker, Paul Lengden, Sandra Lengden, Michelle Wareham.

Minutes of the previous APCM 2019 :
The meeting were asked if they had any questions or corrections regarding these minutes. There were none; it was therefore proposed by Darren Nicholson, seconded by Joyce Fielding, that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting – all were in favour. The acceptance and signing of last year's minutes took place.

Reports:
The PCC
The Electoral Roll

The Financial Statements of the PCC
Fabric
Deanery Synod
There were no questions raised on any of these reports.
The Treasurer, James Laidler, explained the financial position of the church in that toward the end of June 2020 we were between £4000 & £5000 in debt and thanked the church for continuing to give.
Fr Neil thanked the Treasurer and Finance Team and re-echoed thanks to the church for financial giving

Approval of 2019 Annual Report:
Proposer: Karen Pemberton Seconder: Darren Nicholson

Elections and Appointments:
2 deputy wardens: 0 nominations therefore 0 appointments
6 PCC members: 5 names were put forward and accepted:
Tony Checker, Phil Hall, Fiona Pattison, Caroline Walmsley, Fay Winstanley
Sides-people (to serve the forthcoming year) Will be dealt with at next PCC meeting
Appointment of Independent Examiner: John Scholfield has agreed to do this
Proposing Independent Examiner: Proposer: James Laidler Seconder: Darren Nicholson

Fr Neil asked that that John Schofield be thanked for his generosity on fulfilling this role again.

Chairman's Remarks
Included in the Annual Report

Any Other Business
There was no other business raised

Date of next meeting (APCM) 01.03.2021

The meeting closed with prayer.

James Laidler asked that the church's thanks to Fr Neil be recorded particularly mentioning his care, leadership and vision .

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Administrative Information

The Parish of Chorley St Laurence is a Registered Charity number 1175130
The Parish is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England
The correspondence address is: St Laurence Parish Office, Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB
Website: www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk

Rector:	Fr Neil Kelley (PCC Chairman)
Curate:	Rev Mo Baldwin
Assisting Clergy:	Canon Ken Barrett, Rev. Martin Wray
Reader:	Joan Hayward (ex-officio PCC)
Pastoral Assistants:	Phil Hall; Dodie Jones
Parish Administrator:	Jackie Gemson – until March 2020 Susan Boult appointed March 2020
Rector's PA:	Jackie Gemson – until October 2020. Position currently vacant
CAP Debt Centre Manager:	Susan Boult
PCC Treasurer:	James Laidler
PCC Secretary:	Michelle Wareham
Church Wardens:	Bernard Oakley (ex-officio PCC)
Deputy Church Wardens:	Currently Vacant
Deanery Synod Reps:	Kathie Bentley, Tony Checker, Paul Lengden Chris Pryor since December 2020
Elected PCC members:	Alan Winstanley (2021), Carol Gaskell (2021), Claire Hale (2021), Darren Nicholson (2021), James Laidler (2021), Justin Stretch (2021), Karen Pemberton (2021), Michelle Wareham (2021), Peter Beardmore (2021) Tony Checker (2023), Phil Hall (2023), Fiona Pattison (2023), Caroline Walmsley (2023), Fay Winstanley (2023)
Chair of Parish Fabric Group:	Chris Pryor
Chair of the Finance Group:	James Laidler
Health and Safety Officers:	Neal Bennett- Williams, John Handforth
Paris Safeguarding Officer:	Mark Wilkinson
Parish Bankers:	Yorkshire Bank, Preston
Independent Examiner:	Mr John Schofield, BA (Oxon). ACA, 126 Deerfold, Chorley, PR7 1UH
Architect:	John Coward Architects Ltd, No 3 Unsworth's Yard, Ford Road, Cartmel, LA11 6PG

Day to day management control of the church is exercised by the Incumbent, Fr Neil Kelley and the Churchwarden, Bernard Oakley, contactable through St Laurence Parish Office, Union Street, Chorley PR7 1EB, Tel: 01257 231360

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Structure, Management and Governance

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chorley St Laurence operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1175130.
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. All PCC meetings are public meetings and all members of the congregation are invited to attend (though only PCC members have a vote). The PCC held meetings during the year, via Zoom.

