

# Parish of St. Luke Farnworth with Cronton Mission Annual Trustees Report of the Parochial Church Council 2024

**COMMUNITY - Eco Nature Day**



**COMMUNITY - Heritage Day**



**CONCERTS - 6<sup>th</sup> form college**



**CONCERTS - Mayor's Carol service**



**CHILDREN - Sunday Club**



**CHILDREN - Jam Club**



**CRONTON - Ecumenical service**



**CRONTON - School Café style**



## **Our Mission Statement**

*"We strive to live by faith, to be known by love and to connect people to Jesus and one another".*

## **Our Vision**

*God's love is to            Learn from each other  
   Outreach to all in our community  
   Vitalise personal growth and discipleship  
   Ensure all feel welcome and encourage belonging*

**Priest in charge Reverend Canon Peter Dawkin**



**Local Ministers** Sue Smither, Clare Liptrott and Lesley Firth

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

**Web site** [St-luke.co.uk](http://St-luke.co.uk) **Charity Number** 1133042 **Parish number** 744

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

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

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## 1. AIM and PURPOSE

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

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

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

## 2. OVERVIEW of 2024

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 a Licensing service was held to mark the beginning of a new ministry with Reverend Canon Peter William Dawkin as Priest in Charge of Farnworth St Luke with Cronton Mission. Reverend Peter as Area Dean had supported our Lay Ministers who had to oversee three congregations - St Luke's church, St Ambrose and Cronton Mission church. Lay Minister Sue Smither was granted permission by Archdeacon Simon to continue to lead services of Holy Communion by Extension after Reverend Peter's appointment as the number of clergy in the Deanery was reduced to 3 - Reverend Peter, Reverend Linda Dawkin and Reverend Greg Sharples. PCC is indebted to Sue for taking on an extra workload at St Luke's church and Lay Ministers Clare and Lesley at Cronton Mission so the pattern of worship could continue. The Churchwardens are thanked for leading services during the interregnum.

After numerous fund-raising events and successful grant applications work started on our major project the installation of toilets and a servery on 27th November and should be completed by Easter 2025. PCC would like to thank everyone who donated to enable this work to be undertaken to enhance the mission and ministry in our Parish. We are indebted to the Justice Department Payback Team who, in addition to maintaining the churchyard to an impeccable standard have cleaned the church whilst work is undertaken and will continue to do so on a weekly basis.

We welcomed members of the congregation who had worshipped at St Basil's and All Saints church and are delighted that they now feel part of the St. Luke's family and take part in services.

A small subgroup has spent an inordinate amount of time and energy on investigating the ownership of what was Bold Mission and is now Building Blocks nursery. Hopefully this matter will be resolved in 2025 and the church will receive the rent from the Nursery.

We were all shocked when Geoff Poole died unexpectedly on March 14<sup>th</sup>. A gentle giant, a true and learned, multi-talented gentleman, it goes without saying that Geoff has been very sorely missed. In September we were very sad to learn of the death of Alma Marshall, our dear friend and a member of PCC. Alma's strong faith underpinned all that she was and did; she was so kind and caring, where she saw a need Alma stepped right in. In November we were shocked to hear of the untimely death of Pat Beesley, an MU and choir member. Pat has left a wonderful legacy, one of love and concern for others, one of sharing and generosity of Spirit. We can only guess at the void she has left in the lives of those whom she loved most.

## **Events and services in 2024**

### **January**

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

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

### **February**

Cross was reinstated outside church. Free concert given by students from Cronton 6<sup>th</sup> Form performing Arts Department who showcased the various talents they will be using for their exams.

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

Cronton School visited St Lukes - Year 5 and reception led this special service.

### **March**

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

Lent Soup and Sandwich lunches.

Sunday Club involved in Mothering Sunday service.

Palm Sunday collection of Easter Treats for Foodbank.

### **April**

Guided tour of Liverpool Cathedral originally planned by Geoff Poole but postponed until after his funeral

Experience Easter for children of Farnworth School with Lay Minister Sue and at Cronton

School with Lay Minister Clare.

Good Friday Jam Club.

### **May**

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

Sunday Club Children planted wildflowers in churchyard for Nature Day.

Cubs from Farnworth Methodist Church met in church to learn the history of our church.

This visit was part of their Local Knowledge Badge.

