

## ANNUAL REPORTS 2020 Published as part of The Log (November 2020)

### Treasurers Report (Graham Kelsall)

The key figures from the 2019 Annual Accounts are, income £193,221, expenditure £247,662, deficit £54,441, total cash at year end £135,944 and value of our investments at the year-end £287,762. We then proceeded to look at each of the figures in turn.

**Income:** Income overall for 2019 was £14,784 lower than in 2018. One of the key things to note is that our total income from planned giving and collections at services increased from £55,210 in 2018 to £63,788 in 2019. There was an increase in planned giving, and a reduction in collections at services, however overall this was an increase of 15%. Thanks, were expressed to all Parishioners who had responded so positively to the Time, Talents and Treasures program in 2019.

Another thing to note was that the Gift Aid we had been able to reclaim in 2019 was significantly lower than in 2018. This was in fact due to the 2018 figure being higher than normal as additional Gift Aid claims had been made in 2018 to bring them all up to date.

Income from Spring & Christmas fairs, Printing, Book stall, Dividends, Interest, Newsham Legacy, The Log and renting out the Parish & Eckton rooms was all up.

Income from legacies was down, as was income from fees for weddings and funerals, which reflected the reduced number of funerals undertaken in the year.

**Moving on to our expenditure:** At £247,662, this was £82,240 higher than in 2018. Our expenditure on Parish Share was up £3,875 from the previous year, and reflected the increase requested by the Diocese. I confirm in 2019 we paid our Parish Share in full. Clergy and staffing costs were also slightly higher reflecting an increased use of retired clergy for funerals.

The key increase was in Repairs and Maintenance where we spent £97,642 in total, an increase of £79,374 over the 2018 level. This was obviously due to expenditure in the year on the repairs to the roof at St Paul's (although some invoices will only be settled in 2020) and on the repairs to the East Window at St Lawrence, where the invoices fell due in 2019.

Whilst there were some other slight differences the bulk of the additional £82,240 spent in 2019 was spent on Repairs and Maintenance and Parish Share.

One final point to note regarding expenditure is regarding printing costs of £7,711 (£6,124 in 2018), this should be seen in the context of income from printing (£3,589) and income from The Log (4,896). Overall 'printing' generates income for the Parish.

Having looked at income and expenditure we confirmed that the net position for the year is a deficit of £54,441.

We then looked at the income and expenditure position if we stripped out all the funds in and out for both the roof and the east window – as these were planned, large capital expenditures – this would equate to income of £154,307, and expenditure of £152,572, which is a small surplus, but basically means that we balanced the budget, something we had said we would try to do.

We looked briefly at the transfers between funds that are recorded in the accounts, where we had transferred £2,909 out of Unrestricted designated funds into general funds, and similarly where we had transferred £9,350 from general funds into restricted funds. We also mentioned the £7,000 transferred from the Haighton legacy (cash) to pay for part of the works to the East Window at St Lawrence.

We then looked at the cash (£135,944) and looked at the four bank accounts we hold in addition to the cash held with the Diocese, and how some of the cash at the diocese was restricted (being the Haighton legacy cash). Mention was made in the article in the September Log regarding the PCC's plans to use the Haighton legacy cash (which is restricted to use at St Lawrence) to fund some of the repairs required following receipt of the St Lawrence quinquennial report.

Finally, we looked at our investments where the value had increased from £214,339 to £254,519, and the value of our 'other shares' that have increased from £26,100 to £33,243. We considered that the 'other shares' are the United Utilities shares we hold as part of the Haighton legacy – these cannot be sold, however the dividend income goes into the Haighton legacy 'cash' account, which can then be spent on the purpose of the legacy (the upkeep of St Lawrence church and the church yard). Our other investments are held with the Central Investment Fund, and the value of these can go up or down, in 2019 we saw an increase, but obviously that could change over 2020.

There were no questions asked, so the presentation closed.