Reports from PCC sub committees have been received and considered regularly at PCC meetings.

The PCC has a Safeguarding Policy in place.

In 2020 the PCC operated the following sub-committees that report back to it as necessary and their deliberations are discussed.

Parish Fabric Committee: Rector (ex-officio), Tony Checker (Chair), David Thistlethwaite, Julian Garstang, Mark Briggs, Bernard Oakley, Chris Pryor, David Jones
Parish Finance Group: Rector (ex-officio), James Laidler (Chair), Phil Hall, Alan Fishwick, Sally Calley, Joy Barrack
Prayer and Spirituality Group: Rector (ex-officio), Martin Wray (Chair), Joan Hayward, Rev. Mo Baldwin, Paul Lengden, Phil Hall, Dodie Jones
Hospitality Group: Rector (ex-officio), Rev. Mo (Chair), Jean Fishwick, Phil Hall, Betty Kelly, Phil Staziker, Alan Winstanley, Ena Yates
Safeguarding Group: Rector (ex-officio), Mark Wilkinson (Chair & PSO), Joan Hayward, Fiona Pattison, Michelle Wareham
Policies Group: in abeyance
PCC members receive information on trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk management and safeguarding procedures.

Church Attendance

The average **Sunday** service attendances in 2020 were as follows:
09.00 Eucharist: 29 (18 in 2019)
11.00 Eucharist: 31 (152 in 2019)

The average Saturday evening service attendance was 40.
The average weekly mid-week services attendance is 9 (15 in 2019)
The average private prayer attendance is 6
Bookings taken via Eventbrite or telephone for Services.
Services were limited in numbers due to maintaining social distancing.
Started at 45 per service. Increased to 60 to accommodate family bubbles.

Electoral Roll: there were **194** people on the Electoral Roll at the end of 2020.

Occasional Offices

Funerals: 21 Weddings: 1 Baptisms: 7 Burial of Ashes: 1

Statement of Public Benefit

The Parish of Chorley Saint Laurence demonstrates public benefit with the following activities

- Regular public worship open to all.
- The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick, frail and bereaved.
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature.
- Promotion of the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents, toddlers, young people and other special needs groups.
- Teaching and discussion of Christian Ethics.
- Environmental/Ethical issues e.g. supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.
- Community involvement, including the support of local cultural events (music, artistic, Chorley Live etc) and social action (CAP, Open Table, Taste, foodbank, supporting the homeless and street pastors).

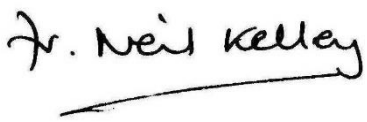
Objectives and Activities

- The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC: is to co-operate with the Minister in providing in the ecclesiastical parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- We continue to develop within the Diocesan *Vision 2026* programme which focusses on making disciples of Jesus Christ, being witnesses to Jesus Christ and growing leaders for Jesus Christ
- Our mission continues to be to proclaim the Gospel according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and assists in the involvement of the many groups that that live within the parish.

Achievements and Performance *see Churchwardens Report*

Approved by the PCC by email on 30th April

signed on their behalf by



Fr. Neil Kelley, Rector and PCC Chair

Churchwardens Report

This report is made available to the PCC and all members of the Parish Church of St Laurence, Chorley under Section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.

As people are aware this year has been very difficult due to the Covid pandemic which has completely altered the way the church has had to operate. The Rector, Father Neil, and Rev Mo have worked very hard to keep things running, along with the help of many people.

General

Online services have been made available and the Eventbrite online guide has helped people to stay connected while staying at home. For people not able to do online services a postal service has been used.

The Pastoral Team and the Parish Office have been there to offer support to people struggling and offered to pick up supplies and prescriptions.

The Bible Study Group have been able to meet online at 6 pm on Sunday evenings.

The Taste Café was started in the summer and gazebos were purchased for people to sit outside to comply with the restrictions imposed; however, this has had to be re-organised due to further restrictions and food is now served from the porch doorway between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm, Tuesdays and Fridays.

