

St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge

RESOURCING
THE VISION

FOLLOWING JESUS IN LOVING COMMUNITY

Resourcing the vision

Dear friends,

With the launch of our new Vision, 'Following Jesus in Loving Community', 2019 promises to be a very exciting year in the life of St Lawrence with St Paul.

The Vision builds on all we achieved during our 2018 'Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future' 150th Parish Anniversary celebrations and seeks to sow the seeds for fruitful and ambitious growth in the future.

Following Jesus in Loving Community is about growing as disciples of Jesus and strengthening our relationships inside and outside of church.

It's about making all people feel welcome by recognising that there are those who prefer traditional Anglican styles of worship while doing more to reach out to attract people unfamiliar with church or the good news of Jesus. It's about using our two church buildings wisely.

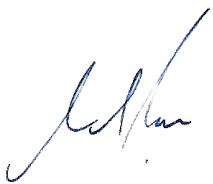
Following Jesus in Loving Community is about obeying the Greatest Commandment, to love God and to love our neighbour.

In the first quarter of 2019 our new vision is going to be elaborated upon and explained and key to its success will be the way all of us respond.

This short booklet therefore explains how we can all help to resource the new vision with our time, talents and money; so that everyone feels their gifts are being used and we achieve our short-term aim of making ourselves financially stable for the future.

My hope and prayer as you read through this booklet is that you will be both inspired and challenged by it: inspired by what the new Vision means for our growth as followers of Jesus and challenged to consider prayerfully and practically how we can serve those around us with our time, our energy, and our money.

Yours in Christ,



Rev Mike Barton



How did we do in 2018?

We thank God for your generosity and faithfulness in 2018.

On top of holding 18 different events to celebrate our 150th Parish Anniversary we did a good deal of fundraising for the St Paul's roof. Here is a summary of our income and expenditure for 2018.

In 2018 we received **£168k** in overall income. Of this **£140k** was for general purposes, with **£28k** raised towards the St Pauls' Roof Fund.



When we consider our general income and expenditure, we had a shortfall in income of **£25K**, thereby further reducing the amount of our reserves. We cannot continue in this way and remain financially viable. In fact, if we don't make a change, we are projected to run a deficit of **£15k** in 2019.

Therefore, as we move forward, the PCC is aiming to return to a position of a balanced budget, where the income received meets the expenditure required in 2019.



Where does the money go?

Parish Share | 47% | £77,512

Each parish pays a share of the total Blackburn Diocesan budget. From this the Diocese then provides a range of central support services to Parishes. It also uses some of this to support the wider church e.g. ordination training, and cover Rev Mike's remuneration and support disadvantaged parishes.

Clergy & Staffing Costs | 15% | £24,257

Rev Mike's remuneration is paid by the Diocese, but associated costs, including housing, are included here. This also includes amounts paid to the Music Director and Parish Administrator, along with monies paid for the cleaning of St Lawrence and St Paul's churches, and those paid to the grounds-keeper for both churches and the churchyard. Where retired clergy officiate at weddings and funerals on Rev Mikes' behalf, their fees are also incorporated here.

Church Running Expenses | 33% | £54,960

Items here include all other costs relating to both Churches, and the churchyard. Over 62% of the church running expenses are spent between maintenance costs at £18,268, energy at £8,528, and insurance at £7,157.

Another area of expenditure, £6,124, that falls within this section is printing. This is the cost of all in house printing, such as pew sheets and The Log (it should be noted that most of this is recouped through sales and advertising for The Log and the income from printing done for other churches). The costs of services, such as candles, bread, wine etc. are also all included here.