Collection for Christian Aid made at the end of an update presentation to Mothers' Union.

### **June**

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

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

Summer Concert Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Cronton 6<sup>th</sup> Form College Performing Arts Department.

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

### **July**

Farnworth Reception classes visit church.

Patsy Clifford's skydive raised over £2,000 for the Toilet and Served project.

### **September**

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

Governors and the headteacher at Cronton attended the school leaders Diocesan conference The theme of the conference was 'Disrupting Disadvantage' based on Matthew 19:14, 'Let the children come to me ... do not hinder them.'

### **October**

Harvest Festival with donations to Foodbank. Sunday Club took part in the service.

Children from both Farnworth CE and Lunts Heath CP schools held their service in the following week and donated to Foodbank too.

Reception children from Cronton were welcomed to the Mission, and key stage 2 children led Harvest with donations again going to foodbank.

All Soul's Service a time to gently remember and give thanks for all those who have gone before us, be that recently or some time ago.

### **November**

Advent Soup and Sandwich lunches.

Remembrance Sunday with the beautiful poppy 'waterfall' created by the ladies from the Farnworth Arts and Craft group. Pat Johnson for St Luke's church, Sandra Lacey for Bold and Farnworth and Lunts Heath school children presented wreaths.

Cronton Parish Council along with both schools, all 3 churches including Cronton Mission and many community organisations laid wreaths at Cronton War memorial. A short service followed at Cronton Mission.

Quiz at Cricket Club.

Toy service - donations given to the Trinity Kings Cross Project who distribute them to children in Widnes who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present.

Games Room at Farnworth School Christmas market.

Walk of Light: parents, staff and children processed from schools to church for a service of Thanksgiving for people in our community who support everyone.

Work started on drains for toilets in church.

### **December**

Clock Face Heritage Brass Band Concert had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

Mayor of Halton's Civic Carol concert.

Sixth Form College Performing Arts Department 'Oliver' performance.

Cronton school supported by Clare took part in the lighting of the village Christmas tree and ecumenical carol service.

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

Christmas Eve Christingle services 3pm & 5pm and Christmas Eve HOLY COMMUNION 11pm.

Christmas Day HOLY COMMUNION 10am.

### **Review of Objectives set for 2024**

#### **a) MISSION and MINISTRY**

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

Net Zero check list completed as directed by the Diocese.

#### **b) CHILDREN'S and YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY**

Children and adults confirmed.

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

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

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

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

Fresh expression of church led within the school day at Cronton bringing those from both school and Mission together in CAFÉ WORSHIP.

#### **c) OCCASIONAL / PASTORAL SERVICES**

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

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

#### **d) FESTIVALS**

School children involved in the Remembrance Day service.

#### **e) MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE**

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

Foodbank and Kings Cross Project supported.

Lent and Advent 'Soup and sandwich' lunches held in church.

Use of social media to promote and invite people to services resulting in the return of several people who had not been to Cronton Mission for some time

#### **f) RULE of LIFE**

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

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

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

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

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

**g) PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS**

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

**h) CONSERVATION PROJECT**

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

**3. CHALLENGES for 2025**

When the work on the Toilets and Servedry is completed groups who have previously shown an interest in holding their meetings in church will be approached. In the past the lack of facilities prevented groups using the building. The building stands empty during the week except Wednesday, so it is imperative that the building is used for a range of activities to benefit the community and make our church sustainable. All parishes in the Liverpool Diocese must produce sustainability plan for the next 10 years to show why their church should not be closed and a budget to show how mission and ministry will be supported. At present our Parish is running at a loss as expenses are higher than income so if you would consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) it would be appreciated as we need to ensure the church stands as a beacon in the town for generations to come. **THE PAST IS OUR INHERITANCE THE FUTURE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

If 100 people donated just £10 a month this would add £12,000 a year to our funds, and if it was gift aided that would add a further £2,500. It is possible to sign up for annual increase in line with inflation. join PGS call 0333 002 1260 and quote our unique church code 22062210. One- off donations can also be made this way, and you can gift aid it too.

**Objectives for 2025**

**a) MISSION and MINISTRY**

To produce a sustainability report with short, medium and long term plans to enhance mission and ministry. All churches have been asked to do this.

To produce a budget for the next 3 years to show we can support our mission and ministry. All churches have been asked to do this.