The PCC were informed that the Rector's PA was having to step down; however, it was agreed to wait until March to undertake the recruitment process for the PA to be replaced.

A proposal was put forward to increase parochial fees for 2021; this was unanimously accepted by the PCC.

The PCC also supported that the trees in front of the church to be taken down on the advice of 2 architects who said that they would contribute to the damage at the south wall of the church.

In June the church had a burglary which resulted in a window being smashed just above the alter which needed complete replacement; the work was carried out in October by Pendle Glass. The burglary was reported to the Police and to date no arrests have been made.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) was launched on 15th August and to date we have 8 clients and things are going well.

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Points of Interest

I have made a list of things that have taken place in the past year:

14th January	Alpha Course
11th January	Food Safety Hygiene Course training
10th January	The Hygiene Inspector undertook a spot check on our kitchen facilities which received a 5 star rating
15th February	First Aid Course
CANCELLED	Easter Fair cancelled due to Covid
CANCELLED	May Ball cancelled due to Covid
CANCELLED	Art Gallery opening cancelled due to Covid
15th August	CAP commissioning service
26th September	Rev Mo's ordination
---	Shop moved online

New Appointments

2 Health and Safety Officers: Neil Bennett Williams and John Handforth
-endorsed by the PCC

Digital Content Manager: Justin Stretch
-online service, promotion and live streams

The Fabric Committee have been working hard during the past 12 months, clearing gutters and doing repair work. I would like to thank them for the support they have given, not only to myself, but to the church in general.

Tony Checker has now stepped down from being Chairman of the Committee to enable him to concentrate on his new role in Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM); this has been authorised by the PCC.

Christopher Pryor has taken over the role of Chairman of the Fabric Committee.

During the past year we have witnessed several valued members of the church pass away. I would like to pass on my deep sorrow and offer my condolences to all the families concerned.

We have now come to the time when some members of the PCC will have completed their time and will therefore be stepping down to allow other people to fill their places. Thank you to all of the people concerned for their work and support, and welcome to those new members to the PCC.

I would like to thank our accountant, James Laidler, for his help and support during a very difficult year.

There are many people who have helped me so much this year and I am forever grateful to them, not to mention Ann Watts and Margaret Shackleton, who stepped down from being Assistant Wardens for personal reasons.

There have been a lot of positives and the profile of St Laurence's has been raised within the local community with outreach offered through Open Table, Taste Café, emergency food parcels, Christmas Day meals and CAP and good links between Watch Us Grow.

We must now adjust our sights for the year ahead and prepare ourselves for any changes we may need to make, and go ahead with a positive mind.

Prayers and blessings for you all and our Parish.

Church Warden: Bernard Oakley

Annual Deanery Synod Report 2020 APCM

Deanery Synod met once during 2020, with a Zoom meeting on 6 October at 7.30 pm. Bishop Julian, Archdeacon Mark and Carolyn Barton introduced and consulted on the updated Vision 2026 Implementation Plan. The draft proposals were circulated prior to the meeting. The Plan is the result of the consultation process that has been ongoing during 2020 beginning with the Parish Vision Survey completed by each Parish at the beginning of the year.
Vision 2026 is an agenda for growth and change to see 'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities' across the Diocese of Blackburn in the centenary year of 2026. The Vision was launched in 2015 when the Diocese of Blackburn made a bold strategic decision to change and to grow through the priorities of:

- Making Disciples for Jesus Christ
- Being Witnesses for Jesus Christ
- Growing Leaders for Jesus Christ
- Prioritising Work Among Children, Young People and Schools

All that the Diocese do is focussed on the delivery of Vision 2026. They long to see a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit across Lancashire, to see communities and lives transformed. Over the course of 2020 the Diocese has engaged in a 'Vision Update' through which they have

sought to identify what is going well and where the challenges are as we seek to realise our Vision of seeing Healthy Churches Transforming Communities.

This Vision Update has encompassed extensive feedback from parishes and representative groups, such as Areas Deans and Bishop's Council, in order that future plans focus on what will really make a difference to realising the Vision.

