

THE FRIENDS OF ST LAURENCE, CHORLEY

Binding Church and Community Together

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22nd JANUARY 2023

Chairman's Report for 2022

The year has been dominated by the first Phase of our Organ Project which involved extensive repairs to the organ chamber roof and was successfully completed early in October. The total cost including professional fees was £36,251 so somewhat less than our £40,000 budget - a very satisfactory result. We are most grateful to Walker Conservation Services who carried out the work, David Wells, Organ Builders, who installed the protective sheeting for the organ and Mike Darwell and his partners in John Coward, Architects.

We were fortunate to receive grants totaling £12,000 from the National Churches Trust and the Wolfson Foundation and a generous contribution of £20,000 towards the cost of materials from Chorley Borough Council's CIL Fund of which £7,800 remains to be carried forward to the next phase of the project. I would like to acknowledge and thank our corporate donors, G A Petfoods, E H Booth and Co Ltd, Chorley Building Society and B Livesey and Co and the many individuals who contributed either directly or via our web site raising more than £2,000 in response to our appeal.

The result of all these efforts is that the organ is now secured against leaking rainwater and other structural risks enabling us to proceed to the next phase of the project, urgently needed repairs to the instruments itself. It is a considerable achievement for a small organization starting from scratch.

In addition, FOSL has published a second book, *Chorley St Laurence, A Serving Church* that describes the range of services, sacred and secular that St Laurence's provides to the local community maintaining a centuries old tradition. We hope the book will introduce St Laurence's to a wider audience as more and more families move into the area. Thanks are due to Paul Turner who wrote the text and Thomas Wray who designed the layout and oversaw production. Paul also provided the text for a series of 12 panels covering the life and times of Myles Standish in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower* which was celebrated in Chorley in 2021. Elizabeth Goodman supervised the artwork, the panels can be viewed in the space between the Lady Chapel and the Refectory entrance

Towards the end of the year, we started work on an ambitious project to produce a series of short videos illustrating the different activities undertaken by clergy and volunteers in supporting the more vulnerable people in our community in addition to the routine work of the Parish. Our ambition is to end up with a video library covering all aspects of the Church's work, introducing the people who provide the services and illustrating the reality of our vision of a church that is open most of the time and available to everyone who needs it. The first four videos covering the Organ, the Debt Counselling Service, the Taste Café and the Food Parcels are posted on our website, we hope to add to them at a rate of 2/3 per month for the rest of the year. Jack Pemberton has displayed a remarkable talent in designing and producing the videos and we are most grateful to him and to Steffany Collette who has helped us expand the website and add new material. I hope more and more people will visit it.

Looking ahead our next major challenge is to raise the £40,000 required to carry out the next phase of the Organ Project – repairing and re-furbishing the bellows and the great under action – the bellows are in a particularly fragile state and in danger of collapse, if this were to happen the organ would be seriously compromised so it is extremely important that we get this work which was originally scheduled in 2006 done as soon as possible. We currently have £25,000, including the balance of the grant for materials from Chorley BC's CIL Fund available, and are preparing submissions to three charities with a particular interest in maintaining traditional church organs to help us with the balance. We are planning to launch a public appeal in April and hope that you will all be able to help with that. If all goes according to plan we should be in a position to carry out the work in July/August.

--0--

I would like to thank my fellow officers, Jane Morwood and Brian Clarke, for their contributions and support on the straight and narrow. throughout the year, along with Cllr Alistair Morwood, were instrumental in raising the funds required for the organ roof repairs.

Very sadly we have lost the services of Marion Rawnsley who died in October; despite her illness Marion was a constant source of encouragement and support and a leading contributor to our book St Laurence Chorley, The Story of a Parish Church; she will be sorely missed.

Members of the Committee have been a constant source of ideas and practical suggestions as well as keeping FOSL on the straight and narrow, I thank them for their service. We will need more committee members if we are to expand our activities, volunteers who are prepared to lend a hand would be warmly welcomed.

Last but not least, I wish to thank all our members for their continued support and encouragement, particularly those who have already renewed their subscriptions. FOSL depends on the engagement of the membership and it is down to them that I am able to report on a successful year in which we have delivered our first major project. We need more members if we are to maintain our momentum, so please encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Friends and help deliver more successes for St Laurences Church in the future.