## **Fabric Report (Chris Page)**

*As I leave the position of Churchwarden for the second time I'd like to say a big thank you to those who have supported me, especially deputy wardens Dorothy Laver and Mae Heys.*

*I'd also like to say a big thank you to all sidespeople who have assisted in setting up for Sunday worship and also in welcoming members of the congregation.*

*I would also like to thank all those who have worked so hard to bring Church functionality back to some form of normality since early July. Not an easy operation with all the rules and changes. It was also great to see so many of our congregations returning to worship.*

*I'll be handing over to Ali Ng and Dot Little, which is great news as we are back to two wardens; Ali's youth and Dot's experience.*

Maintaining the fabric of our buildings is not all about replacing or upgrading, it is also about looking after what we've got. To that end I would like to extend a sincere thanks to those in our congregation who regularly help out to keep our buildings clean and tidy, including, mopping, hoovering, polishing and all the other mundane tasks.

Routine checks and servicing to the electrics, gas boilers and fire extinguishers are up to date at both churches, as well as the roof alarm and lightning conductor at St Paul's and the clock at St Lawrence's.

We have also carried out some repairs to the toilet facilities at both Churches

### **St Paul's Aisle Roofs**

We managed to get started on replacing the lead on the Aisle Roofs and associated works, although at the beginning we had only raised enough money to do the North Side. As soon as we had started, we had confirmation of a grant from Lancashire Environmental Fund and then an anonymous donor agreed to donate the shortfall and thus we could progress with both sides. Many thanks to Ali Ng for all her hard work progressing the Grant from Lancashire Environmental and a Huge Thank You to the anonymous donor. Also, many thanks to Rosemary Lyons for her professional management of the contract on behalf of the Parish.

Work started in August 2019 with Heritage Conservation as the main contractor and was completed in February 2020. Some contingency money was available after completion and this was used to replace lead flashing above the organ, replace some rainwater goods on the chancel roof and provide some sheets to prevent ingress of birds into the tower and this was completed in August 2020.

### **St Lawrence's**

The Quinquennial Report was completed by Jubb-Clews in May & June.

The report did not have any new problems identified, but did show existing problems were getting worse, in particular the Tower Roof.

As we opened St Lawrence for Private Prayer In early July, we thought about advertising "Free Showers" as the Tower Roof was leaking badly and required a large number of buckets to prevent serious flooding.

Jubb-Clews returned and identified the main problem as a blocked rainwater outlet and managed to unblock it for us.

Following a PCC meeting Jubb-Clews were asked to start producing a contract to replace the Tower Roof with additional items to include all other works identified in the Quinquennial Report, and if monies were available to complete as much if not all the other work.

Things are progressing well and prospective contractors have visited and are now completing the contract documents. It is hoped that work on the Tower can commence in early November and be completed early in 2021 with other work following on from this.

## **Safeguarding Officers Report (Janet Redding Parish Safeguarding Lead)**

I took over the role of Safeguarding Officer in June 2019, which now seems an era ago. Once in post I visited as many organisations as I could ensuring all necessary safeguards were in place. I quickly realised as a church we were very well organised, meeting all requirements for safeguarding for under 18s. I did however advise Rev Mike and the PCC that there were still areas with regard to vulnerable adults within our church community that needed to be tightened up slightly. Mainly around home visits.

Obviously during lockdown, due to church closure etc there has been no active work which has been safeguarding lead. I have however, continued to maintain contact with Rev Mike ensuring that as a church we continue to keep safeguarding on the agenda, even more so when we begin to reopen church and activities start to run again. Once groups are more established I do plan to visit to ensure safeguarding regulations are followed.

There have been no safeguarding incidents in this period.

I have discussed with Rev Mike stepping down as Safeguard Lead, however a replacement has not yet been found.

## Deanery Synod (Gwyneth N Jones, Muriel Anderson, Karen Boardman)

The **Deanery Synod** is part of the way the Church of England gives people at different levels a chance to discuss key issues and to organise the Church's ministry and mission. The Synod sits between the parishes, with their Parochial Church Councils (PCCs), and the Diocese, with its Diocesan Synod.

Deanery Synod consists of all the licensed clergy in the Deanery plus lay people elected by each parish at their Annual Parish Church Meeting. Deanery Synod lay members are ex officio members of the PCC.

Preston Deanery Synod usually meets three times a year. Currently there are 24 clergy members (including our vicar) and 38 lay members. Three lay people to represent Longridge parish should be elected at this APCM, for the period 2020-2023.

In 2019-2020 Preston Deanery Synod planned to meet three times. As far as possible the meetings were attended by Gwyneth N Jones, Muriel Anderson and Karen Boardman.