The Vision Update began prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has presented additional challenges, whilst also opening up new opportunities, which are factored into the proposed Plan, for what is intended to happen between 2021 and 2024, to build on the encouraging aspects and address the challenges in order to enable and realise the Diocesan Vision.

It is important to note that healthy churches will be nurtured within parishes and accordingly parish leadership teams will discern how to develop in a way that is right for their context and community. The document will set out how the Diocese intends to support and enable parishes in their planning and activities.

The most important thing is that we pray faithfully, repent, seek God's face and ask that He would pour out His Spirit across the Diocese of Blackburn. Accordingly, one of the opening sections of Plan update relates to the 'Foundations' of Vision 2026 recognising that all our plans and activities will be futile if we lose sight of Jesus whom we are serving and that it is He who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine.

The Plan will be finalised following feedback from all of the Autumn Deanery Synods.

Below is the summary of what is hoped to be achieved during 2021 – 2024 of Vision 2026: 'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities'
The Vision will be realised through -
Making disciples of Jesus Christ.
• Knowing the Scriptures better through reading, teaching, preaching and study
• Praying with greater depth and urgency for the Kingdom of God to come
• Offering worship in spirit and truth through the ministry of word and sacrament
• Giving generously of our time, talents and money to the cause of Christ
Being witnesses to Jesus Christ.
• Sharing the Gospel of salvation with confidence
• Meeting human need: actions as well as words
• Planting 10 Strategic Church Plants and 200 New Local Congregations
• Caring for God's creation
Growing leaders for Jesus Christ.
• Developing a diocesan-wide culture of vocational discernment for all God's people
• Forming theologically literate Christ-centred lay and ordained leaders
• Nurturing healthy partnerships between clergy and laity by fully implementing the Lay Majority Ministry framework
• Generating a pipeline of highly motivated deacons and priests to enable the Diocese's clergy deployment strategy
Inspiring Children and Young People for Jesus Christ.
• Nurturing children and young people in their faith and supporting them as disciples of Jesus Christ

• Holding regular worship that is accessible and appealing to children, young people and their families
• Enabling growth in the numbers of leaders of children and young people
• Pursuing a step change in ministry with those aged 11-16
• Facilitating effective partnerships between churches and schools

2020 Reports

Buildings and Fabric

Annual Fabric Committee Report 2020 Calendar Year Overview

I am sure that this has been a difficult year for many people, both practically and emotionally. The practical aspect of maintaining the church building, in a safe manner, has been the main priority for the fabric team this year. Work has been kept to a minimum unless it was deemed essential.

In line with Government instruction, the church building was closed at the end of March. The Diocese and insurers issued advice on closing the building regarding services drain down and isolation. The advice was followed with a concession to maintain some services for heating the church to avoid possible freezing and damp conditions arising. With hindsight, I would advice against a water system drain down in the future (with the Dioceses/insurers agreement). Rather adopt a regular visit by a designated person(s) to run taps and loos, etc.

After the reinstatement of the water system three hot water boilers failed. Two were replaced and one was repaired. The failure, in my opinion, was due to the lack of heat and water acting on the boilers' gaskets. During shut down this absence of heat and water allowed the gaskets to shrink.

As of writing this report (February 2021) I am no longer the Chair of the Fabric group. I would like to thank the team and the PCC for their support over the past years. I will remain a member of the team and continue to support the PCC and Chris Pryor as the new Chair of the Fabric group.

Minor Works

- Spring and autumn clearance of leaf litter from roof/drains.
- Boiler servicing.
- Boiler 'B' leaking pressure valve replaced.
- Flat roof leak above cloister entrance repaired.
- Water sample testing after re-opening. Testing for legionnaires disease etc. No positive results found.
- External bench removed, repaired and re-fitted.
- New hot water heater in ladies' toilet.
- New hot water heater in creche.
- Repair of leak to water boiler in kitchen.
- Repair to banner frame after storm damage.
- Fit and commissioned manufacture of new Alter top.
- Roof repairs to Park Road property.
- Mobile signpost construction for Covid19 secure environment.

