

Chorley Parish Church of St. Laurence

In the Church of England Diocese of Blackburn



2021 Annual Report



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.

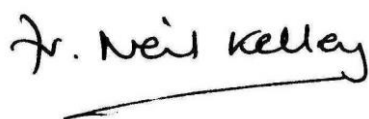
We've had some highs and lows this year – we were thrilled to welcome Nancy Pelosi to St. Laurence's (not once, but twice) when Sir Lindsay invited the Speakers of the G7 countries to Chorley. In contrast, at the end of the year, we were sorry to hear that Rev. Mo had another period of illness that has 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

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
 - o 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
 - o 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
 - o Fr Neil thanked Tony Checker for his work on leading the fabric committee. Chris Pryor has taken over from Tony.
- The Deanery Synod
 - o 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 quinquennial 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 Boulton until May 2021, Ruth Fowler from May 2021 until present
Rector's PA:	Susan Boulton
CAP Debt Centre Manager:	Susan Boulton
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 Pemberton, 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 attendances 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
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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).

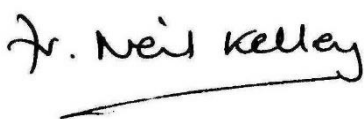
Objectives and Activities

- 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 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.

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 fell 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 Boulton took 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 by us all.

The Friends of St Laurence continue to do great work and would welcome any church members to join them 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 a 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, from the church wardens

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 Boulton, received on her behalf by her husband Steven, before the Office of Compline was offered by Fr Stef Dnistrianskij, 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

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.

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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 serviced 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 othersNeal 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

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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: Investments 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 To	01 January 2021 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	1,825
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	—
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>			

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Note	From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
		1,275	—
		4,673	1,905
		2,775	991
		Total Expenditure on charitable activities	5,876
		16,414	5,876
Other expenditure			
Contribution to Church overheads		3,620	5,600
		Total Other expenditure	5,600
		3,620	5,600
Total expenditure		20,034	11,476
		7,916	5,937
		5,937	—
Total carried forward balance		13,853	5,937
PRF - Park Road Fund (Designated) Fund			
		210,000	—
		—	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
		—	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
		—	3,300
Total expenditure		—	3,300
		—	1,700
		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

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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			
		51,732	53,549
Gift Aid - Stewardship STOS		7,124	11,108
Gift Aid - Stewardship Green Envelopes		5,344	—
Gift Aid - Parish Giving Scheme		3,353	3,391
Loose plate collections		1,663	876
Card donations via sum up		—	1,082
Gift Aid - Pink Envelopes		11,377	7,847
Donations appeals etc		535	360
Fund Raising - other activities		469	1,733
Fund Raising Sunday Rectals		—	8
Fund Raising - Christmas Tree Festival		—	(105)
Fundraising - May Ball 2020		17,350	16,293
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		97	147
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid (Prior year)		7,196	3,902
Recurring grants		500	6,983
Non-recurring one-off grants		282	374
Other funds generated		90	80
Flower donations		—	1,596
Refractory Income		—	246
Coffee after Services		—	50
Photocopier receipts		1,168	524
Fees for weddings		589	351
In Memorium		96	95
Wedding Banns Fees			
	Total Donations and legacies	108,967	110,491
Income from charitable activities			
		1,381	3,677
Fees for funerals			
	Total Income from charitable activities	1,381	3,677
Other trading activities			
		4,827	3,536
Merchandise sales - fund raising		5,792	9,212
Church room lettings - fund raising		402	—
Church main area lettings - fund raising		30	—
Parish magazine sales			
	Total Other trading activities	11,051	12,749
Investments			
		4,838	5,128
Investment Income		43	189
Bank and building society interest		7,539	7,479
Rent from lands or buildings			
	Total Investments	12,420	12,798
	Total income and endowments	133,820	139,715
Expenditure			
Raising funds			
		42	899
Costs of fates & other events			
	Total Raising funds	42	899
Expenditure on charitable activities			
		86	56
Giving to missionary societies		300	50
Giving - relief and development agencies		87,468	65,824
Ministry parish share etc		—	200
Verger		10,547	5,220
CAP Salary		7,416	4,583
CAP expenses			
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>			

Note	From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
	Administrator	4,617	5,507
	Rector's 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	1,811	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	1,894	3,154
	Church running - alarm costs	955	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

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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.

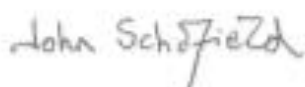
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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.



Mr John Schofield BA (Oxon) ACA
126 Deerfold
Chorley

29th March 2022

Approved by the APCM on 5th May 2022

and signed on their behalf by

.....
Fr. Neil Kelley, Rector and PCC Chairman

.....
James Laidler, Treasurer