At the meeting on 19 June 2019, we were introduced to the Parish of the Risen Lord, Ribbleton. Then the chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance spoke. He reminded us that finance is a means to an end, that is, mission. So the Parish Share, the money that we pay to the diocese each year, funds amongst other things the on-going ministry and mission of the Parish of the Risen Lord.

At the Synod meeting on 7 October 2019, we heard from Revd Sam Haigh, vicar of Preston, i.e. the Minster and St George's, about their vision of being a resourcing parish especially for churches in Preston. The aim is to reach out to people who don't presently go to church, to plant new churches. See <https://www.prestonminster.org>.

Due to COVID-19 the third Deanery Synod meeting was cancelled. But on 3 September 2020 an informal Deanery Synod meeting was held by Zoom with the aim of sharing news about progress under the COVID lockdown and restrictions.

Reports from the Deanery Synod meetings were given to the PCC and included in the July-August, November 2019 and November 2020 Logs.

## Choirs (Rebekah Entwistle)

### Junior Choir

The Junior Choir was well attended (15-20 children) and singing well. They enjoyed singing during the Advent Carol Service 2019 with the senior choir, when their volume and excitement was infectious. We had been working on the Voice for Life beginner level (Light blue). Thank you to the parent's helper rota which had been working very well. Due to COVID we have not yet been able to restart junior choir and know they and the church are missing singing and listening. We hope in the new year, God willing that with guidance it may be possible to begin to restart and build this group up again.

### Senior Choir

Senior Choir had begun to see some growth with new members that culminated in 27 singing at Christmas 2019, This was super but more so is the effort and hard work week in and out that the choir members put in. I am very grateful as are the congregation, thank you, your time is very much appreciated. In 2019 we were able to do six Choral evensongs and really enjoyed learning the settings and then presenting them, we hope to be able to continue with this pattern in the future.

Musical Interludes, throughout the year of 2019 we were joined by some fantastic soloists, harp, cello, vocal, trumpet and really enjoyed working with and listening to these performances and it is felt they added something extra to the Easter and Christmas services.

### Worship Group

This group has steadily grown and we have a nice mixture of members from different parts of the church, it has been well supported by the All Age Worship Congregation. We have also purchased some new Mission Praise books for this group.

### COVID impact

Covid had stopped all music in church for the vast majority of the year, We are now looking forward to begin building again, cautiously and in line with guidance. The **Worship Group** has met a few times and then guidance changed so we are looking to possibly be able to begin to be active again for Christmas.

**The Senior Choir** - half of members have returned and are doing a fantastic job raising everyone's spirits in worship, if you would like to sing, please come and join us at this time, the church music now more than ever is so important to encourage people in their faith and mental health. **The Junior Choir** we hope to begin gently in the New Year. Due to the unknown nature of the COVID pandemic we keep praying and seeking a safe way forward for all our groups to begin once again. Please encourage those who are able to sing for you at this time if you see them, it means so much to have positive feedback.

## **Children's Church (Carolyn Barton)**

During 2020, Children's Church continued to welcome children to two groups on Sunday mornings – 'Climbers' for children up to and including Year 1 and 'Explorers' for children from Years 2 to 6. The team used Scripture Union's Light Live material to shape each week's activities and we covered topics including Noah, stories of Jesus as well as a special series over the summer when we learnt about the Fruits of the Spirit. A usual Sunday in Climbers was characterised by lots of jumping, playing and messy craft (!) whilst the older Explorers group enjoyed a more games and discussion-based morning.

The Children's Church team is now 12-strong and we are grateful to Mungo Gilchrist, Amy Siddle and Sara Aspin all of whom have joined the team over the last year. The expansion of the team meant that each week we were able to resource more and more activities for the children and we were just beginning to think about how we might expand further when the COVID-19 lock down hit!

From week 1 of lockdown, Children's Church switched to being online and started to meet over Zoom. This was a real novelty for all! It was a great opportunity for parents to also participate in Children's Church and each week we enjoyed being with each other (albeit virtually), catching up, watching bible cartoons, learning more about Jesus and growing in faith. During this period, we were grateful for the use of the Diocese of Blackburn's 'Weekly @' material which we used to help prepare each week's session.