Major Works

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

- East Nave, stained glass repair after damage due to vandalism.
- 1st floor meeting room redecorated. Refectory and cloister area redecorated. Creche redecorated (generously provided by Luke Tate).
- Commissioning of Church architect to draw up specification and design for south and nave valley gutter repairs/rebuild.
- Faculty application/approval from the DAC for the above work.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Fabric team and others (in alphabetical order): Neal Bennet-Williams, Julian Garside, David Jones, Rob Kelly, Bernard Oakley, Chris Pryor, Luke Tate (and his work team) and David Thistlethwaite.

Tony Checker
Fabric Chair for 2020

2020 Reports

Finance and Fundraising

Statement of Financial Activities 2020

Summary

The accounts for the year show a surplus on the general fund of £974. Total income for the year was £134,115 down £33,000 on 2019.

Highlights

Stewardship income held up very well which is most encouraging. Many parishioners have transferred from envelopes to giving by standing order.
We received some very generous donations.
Non recurring grant income was substantial. We received a grant of £4,300 in respect of VAT incurred on fabric repairs in 2019. The Diocese gave us a grant of £2,000 towards our on line costs.
Recurring grant income is from the Diocese to support the CAP project.
The hardship fund made a contribution of £5,600 to the general Church overheads at a session rate of £40 to contribute to heat, light, power, insurance and health and safety (PPE) costs incurred by the Church in providing services.
The Parish Shop has continued to trade through the pandemic thanks to the efforts of Anne Wray and her team. Stock in the shop as at the 8th January 2020 was valued at cost at £680.

Our costs totalled £132,441.

Highlights

Parish share payments fell £20,000 short of our Diocesan assessment. The DBF awarded a grant of £20,000 in December to enable us to meet our commitment. This grant was not received through the bank account.

The costs of the CAP project were met through the Diocese grant (see above) and funds drawn from a restricted deposit account held at the Diocese. This account was funded to the tune of £30,000 from the sale of restricted investments with the agreement of the Charity Commission.

We incurred substantial repair costs on Park Road to repair the roof in the last quarter.

Liabilities not provided for in the accounts.

A new altar frontal, purple cope and acolyte candles had been ordered in December at a total cost of £2,435.00. These costs were covered by a private donation received in the financial year.

Changes in the structure of the accounts

During the year the following funds were established:

1. Hardship fund was set up to finance the Taste Café and the provision of emergency food parcels through the pandemic. The fund has also been used to grant emergency funds to those in critical need by the Rector's discretionary fund.

2. The talents fund was established following the generous gift of a parishioner to fund project in line with the Parable of the Talents. £3,000 of the fund was used to purchase computer

equipment to improve on line productions through the St Laurence You Tube channel and Facebook channel.

3. The CAP fund was established to start a fund towards the continuation of CAP services when current funding is exhausted in June 2023.

4. The fabric fund was put in place using held by the Diocese surplus to the day to day needs of the PCC. The designation of these funds is not binding on the PCC and may be used for any general purpose in case of need.

5. The Park Road fund simply shows the value of the Curates House as a non cash asset. The property is not designated.

Provision has been made in the accounts for the following:

£58 was collected from sales of the Church history book produced by the Friends of St Laurence. These monies were paid to the Friends in January 2021

Balance sheet

The revaluation of investments (restricted funds) has produced a surplus of £9,850 as at the year end. £30,000 of the investments were sold during the year to fund the CAP project.

Appreciation

I would like to record my thanks to John Schofield, Hon Examiner of our accounts for his work and continued commitment to this task over many years.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer
April 2021

Annual Report of the Finance Group 2020

.
The Finance Group held one meeting in February due to the constraints of the Corona Virus pandemic. The guidelines, below, agreed by the PCC, were met as far as possible with quarterly accounts circulated to the Group. The finance function of the PCC was maintained over the year namely:

- Oversee the work of the Treasurer and review financial information on a quarterly basis
- Oversee the arrangements for cash handling and banking
- Oversee the arrangements for gift aid claims from HMRC

- Review quotations for significant expenditure.
- Be permitted to agree expenditure outside to normal day to day running expenses of up to £500 without reference to the PCC
- Advise the PCC on the Churches financial position both short and long term
- Prepare and recommend an annual budget to the PCC
- Prepare and recommend communications to the Parishioners and Diocese in matters relating to Parish finances.
- Oversee stewardship and agree action required.