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

To action points in the Net Zero check list.

To utilise the church for a range of activities when toilets and servedry project completed.

To discuss pricing for use of church and ensure people and organisations who use the church have the required safeguarding policies.

**b) CHILDREN'S and YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY**

To encourage children and adults to consider confirmation.

To re-introduce Communion before Confirmation for Sunday Club.

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

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

To continue to use the Farnworth School Newsletters and their Social media outlets to promote church services and events.

To work closely with RE lead to support the planning and delivery of Collective Worship within Farnworth CE School and to meet regularly with the Vision Ambassadors to develop their roles and responsibilities within school.

To continue monthly café worship in school as an extension of worship at Cronton Mission.

To continue to use school newsletter, social media including school/church Facebook/X sites, and WhatsApp group to communicate services encouraging family engagement at Cronton Mission.

To develop growing links with local County Primary schools.

To actively promote and encourage the growth of Sunday Club through school newsletters, at JAM and on social media.

To continue to nurture and encourage the Sunday Club children who attend now.

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

To be involved in the School Summer Festival.

### **c) OCCASIONAL / PASTORAL SERVICES**

To hold a Blue service in the period before Christmas.

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

### **d) FESTIVALS**

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

To hold Experience Easter in church or school.

### **e) MAKE A BIGGER DIFFERENCE**

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

To continue to support Foodbank and Kings Cross Project.

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

### **f) RULE of LIFE**

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

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

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

To have a 'Good Box' permanently at Cronton Mission for online giving.

To hold a service of thanksgiving for volunteers (every 2 years).

### **g) PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS**

To investigate ideas to take the church to the people.

### **h) CONSERVATION PROJECT**

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

To take part in the national Heritage Celebration which is a festival of history and culture, to learn about the history and traditions that have shaped our heritage and church and to encourage an awareness of preserving and conserving our church.

## **4. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT**

### **STRUCTURE**

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. There are no other related trusts. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Church members registered on the Electoral Roll are eligible to stand for election to the PCC.



Legally, the PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the parish and the church, and the maintenance of the building, the Bridewell and the churchyard, and for promoting the mission of the church.

The PCC operates two subcommittees: The Standing Committee and Friends of St Luke Farnworth. PCC members are CRB checked and receive Health & Safety and Safeguarding training.

## **GOVERNANCE**

PCC members are committed to making good use of the funds and resources with a focus on achieving the desired outcomes whilst ensuring the charity follows the law, produces policies and, where issues arise, these are dealt with efficiently and quickly. Potential risks are considered, progress is monitored and actions taken when necessary.

### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER & LEAD RECRUITER Margaret Campbell 07376112836**

Safeguarding Officer for Cronton and Deputy Recruiter for Cronton is Debbie Doyle.

Deputy Recruiter for St Luke's church is Lynn Keeling. Safeguarding is of vital importance, to St Luke's and Cronton Mission. We need to be welcoming but also a safe place. Therefore, we follow the Diocese of Liverpool Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance 2016. This refers to the whole recruitment process for volunteers and paid workers.

## **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

All the congregation's information is stored in a safe place, privacy is respected, and personal information is not shared with other organisations.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Health and Safety Officer and the Churchwardens are totally committed to all aspects of Health & Safety in church and in the churchyard. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Health and Safety Officer George Telfer 07792412415.

## **MANAGEMENT**

**PROCEDURES** - The PCC operates under a mature system of controls and procedures developed over many years of operation. Finance and operational issues are routinely monitored as part of regular PCC meetings. When planning activities for the year, the PCC considers the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits, particularly the specific guidance to charities concerned with advancement of religion.

**BUDGET** - An annual budget is prepared to monitor short-term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC quarterly. The investments are reviewed. All assets are insured.

**RESERVES POLICY** - No charity can operate for any length of time without reserves. The available reserves are low, so a major effort will be needed to re-build reserves to a working level, and to re-build a contingency for future maintenance costs.

**CONTINGENCY PLANS** - The Scout and Guide building can be used for services in the event of the Church becoming unusable for a limited period.