By the end of the summer, the novelty of Zoom had worn off and both children and leaders were pleased when worship was permitted in churches once again. The Children's Church team has since been integral to the planning and launch of the new Children's and Families service which started in September 2020. One of the most wonderful things about this new service is that families with their children are actively involved in leading the service each week. It is a joy to see our children growing in confidence as they lead prayers and take part with their families in puppet shows, drama, illustrations or other aspects of leading the service.

Our prayer continues to be that whether in person or online, our church would be a welcoming and fun place for the younger members of our parish to grow in their faith, that they would be excited about following Jesus and enjoy being part of a loving community.

## **Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade (Janet Redding, Officer in Charge)**

Prior to Covid 19 we continued to meet weekly, numbers were good and attendance was excellent. We had many plans going forward including Battalion Camp and a National Camp in 2021 to celebrate 130 years of the organisation.

When Covid 19 was first in the headlines, I took the decision to close immediately, this was a hard decision to make and was made prior to lockdown. As a company we emptied our store cupboard and sent out craft kits to our members, which were well received.

We have maintained contact with the older sections, Laura doing a fantastic job meeting on Zoom but a decision was made at that point not to engage with the younger sections as we were aware of the stresses and strains on families home schooling etc. was causing.

Towards the end of July details began to circulate regarding the reopening of companies, however, following risks assessments and close liaison with school it was decided that it was not safe to reopen at this time face to face. Therefore, we have for now moved to Zoom.

We meet fortnightly having provided full packs for the Martins and Y Team, including everything they need to participate and it appears to be working well. Our numbers returning on Zoom are good and encouraging going forward.

Financially we still have to pay our Capitation fees to NHQ of £21 per child, when we have charged £15 per child. Fortunately, due to prudent planning (which really means the treasurer and finance team saying no Janet), we remain financially viable and have reserves we can use to subsidise capitation fees and buy craft supplies etc. Sadly we have had to cancel our main fund raiser this year.

I am, as always, grateful for the support, commitment and determination of my fellow leaders and volunteers without whom Brigade would not be possible.

## **Walkie Talkies, Mother and Baby Group (Hannah Green)**

Following the Christmas break we welcomed old friends and a few new mums and babies. All was going well until the dreaded Covid arrived and everyone went into lockdown. Everything was packed away as we hoped for an early restart, but this did not happen.

The way ahead is now looking very bleak as we cannot see an end to Covid at the moment and the restrictions imposed on groups like Walkie Talkies to meet safely.

So to conclude, it seems very unlikely that we could reopen before Christmas, but we live in hope.

## **Grace Notes (Muriel Anderson)**

Because of COVID 19 restrictions Grace Notes, our outreach choir, has been unable to meet together since 11<sup>th</sup> March this year, when we sang at Burey Court. As restrictions continue we are not sure when we can meet again; it definitely won't be this year.

As a means of sharing God's love, restoring musical memories and (hopefully) bringing some happiness to our listeners, we feel this is an important ministry, particularly to residents in care homes – although we have occasionally sung in other places too.

Since we were formed, under the expert musical direction of Gerald Mack, we have sadly lost three members through the deaths of Brenda Warburton, Sheila Wall and Dorothy Lewis. They are very much missed. However, we have also gained new members, two of them complete with infants.

Singing lifts the spirits. I personally miss Grace Notes a great deal at the moment, as I'm sure others do too. I look forward to the time when we can meet again.

## **Brew Time (Kath and Jacqui)**

It was with a heavy heart that we made the decision to temporarily close the doors to Brewtime. Like a lot of other organisations, we never anticipated that we would still be closed now. Prior to the closure in March, Brewtime continued to thrive with all the generous donations being paid into the church funds. We remain hopeful we will be able to reopen our doors again soon. In the meantime we hope everyone stays safe and well.

## **Tuesday Club (Fred Little, Chairman)**

In 2019 we ended the Autumn/Winter programme with our Annual Buffet Supper and Concert evening and welcomed musician Norman McLaren to our May meeting. At that meeting members were also asked to consider possibly moving the Tuesday Club to the afternoon from September 2019 but a ballot showed a preference for continuing with evening meetings.

September 2019 saw us looking forward to another interesting programme and we did manage seven meetings with an average attendance of 24 out of a membership of 31. All was going well until April 2020 when members were informed that both the Concert and Buffet evening and the May meeting were to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Normally over the Summer our Secretary Adrienne would have been working on the new 2020/21 Autumn/Winter programme but with such uncertainty around when groups like ours will again be allowed to meet, this hasn't happened.

