

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE ECCLESTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1127818

Details

Other names ST. LUKE ECCLESTON

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-02-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Church of England church and community centre

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE LOCAL
- St Helens

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£90,991	£102,439	-	-
2023-12-31	£87,875	£131,696	-	-
2022-12-31	£118,699	£131,019	-	-
2021-12-31	£136,008	£107,421	-	-
2020-12-31	£76,181	£86,885	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DIANE LISBETH WRIGHT BSC, PGCE	Chair	
DAVID THORPE		2023-01-09
Gillian Crosby		2025-05-11
Gillian Mary Lea-Wilson		2025-09-02
John Mark Crosby		2023-04-28
Julie Claire Parry		2025-05-11
LORNA MARGARET ANNE LLEWELLYN		
Lorraine Doreen Rose		2016-04-24
MISS ANNE HAYES B.A. HONS (MIDWIFERY)		
Nigel Deane Lea-Wilson		2025-09-02

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LUKE, ECCLESTON**

For the year ending December 2024



Knowsley Road, WA10 4PU



stlukeeccleston.org

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

St Luke's Church Eccleston, St Helens. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:-

St Luke's Church, Knowsley Road, Eccleston, St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 4PU.

Telephone Number - 01744 21173

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the church. For the period 1st January 2024 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

St Luke’s PCC		Name	Term	Additional PCC Roles
Clergy		Rev Gareth Banton	Ex Officio	
Church Wardens	1	Mrs Lorraine Rose	Ex Officio	Treasurer Standing Committee
	2	Vacant		
PCC Members There are 9 Elected members if the electoral roll has 50-99 members.	1	Mr John Crosby	2023 - 2026	Standing Committee
	2	Mr Thomas Kelly		
	3	Miss Ann Hayes		
	4	Mrs Lorna Llewellyn		Standing Committee
	5	Mrs Diane Kelly	Term Ended 2024	
	6	Mrs Karen Grant	Retired March 2025	
	7	Mr Michael Hughes	Retired March 2024	
	8	Vacant		
	9	Vacant		
Deanery Synod Reps (DSRs) St Luke’s is allocated 4 DSRs	1	Miss Diane Wright	2023-2026	Vice Chair Standing Committee
	2	Mr David Thorpe	2023-2026	
	3	Mrs Kate Sawyer	Retired March 2025	
	4	Vacant		
Treasurer		Mr Peter Anderson	2024 – 2025	Gift Aid Officer
PCC Secretary		Vacant		

The following have responsibility roles: -

Safeguarding Officer:	Miss. D.L. Wright
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mrs J Thorpe
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs. J Griffiths MBE (Retired March 2025) Mr. P Anderson (Appointed April 2025)
Team Vicar: -	Rev Gareth Banton

Bankers: - Royal Bank of Scotland 1 Spinningfields Square, Manchester, M3 3AP

Independent Examiner: - Mr. P. Horton, c/o St Luke's Church, Knowsley Rd, St. Helens.

Architect:- Maggie Mullan, MMA.Design 59A Roscoe Street Liverpool L1 9DW

Structure, Governance And Management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules as at 2017.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a charity currently accepted by order from registration with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC meets on a monthly basis with the exception of January, August and December.

Day to Day management of the church is exercised by the Standing Committee, the only committee required by law. It has the power to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings and considers strategic issues which may affect the church.

Member of the Standing Committee are:-

Miss D L Wright (Lay Chair)

Mrs L Rose (Church Warden)

Mr J Crosby (PCC Member) – retired May 2024

Mrs L Llewellyn (PCC Member) – appointed May 2024

Rev G Banton (Team Rector)

Related Parties:

Queen's Park Primary School, St. Helens – the Priest-in-Charge of St Luke's Church, Eccleston is an ex-officio member of the school governors. This position is still vacant and Kate Sawyer as a Foundation Governor.

Individual PCC members receive external training as and when deemed necessary by the PCC. Training may include trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk assessment and management and Safeguarding procedures.

Financial Risk:

The investments held by the PCC are only made in low-risk funds approved for charity use. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling are implemented.

Compliance with Law and Regulation:

The Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines (Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a safer church) have been adopted by the PCC. The PCC have the ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Safeguarding at St. Luke's.

Safer Recruitment procedures are followed as directed by the Liverpool Diocesan Safeguarding team. All appointments need to be referred to Rev. Gareth Banton, the Team Rector.

The Diocesan policy gives clear guidelines for procedures to follow regarding recruitment. It also gives clear guidance to follow in the event of a Safeguarding issue.

The Diocese use an online system for DBS checks and all those in positions requiring a check have gone through this process. These are renewed regularly.

All leaders and helpers are required to complete a confidential internal information form, with two references, following the diocesan 'Safer Recruitment' guidelines and procedures. Leaders and helpers are also required to complete safeguarding training.

All PCC members have been 'safely recruited' and have undergone an online DBS check. They have also completed basic and foundation safeguarding training.

Readers are required to complete Diocesan Safeguarding training and St. Luke's Readers have either completed the training or are due to attend training in the near future.

St. Luke's Church Warden has been 'safely recruited' and has completed the Church of England Leadership safeguarding training – a requirement for Church Wardens.

St. Luke's PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer) has been 'safely recruited' and has completed the Church of England Leadership safeguarding training, 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse' training, 'Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking' training and 'Safer Recruitment and People Management' training. The PSO has also completed training to enable her to facilitate safeguarding training to groups.

The PCC continues to be diligent in monitoring legal compliance and changes to legislation.

Aims And Purpose & Objectives And Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

St. Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church & Community Centre, Knowsley Road, St Helens.

When planning the objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guide on public benefit.

Mission and Outreach Support

Due to the financial situation and the large deficit during the year, the PCC decided that only 5% of the regular income during the year would be distributed to our missionary partners and charities.

The distribution as follows: -

(figures in brackets relates to FYE 2023)

- CMS (Eric & Sandra Reed) -	£523	(£530)
- CPAS -	£131	(£135)
- Bible Society -	£131	(£135)
- SGM Lifewords -	£0	(£135)
- St Helens Street Pastors -	£262	(£266)
- Tear Fund -	£393	(£400)
- United Christians Broadcasting -	£131	(£135)
- Hope from Above (Tim & Carol Derbyshire) -	£262	(£266)
- Hope Centre -	£523	(£530)
- Simeons -	£131	(£135)
- St Helens Safer Families -	£131	(£0)
- TOTAL	£2,618	(£2,667)



Vicar's Report:

I'm so grateful for everybody who has served the church throughout 2024. Whether it's leading worship, doing readings or prayers, counting the money, assisting with Kid's Church, arranging flowers, welcoming people or serving refreshments, I'm so grateful for it all. All our individual acts of service contribute to making Sunday mornings enjoyable, friendly and glorifying to God. There are many people doing roles quietly in the background, from gardening, to managing our finances, to safeguarding. All of these are a service not just to church but to God, and again I express my thanks for all that people offer.

At last year's APCM a big topic for us was the financial deficit. We've seen some improvement on that in 2024 since we reopened our community centre and usage has gently picked up. I suspect 2025's finances will be improved again as we had some regular users begin hiring the premise in the last quarter of 2024.

I want to say a big thank you to all our generous givers and make an encouragement any members who attend and love our church to think about making a regular donation to fund the mission and ministry of the church. We're not funded by the government at all, we rely solely on individual giving, fundraising efforts and our community centre income. The best way to donate to church is by making a monthly gift using the Parish Giving Scheme, which give you complete control over your giving, but also manages the collection of gift aid for us, saving valuable volunteer hours and effort.

Our regular ministries continued their important work week in and week out. You can read their reports below for more detail. I'm grateful to everybody who serves midweek to keep our church open to the community in a variety of important ways.

There are some key priorities for St Luke's going forward.

- It would be incredible to reopen our Teddies Toddler Group. Toddler groups are such a valuable (and valued!) service and outreach to our local community. As you may be aware we closed it in July due to a lack of leaders (though we did have a volunteer team). For a leader, we need a mature Christian, who is enthusiastic about sharing God's love with local families and is committed to attending St Luke's regularly on Sunday mornings. What's more a lot of the children in our churches are growing up and need a group or club suitable for early teens. For this to happen we need someone to help lead the group.
- We have so many people who are willing to help in lots of ways at St Luke's, but we struggle to recruit to governance roles such as PCC and Churchwardens. We've operated without a lead recruiter for a long time which has increased the burden on myself and our Safeguarding officer. These are demanding roles, but they're also rewarding, and without such roles being filled we cannot safely operate.

Finally, at the time of our APCM, we will be advertising for a new clergy person to join our team. Their role will be “Team Vicar in the Ecclestone Team, and Associate Vicar at St Mark’s North Road”. Please can I encourage you to pray that God would call someone to join in the mission and ministry here in our parishes. God bless,
Gareth

Ecclestone Team Report

When I speak to clergy in other team ministries throughout the country they are always shocked to hear how well our churches operate and collaborate with one another. This is expressed in lots of ways, from sharing employees and volunteers, cooperating in midweek ministries, to sharing resources and even beginning to worship together occasionally at team services.

Team Vision and Services

At the end of 2023 our PCCs met and articulated a shared team vision. As a team, we want to:

- Put Jesus at the centre of all we do.
- Serve our community in meaningful ways.
- Provide faith opportunities for all age groups.

We began ‘All Together’ services at St Matthews on fifth Sundays. Our first was in June, our second in September and at the time of writing we just had our third in March 2025. Each service has focused on a particular part of the team vision. These services have been so well attended with over 100 people attending each service, and people seem inspired by the shared collective experience of worshipping together. This is something our PCCs would like to continue. As St Matthew’s building undergoes improvements over the next year or so, I would like our churches to regard it as ‘shared team’ space, a place where we can all meet together and feel as though we belong, without the sense that one of our worshipping communities is being prioritised or favoured over another.

Team Goals

In Autumn 2023 our PCCs set a number of team goals which were:

1. To employ a shared team administrator.
2. To have one shared web presence.
3. To cooperate together on social events.
4. To gather older children from across the churches for a social event, and begin to explore what a ‘team youth ministry’ might look like.

By the end of 2024 we had made good progress on all of these tasks. For instance, in March we employed a team administrator, Mrs Sara Harrop, who has settled into the role well. She is formally employed by St Luke’s PCC, but each church contributes to her salary. Sara handles bookings and admin for life events, and all the room bookings and contracts for our many hireable spaces. We also cooperated on a number of social events in 2024, and we have begun to explore what a team youth ministry might look like. (This is ongoing - there is a clear need and desire but we need people to step forward and offer to lead such a ministry). At the start of 2025 the PCCs have commissioned a new team website (due to go live by the end of May). This will make managing our online presence easier and less expensive, but it will also express

our togetherness and shared mission more effectively than three individual websites. In 2025 the PCCs will need to meet once again to establish some new goals, so we can continue to develop and flourish.

Clergy Update

In December 2024 I was interviewed and appointed as Team Rector for the Eccleston Team of Churches. I was also appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St Mark's North Road. The hope is that very soon we will appoint a Team Vicar for the Eccleston Team who will also be Associate Vicar at St Marks. The arrival of another colleague to our churches is *long* overdue. At the time of writing we appear to be days away from advertising. I wish to state that the delay has been procedural and due to the Diocese (partly affected by the sudden retirement of the Bishop a few months ago, leaving our diocese without any episcopal oversight). The delay has not been due to our PCCs who have been ready to advertise for a long time now. Can all members of our churches please be committed to asking God to send a vicar to assist in ministry and mission here and at St Mark's? Recruitment is hard in the North West, and has been especially hard in Liverpool in recent years. Many vacancies are advertised several times before candidates step forward, or the deanery restructures around a vacancy.