**ELECTORAL ROLL** - 151 on the 2024 roll. (New roll in 2025)

## **5. CHURCH GROUPS**

### **Bell Ringers**

If you would like to ring the church bells practice is Tuesdays 6.30pm. Training given. Nigel, Tower Captain 07860632096

### **Choir**

If you would like to join the choir which leads us in song on Sunday mornings and at festivals practice is Thursdays 6pm, Paul, Director of Music 07778042553

### **Church Cleaning**

10.30 to 12noon once a month on the last Wednesday and as required for special services. All equipment and materials provided. Just call in, 'many hands make light work'.

### **Cronton School Café style worship**

Every last Friday of the month in term time in school at 2.30pm. Clare 07976549410.

### **Flower Arranging team**

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

### **Friends of St Luke's Church**

organise fund raising events ranging from quizzes to concerts. Ideas for fund raising always welcome. If you would like to join our WhatsApp group contact Sandra 0776672030

### **Mothers' Union**

meet second Wednesday each month 7.30pm for prayer and fellowship with a variety of speakers. Colleen 01514244351.

### **Jam Club**

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

### **Open Door Wednesday**

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

### **Games Galore Wednesday**

1pm to 3pm join us for 2 hours of fun playing Scrabble, Dominoes and many more. Coffee and cake too. Pat 07717522878.

### **Open Door Saturday**

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

### **Parish Review**

Hard copies are delivered to 170 people and copies are available in church. The magazine is available to view on the church website and 50 people receive it by email to cut printing costs. If you would like to input to the magazine, or have a magazine delivered to you or would like an advert in the magazine please contact [farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:farnworthreview@yahoo.co.uk) Philip 07710030973.

### **Sunday Club**

In the Bridewell 10.30am on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays during term time for stories of our faith told in a lively way with craft activities. The children go into church at 11.15am to share what they have done with the congregation. Lynn 07741494261.

### **Uniformed Organisations**

Clare Liptrott 07976549410.

## **6.FINANCE**

### **a)FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The funds of the church are, in the main, made up of three sections:

1. Endowment Fund - Generally, only the interest is available for the PCC's use, not the capital. There have been NO withdrawals from Investments.
2. Restricted and Designated funds - This is for monies for specific purposes, i.e., Major Repairs, Bridewell etc.
3. General Fund - This covers the income and expenditure of the day to day running costs of the church. It is this section which yet again has seen a noticeable drop in income having lost quite a few of our regular givers who have sadly died. At the start of 2024 we still owed £56,000 to the Diocese for the Parish Share for 2023. We have managed to pay £22,000 towards this creditor, leaving £34,000 still outstanding plus the current year's figure of £72,000. A total of £106,000 is outstanding to the Diocese at end of December 2024. *We are presently in discussions with the Diocese about the outstanding Parish Share which we hope will be offset by outstanding rents from Bold Mission.*

People have been very generous in giving to the toilet fund for these much needed facilities. Hopefully the general fund will benefit from extra income once these are built.

The Income from Regular givers this year has continued to drop, although people using the Parish Giving Scheme has increased slightly, mainly with regular givers changing from giving by envelopes and standing orders rather than from new regular givers.

Balances @ 31/12/2023 - Endowment Funds £170,760, up on previous year by £3,893 due to increase in stock market, Restricted funds, including Friends account, £168,446 which is mainly for the church toilets project. Designated funds £2,309. General Funds has under £10,000 at the year end.

### **Charitable Giving**

Children's Society - £500 from Christingles

Christian Aid - people were encouraged to donate direct to Christian Aid.

Foodbank - As well as food donations on a regular basis and at special services such as Harvest. Farnworth School and Cronton School continue to support Foodbank. Donations for 2024 totalled 810.3kg which provided 1929 meals.

Toy Service - the response from the congregation, the schools and the community donating toys, gifts and toiletries for the Trinity Kings Cross Appeal was overwhelming.

Farnworth CE School BagtoSchool weigh in - the PTA was delighted to receive our donations to this initiative to raise funds for a library pod and promote the reuse of clothes & shoes to help build a more sustainable future.

Mothers' Union support Women's Refuge and Brennan Lodge.

### **b) ACCOUNTS**

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

This report for 2024 was approved at a meeting of PCC members on 28th April 2025.

If you spot any mistakes, please contact PCC Secretary 07761672030

[sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sandralacey47@yahoo.co.uk) so amendments can be made before the report goes to the Diocese and the Charity Commission. Thank you.