We can assure members that as soon as it is safe and Covid restrictions allow, speakers will be booked and meetings will resume. The current situation has served to highlight the importance of groups like the Tuesday Club which enable people to come together to enjoy presentations of interest and share a time of fellowship together. The Committee remains unchanged with Audrey Laker Treasurer, and Adrienne Atkinson Secretary.

## **Craft Group (Helen Bailey)**

Back in April 2019 the Craft Group was expecting to meet once a month to enjoy companionship, plus a brew whilst working on projects in hand or tackling new projects as needed for the church, or charity donations, or our stall at the Christmas or Spring Fairs. The group project for the Christmas Fair was an Advent Calendar, along with other You Choose raffle items. January 2020 saw us working on items for the Cross Festival. Then came Lockdown and all meetings ceased. Individuals have carried on their crafting at home, but the monthly meetings are still on hold. We would love to say Craft Group meets in the Centenary Room, usually on the last Monday of the month, at 1.30 to 3.30. However that pleasure is still in the future. Please watch The Log for any further information.

## **Mothers' Union (Judith Kaye)**

Membership is down to 18 this year. We had a varied programme of speakers related to the interests of the branch members but, of course, we haven't been able to meet to enjoy these evenings. Gwyneth Jones has, again, been very proactive in the last 12 months, writing something in The Log each month highlighting some of the issues that MU is involved in. Unfortunately the Mothers' Union doesn't seem very good at publicising their efforts beyond the membership. The branch funds are accounted for within the Diocesan Mothers' Union figures and so can't be recorded in parish funds.

## **Handbell Ringers (Judith Kaye)**

Until Covid 19 reared its ugly head we had been practising as usual. I don't see how we can resume for the foreseeable future as it would be very difficult to keep 2 metres apart. We were making progress with the new members of the team and, hopefully, when we can start again, we won't have to start from scratch. We are progressing and enjoy the privilege of ringing the parish handbells and I hope we are all looking forward to ringing again before too long.

We don't hold any funds.

## **The Log (Dot Little on behalf of the whole Log team)**

If anyone doubted the importance of producing a monthly church magazine those thoughts must surely have been dispelled through the events of 2020. Looking back to the March edition, parish life was carrying on as normal with a Festival of Crosses planned to coincide with Easter and all our organisations sending in reports of their various activities. Just four weeks later Page 3 of the April Log carried a prayer for the Coronavirus and information that due to the national lockdown printed Logs would not be able to be delivered but could be collected from local supermarkets.

From May onwards normal delivery did resume and it's a tribute to the entire Log team that we were able to provide that continuity, even producing an August edition. We appreciate that a growing number of people access the magazine through the Parish website but we do know, from comments received, that the Log has been like a friend dropping through the letterbox in these anxious times, especially for those people without computer access. The main purpose of a church magazine is to keep parishioners informed of Services, events and matters of interest each month but with many of our parish organisations unable to meet and therefore not sending in their usual articles those on the production side have had to have a wider focus. It's been lovely that some of our church family have so willingly shared their hobbies and experiences with us. Other new features have also been introduced including the 'Getting to Know You' page and 'Where are they now', which has focussed on some of our wonderful young people and their career choices. It's been an opportunity also to consider our faith through the greater understanding of some 'Familiar Words' which Kathleen Sturzaker has lead on.

Amazingly with continued input from Revd. Mike, Revd. Gill and others those 28 pages have continued to be filled with information and interest and we do thank all who have contributed in any way.

In May of this year Michael Dawson joined us on the production side and has done a great job in getting to grips with typesetting and on the Distribution side we welcomed Judith Kaye, taking over Log administration from Lisa Jones.

This year, perhaps more than any other, we have valued our local advertisers, which helps production costs considerably and must thank Val Wardley who personally contacts them. Ray and Jean Saunders continue to ensure all advertisers receive a monthly complimentary copy. Please do support our local businesses in these challenging times.

This annual report gives us the opportunity to thank all the Log team – over 40 people. It continues to be an incredibly efficient operation and a privilege to be part of. If you do know of people who don't read the Log then please do spread the word. We feel it remains excellent value at £8 for the year or £1 per copy and until normal parish life resumes we will do our utmost to ensure everyone stays connected.