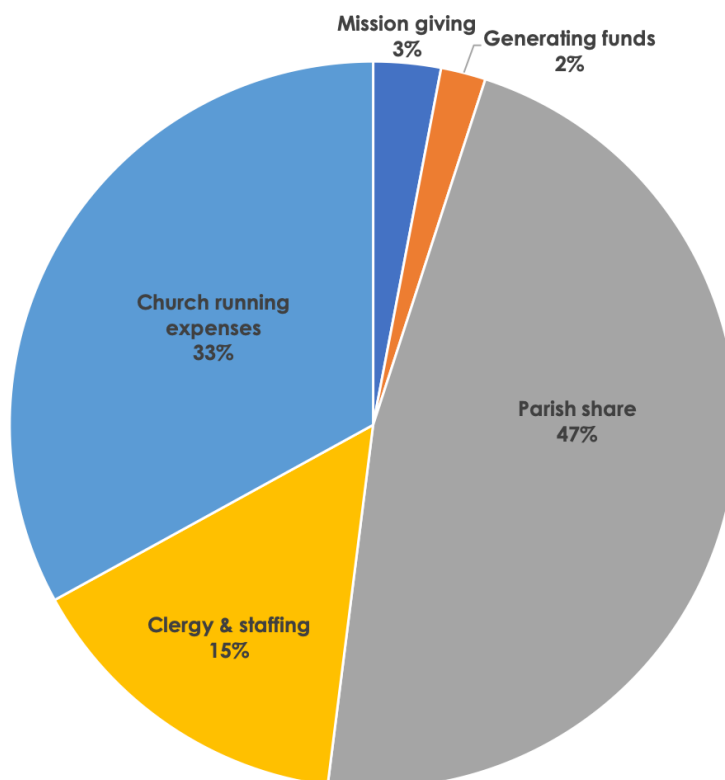
Like all our church expenditure our running costs are managed prudently, and we are aware some people gift supplies to the church without claiming money back on expenses. For this kindness we are very grateful.

Mission Giving and donations | 3% | £5,242

This includes collections held through church such as Barnados, along with an annual donation to Longridge Church of England Primary School.

Costs of generating funds | 2% | £3,450

This is where we record the amounts paid out towards fund raising events, such as the Spring and Christmas Tree Fairs, as well as fundraising for the 150 celebrations and the roof repair fund.



How is this funded?

Together we share in the responsibility for keeping the churches running. Just over **50%** of our income comes from voluntary gifts from our church family. **17%** comes from parish fees, such as funeral fees and with fund raising events such as the Spring Fair raising **7%** and with **5%** coming from The Log and hiring out the Centenary room with the balance coming from income from investments and reclaimed gift aid.

As you can see, it is therefore vitally important we all play our part in giving in accordance with our individual circumstances.

Why should I pledge?

This year on 3rd March we will be holding special Pledge Sunday services. Pledging, or agreeing to give regularly, helps us to steward our finances prudently, it allows us to plan for the future and enable us to be confident in the achievement of our aim of a balanced budget.

How do I give?

It is really easy!

The simplest way is via Standing Order and you will find a Standing Order mandate on the pledge form with this booklet.

Alternatively, you can set up a Standing Order online using internet banking. Our account details are:

Lloyds Bank Plc

account name: St Lawrence with St Paul, Longridge PCC

sort code: 30-96-85

account number: 57145960

If your income is variable and so you would prefer not to set up a standing order, you could still take advantage of our regular giving envelopes. Please contact Graham Kelsall for details.

We are a registered charity and, so, provided you are a UK taxpayer we can recover tax on your donation.

This increases your gifts by **25%** at no cost to yourself. For instance, if you give **£20** a month it means **£25** in real terms.

A Gift Aid declaration form is also within the pledge form. Please complete this and return it to Graham, the Treasurer.



“ Some of the improvements made in 2018 include the new sound system at St Lawrences and the new cooker at St Pauls. ”



Why should I give?

The Bible says, 'where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' (Matthew 6.21). Learning to give is therefore an essential part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, not just with your head, but also with your heart.

The practice of giving your first fruits as a tithe to God is a long-established biblical pattern and through it God teaches his people to trust Him for our provision rather than rely on ourselves. This means giving can feel a scary prospect because it involves letting go of an element of control – but that's what makes it exciting too.

By learning to give sacrificially we join in with the pattern of Jesus who gave his life for ours. In this light our giving is also a way of saying thank you for all God has done. We are generous because of the generosity we have already received.

For some of us the idea of giving to the ministry of the church will be a well-established principal and through your investment you'll know the joy that comes from seeing your money used to build the Kingdom of God.

For others, reading this booklet might have opened your eyes to a new challenge you've not considered before. I hope by starting out on a journey of giving you'll find it a hugely rewarding process.

What might the next step on your journey of giving look like for you?

The bible offers us this encouragement, 'Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.' Malachi 3.10.

Why should I give to St Lawrence with St Paul?