Michael Welsh

January 2023

The Friends of St Laurence Chorley
Statement of Accounts for Financial Year 1st January to 31st December 2022

	Income £	Expenditure £
Income		
Family Subscription (36 members)	1,350.00	
Individual Subscription (23 members)	1,150.00	
Donations (Corporate)	5,000.00	
Donation (Just Giving)	1,442.47	
Donations (Other)	1,863.30	
Book Sales	7.00	
Subscription by Installment (2 members)	66.00	
Credit from Chorley BC for PCC	£500.00	
Loan from PCC	£10,000.00	
VAT Refund	£5,669.72	
Grant Aid - HMRC	£931.60	
National Church Trust Grant	£12,000.00	
Total	39,980.09	
Expenditure		
Steffany Collette (Web Consultant)		200.00
PCC Fee Return		25.00
Insurances		105.00
Church Room Hire		24.00
Architects' Fees		1,908.60
Debit to PCC (Chorley BC)		500.00
Construction Costs - Organ Roof		31,355.28
Printing Costs - Serving Church Booklet		389.00
David Wells Organ Builders (70%)		1,370.04
PCC Myles Standish Boards		51.51
Repay PCC Loan		10,000.00
Total		45,928.43
Opening Balance Brought Forward		£13,414.60
Total Income		39,980.09
Sub total		53,394.69
Expenditure		45,928.43
Current Balance		7,466.26
Expected Sources of Funding		
Chorley Council CIL Fund - Organ Roof (Expected Dec 22)		12,166.00
Chorley Council CIL Fund - Organ Projects (Before end 2023)		7,834.00
Total		20,000.00
Expected Invoice		
Balance of David Wells Cost (30%)		587.16
Expected Balance going forward		26,879.10

The Friends of St Laurence Chorley
Statement of Accounts for Financial Year 1st January to 31st December 2022

Income	Income £	Expenditure £
Family Subscription (36 members)	1,350.00	
Individual Subscription (23 members)	1,150.00	
Donations (Corporate)	5,000.00	
Donation (Just Giving)	1,442.47	
Donations (Other)	1,863.30	
Book Sales	7.00	
Subscription by Installment (2 members)	66.00	
Credit from Chorley BC for PCC	£500.00	
Loan from PCC	£10,000.00	
VAT Refund	£5,669.72	
Grant Aid - HMRC	£931.60	
National Church Trust Grant	£12,000.00	
Total	39,980.09	
Expenditure		
Steffany Collette (Web Consultant)		200.00
PCC Fee Return		25.00
Insurances		105.00
Church Room Hire		24.00
Architects' Fees		1,908.60
Debit to PCC (Chorley BC)		500.00
Construction Costs - Organ Roof		31,355.28
Printing Costs - Serving Church Booklet		389.00
David Wells Organ Builders (70%)		1,370.04
PCC Myles Standish Boards		51.51
Repay PCC Loan		10,000.00
Total		45,928.43
Opening Balance Brought Forward		£13,414.60
Total Income		39,980.09
Sub total		53,394.69
Expenditure		45,928.43
Current Balance		7,466.26
Expected Sources of Funding		
Chorley Council CIL Fund - Organ Roof	(Expected Dec 22)	12,166.00
Chorley Council CIL Fund - Organ Projects	(Before end 2023)	7,834.00
Total		20,000.00
Expected Invoice		
Balance of David Wells Cost (30%)		587.16
Expected Balance going forward		26,879.10

Maurice
 Hon Treasurer

The Friends of St Laurence, Chorley - Charitable Trust.

Registered Charity Number 1186760

Treasurer's Report – Year Ended 31st December 2022



Dear Friends

I have prepared the accounts for discussion at this year's Annual General Meeting. These have been independently reviewed by James Laidler, Treasurer of St Laurence's Parochial Church Council.

Covid has had an effect on the work and finances of FOSL but to a lesser extent than the previous two years. This increase in activity can be seen in the financial statement before you. Unlike previous years, the majority of our income this year has come from a number of sources:

- Membership Subscriptions
- Donations (Direct and via the Just Giving website)
- Corporate Donations
- Gift Aid Recovery (with thanks to Mark Baybutt)
- VAT Recovery
- Grants

The accounts show a loan from the PCC of £10,000 to enable us to make a timely payment to the Building Contractor carrying out the organ roof repairs. This loan has now been repaid. This loan was necessary as the promised grants from both Chorley Council and the NCT were not processed as fast as we hoped. The NCT grant has now been received and the first instalment of the Chorley Council funding is expected early this month.

In terms of expenditure, our major outlay has been for the work associated with the repair of the roof over the organ. This includes paying for Building Contractor, Architect and Organ Protection Contractor. We have also incurred costs associated with developing the website (Steffany Collette), printing costs of the new "Serving Church" booklet and costs in the preparation of the Myles Standish Boards. As a condition of our Chorley Council CIL grant, we will have to increase the cost of insurance as they require us to increase our cover.

So in summary we started out this year with £13,414.60 and have ended up with £7,466.26, having spent nearly £46,000 on the items listed above.

We need your subscriptions and donations as they provide the float for us to spend money on the website, pay insurances and other day to day costs. As Michael has pointed out, we have our next project on the first phase of refurbishing the organ. The budget for this is £40,000 of which we have £27,000 available from present funds and grants promised. We are already planning our applications for further funding from a number of sources and hopeful we can fill the gap. But we still need your help by introducing new members and getting involved where you can.

This has been my first year as your Treasurer and it has been a privilege to act in this capacity. It has been an exciting year as we have managed to carry out our first major project.

Brian Clarke

Hon Treasurer, The Friends of St Laurence, Chorley