Personally, 2024 was challenging (at times extremely so) but I've been supported by so many of our members and volunteers in a variety of different ways, for which I'm truly grateful. Our willingness to work together as a team has made ministry possible in a variety of different ways, big to small. I particularly want to thank our wardens and readers for their support and encouragement. To Sara for helping so well with administration. I also need to express thanks to Rev Annie Houghton, curate in Lowton and Golborne and to Retired Bishop Geoff Pearson, both for being so generous with their time, often helping with funeral ministry.

I trust that God's faithfulness towards us will continue in 2025, holding on to these verses (Ephesians 3:20-21) as we do so:

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Gareth

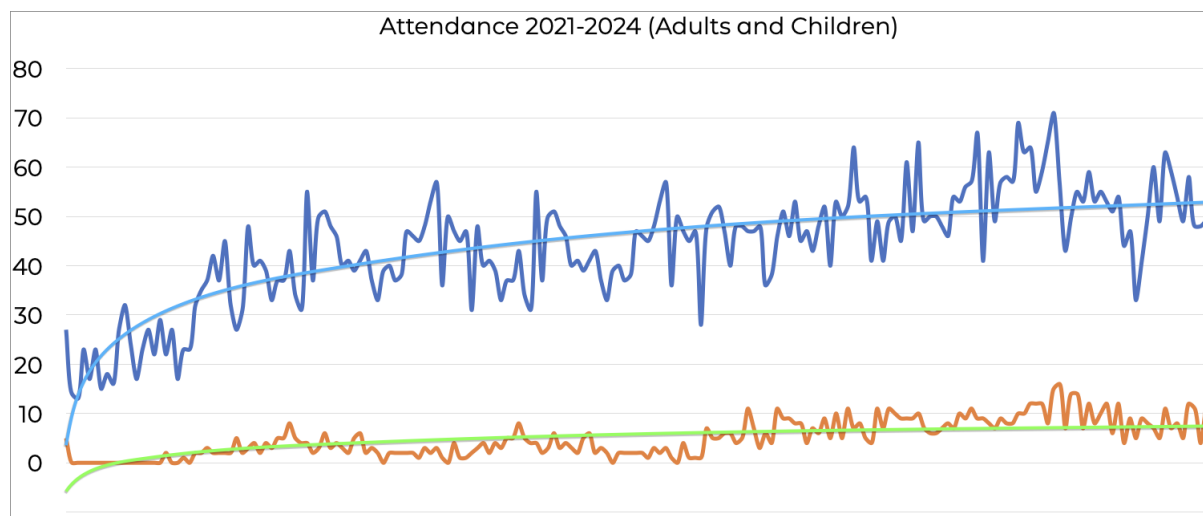
Achievements And Performance.

The PCC is delighted with its achievements set out in the previous and following section. The following section highlights the areas of activity and performance.

The electoral roll (April 2023-112) became 115 people in time for the 2024 annual meeting, 69 of whom were non-resident in the parish. During the year 5 people joined and 3 were deceased. In 2025 a new roll has been prepared.

Worship: - This average attendance over the year was 54 adults and 9 children. This is just based on 'ordinary Sundays' and does not take into consideration major festivals and baptism services which can artificially boost our numbers. The chart below shows attendance on ordinary Sundays throughout the last

four years. The blue line represents adult attendance, and the orange line represents children's (under 16s) attendance. The straight lines are linear trendlines.



	Total	Adults	Children
2024	65	54	9
2023	56	49	7
2022	45	42	3
2021	26	25	1

We average 2 connections on Zoom each Sunday. We have continued to provide a 'Zoom' service for all the churches in the Ecclestone Team. This is later uploaded onto our YouTube channel.

We held 14 baptism services and 5 confirmations during the year. 12 funeral services were held at church, and we held 0 at the crematorium. There were 2 wedding services and 1 wedding blessing for a couple who had been married 25 years.

We have a small team of church family members who make handmade gifts for our baptism children to mark the occasion of Welcoming them into the church family and for the adults we give them a Bible.

Church Buildings

At the start of 2024 we continue with upgrade works to the Community Centre by replacing the doors which lead on to the main corridor in the centre. This was 3 sets of double fire doors and 3 doors to the toilets being replaced. In May we had the 5 year Electrical Testing of the circuits and the test of portable equipment completed. The fire extinguishers were serviced in June. The Gas Boiler were serviced in October. Throughout the year small maintenance work was undertaken.

In October Maggie Mullan our Architect came to do our QQ visit. Following the visit additional investigations were required. A drone survey of the roof, plaster being knocked off wall in 5 areas to investigate further. Plus sorting out access to the back of the church involving a piece of land not sure if it belongs to the vicarage next door or the church. At the time of this Annual Report we are still waiting for the QQ report from the Architect.

The PCC would like to thank the volunteers who clean the church regularly, flower arrangements in church and look after the gardens around church throughout the year.

Staffing

At the end of April 24 when Christ Church legally moved into Church St Helens the caretaker employed on behalf of Christ Church was ended.

From March 24 on behalf of the Eccleston team we employed a part time Team Admin person. Each church contributes financially to the administrator's salary, though St Luke's currently pays a smaller share as we make efforts to tackle our deficit.

There are many volunteers who fulfil roles at St Luke's in a variety of ways. There are too many to name individually and if we had to pay for this work, it would cost us thousands of pounds. During the year a number of volunteers due to personal issues have had to step back on the work they do for the church and we especially like to Thank them for the many years of serving in their ministries. The PCC are truly thankful and appreciative to all the people who serve the Lord in St Luke's and within the Eccleston Team in whatever role that is.

Finance Report

Regular giving and donations increased slightly by 0.17%, compared to the same for 2023, and our regular commitments (gas, electricity, water, insurance, etc) have decreased by just below 19% during the year, with the bulk of this decrease being due to the combined decrease in gas and electricity costs of 10%, partially due to lower rates but also due to less usage, and also reduction in insurance costs of 44% achieved by changing our insurance provider towards the end of 2023.

Our Parish Share contribution for 2024 was maintained at more or less the same level as 2023.

Although people joined the Parish Giving Scheme when it was initially launched, as per 2023, the uptake of this did not continue through 2024 with only 2 people joining the scheme but 3 people leaving the scheme.

Payments associated with the vicarage have remained consistent compared to 2023, as they now do only account for the telephone line and broadband connection.

A large one-off cost was incurred during 2024 for the replacement of various doors throughout the church centre, this was paid for from general funds rather than the restricted church upgrade works fund.

We have received a total of £7,199 in tax recovery from regular and donations income. This is lower than during 2023 as a large donation was received during 2023 which was gift aided.

Income from hall lettings was 13% higher than that in 2023, as groups returned to using the centre and new groups started along with various private bookings for parties.

We have received investment income totaling £1,254 from the bequest investment fund, which is available for the PCC without any restrictions. This was lower than that received in 2023 as some funds had been withdrawn from the investment funds during 2023.

Performance of Investments from the fund accounts held with the Central Board of Finance from the sale of the school have been good with dividend payments and interest achieving £2,288 which is available to the PCC for restricted items.

Financial Review

At the end of the year, the main deposit and current accounts would have been overdrawn by a total of £4,470 if all outgoing payments had been made.

The market value of the investment fund from the bequest donations, which is available to the PCC without any restrictions, was £48,031, an increase of £1,240 during the year. There was also a further £1,302 in restricted funds which are available for the PCC to use for restricted purposes.

Agent Transactions

The PCC acted as a financial agent for the following people / organisations: -

- Liverpool Diocese - £1,877.00 was received in regards to Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals from the wedding couples and funeral directors which has been forwarded to the diocesan board of finance
- Retired Clergy, Self Supporting Ministers and Lay Readers - £533.00 was received in regards to Funeral Fees from funeral directors which have been paid to the various people who officiated for funerals in place of Gareth, these fees would have otherwise been paid to LDBF with the above assigned fees.
- Fundraising events were organised for MacMillan Cancer Care (Coffee Morning), Tear Fund (Harvest Service and Big Quiz) and Children's Society (Christingle Service) which raised £653.57, £496.60 and £84.41 respectively and these have been forwarded to the organisations concerned.

Pastoral Support

Whatsapp Prayer Group - Co-Ordinator Stina & Dave Foxford

Eccleston Team joint Prayer Group take place on the Eccleston Team WhatsApp, which has recently been renamed as "Prayer Space." Anyone is welcome to join our Prayer times together in real – time or alternatively use the ready prepared Prayer Guide at a more convenient time later.

We meet up fortnightly on Mondays at 8 pm for about half an hour. We have a break during summer and Christmas. In addition to prayer pointers, we have two worship songs, a reflection, and information about the set topics of the day.

It is not possible to say how many people join our Prayer times together, but we do get positive feedback every now and then from people across the Team. We do know that a couple of people from other individuals use the Prayer Guide and join us in prayer - as well as Stina's Mum from Finland.

During 2024 we had 22 Prayer times, of which one was an Extraordinary meeting.

Our prayer topics were: New year 2024, World Watch List, Post Office Legal case, Sudan, Kids' Ministry in the Team, Russia - Ukraine war, Mission Partners, the Elderly linked to our Team Churches, Hamas – Israel war, Easter and Easter events, Christians and Ramadan, Middle East Crisis, Haiti, School children's and Students' exams, Special Service at St. Luke's, Elections of Metro Mayor and Police Commissioner, Thy Kingdom Come Project, Holy Spirit and Pentecost, Persecuted Christians, Hope From Above, the UK General Elections, Brownies pack holiday, General summer holidays, Carers, Emergency Services, Our relationship with God, the UK Prison System, Mpox virus, Burkina Faso and Sub – Saharan Africa, National Week of Prayer with set prayer topics, Modern Slavery, the US Presidential Election, International Day of Prayer (IDOP) topics, Remembrance Day prayers and soldiers, veterans and military families, Philippines and Spain Floods, Iraqi women, Christian Churches in Cuba, Christmas Season, winter illnesses.

We certainly covered a lot and appreciate all the prayers! Thank you!

Blessings, Stina and Dave Foxford.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

"Teddies" Toddler Group – Team Leader Julie Parry

Our numbers remained constant this year. We covered our outgoings with incoming fees. The volunteers worked diligently and with the focus on Jesus. The families are grateful for our provision and were sad to hear that we needed to close for the foreseeable future. This was due to volunteers having to stand down for personal commitments. Unfortunately we closed Teddies doors July 2024

5th Eccleston St Luke's Brownies – Leader Eagle Owl Gill Crosby

The spring term started in January with a trip to St. Helens Theatre Royal to watch the annual pantomime, followed by lunch at McDonald's. It was a fantastic way to start the new year and a good time was had by all. Our badge themes this term were "Girls can do science" the girls really enjoyed it, but I think I enjoyed delivering it more. They gained a very large badge for this program of work which included chemistry –we made a Litmus solution for testing Acid or Alkaline, Physics, Biology - we extracted the DNA of a pea! Polar science and Geology. Our other theme was "Express myself" during which we made Mother's day cards and Easter cards and also had fun making jewellery from a whole box of things that had been kindly donated to us.

We also celebrated Thinking Day in February with activities designed to get us thinking about the whole Guide movement and our promise.

Summer term started with us having a jewellery stall at the church fayre, the girls got to try different aspects of jewellery making. We had a collection of Meetings run by our Young Leader (Riley Parry) who explored our International Centres in the UK, Switzerland, India, Ghana and Mexico. We also took part in a brand new badge in conjunction with Blackpool Sea life centre. "Sea Savers" this badge looked at what lives in the oceans, how we are polluting the oceans, how we can help to stop this. It was a fun and educational topic which involved creating visuals of the food chain, how deep the sea is, and what lives where. The girls really enjoyed this badge.