My thanks go to all members of the Group for their contribution to the work of the Church and especially to Alan and Sally for maintaining cash reconciliation and banking during the year.

James Laidler
Parish Treasurer

The Reserves Policy

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

In setting the following policy it should be understood:

All charities need to develop a policy on reserves which establishes a level of reserves that is right for the Church and clearly explains to its parishioners and other stakeholders why holding these reserves is necessary.

Charity trustees (The PCC) have a general legal duty to spend income within a reasonable time of receipt. Trustees may spend this income to fund charitable activities, in acquiring assets to use in the Church's work, and in meeting the day to day running costs of the Church. To hold income in reserve rather than spending it, trustees rely on an explicit or implicit power to hold reserves and they must use that power in the Church's best interests.

The reserves policy explains how reserves are used to manage short term uncertainty and in respect of longer term projects it will explain how and when the reserves will be spent. The reserves policies provide assurance that the finances of the Church are actively managed and its activities are sustainable.

Reserves exclude funds within the Church's accounts which have particular restrictions on how they can be used.

Operating Reserve

The Operating Reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds to meet unforeseen or unbudgeted expenses connected with the day to day running expenses of the Church which should include the Parish Share to the Diocese of Blackburn which comprises 54% of the Parish's budgeted expenses.

It is the policy of the PCC that giving through stewardship and envelope collections coupled with sustainable income from other income streams such as the refectory, room hire and property income should meet the day to day expenses of the PCC in the maintenance of the Ministry.

Therefore, the maintenance of an operating reserves of a maximum of £15,000 should be the objective going forward.

As at the date of this policy statement, the PCC is forecasting an operating deficit of £48,000 for the year commencing January 2021.

It is therefore recommended that operating reserves of £50,000 should be available as at 31st December 2020 to ensure that the PCC can meet its commitments in 2021. This may vary if the Diocese is agreeable to provide grant support to enable the Parish to meet its share in the year.

Use of operating reserve

In terms of unbudgeted expenses all sums in excess of £500 for an individual item require the agreement of PCC either at a meeting or by circular email. Items under £500 may be approved by the Rector and Churchwardens with the support of the Treasurer.

Review of operating reserve

The policy will normally be reviewable annually when the PCC sets its budget. However interim reviews may be warranted in light of changes in the pattern of income or expenses. Changes to the policy will be recommended to the PCC by the Finance Committee.

Project Reserve

The Church buildings by the nature of its age and construction has heavy maintenance and renewal needs. The same consideration may apply to the organ. The Church also owns the Curate's House in Park Avenue and major expenditure may be required to maintain the property from time to time.

It is recommended that a Project Reserve be established and funds raised outside the regular income of the Church to build up resources to meet the capital needs of the Church on a 5 year rolling basis as identified by the Fabric Committee.

Use of Project Reserve

The Fabric Committee should plan a schedule of works to coincide with the annual budget for agreement by the PCC. This plan may exceed the resources currently available and stretch forward beyond the current financial year but they should identify the level and timing of fundraising required.

All use of Project Reserve funds should be agreed by PCC before commitment of funds.