Simply put, your giving enables our ministry here in Longridge and in the wider Church. As we launch our new Vision, Following Jesus in Loving Community we want to be able to keep doing the same things we already do; like, holding 4 services every week, supporting Berry Lane School, parish visiting, baptisms, weddings and funerals, being a community meeting place through activities like Brew Time and hosting the local Foodbank.

But we'd also like to be ambitious for growth. In the future it would be good to increase our Children's and Youth Ministry provision, to develop discipleship groups and find ways to reach out to the 20s-50s age bracket. It would be encouraging to support Mission Partners, locally, nationally and overseas and continue to ensure both our church buildings are fit for purpose. These are some of the things we could aspire in prayer to do but in the short, medium and long term we're going to need your help. Would you prayerfully consider your response?

What if I can't increase my giving?

Our giving only makes sense in the light of what God has given us in Jesus Christ. Our giving is to be both generous and sacrificial.

We understand that for some people, it may not be possible to increase giving for whatever reason.

There are of course other ways to give, and you may wish to consider what **talents** or **time** you could donate to the work of the Parish. Some ideas of how you can serve in this way are shown on the next page.

Following Jesus in Loving Community with our Time and Talents

St Lawrence with St Paul is a church blessed with people who serve in many different ways, but it is becoming more apparent that when people step down from certain areas of ministry we are having to work harder to replace them.



Jesus' prophetic announcement, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few', (Matthew 9.37) continues to be true and we will continue to ask the Lord to send out more workers into His harvest field; but just as the first disciples became the answer to their own prayers, we would like you to prayerfully consider if there are ways you might be able to serve St Lawrence with St Paul's in accordance with your time and talents. In some instances we could find we might reduce our reliance on buying in skills if we possess them within our church family.

Below is a list of some of the areas where we would appreciate some help:

- Welcome team
- Coffee rotas
- Sidesperson
- Bible reading
- Prayers
- Holy Communion, Servers
- Youth group
- PCC
- Fund raising expertise
- Maintenance work, carpentry, plumbing repairs, etc.
- Visiting of parishioners
- Choir
- Supervising audio equipment during services
- Cleaning
- Flower arranging

In the run up to Pledge Sunday on 3rd of March we will be having a mini-teaching series on the things we can offer to God and we hope this will inspire you to support the growth of God's Kingdom in Longridge with your time and talents.

Are there ways we can save on the money we spend today?

All decisions that involve spending are discussed, reviewed and approved by the PCC. With this mandate the PCC has reviewed in detail last year's expenditure and this year's budget to ensure that money is being spent wisely.

Following these reviews, the PCC has judged that it would be difficult to cut expenses without causing a detrimental impact on the upkeep of the churches and churchyard, or on our ministry in Longridge.

What will happen if we do not meet our budgeted income? What will be the impact?

The PCC will continue to review income and expenditure levels. We produce monthly accounts, which will allow us to consider any concerns, and help us to take appropriate actions. If our income does not meet our budget then we will need to assess the options later in the year.

Who can I talk to about giving toward the work of the church?

Graham Kelsall, treasurer (graham@oaktreehouse.net), will be able to help you with most enquiries, or you can talk to Rev Mike.

Will the PCC be asking for another increase in 2020?

At the end of 2019 we will review our income and expenditure in the same way as we have done this year and will prepare a similar leaflet to this one explaining the position at that time.

We are all part of God's mission in many ways, and one important way is through our giving.

In this first year of our Vision, Following Jesus in Loving Community, we are looking to spend **£169k**, of which **£77k** will need to come from us. This is an increase of **10%** or **£7k** over what we gave in 2018, and so here is how we can make it happen:

10 new families and individuals giving regularly





Average increase in regular giving of **5%**



Lots of prayer

When we are thinking about our own giving, there are three important tips:

1. Think first about how generous God has been to us in Jesus Christ. It all starts with His grace to us.
2. Reflect on Jesus' example of generous and sacrificial grace as a pattern for our giving
3. Use the biblical guide of a tithe (10%) as a benchmark for our own giving.

Will you make a bold step to increase your giving in the light of the grace offered to us in Jesus Christ?

“The PCC wishes to thank Chris Baron, for helping to design this booklet, and Ian Barton, of IanBartonPrint, for kindly producing this booklet at no cost to the church.”