Our much-anticipated pack holiday this year was at Sherdley Hill in Ormskirk. The theme was Alice in wonderland and involved various themed activities, that culminated in a Mad Hatter tea party, which was out of this world, the girls were thrilled by the experience. And a big thank you goes to Helen Brindley (tawney owl) for organising it all and Sue Brindley (wise owl) for arranging the wide game activities.

With summer holidays on the horizon, we had one last important meeting, our Badge giving meeting. This was to be a very special meeting that will probably never be seen again. We said good buy to 6 girls all at once, some of them should have long since moved to Guides but wanted one last pack holiday with us. (the last of our Pandemic girls) we also were proud to present 2 gold Awards (the highest award a Brownie can achieve) 1 silver award, and 3 Bronze awards.

Autumn term is always busy, and this year was no exception, we kicked it off with another stall at the church fayre. Our badge theme this term was "Be well" we felt this would help with any anxiety left over from the sad events in Southport during the summer. As a unit we also tightened up our on-site security procedures this term too, though Girl Guiding policies are very robust anyway.

Hannah Davies (Rainbow owl) left us to give birth to a baby boy, but Amanda Mcmanus (Barn owl) arrived as an answer to a prayer to become a helper.

We also made Christmas crafts and had a lovely Christmas party. And finally, we once again visited Parkside care home and sang some carols and Christmas songs for them.

*Gillian Crosby (Unit Leader), Riley Pary (unit helper),
Amanda McManus (unit Helper), Sue Brindley (occasional leader)*

Schools Ministry Team

Being part of the Schools Ministry Team this year has been a true gift from God. It is a joy and privilege to work together, using our individual strengths to tell His story in creative, engaging, and meaningful ways. Whether we're leading collective worship, supporting RE sessions, or planning hands-on activities, every moment is rooted in the desire to share God's love with the children in our local schools.

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, we've welcomed school groups into our churches and taken the good news into classrooms. Sessions often include storytelling, crafts, games, and reflective prayer — all designed to help children connect with the Bible in a way that is accessible and real to them.

We've continued to build a wonderful partnership with one of our team church pantries. Through this connection, children not only learn about the pantry's role in serving the wider community but are also inspired to take action — especially around harvest, when many contribute generously to food collections.

A real highlight of our year is the "It's Your Move" session hosted at St Luke's. We meet with Year 6 pupils preparing to transition to secondary school — a big moment in any child's life. Through faith-filled activities, thoughtful conversation, and prayer, we help them to place their hopes and worries into God's hands, and remind them they're never alone on the journey.

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers. Each person brings something unique — from storytelling to craft, quiet prayerfulness to boundless enthusiasm. We are so thankful for their continued time, energy, and faith.

If you feel God may be calling you to join us in this ministry, we'd love to hear from you. There is always room for more hands and hearts as we continue to grow this team and share God's love with the next generation.

Gill Dixon – SMT Coordinator

Food Pantry – Co-ordinator Tom Kelly / Lorraine Rose

At the start of 2024 we continue to operate within the church until April when the community centre was ready for us to move the Pantry back into.

At the end of March 2024 Jean Moore our Co-ordinator left due to moving away from St Helens. We are very grateful to Jean for all the hardwork and dedication she put into getting the Pantry up and going and giving us a template to work to. We presented her with a Thank You gift and card and wished her well for the future.

From April a small team of us (Tom & Diane Kelly, Anne Hayes & Lorraine Rose) took on the responsibility of the Pantry and divided up the jobs between us. Tom Kelly took on the main contact person in place of Jean.

Unfortunately in September due to Tom health condition needing treatment both him and his wife Diane have stepped down for now. From October Lorraine Rose is now the main contact for the Pantry. Geoff & Hazel Horton have stepped up into the Leadership Team

For 2024 the membership attendance each week average around 60 per week. With other Pantries within the St Helens Borough opening up we no longer have a waiting list so people can join straight away. In November in-line with the other Pantries within the borough we increased the weekly membership fee from £4 to £5. We did give 6 weeks notice to the member and we didn't receive any complaints it was more the member appreciate costs are going up. On a few occasions we have given food to people who have been referred who are in a crisis and need help.

During the year we received funding from the following:-

Neighbourly Grant £280

Providence Hospital £1,000 towards running costs

Arnold Clarke £2,000 towards running costs

Rainhill Rotary Club £500 towards running costs

Neighbourly Foundation £ towards Toy gift vouchers at Christmas

Halton & St Helens Household Fund £3,325 towards food provision, heated blankets, hot water bottles and fan heaters

We are grateful to our funders for their support to the Pantry.

We continue to invite pantry members to come to Church events whenever we can. At Easter we gave out Easter Eggs and for Christmas we gave out hot water bottles with knitted covers to each member attended Pantry the last week in December, for some of our vulnerable families we gave out toy gift vouchers and we did goody bags and extra fresh vegetables to each Pantry member who attended. On a personal note, I would like to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work during the past 12 months and wish them well as they continue to provide this valuable service to our community in 2025.

Tea and Toast – Co-ordinator Lorraine Rose, Julie Parry & Lorna Llewellyn

During 2024 we continue to operate from the Jubilee Lounge at the back of church. On a Tuesday morning 9-11am for the year. We only closed for 2 weeks between Christmas and the New Year. From January 2025 the times are changing to 9.30am – 11.30am as we recognised we have people coming a bit later rather than early.

We now have a few regulars who come each week. A mixture of ages from young to old, New friendships continue to be made and we have seen people just pop in because they are passing and saw the church doors open. At times we had people who come in who just want a listening ear and to pray with them. It's also a time when our Church Warden meets people she needs to speak to. We have nicknamed it "Wardens Hour". We will continue to serve God and try encourage more people in the community to call in.

Hobby Hub – Co-ordinator Sarah Murphy

Once again, we have enjoyed a happy and successful year at Hobby Hub.

We have several members who attend on a regular basis and few further members who attend on a more ad hoc basis and all are welcomed. We meet from 7-8.30pm in the church lounge. Members contribute a £1 donation each week which we pass onto church as a contribution to milk and overhead costs.

We have a variety of crafts on display from our members, from needle felting, crochet, colouring and modelling. We also have noticed that we all benefit from the supportive and friendly nature of the group. A regularly used what's app group ensures we can keep in touch with each other and check in with absent members. We also enjoy a cuppa, chat and a biscuit of two together!

We look forward, in 2025, to continuing to add to our membership and attracting more members from the Eccleston Team, our new friends at St. Mark's and the community at large. Please feel free to direct membership enquiries to me at sjmurfs@sky.com

Sarah Murphy.

St Luke's Indoor Bowls – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Allan Taggart & Charles Johnson

2024 covers the second half of one winter's bowling and the first half of the following winter. Both half seasons saw good attendance with between 10 and 12 people bowling most weeks. The later months in 2024 brought a couple of new bowlers to join our group, so that was encouraging. The system of picking a ball from a bag in order to decide on which mat you bowl and with which partner has become more popular than was the case at first: it has been interesting to play with and against different bowlers. The quality of the refreshments has remained high with cakes and some excellent biscuits being on offer. Each year in April we are able to contribute towards church funds from the 50p which each bowler pays to play. We are grateful for the use of the facilities and after our summer bowling on the green at the Bowling Club from the end of September we shall be meeting on Thursdays at 1.00pm. All new bowlers are welcome.

St Luke's Men's Group – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Charles Johnson & Allan Taggart

2024 was another successful year of Wednesday evening meetings at St Luke's. We saw the return of a couple of our most popular speakers and were also introduced to some new faces. Jamie Jones-Buchanan, former international rugby league player, entertained us with stories relating to his rugby career and his Christian faith, and Paul Griffiths came back twice to educate us on both "Treks and Teashops" and, perhaps more importantly, on how to use a phone to avoid getting lost on the treks. We had more tales about rugby from retired referee and touch judge, Tony Brown. We learned some local history from Judy Lowe (a house in Rainhill was used to accommodate soldiers recovering from wounds in World War One) and Martin Jones (a blacksmith from Newburgh did great work looking after horses in the same conflict). Our Bowls Evening, when we were blessed with a rare sunny evening, was very well attended at Prescot and Odyssey Bowling Club. Our biggest problem was losing the venue at St Teresa's Club, which meant we met in the hall at St Luke's in the second half of the year. Thanks as always go to Bev, who books the speakers. We have had an extended winter break, but we should return in the spring of 2025.

St Luke's Events Team

In January 24 a group of volunteers came together as a team to organize Social and Fundraising event with the message of the love of Jesus. The team is: - Bev Cresswell, Gill & John Crosby, Ron Lee, Christine Miles, Julie Parry & Lorraine Rose.

Our first event was on Shove Tuesday Family Fun Afternoon, where for a nominal fee per family we provided games, crafts and hot dog sausages and pancakes. After lunch we shown a film in the church with popcorn and drinks.

We also organized a Spring Fayre and Autunm Fayre, with craft stalls from local crafters. During our Shove Tuesday event we relised we need a quite space for people to come for a few minutes. So, at our Fayres and future events we use the Garden View Room in the community centre as a space where people come to reflect or want to pray. This as proved to be used quite a bit, we have trained volunteers on hand to talk or pray with people.

Bev Cresswell completed Food Hygiene training.

We also started a "Pennies from Heaven" fundraising towards building cost. Asking people to donate their copper and silver coins.

The amount we have raised from the fayres this year is £2,173 and the Pennies from Heaven £344.

The team would like to say "Thank You" to all the volunteers who help during the events and local crafters who come with their stalls. Also the community who come and enjoy and support our events."ThankYou"

Plans for the Future

We will continue to work with the other churches and develop relationships within the Eccleston team, developing and supporting best practices, worshipping styles and new ideas across the Team. Together we will continue working towards our vision to be a team of churches that:

1. Puts Jesus at the centre of all we do.
2. Serves our community in meaningful ways.
3. Provides faith opportunities for all age groups.

We will continue to pray for our church, trusting God for growth.

God of Mission

who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
joy to our worship
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees 'report above.

Signature 

Full Name: - Rev. Gareth Banton

Position: - PCC Chair

Date: - 8th May 2025

**The Parish Church of
ST LUKE, ECCLESTON**

Financial Statement for the year ending 2024.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Ecclestone
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2024
Receipts & Payments Account (Rev 3)

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Regular Giving					
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	22,674			22,674	22,139
Planned Giving - Parish Giving Scheme	5,100			5,100	5,793
Planned Giving - Ephesian Fund		302		302	0
Planned Giving - Other	4,316			4,316	4,095
Loose Plate Collections	5,157			5,157	4,488
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	7,199			7,199	9,983
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid on Small Donations in memoriam	2,500			2,500	0
members' payments		831		831	1,757
grants				0	684
other donations	1,411	179		1,590	2,654
special appeals	344			344	0
				50,013	51,594
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
refreshments	419			419	426
copy printer income				0	5
hall lettings	6,485			6,485	5,703
other income (incl cards)	5,083			5,083	692
				11,987	6,825
Receipts from Church activities					
PCC Fees	3,011			3,011	1,608
Donations from Verger				0	0
				3,011	1,608
Receipts from investments					
Bank & CBF interest/dividends	1,361		2,288	3,649	4,279
				3,649	4,279
Other receipts					
Weekend income / outings				0	0
Insurance claim				0	2,584
Curacy Income				0	-412
				0	2,172
St Luke's Pantry Income					
Grants			7,105	7,105	4,350
Donations		2,683		2,683	3,705
Members Payments		12,542		12,542	13,126
Other Payments				0	216
				22,330	21,397
Total Receipts	65,060	16,537	9,393	90,991	87,875

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Eccleston
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2024
Receipts & Payments Account (Rev 3)