Treasurer
January 2021

PCC St Laurence Chorley
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

Note		From To	01 January 2020 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
CAP - CAP Fund (Designated) Fund				
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies				
	Donations appeals etc		710	—
	Total Donations and legacies		*710*	—
Total income and endowments			**710**	**—**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		710	—
	Brought forward balance		—	—
Total carried forward balance			**710**	**—**
Fabric - Fabric Fund (Designated) Fund				
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies				
	Donations appeals etc		—	1,800
	Total Donations and legacies		—	*1,800*
Total income and endowments			**—**	**1,800**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities				
	Church major repairs - structure		—	1,000
	Church major repairs - installation		838	—
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*838*	*1,000*
Total expenditure			**838**	**1,000**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(838)	800
	Brought forward balance		800	—
	Transfers to/(from)		34,909	—
Total carried forward balance			**34,871**	**800**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130

Note		From 01 January 2020 To 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
HF - Hardship Fund (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations appeals etc		10,208	—
Taste Cafe donations		1,580	—
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		1,625	—
Non-recurring one-off grants		4,000	—
	Total Donations and legacies	17,413	—
Total income and endowments		**17,413**	—
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Rector's Discretionary Fund		2,977	—
Taste Cafe expenses		1,906	—
Emergency Food parcels		991	—
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities	5,876	—
Other expenditure			
Contribution to Church overheads		5,600	—
	Total Other expenditure	5,600	—
Total expenditure		**11,476**	—
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		5,937	—
Brought forward balance		—	—
Total carried forward balance		**5,937**	—
PRF - Park Road Fund (Designated) Fund			
Brought forward balance		—	—
Transfers to/(from)		210,000	—
Total carried forward balance		**210,000**	—
TF - Talents Fund (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations appeals etc		4,000	—
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		1,000	—
	Total Donations and legacies	5,000	—
Total income and endowments		**5,000**	—
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Church office - expenses		3,000	—
Upkeep of services		300	—
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities	3,300	—
Total expenditure		**3,300**	—
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		1,700	—
Brought forward balance		—	—

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2020 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
	Total carried forward balance		**1,700**	**—**
	General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
	Income and endowments			
	Donations and legacies			
	Gift Aid - Stewardship STOS		53,549	41,823
	Gift Aid - Stewardship Green Envelopes		11,106	25,799
	Loose plate collections		3,591	7,324
	Card donations via sum up		676	—
	Gift Aid - Pink Envelopes		1,082	4,965
	Donations appeals etc		7,847	4,562
	Fund Raising - other activities		360	2,920
	Fund Raising Sunday Recitals		1,733	6,796
	Fund Raising Church Fayres		—	5,388
	Fund Raising Parishioners Events		—	2,184
	Fund Raising - Christmas Tree Festival		6	4,325
	Fundrasing - May Ball 2020		(105)	350
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		16,293	19,016
	Tax recoverable on Gift Aid (Prior year)		147	1
	Recurring grants		3,902	—
	Non-recurring one-off grants		6,983	300
	Other funds generated		374	70
	Flower donations		80	528
	Refectory Income		1,596	5,206
	Refectory Income Friday		—	3,090
	Coffee after Services		246	785
	Photocopier receipts		60	80
	Fees for weddings		524	1,706
	In Memorium		351	387
	Wedding Banns Fees		95	132
		Total Donations and legacies	*110,491*	*137,754*
	Income from charitable activities			
	Fees for funerals		3,677	4,821
	Bookstall sales to promote objectives		—	67
		Total Income from charitable activities	*3,677*	*4,888*
	Other trading activities			
	Merchandise sales - fund raising		3,536	5,089
	Church room lettings - fund raising		9,212	4,622
	Church main area lettings - fund rasing		—	1,060
	Parish magazine sales		—	42
		Total Other trading activities	*12,749*	*10,814*
	Investments			
	Investment Income		5,128	5,362
	Bank and building society interest		189	470
	Rent from lands or buildings		7,479	7,815
		Total Investments	*12,798*	*13,648*
	Total income and endowments		**139,715**	**167,107**
	Expenditure			
	Raising funds			
	Costs of fetes & other events		699	4,029
		Total Raising funds	*699*	*4,029*

