Friends of St Laurence's Church, Chorley

Chairs Report 2025

May I begin by thanking all our membership for their continued support during this past year. Your financial support, your help and advice when I needed it are very much appreciated.

As most of you will be aware our main work this year has been to progress our two projects. Installing a Stair Lift to improve accessibility to the upper room in the extension and the repair and restoration of the tower, stained glass window.

An application was made to the Blackburn Diocese Disability Project, Parish Grant Fund. This was for the full cost of just over £6000. Unfortunately, the Major Fund Grant was over, subscribed and we were advised to apply to the Minor Grant Fund. This fund has a maximum payment of £5000. Following that submission we were then advised that our submission would be accepted, but only after a Full Faculty Application had been made. Faculty applications take a little time, but with help from members the full application forms and accompanying paperwork was sent to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

The Faculty Application was rejected by the DAC. Concerns were expressed about the narrowing of the staircase which might prevent a wheelchair being carried to the upstairs room and for people to use the stairs safely. The Committee decided to resubmit the application following discussions with the Church Architect. More detailed drawings were provided by Stannah, the makers of the Stair Lift, and provision to be made to have a wheelchair permanently available on the upper floor room. At the end of November, we were informed that our application had been successful, but there was a condition. The DAC decided that a full fire safety check should be carried out before signing off. We have requested this of the Fire Service but await a date for their visit.

Regarding the tower window, we had to obtain an update on the costs needed to carry out the project. The quote including VAT is £17,500. Despite some generous donations and fund raising, it is likely that after making up any shortfall regarding the Stair Lift we will need to raise a further £7000. There is potential for a grant application to the Guild of

Stained Glass. St Laurence’s-stained glass is highly valued, having been installed by a prestigious company called Hughes and Company.

During the year FoSL has made funding contributions towards the new donation box, following the vandalism and destruction of the original box. We also contributed to futher seasonal banners for the Church Shop. This is a very important element of our fund raising, as all proceeds from items made and sold by Standish Stitchers are donated to the Friends. Once again I must thank Anne Wray and the Shop Team along with all the Standish Stitchers for their amazing output.

It has been a slightly frustrating year with regards progress on our projects, but rest assured I and your committee will continue to work hard on your behalf to make positive progress in 2026.

I should like to finish by thanking the Officers and Committee Members of the Friends for their continued support and their total belief in the work we do. Their advice and council are crucial, and all done in the spirit of cooperation. Fund raising is increasingly more difficult, but we will persevere, and I hope you the members will show your support by continuing with your membership in 2026.

Thank you

Alistair Morwood
Chair of FoSL

January 2026

The Friends of St Laurence Chorley
Statement of Accounts
to 31st December 2025

	Income	Expenditure
	£	£
Income		
Family Subscription (28 members)	£1,050.00	
Individual Subscription (19 members)	£1,000.00	
Donations (Corporate)		
Donation (Just Giving)		
Donations (Other)	£1,828.20	
Sales (Standish Stitchers and Books)	£350.50	
Subscription by Installment (2 members)	£72.00	
Gift Aid - HMRC	£1,316.12	
Total	**£5,616.82**	
Expenditure		
Steffany Collette (Web Consultant)		£142.80
Insurances		£112.53
Shop Banners		
Total		**£255.33**
Opening Balance Brought Forward	£8,041.95	
Total Income	£5,616.82	
Sub total	£13,658.77	
Expenditure	£255.33	
Current Balance	**£13,403.44**	

CONFIRMED AS CORRECT

J. H. LAIDLER
HON EXAMINER

12th JANUARY 2026