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Payments					
Church activities					
Missionary giving	2,618	506		3,124	3,344
Parish share	50,177			50,177	50,175
Working expenses	392			392	1,172
Vicarage costs	674			674	630
Curacy Costs				0	612
Wages				0	354
Church heat/light	6,678			6,678	7,404
Church insurance	1,639			1,639	2,933
Evangelism (incl anniversary)	139			139	452
Church Maintenance	1,582			1,582	3,398
Upkeep of services	73	137		210	595
Equipment	102	316		417	1,042
Copier lease/mtce	1,120			1,120	1,326
Community centre maintenance	807			807	7,586
Community centre running costs	8,317			8,317	10,336
Weekend accommodation/ outings				0	0
Refreshments	639			639	347
Other working exps	2,496	336		2,832	3,029
Church upgrade works	6,634			6,634	15,328
				85,381	110,064
St Luke's Pantry					
Fees		2,939		2,939	1,473
Equipment		733		733	987
Purchases (Grants)			3,924	3,924	10,705
Purchases		9,464		9,464	8,253
Other Purchases				0	214
				17,058	21,632
Total Payments	84,086	14,429	3,924	102,439	131,696
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(19,026)	2,108	5,470	(11,448)	(43,820)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St. Luke's, Ecclestone
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2024 (Rev 3)

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	(10,830)		1,106	(9,724)	(5,782)
Bank deposit account	5,254			5,254	18,036
Community Centre account		15,481	269	15,749	10,478
Church Board of Finance Deposit Fund (Closed)				0	0
Church Board of Finance Deposit Account (764001)			1,302	1,302	1,014
Fund bank accounts and cash		844		844	1,127
Total bank current and deposit accounts	-5,576	16,325	2,677	<u>13,425</u>	<u>24,873</u>
Investment Assets					
CBF Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764002) **			42,353	42,353	41,405
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764003) **			42,355	42,355	41,114
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Bequest) (764004)	23,832			23,832	23,134
CBF Investment Fund (Bequest) (764005)	24,199			24,199	23,658
				<u>132,739</u>	<u>129,311</u>
** Investment Assets were previously managed by the trustees of Greenhalls Ecclesiastical Charity. These have now been transferred to St Lukes Parochial Church Council.					
Other Monetary Assets (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
None				0	1,760
Liabilities (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
None				0	0

Approved by the PCC on 8th May 2025

And signed on their behalf on 8th May 2025 by



Rev Gareth Banton
Team Vicar

Mr Peter Anderson
PCC Assistant Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS:

1. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but are not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:
Freehold land and buildings comprising the Church Centre
Various items of ICT and audio visual equipment
Various tables and chairs purchased in 2010
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.
No other payments were made to PCC members.
4. The movements in designated funds during the year were:

	b/fwd			c/fwd
	1 Jan 2023	Receipts	Payments	31 Dec 2023
Discretionary fund	366			366
Flower Fund	6	222	228	0
Hospitality	99		99	0
Teddies Tuesday	771	1,812	2,249	334
Luke There	428			428
	1,669	2,034	2,576	1,127

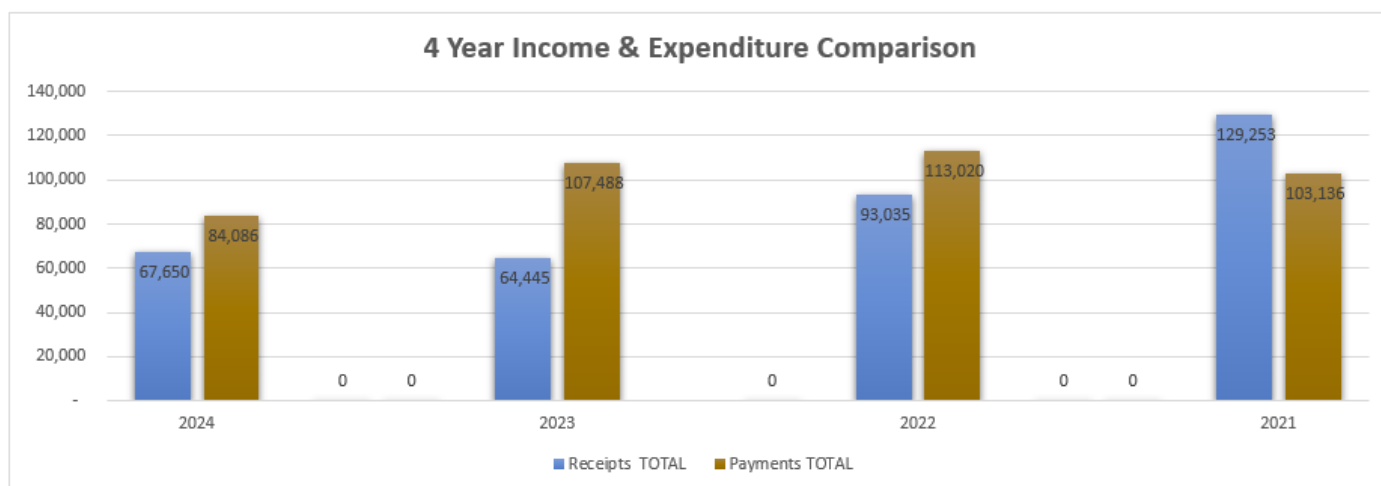
5. Receipts and payments for the Community Centre are included within the PCC accounts but are identified separately as follows:

	£	£
	2023	2022
Receipts		
Hall lettings	5,703	5,587
Grants	0	0
Contribution from (to) St Luke's Church	12,219	5,748
Total Income	17,922	11,335

Payments		
Community centre maintenance	7,586	1,679
Community centre running costs	10,336	7,976
Centre Cleaning Costs	0	1,680
Total Expenditure	17,922	11,335

6. Movement of monies in investment funds.

Fund	Type	Balance at	Payments In /	Investment	Balance at
		31.12.2022	(Withdrawals)	Gain (Loss)	31.12.2023
764002	Restricted	37,816		3,589	41,405
764003	Restricted	38,802		2,312	41,114
764004	Unrestricted	50,291	(29,264)	2,107	23,134
764005	Unrestricted	41,066	(20,373)	2,965	23,658
		167,975	(49,637)	10,972	129,311



	2024		2023		2022		2021	
Receipts	67,650	(1)	64,445		93,035	(2)	129,253	(3)
Payments	84,086	(4)	107,488	(5)	113,020	(6)	103,136	(7)
Surplus (Deficit)	(16,436)		(43,043)		(19,985)		26,117	

(1) - includes £2,500 in memorium donation

(2) - includes £16,111 in memorium donation & £11,238 in curacy income

(3) - includes £57,336 in memorium donation & £11,525 in curacy income

(4) - includes £6,634 in church upgrade works for centre doors

(5) - includes £15,327 in church upgrade works for centre flooring, £3,170 in maintenance for painting & £2,800 in maintenance for boiler repairs

(6) - includes £18,200 in maintenance for asbestos removal works & £10,723 in curacy costs

(7) - includes £10,858 in church upgrade works for painting & hall lights & 11,756 in curacy costs



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST LUKE ECCLESTON

On accounts for the year
ended

31st DECEMBER 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1127818

Set out on pages

20 - 24

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2024

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

PHorton

Date:

21/7/2025

Name:

PAUL HORTON (ACMA)

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

C.I.M.A

Address:

13 LAUREL DRIVE

ECCLESTON

ST. HELENS WA10 5JA

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Accounts



St Lukes
Community Spirit



ANNUAL REPORT

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LUKE, ECCLESTON**

For the year ending December 2023



Knowsley Road, WA10 4PU



stlukeeccleston.org

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

St Luke's Church Eccleston, St Helens. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:-

St Luke's Church
 Knowsley Road, Eccleston, St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 4PU.
 Tel No 01744 21173
 Vicar Email address: - garethrbanton@gmail.com
 Administrator email address: - admin@ecclestonteam.org

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the church.

For the period 1st January 2023 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Clergy	Rev H Coffey*	Team Rector	Retired Sept 2023
	Rev G Banton*	Team Vicar	
	Rev Sonya Doragh*	Team Vicar	
Lay Readers	Miss D.L. Wright*	Lay Chair Deanery Synod Rep	Appointed April 2023 DSR 3 years
	Mr D Thorpe*	Deanery Synod Rep	Appointed April 2023 DSR 3 years
Churchwardens	Mrs L Rose*	Treasurer	Appointed April 2023
PCC	Mr J Crosby		Appointed April 2023
	Mrs K Grant		
	Mrs D Kelly		
	Mr T Kelly		
	Miss A Hayes		
	Mr M Hughes		Appointed April 2023
	Mrs L Llewellyn		
	Mrs J Moore		Retired April 2023
	Mrs K Sawyer*	PCC Secretary Deanery Synod Rep	Appointed April 2023 DSR 3 years
	Mr P Anderson	Assistant Treasurer	Co-opted member

Ex-Officio members are indicated by *

The following have responsibility roles: -

Safeguarding Officer: Miss. D.L. Wright
 Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs J Thorpe
 Gift Aid Secretary: Mrs. J Griffiths MBE

Team Vicar: - Rev Gareth Banton, St Johns Vicarage, Crossley Road, St Helens, Merseyside.
Tel No: - 07444 811428. Email:- garethbanton@gmail.com

Bankers: - Royal Bank of Scotland, Bolton Customer Service Centre, PO Box 2027 Parklands, De Havilland Way

Independent Examiner: - Mr. P. Horton, c/o St Luke's Church, Knowsley Rd, St. Helens.

Architect: Peter Williamson, Associate Director for Condry Lofthouse Architects, 24 Derby Road, Liverpool, L5 9PR

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules as at 2017.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a charity currently accepted by order from registration with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC meets on a monthly basis with the exception of January, August and December.

Day to Day management of the church is exercised by the Standing Committee, the only committee required by law. It has the power to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings and considers strategic issues which may affect the church.

Member of the Standing Committee are:-

Miss D L Wright (Lay Chair)

Mrs L Rose (Church Warden)

Mrs K Grant (PCC Member) – retired May 2023

Mr J Crosby (PCC Member) – appointed May 2023

Rev H Coffey (Team Rector) – retired September 2023

Rev G Banton (Team Rector)

Related Parties:

Queen's Park Primary School, St. Helens – the Priest-in-Charge of St Luke's Church, Eccleston is an ex-officio member of the school governors. This was Rev. Helen Coffey, Eccleston Team Rector (Retired Sept 2024) and Kate Sawyer as a Foundation Governor.

Individual PCC members receive external training as and when deemed necessary by the PCC. Training may include trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk assessment and management and Safeguarding procedures.

Financial Risk:

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with the budget are reported to the PCC at every meeting. The investments held by the PCC are only made in low-risk funds approved for charity use. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling are implemented.

Compliance with Law and Regulation:

The Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines (Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a safer church) have been adopted by the PCC. The PCC have the ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Safeguarding at St. Luke's. Safer Recruitment procedures are followed as directed by the Liverpool Diocesan Safeguarding team and all appointments need to be referred to Rev. Helen Coffey, the Team Rector.

The Diocesan policy gives clear guidelines for procedures to follow regarding recruitment. It also gives clear guidance to follow in the event of a Safeguarding issue.

The Diocese use an online system for DBS checks and all those in positions requiring a check have gone through this process. These are renewed regularly.

All leaders and helpers in groups involving Children and/or Vulnerable Adults are required to complete a confidential internal information form, following the diocesan 'Safer Recruitment' guidelines and procedures.

All PCC members have undergone an online DBS check.

Readers are required to complete Diocesan Safeguarding training and St. Luke's Readers have either completed the training or are due to attend training in the near future.

The PCC continues to be diligent in monitoring legal compliance and changes to legislation.

AIMS AND PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

St. Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church & Community Centre, Knowsley Road, St Helens.

When planning the objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guide on public benefit.

Mission and Outreach Support

Due to the financial situation and the large deficit during the year, the PCC decided that only 5% of the regular income during the year would be distributed to our missionary partners and charities instead of the usual 10%.