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2020 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
	Expenditure on charitable activities			
	Giving to missionary societies		56	180
	Giving - relief and development agencies		50	41
	Ministry parish share etc		65,824	78,624
	Verger		200	200
	CAP Salary		5,220	—
	CAP expenses		4,593	—
	Administrator		5,507	4,190
	Rectors Personal Assistant		4,952	4,190
	Working expenses of incumbent		1,332	2,291
	Rector's Discretionary Fund		—	500
	Working expenses of Curate		304	495
	Council tax		2,021	1,948
	Rectory other expenses		—	202
	Church office - expenses		1,879	5,489
	Water rates - Rectory		807	1,216
	Vicar's telephone line and internet		1,984	1,402
	Education		434	1,860
	Parish training and mission		—	682
	Church running - insurance		5,074	5,074
	Church office - telephone and internet		1,248	1,109
	Church office -computer expenses		416	290
	Photocopier		637	1,158
	Photocopier lease		601	601
	Organ / piano tuning		440	906
	Organist		1,815	3,024
	Church maintenance		3,283	3,411
	Cleaning		414	14
	Upkeep of services		2,315	2,880
	Administration		212	56
	Hospitality		570	1,247
	Visiting speakers / locums		80	557
	Monday Open Kitchen		297	435
	Refectory expenses		247	1,047
	Church running - electric		2,512	1,664
	Church running Health & Safety		3,154	1,989
	Church running - alarm costs		1,193	1,224
	Church running - gas		5,426	6,907
	Church running - water		380	342
	Church running - candles Wine and Altar		—	5
	Flowers for Church		105	1,009
	Funeral Expenses		499	1,240
	Wedding expenses		—	605
	Mercahndise costs		1,917	3,174
	Church major repairs - structure		189	29,110
	Church major repairs - installation		1,450	803
	Other PCC property upkeep - Park Road		2,789	899
	Total Expenditure on charitable activities		*132,441*	*174,310*
Total expenditure			**133,140**	**178,340**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		6,574	(11,232)
	Brought forward balance		263,759	264,752
	Transfers to/(from)		(244,909)	10,239
Total carried forward balance			**25,424**	**263,759**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Note		From To	01 January 2020 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
Restric - Restricted Fund (Restricted) Fund				
Income and endowments				
Investments				
	Bank Interest - Restricted deposit		6	10
		Total Investments	*6*	*10*
Total income and endowments			**6**	**10**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		6	10
	Brought forward balance		157,426	167,655
	Transfers to/(from)		—	(10,239)
	Gains & losses		9,850	—
Total carried forward balance			**167,282**	**157,426**
ZReval - Revaluation reserves (Restricted) Fund				
	Brought forward balance		30,633	—
	Gains & losses		—	30,633
Total carried forward balance			**30,633**	**30,633**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

PCC St Laurence Chorley

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2020	As at 31/12/2019
Fixed assets			
	6435: Curate's House	210,000.00	210,000.00
	6440: Investements held at Diocese	166,459.65	186,609.52
	Total Fixed assets	**376,459.65**	**396,609.52**
Current assets			
	1510: HMRC	5,000.00	4,800.00
	6501: Current Account - Yorkshire Bank	26,922.86	17,935.46
	6510: CCLA (CBF) deposit account restricted fu	1,456.15	1,449.99
	6511: Short Term Deposits - Diocese	41,731.41	30,593.55
	6512: CAP Deposit a/c - restricted	24,146.67	—
	6590: Cash in hand and in transit to bank	901.46	740.21
	Total Current assets	**100,158.55**	**55,519.21**
Liabilities			
	6699: Agency collections	58.00	(490.60)
	Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	**58.00**	**(490.60)**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**476,560.20**	**452,619.33**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	14,090.74	(7,231.52)
	Z01: Starting balances	452,619.33	429,217.34
	Z02: Other gains/(losses)	9,850.13	30,633.51
	Total Reserves	**476,560.20**	**452,619.33**

Represented by Funds

Unrestricted	19,824.88	263,759.82
Designated	258,819.52	800.00
Restricted	197,915.80	188,059.51
Endowment	—	—
Total	**476,560.20**	**452,619.33**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LAURENCE CHORLEY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PCC OF ST LAURENCE'S

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020 as set out on pages 21-26 in the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees 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 statements 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 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Schofield .

Mr John Schofield BA (Oxon) ACA
126 Deerfold
Chorley
April 2021

St. Laurence's Chorley is a Registered Charity no. 1175130