The distribution as follows: -

<i>(figures in brackets relates to FYE 2022)</i>		
CMS (Eric & Sandra Reed)	£530	(£1,385)
CPAS	£135	(£345)
Bible Society	£135	(£345)

SGM Lifewords	£135	(£345)
St Helens Street Pastors	£266	(£695)
Tear Fund	£400	(£1,040)
United Christians Broadcasting	£135	(£345)
Hope from Above (Tim & Carol Derbyshires)	£266	(£695)
Hope Centre	£530	(£1,385)
Simeons	£135	(£345)
TOTAL	£2,667	(£6,925)



Vicar's Report:

2023 was quite the year for St Luke's. Lots of good things have happened, and we also faced some real challenges as well. Please see the 'Eccleston Team' report which outlines some of the larger events that transpired on a team level.

On Sundays we have continued to grow gently and steadily in 2023 (see statistics below). I'm so grateful for everybody who is involved in helping make sure Sundays are a success, from leading worship to preaching, to bible reading or leading prayers, to assisting with Kid's Church, to arranging flowers to welcoming and serving refreshments. All our individual acts of service contribute to making Sunday mornings enjoyable, friendly and glorifying to God. There's also a number of people doing roles quietly in the background, from gardening, to managing our finances, to safeguarding. All of these are a service not just to church but to God, and again I express my thanks for all that people offer.

The start of 2023 was also the start of our Kid's Church, which has enjoyed a good first year. A good number of families now enjoy and rely on weekly provision for their children on a Sunday morning. There are so many obstacles to surmount to simply attend church with small children, but being able to offer something reliably week in and week out makes it that much easier for young families to come, relax and feel at home and supported in our church family. I am so grateful to all our volunteers, and especially Julie who coordinates the team, who all give a great deal of time and effort in their preparation and delivery, and of course also sacrifice time that would otherwise be spent being nurtured themselves in the morning worship.

When 2023 began we had to make the necessary decision to close the community centre because of a number of floods and roof collapses. The process of drying, mending and repairing the centre took the entirety of 2023 and part of 2024. It has been frustratingly slow at times for various reasons (such as the insurance company setting the timescale for examination and repair works) and also personal bereavement meaning one contractor we were dealing with had an extended time off work. Throughout it all, our Warden Lorraine has worked really hard calling, emailing and negotiating with the insurance company and various contractors. She has been supported by others with particular tasks and so I thank her and all those who've been involved. At the time of writing the critical works are essentially completed, though there are further improvements we will wish to make to the centre when we are able to financially.

In terms of finances, our church faces a significant ongoing deficit. Our reserves are running quite low and so we need to increase income and reduce expenditure sharply if we're to continue to be solvent and sustainable. Doing our utmost to increase use of the community centre is going to be key to achieving that. Of course, as disciples of Jesus, we know that financial giving to the church is one way in which we worship God, and is also an important part of our discipleship. The PCC are

incredibly grateful to the financial gifts the congregation provide, no matter how large or small. I urge all out members to regularly review their financial giving.

The PCC dedicated a significant amount of their time in 2023 to learning and exploring teaching from the organisation 'Leading Your Church into Growth' (LYCIG). I'm grateful to Diane Wright and Tom Kelly for the time and dedication they each have given to the journey. As a PCC, and as a church, it has been clear to me that people want to see the church change and grow. Change is always hard, and it often comes slowly but our church family have proven themselves patient with slow change, but also flexible with sudden change (such as service time changes!) Church growth is an ongoing, ever-present goal that we pray for, and trust God for. And as you can see from the stats we have been enjoying a period of growth. Can I please encourage all our church members to join with our PCC in regularly praying the prayer for growth, found at the end of this report.

Our regular ministries and groups have continued throughout 2023. We are far from a 'Sunday-only' church community, with a Monday toddler group, a Tuesday coffee morning, a Wednesday food pantry, a hobby hub, a monthly Men's fellowship group, and weekly home groups. My thanks to all who held lead or assist in these vital midweek ministries.

Eccleston Team Report

As a team we've responded to these changes to the best of our ability. I'm proud of how our churches are faring at the moment, holding our own and even growing in the face of difficult circumstances.

I didn't ever envision becoming the sole vicar in a team of churches but that's how events have transpired. It's been challenging, (at times extremely so) but I've been supported by so many of our members and volunteers in a variety of different ways, for which I'm truly grateful. Our willingness to work together as a team has made ministry possible in a variety of different ways, big to small.

Some of the significant events affecting our team throughout 2023 were as follows:

- As the year began, two of our parishes (St James with St Matthews, and Christ Church) were engaging in the Fit For Mission (FFM) process, and two churches (St John's, and St Luke's) were not. For those who do not know, Fit for Mission is the name of a Diocese-wide strategy to convert deaneries into single larger parishes, to reduce governance and increase missional energy. Early in the year, on the 15th January, the PCC of St James with St Matthews had lengthy discussions and after prayerful consideration decided to withdraw from the FFM process. Their reasons were outlined in a statement which is available upon request.
- In March we said farewell to our Team curate, Rev Gregor, who moved to Blackburn Diocese to serve in the Fellfield Team of churches. A team leaving service was held for him at St Luke's.
- Shortly afterwards, Rev Helen our Team Rector announced that she would be leaving the Eccleston team, after a period of study leave to take up a post in the Winwick Deanery.
- Also, in March our Deanery Synod was presented with the formal proposal for pastoral reorganisation in our deanery. As part of this the churches in our team (as well as two other churches not engaged in FFM) were presented with three different options for how clergy would be deployed in our churches. It was decided by the synod that 2.4 clergy were to be allocated across the 5 parishes and there were three options outlined for how to share that allocation. None of which were deemed acceptable by our parishes, (or our parishes patrons). It was decided that we would conduct a separate process by which we determine how best to deploy clergy in our churches.

- In May, Helen celebrated her final Sunday service in the Ecclestone Team and began her study leave. At this point Rev Gareth as Team Vicar, became the sole clergy person for the three parishes. A leaving service was held for Helen and Tony in September when she had completed her sabbatical.
- In September a new 'Schools Team' was established. We are inspired by the words from Psalm 78: "we will not hide these things from our children, but we will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and the wonders he has done." The team is comprised of volunteers from each of our churches, who help facilitate worship and educational events and services for children in our churches, and within three of our local school. It has worked really well,
- In October our PCCs met together to begin discerning a shared Team Vision, acknowledging that we needed to continue on the journey of working together closely, sharing our resources and supporting one another. Our team vision is articulated (and has subsequently been shared with churches in 2024) in the form of three aspirations:

Our vision is to be a team that:

1. Puts Jesus at the centre of all we do.
2. Serves our community in meaningful ways.
3. Provides faith opportunities for all age groups.

At our October meeting we also highlighted some short term achievable goals to work towards together, all of which at the time of writing we have completed or made good progress with. These were:

To produce one vision statement for the whole team.

To employ a shared team administrator.

To have one shared web presence.

To cooperate together on social events.

To gather older children from across the churches for a social event, and begin to explore what a 'team youth ministry' might look like.

Throughout 2023, God has been faithful to us. We've seen growth in some areas of our churches lives, and we trust that the same will be true for 2024.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Rev Gareth Banton – Team Vicar

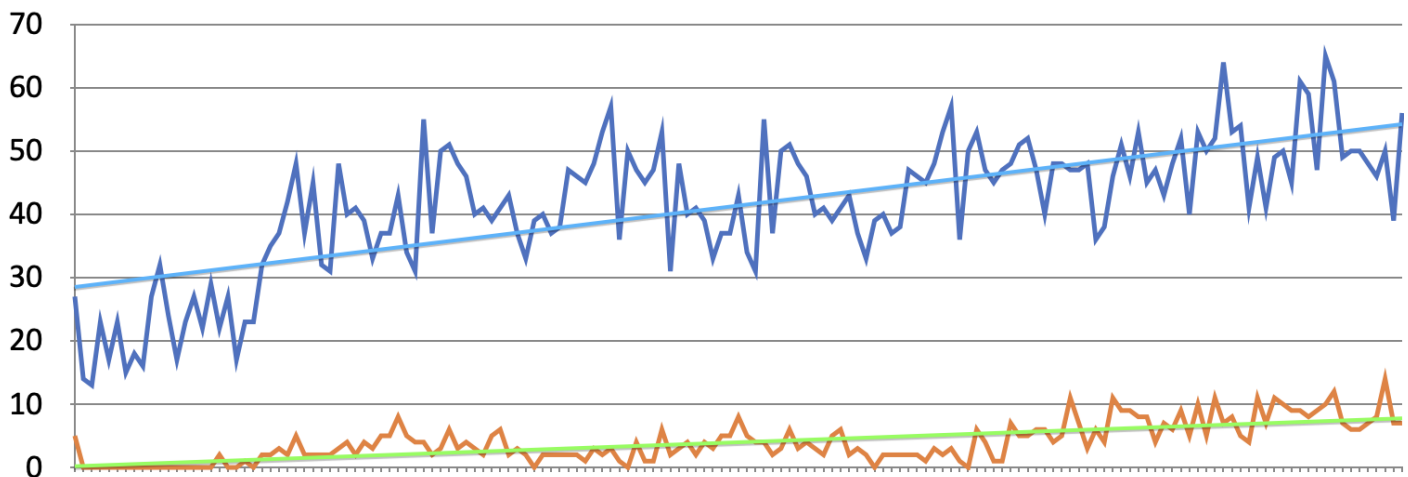
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The PCC is delighted with its achievements set out in the previous and following section. The following section highlights the areas of activity and performance

The electoral roll (April 2022- 107) is now 112 people, 66 of whom are non-resident in the parish. During the year 6 people have joined and 1 are deceased.

Worship: - This average attendance over the year was 49 adults and 7 children. This is just based on 'ordinary Sundays 'and doesn't take into consideration major festivals and baptism services which can artificially boost our numbers. The chart below shows attendance on ordinary Sundays throughout the last three years. The blue line represents adult attendance, and the orange line represents children's (under 16s) attendance. The straight lines are linear trendlines.

Attendance 2021 and 2022 and 2023



We average 2 connections on Zoom each Sunday. We have continued to provide a 'Zoom 'service for all the churches in the Eccleston Team. This is later uploaded onto our YouTube channel.

We held 9 baptism services during the year. 6 funeral services were held at church, and we held 3 at the crematorium. There were no wedding services and 1 wedding blessing.

We have a small team of church family members who make handmade gifts for our baptism children to mark the occasion of Welcoming them into the church family and for the adults we give them a Bible.

Church Buildings

As reported last year we had to close the community centre due to a water burst from burst pipes. In January we met up with the insurance assessor to see if we could proceed with the insurance claim logged in December. We were given the approval and the repair work started in March and took to July before it was signed off by us and the insurance company.

The PCC took the decision whilst the centre was closed to see what other refurbishment work could we do and afford from our reserves. The decision was made to paint the areas not covered by the insurance work and to replace the floor coving in the centre which was the original laid when the centre was built in the 1980's and in places started to become a health and safety risk. Also, the original internal fire doors and toilet doors to be replaced due to holes in the doors and wear and tear over the years.

The outstanding painting not covered by the insurance claim was completed in July following PCC approval.

Following obtaining quotes, PCC approval and a faculty approval, work started on the flooring in August and took longer than expected due to the Owner of the business deal with the sudden death of his father who was joined Owner of the business, delays in supplies delivery and Covid also affecting the staff, eventually all the flooring was completed at the beginning of November. Regarding the doors quote where obtained during Nov-Jan for approval of the PCC in the new financial year.

In September during the annual gas safety check for the heating boilers in church and the Community Centre a total of 4. One of the boilers which cover the church was condemned due to the parts required for repair now being obsolete, The other 3 of the boilers in repairs. The 2 boilers covering the Community Centre only require minor repairs and were operating quickly. The 2nd boiler covering church ended up with major parts require and eventually after 6 weeks started to work. The PCC have been advised to start planning for new boilers for the church heating systems in the near future.

In Nov/Dec due to amount of rain the Tower roof as started to leak again. We are overdue a quinquennial inspection. On checking the last report, the Inspector was unable to inspect the roof and advise a safely harness to be installed. The PCC are looking into this ready for the next inspection due to take place in 2024. In the meantime, a water pump has been temporarily installed to pump the water out of the loft area under the tower roof whilst we wait the Inspection to take place and advise what work needs to be undertaken.

The fire extinguishers were serviced in June.

The PCC would like to thank the volunteers who clean the church regularly, flower arrangements in church and look after the gardens around church throughout the year.

Staffing

From September 2023 on behalf of Christ Church we employ a caretaker for their community centre. This employment will be transferred when Christ Church legally moves from the Eccleston Team to the larger parish of Church St Helens expected to happen May 2024.

There are many volunteers who fulfil roles at St Luke's in a variety of ways. There are too many to name individually and if we had to pay for this work, it would cost us thousands of pounds. During the year a number of volunteers due to personal issues have had to step back on the work they do for the church and we especially like to Thank them for the many years of serving in their ministries. The PCC are truly thankful and appreciative to all the people who serve the Lord in St Luke's and within the Eccleston Team in whatever role that is.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Whatsapp Prayer Group - Co-Ordinator Stina & Dave Foxford

Eccleston Team Prayer Group is more than a set group of people. It continues to 'meet' via WhatsApp and Prayer times which are on 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, and we welcome prayer requests and anyone to join us. WhatsApp Prayer is only about half an hour from 8pm and follows ready prepared Prayer Guide, which is also accessible through the Team's 'Being Church' email. The format of the WhatsApp Prayer time consists of two worship songs, a short reflection and variety of prayer pointers.

It is impossible to say how many people take part in the WhatsApp Prayer time. Some people join in real-time whilst others use the Prayer Guide on their own at a more convenient time. However, we do know that there are people who enjoy the Prayer time regularly and are not just from our Eccleston Team of churches. So, we could say that this modern style of prayer group works, but we do not think that it should be entirely a replacement of face-to-face prayer groups. We 'met' twenty times during the year and had a summer break in August and an extended Christmas break.

Our topics of prayer were: Our families & ourselves, Clergy & leadership, our Church family, C of E, Ukraine & Ukrainians, Living costs crisis, Ethiopia, NHS and social services, Turkey – Syria earthquake, Persecuted Christians, Young people & suicide prevention, our link schools, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, Easter, Street Pastors, Children's activities, APCMs, PCCs, Church wardens, Diocese representatives, the Coronation, Sudan, Eccleston Team marriage course, Thy Kingdom Come – project, Environment, Armenia, Church growth, India, School exams, St. Helens town, North Korea, County lines in St. Helens, Rev. Helen and Tony Coffey & Eccleston Team, Schools Ministry, Morocco (earthquake), Libya (severe flood), Anti- Slavery Day, Alternative events to Halloween, Israel – Hamas war, International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP), Remembrance Sunday, Advent time & Christmas season.

Clearly, we prayed a lot and for many issues and many people.

Thank you very much to everyone who has taken the time and effort to stand in prayer with us! It is invaluable and makes a big difference in people's lives.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

***"Teddies"* Toddler Group – Team Leader Julie Parry**

Teddies has been in Church last year. We have had more room but there have been practical restrictions also.

Our numbers have been regularly hitting 45 families. This includes a lot of regulars and quite a few new families.

Due to heating problems during Oct/nov we unfortunately had to close for about six weeks. At Easter, end of Summer term and Christmas we have a party and hired soft play equipment which the children love.

Thanks to the volunteer who come every week help to set up and clean up after the session and help during the time with craft activity and listen to adults.

5th Eccleston St Luke's Brownies – Leader Brown Owl Gill Crosby

The Spring term started in January in unusual surroundings as we had to make our home in the Jubilee lounge, due to the hall being out of action. We didn't mind, as it was only for a few weeks! We tailored our activities to the smaller space and got on with our new badge work – Wellbeing. We looked at mindfulness, diet, and the ways we can feel good about ourselves. In February we joined other girls from Merseyside at Huyton Sports Village for Thinking Day to explore more about Lord Baden Powell, and his Sister Agnes and his wife Olave, who formed the "Rosebuds" the former name of "Brownies".

We also realised that the Brownie pack at St. Luke's had been running for 50 years on the 17th of March, so we had a little celebration as it just happened to fall on a Monday! during which we were delighted to have the new girls make their promises and we awarded badges from the Autumn term. Some lively singing for the parents complemented the evening.

During this term Girl Guiding Head Quarters announced new branding for the whole movement which was more in keeping with the digital era, so we got a new Brownie identity logo and a new Girl Guiding logo.

We also made Mother's Day cards and gifts, and Easter cards and baskets before we broke up for Easter.

The summer term started with the realisation that the hall would still be out of action for some considerable time so again we had to choose wisely what activities could be done within the space. Our new badge work this term was "Take Action". We looked at our environment; including a fact-finding mission to Taylor Park, and how we could change small things to make a difference. This theme also went well with a project, Hannah Davies (Rainbow Owl), wanted to do from the Wildlife Trust. "30 Days Wild" was a get out and look at nature project for the month of June, the Brownies really enjoyed this and the best bit was that the girls could earn yet another badge to add to their collections!

For the first time in 3 years, on the 28th – 30th April, we were able to go on a pack Holiday to our local Brownie house. There was much planning and excitement in the build up and the holiday was a great success. The theme was Whinnie the Pooh and there were lots of crafts to make and things to experience. Sue Brindley (Brown Owl) enjoyed crafting with the girls, Helen Brindley (Snowy owl) kept everything ship shape, while myself (Tawny Owl) and Hannah Davies (Rainbow Owl) seemed to spend most of our time in the kitchen as food disappeared as fast as we served it! A great time was had by all and we arrived home very tired but with wonderful memories.

A scorching hot Saturday in June saw myself and 8 Brownies board a coach to Scarisbrick camp site for the day. The theme was "The Seaside" and the organisers had done a fantastic job. We had donkeys, a beach, circus tricks to learn, a Punch and Judy show, stalls, bungee swings, which the girls loved, and a mesmerising giant bubble maker which kept the girls amused for most of the afternoon which was welcomed because I was sitting wilting in the heat by this time. The coach home was very hot and we were all glad to get off it, but another great day of memories was made.

Just before the end of term we were invited to a Guide Leader's farm in Cronton, we spent the evening learning how to make a camp and how to build a fire safely, how to strike a match and finally we got to make popcorn and smores (toasted marshmallow between 2 chocolate digestives). We all went home tired and smelly from the smoke.

Unfortunately, Sue Brindley (Brown Owl) had some major health issues during the summer term and the decision was taken that she should step back and that her daughter Helen Brindley would join the leaders on a more permanent basis, and that myself; Gillian Crosby should take up the position of Brown owl. With the help of the Vicar, Gareth, we had a lovely service in church to celebrate both 50 years of Brownies at St. Luke's and Sue's 45 years in Guiding and to say thank you but not quite goodbye to her.

The next day we had our promise ceremony and badge night, where more new girls made their promise, we had three Brownies presented with their Gold awards, the highest award a Brownie can get, and I was officially introduced to parents as the New Brown Owl and Helen became Tawny Owl.

Autumn term rolled round all to soon and it was my turn to take the helm and do the planning etc. we had a very busy term. We welcomed 6 new girls in September and a new Young Leader: Ranger, Riley Parry (Snowy Owl). Our badge work was "Know Myself" which was ideal for breaking the ice and using the theme to get to know each other.

In November we went to Scarisbrick camp site a second time for their “Winter Sparkle”, a crisp bright cold morning saw us having mock snowball fights, playing games in the woods, dancing with the Snow Queen, visiting the stalls and having lunch round the campfire. It was a lovely morning and over all too soon.

In December we had our Christmas party which was Movie themed, and we also went to Park side Care Home, Prescott Road and sang a selection of carols and Christmas songs and met one of our old Brown Owls Joan Massey who was thrilled to see us. It nicely rounded off our 50th year.

Gill Crosby, Helen Brindley, Hannah Davies (Unit Leaders)
Sue Brindley (Occasional leader), Riley Parry (Young Leader)

Food Pantry – Co-ordinator Jean Moore

Following the flood in the church centre, the food pantry has operated from the main church building throughout 2023. We have 25 volunteers, some of whom are church members and others from the community. One of members is a sixth-former at Cowley and another came to us through the Local Authority ESOL service as a way for her to improve her English. (She speaks far better English than we speak Spanish!).

When we moved into the church, we used to get about 40 pantry members visiting the pantry each week, now we average about 65 visits per weeks but we have had several weeks where there have been over 70 visits and our record number was 86. In order to make sure that we can provide enough food for everyone to have a choice, we have limited our membership numbers to 150. If we have applications that would take us above this number, these people are placed on the waiting list until a place becomes available. Currently, we have 134 members.

We have been able to keep the cost of a weekly visit to £4 because we have been successful in applying for grants which we have used to subsidise the cost for our members. We also, give free shops to people who arrive at pantry in crisis. Our members come from a variety of different backgrounds:- working; unemployed; pensioners; refugees etc. Whatever their circumstances, all of the people who visit the pantry are very grateful for the support that they are receiving through the pantry.

Thanks to the generosity of church members, we were able to give each child, whose parents visit the pantry, an Easter egg last Easter. In May, we invited pantry members to join us at the Big Lunch that we held to celebrate King Charles’ coronation. The event was held on the church car park and we were very grateful for the good weather that the Lord provided and to church members for the contributions of food that they provided. Several of our pantry members took up the invitation to join us and told us afterwards that they had had a lovely time. At Christmas, we received a grant from St. Helens and Halton VCA which we put towards making up a hamper of Christmas food for our members. We were partnered with Lidl, King Street for the Neighbourly toy appeal and this meant that we were able to give each child a Christmas gift. Also the generosity of church members, meant that we were able to give each child a selection box. When asked after Christmas had they had an enjoyable Christmas, one of members who has a large family replied:- “Thanks to you all here, we did”. This kind of comment, made all the hard work in putting it all together worthwhile.

We continue to invite pantry members to come to Church events whenever we can. On a personal note, I would like to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work during the past 12 months and wish them well as they continue to provide this valuable service to our community in 2024.

Tea and Toast – Co-ordinator Lorraine Rose, Julie Parry & Lorna Llewellyn

During 2023 we have continued to operate from the Jubilee Lounge at the back of church. We only closed for 1 week between Christmas and the New Year.

We now have a few regulars who come each week. A mixture of ages from young to old, New friendships have been made and we have seen people just pop in because they are passing and saw the church doors open. On occasions we had people who are homeless call in for a warm drink/food and to get warm. We have some clothing/ food ready to eat around the Pantry and we see if we can find anything for them and check they are aware of the support available from other organisations. At times we had people who come in who just want a listen ear and to pray with them.

We will continue to serve God and try encourage more people in the community to call in.

Hobby Hub – Co-ordinator Sarah Murphy

We have enjoyed a happy and successful year at Hobby Hub. As many of you know, the group was started by Susan Stewart to enjoy and share crafting skills. It is open to all [both men and women] within the Eccleston Team of churches and beyond. Susan left the group in March 2023 when Gregor moved to be Team Vicar of another parish and Sarah Murphy then became the nominated contact and key holder for the group.

We are going from strength to strength and have approximately between 15 and 20 people who attend on a regular basis. We meet from 7-8.30 in the church lounge. Members contribute a 50p-£1 donation each week which we pass onto church as a contribution to milk and overhead costs. We have a variety of crafts on display from our members, from needle felting, crochet, colouring to lego and modelling. We also have noticed that we all benefit from the supportive and friendly nature of the group. A regularly used Whatsapp group ensures we can keep in touch with each other and check in with absent members. We also enjoy a cuppa, chat and a biscuit of two together!

We look forward to continuing to add to our membership in the next year.

St Luke's Indoor Bowls – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Allan Taggart & Charles Johnson

At the beginning of 2023 our bowlers were devastated to hear of the water damage in the Church Centre, which meant that our bowls venue would be out of action for some time. Fortunately, we were rescued by our friends at St James' with St Matthew's who allowed us to use St Matthew's hall on Thursday afternoons.

Their mats were so good that we acquired them when we finished the indoor season in March and they have been a great addition to our facilities at St Luke's now that we are back "home". Unfortunately, the contours of the floor at St Luke's are still a mystery which Hercule Poirot, Miss

Marple and Philip Marlowe would all fail to solve and we are still challenged by the unexpected paths which our bowls choose to follow.

Nevertheless Alan, with his bag of balls from which we have to pick a number to decide our mats and bowling groups, and the excellent refreshments (Tunnock's tea cakes and caramel wafers – thanks Bev!) do more than enough to make up for this. All are welcome to come along and join us when we start again in October.

St Luke's Men's Group – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Charles Johnson & Allan Taggart

Once again we had a very successful series of monthly meetings in the Black Bull. We had a wide range of topics. Ben Bolton-Maggs spoke very entertainingly about his experiences as a medic on an expedition to the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro and Jean Chambers told us about her work as a nurse in Northern Canada. Yvonne Taylor spoke about her Polish mother's ordeal doing forced labour during the second world war, whilst David Thorpe's focus was a little closer to home as he told us of his work in the Liverpool Diocese Education Department. We were pleased to welcome back Phil Davidson as he continued his attempts to convince the petrol heads about the advantages of electric cars (he really needs to speak to some of our wives as they make big decisions like which car to buy).

We played snooker at St James'; we had our bowls night at Prescott and Odyssey; and we had a Christmas event jointly with the ladies from the Hobby Hub (thanks to the ladies for allowing us to join them, and thanks to Ron for the music and to Lorraine for the game of Consequences – what happens at the Christmas do stays at the Christmas do!).

Thanks to all who have attended our meetings and who have given so generously when speakers asked for a donation to charity. This generosity was also evident when we had to pay a small fee to the Black Bull for the use of the function room and when we had to bring refreshments for the Christmas event. As a result of this financial demand from the Black Bull we have had to find another venue, but more about that will be in next year's report.

Finally I must mention that some ladies have expressed regret that they cannot attend the Men's Meeting. It is unfortunate, but apart from the fact that we don't have to give birth to our children, attending the Men's Meeting is possibly the only advantage to being born male !

FINANCE

Regular giving and donations decreased by just over 8%, compared to the same for 2022, whereas our regular commitments (gas, electricity, water, insurance, etc) have increased by 40% during the year, with the bulk of this increase being due to the combined increase in gas and electricity costs of 81%.

Our Parish Share contribution for 2023 was maintained at more or less the same level as 2022.

Although people joined the Parish Giving Scheme when it was initially launched, the uptake of this did not continue through 2023.

Payments associated with the vicarage have remained consistent compared to 2022, although they now do only account for the telephone line and broadband connection.

All other costs associated with the vicarage (i.e., council tax, water rates, etc.), which were incurred because it was occupied by Rev Gregor Stewart and his family during his Curacy, are now accounted for separately under the 'curacy costs' line and are paid for by the 4 churches of the Eccleston Team as shown in the 'curacy income' row under the income section. The rent of the vicarage is covered by a curacy grant from the Liverpool Diocese. This income and expenditure ceased when Rev Gregor completed his curacy in March with any overpayments from the other churches returned.

A large one-off maintenance cost was incurred during 2023 for the replacement of the flooring throughout the church centre, this was paid for from the 'Church Upgrade Fund' which is from the investment income from the restricted fund..

Further large maintenance costs were also incurred during 2023 for the repairs to the boilers for both the church and the centre and also for repairs to the water pipes and tanks within the centre which had caused the flooding issues.

We have received a total of £9,983 in tax recovery from regular and donations income. This is higher than during 2022 as tax recovery has been received for a total of 13 months, which included the end of 2022. Also, a large donations was received in November 2022 which was gift aided.

Income from hall lettings was only slightly higher than that in 2022, although the centre was out of use for the majority of the year as most of the community groups utilised the church building instead of the centre..

We have received investment income totalling £2,079 from the bequest investment fund, which is available for the PCC without any restrictions. This was lower than that received in 2022 as some funds had been withdrawn from the investment funds to cover the additional expenditure.

Performance of Investments from the fund accounts held with the Central Board of Finance from the sale of the school have been good with dividend payments and interest achieving £2,123 which is available to the PCC for restricted items.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the year, between the main deposit and current accounts there was a total of £12,254 available as general funds.

The market value of the investment fund from the bequest donations, which is available to the PCC without any restrictions, was £46,792 as a total of £40,000 had been withdrawn from this fund during the year. There was also a further £1,014 in restricted funds which are available for the PCC to use for restricted purposes.

Agent Transactions

The PCC acted as a financial agent for the following people / organisations: -

- Liverpool Diocese - £1,772.00 was received in regards to Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals from the wedding couples and funeral directors which has been forwarded to the diocesan board of finance
- Fundraising events were organised for DEC Appeal, MacMillan Cancer Care (Coffee Morning) and Tear Fund (Harvest Service and Big Quiz) which raised £264.03, £395.46 and £197.00 respectively and these have been forwarded to the organisations concerned.

Plans for the Future

We will continue to work with the other churches and develop relationships within the Eccleston team, developing and supporting best practices, worshipping styles and new ideas across the Team. Together we will continue working towards our vision to be a team of churches that:

1. Puts Jesus at the centre of all we do.
2. Serves our community in meaningful ways.
3. Provides faith opportunities for all age groups.

We will continue to pray for our church, trusting God for growth.

God of Mission
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
joy to our worship
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signature



Full Name: - Rev. Gareth Banton

Position: - PCC Chair

Date: - 23rd April 2024

**The Parish Church of
ST LUKE, ECCLESTON**

Financial Statement for the year ending 2023.

Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Ecclestone
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2023
Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Regular Giving					
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	22,139			22,139	23,489
Planned Giving - Parish Giving Scheme	5,793			5,793	6,920
Planned Giving - Other	4,095			4,095	4,570
Loose Plate Collections	4,488			4,488	4,220
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	9,983			9,983	5,760
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid on Small Donations in memoriam				0	0
members' payments		1,757		1,757	1,828
grants	684			684	1,500
other donations	2,377	277		2,654	3,202
special appeals				0	0
				51,594	67,600
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
refreshments	426			426	328
copy printer income	5			5	7
hall lettings	5,703			5,703	5,587
other income (incl cards)	692			692	1,454
				6,825	7,376
Receipts from Church activities					
PCC Fees	1,608			1,608	3,679
Donations from Verger				0	0
				1,608	3,679
Receipts from investments					
Bank & CBF interest/dividends	1,997		2,281	4,279	5,083
				4,279	5,083
Other receipts					
Weekend income / outings				0	0
Insurance claim	2,584			2,584	0
Curacy Income		-412		-412	11,238
				2,172	11,238
St Luke's Pantry Income					
Grants		4,350		4,350	12,210
Donations		3,705		3,705	1,697
Members Payments		13,126		13,126	9,398
Other Payments		216		216	419
				21,397	23,724
Total Receipts	62,575	23,019	2,281	87,875	118,699

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Ecclestone
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2023
Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Payments					
Church activities					
Missionary giving	2,668	677		3,344	8,251
Parish share	50,175			50,175	51,035
Working expenses	1,172			1,172	1,593
Vicarage costs	630			630	630
Curacy Costs		612		612	10,723
Wages	354			354	2,410
Church heat/light	7,404			7,404	4,060
Church insurance	2,933			2,933	3,191
Evangelism (incl anniversary)	452			452	822
Church Maintenance	3,398			3,398	18,937
Upkeep of services	368	228		595	332
Equipment	115	927		1,042	515
Copier lease/mtce	1,326			1,326	1,031
Community centre maintenance	7,586			7,586	1,679
Community centre running costs	10,336			10,336	7,976
Weekend accommodation/ outings				0	0
Refreshments	347			347	242
Other working exps	2,285	745		3,029	1,923
Church upgrade works			15,328	15,328	0
				110,064	115,350
St Luke's Pantry					
Fees		1,473		1,473	1,575
Equipment		987		987	2,783
Purchases (Grants)		10,705		10,705	0
Purchases		8,253		8,253	10,895
Other Purchases		214		214	416
				21,632	15,669
Total Payments	91,548	24,820	15,328	131,696	131,019
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(28,973)	(1,801)	(13,046)	(43,820)	(12,320)

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St. Luke's, Ecclestone
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	(4,888)		(894)	(5,782)	(3,031)
Bank deposit account	18,036			18,036	6,116
Community Centre account		10,478		10,478	10,713
Church Board of Finance Deposit Fund				0	0
Church Board of Finance Deposit Account (764001)			1,014	1,014	3,588
Fund bank accounts and cash		1,127		1,127	1,669
Total bank current and deposit accounts	13,148	11,605	120	<u>24,873</u>	<u>19,056</u>
Investment Assets					
CBF Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764002) **			41,405	41,405	37,816
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764003) **			41,114	41,114	38,802
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Bequest) (764004)	23,134			23,134	50,291
CBF Investment Fund (Bequest) (764005)	23,658			23,658	41,066
				<u>129,311</u>	<u>167,975</u>
** Investment Assets were previously managed by the trustees of Greenhalls Ecclesiastical Charity. These have now been transferred to St Lukes Parochial Church Council.					
Other Monetary Assets (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
Income tax recoverable from HMRC from October - December 2023				1,760	4,435
Liabilities (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
None				0	0

Approved by the PCC on 23rd April 2024 by correspondence.

And signed on their behalf on 26th April 2024 by



Rev Gareth Banton
Team Vicar



Mr Peter Anderson
PCC Assistant Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS:

1. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but are not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:
Freehold land and buildings comprising the Church Centre
Various items of ICT and audio visual equipment
Various tables and chairs purchased in 2010
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.
No other payments were made to PCC members.

4. The movements in designated funds during the year were:

	b/fwd 1 Jan 2023	Receipts	Payments	c/fwd 31 Dec 2023
Discretionary fund	366			366
Flower Fund	6	222	228	0
Hospitality	99		99	0
Teddies Tuesday	771	1,812	2,249	334
Luke There	428			428
	1,669	2,034	2,576	1,127

5. Receipts and payments for the Community Centre are included within the PCC accounts but are identified separately as follows:

	£ 2023	£ 2022
Receipts		
Hall lettings	5,703	5,587
Grants	0	0
Contribution from (to) St Luke's Church	12,219	5,748
Total Income	17,922	11,335

Payments		
Community centre maintenance	7,586	1,679
Community centre running costs	10,336	7,976
Centre Cleaning Costs	0	1,680
Total Expenditure	17,922	11,335

6. Movement of monies in investment funds.

Fund	Type	Balance at 31.12.2022	Payments In / (Withdrawals)	Investment Gain (Loss)	Balance at 31.12.2023
764002	Restricted	37,816		3,589	41,405
764003	Restricted	38,802		2,312	41,114
764004	Unrestricted	50,291	(29,264)	2,107	23,134
764005	Unrestricted	41,066	(20,373)	2,965	23,658
		167,975	(49,637)	10,972	129,311

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke's, Eccleston, St Helens on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023, as set out on pages 18 to 22 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: P. Horton

Date: 20/5/24

IE's Name: PAUL HORTON

address: [REDACTED], ECCLESTON, ST. HELENS WA10 5JA

Accounts

The Parish Church of ST LUKE, ECCLESTON

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 2022.



***Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus,
Showing Jesus to Others***

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

St Luke's Church Eccleston, St Helens. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:-

St Luke's Church
 Knowsley Road, Eccleston, St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 4PU.
 Tel No 01744 21173
 Email address: - info.stlukeeccleston@gmail.com

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the church.

For the period 1st January 2022 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Clergy	Rev H Coffey*	Team Rector	
	Rev G Banton*	Team Vicar	
	Rev Sonya Doragh*	Team Vicar	
Lay Readers	Miss D.L. Wright*	Lay Chair Deanery Synod Rep	
	Mr D Thorpe*	Deanery Synod Rep	Appointed Oct 2022
Churchwardens	Mrs L Rose*		Retired May 2022
PCC	Mrs K Grant		
	Mrs D Kelly		
	Mr T Kelly		
	Miss A Hayes		
	Mr K Lancaster		Retired May 2022
	Mrs L Llewellyn		
	Mrs J Moore	PCC Secretary Up to May 2022	
	Mrs L Rose	Treasurer	Appointed May 2022
	Mrs K Sawyer	PCC Secretary From May 2022	Co-opted up to May 2022. Appointed May 2022
	Mr P Anderson	Assistant Treasurer	Co-opted member

Ex-Officio members are indicated by *

The following were appointed at the PCC meeting on 13th June 2022 as sidespersons: -

Mrs. B. Bird

Mrs K Grant
Mrs. M. Rew

The following have responsibility roles: -

Safeguarding Officer: Miss. D.L. Wright
Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs J Thorpe
Gift Aid Secretary: Mrs. J Griffiths MBE

Team Rector: - Rev Helen Coffey, St James Vicarage, 159a St Helens Rd, Eccleston Park, Prescot, Merseyside. Tel No: - 07742 590672. Email: - helentcoffey@gmail.com

Team Vicar: - Rev Gareth Banton, St Johns Vicarage, Crossley Road, St Helens, Merseyside. Tel No: - 07444 811428. Email:- garethbanton@gmail.com

Bankers: - Royal Bank of Scotland, Ormskirk Street, St Helens, Merseyside,

Independent Examiner: - Mr. P. Horton, c/o St Luke's Church, Knowsley Rd, St. Helens.

Architect: - Nicholas Rank, Butress, Manchester

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules as at 2017.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a charity currently accepted by order from registration with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC meets on a monthly basis with the exception of January, August and December.

Day to Day management of the church is exercised by the Standing Committee, the only committee required by law. It has the power to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings and considers strategic issues which may affect the church.

Members of the Standing Committee are: -

Miss. D.L. Wright (Lay Chair)
Mrs. L. Rose (PCC Member)
Mrs. J. Moore (PCC Secretary) Retired June 2022
Mrs. K. Grant (PCC Member) Appointed June 2022
Rev. H. Coffey (Team Rector)
Rev. G Banton (Team Vicar)

Related Parties:

Queen's Park Primary School, St. Helens – the Priest-in-Charge of St Luke's Church, Eccleston is an ex-officio member of the school governors. This is Rev. Helen Coffey, Eccleston Team Rector and Kate Sawyer as a Foundation Governor.

Individual PCC members receive external training as and when deemed necessary by the PCC. Training may include trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk assessment and management and Safeguarding procedures.

Financial Risk:

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with the budget are reported to the PCC at every meeting. The investments held by the PCC are only made in low-risk funds approved for charity use. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling are implemented.

Compliance with Law and Regulation:

The Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines (Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a safer church) have been adopted by the PCC. The PCC have the ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Safeguarding at St. Luke's. Safer Recruitment procedures are followed as directed by the Liverpool Diocesan Safeguarding team and all appointments need to be referred to Rev. Helen Coffey, the Team Rector.

The Diocesan policy gives clear guidelines for procedures to follow regarding recruitment. It also gives clear guidance to follow in the event of a Safeguarding issue.

The Diocese use an online system for DBS checks and all those in positions requiring a check have gone through this process. These are renewed regularly.

All leaders and helpers in groups involving Children and/or Vulnerable Adults are required to complete a confidential internal information form, following the diocesan 'Safer Recruitment' guidelines and procedures.

All PCC members have undergone an online DBS check.

Readers are required to complete Diocesan Safeguarding training and St. Luke's Readers have either completed the training or are due to attend training in the near future.

The PCC continues to be diligent in monitoring legal compliance and changes to legislation.

AIMS AND PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

St. Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church & Community Centre, Knowsley Road, St Helens.

When planning the objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guide on public benefit.

Mission and Outreach Support

The commitment to contribute 10% of the income to missions and charities was maintained with the PCC authorising the distribution as follows: -

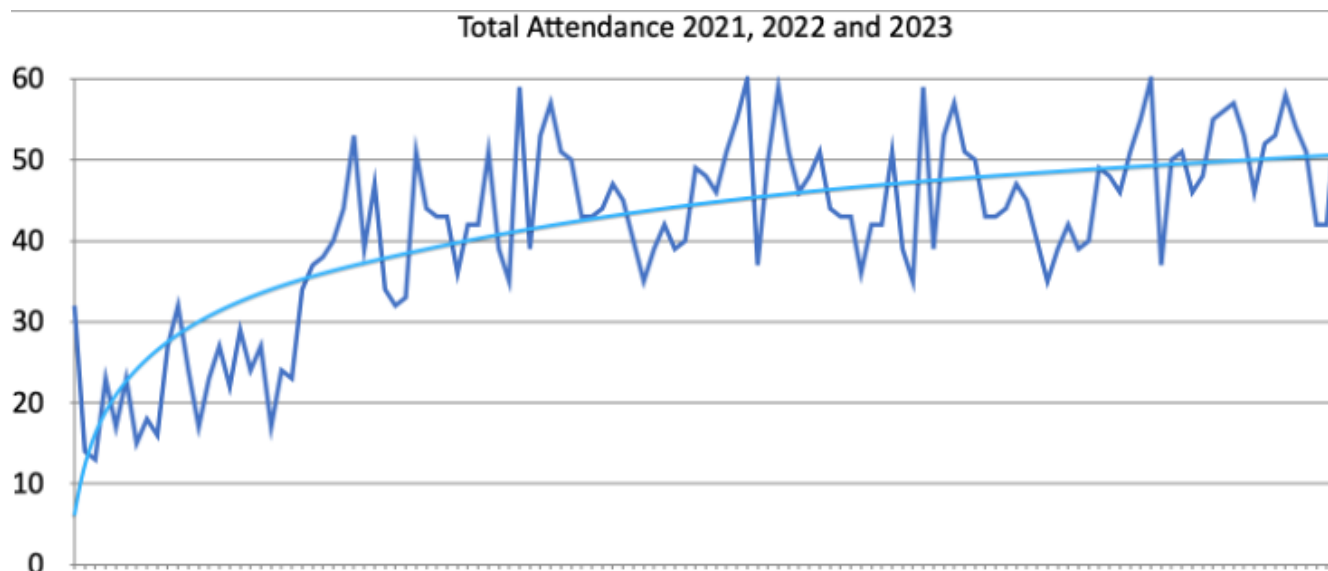
(figures in brackets relates to FYE 2021)

CMS (Eric & Sandra Reed)	£1,385	(£1,549)
CPAS	£345	(£388)
Bible Society	£345	(£388)
SGM Lifewords	£345	(£388)
St Helens Street Pastors	£695	(£774)
Tear Fund	£1,040	(£1,549)
United Christians Broadcasting	£345	(£388)
Hope from Above (Tim & Carol Derbyshires)	£695	(£774)
St Helens Safe Families	£0	(£774)
Hope Centre	£1,385	(£774)
Simeons	£345	(£0)



Vicar's Report:

2022 was my first full year with St Luke's, having arrived in September 2021. It has been a pleasure serving the community and getting to know you all better. It's been a good year for St Luke's, as we've continued re-establishing ourselves after a tumultuous 2020 and 2021. You can see below by the trend line on our total attendance, that we've grown steadily as a church over the past couple of years. Some folks have returned to worship following the pandemic and a number of newcomers have joined our church family too.



Fit For Mission. Early in the year the PCC was engaged in a lot of discussions and consultations about the Fit For Mission Project proposal in the Deanery. The project, amongst other things, proposed consolidating the PCC's in the deanery into a single legal entity, making the deanery one parish with multiple churches and congregations. After a lot of prayerful discernment, the PCC voted unanimously not to opt into the project, as did St John's. The Eccleston Team will eventually need to be disbanded or changed, but at the time of writing, (April '23) we're still unsure what the future shape of our ministry will look like. Almost certainly we will be joined together as a benefice with St John's Ravenhead, but also possibly with St James with St Matthew's (as they opted out of the FFM project in January '23). There is certainly strong support for this in all our church PCC's. We are about to start conversations with the Diocese and Bishops Planning team about this.

LYCIG. In October the PCC also began a learning journey with an organisation called Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG). Tom Kelly, Diane Wright and I went on a conference in October and have been attending learning workshops, and we're now in turn, teaching the PCC what we've been learning. Our hope and prayer is that this learning journey will help our church to grow in a number of areas: numerical, spiritual and missional. We're encouraging all church members to be praying regularly for growth (you'll find the LYCIG prayer at the end of our annual report). Let's be thankful and praise God that we are already seeing the church grow!

Food Pantry. At the start of the year our Food Pantry got under way after lots of preparation. It's been wonderful to see that ministry flourish, reaching more and more local households and

helping stop a tremendous amount of food waste. The rising cost of living and climate change are two hot button issues facing our nation. I'm so incredibly pleased that St Luke's is doing its part on both through the Food Pantry on both matters, and the whole Food Pantry team deserve a huge amount of recognition for the work they do week in and week out. Christian mission is often perceived as being about souls and spiritual matters, rather than physical things like bodies and the earth. But mission and ministry have always got to be about both. Living well and caring for our creation is Kingdom work.

Christmas. One thing I've learned about St Luke's is that it's a church people love to come to for the big occasions. We can certainly pull a crowd. For our Carol service we had around 140 people, and our Crib Service hosted around 90 people, mostly excited young children!

Kids Church. In the final quarter of the year, we were preparing to launch our Kid's Church provision (which started January '23), recognising that for Sundays to work for families with young children we need to provide reliable and consistent provision. Julie Parry graciously stepped up as lead, and we began conversations in October and November with the Kid's Church at St John's to see what we can learn from them and how we can work together. (It's been going well, but we'll report on that next year!) Again, continue to pray for growth in this ministry.

Community Centre. Just before the end of the year we experienced a number of difficulties with the community centre, including a number of serious leaks. The centre was deemed unsafe and hurriedly moved things like toddler group and the food pantry into the church space. The PCC decided to take the opportunity to develop and improve the community centre, which has been looking tired for some time. The centre is home for several community groups, and it represents the bulk of our church's outreach into our local community. As such, we want it to be attractive, welcoming and user-friendly. As 2023 began work began to dry the building and assess the damage, revealing more and more issues. There's a lot to do but it's exciting that by our next annual meeting our community centre will look and feel quite different!

Thankyou. There's more to say but I want to finish by saying a big thank you to everybody at St Luke's. You are what makes the church such a vibrant family of Christians. Many of you do so much for our community life, and many of you give so generously making all these wonderful things possible. Recently, I've found myself very inspired by this prayer from the Church of England (it's actually from the Marriage service!) but it feels like such a good prayer for our community as we look bravely to the future.

**God of wonder and of joy, grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.**

**Without you, we cannot please you; without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
that we may worship you with thankful hearts
and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Rev Gareth Banton – Team Vicar

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The PCC is delighted with its achievements set out in the previous and following section. The following section highlights the areas of activity and performance.

The electoral roll (April 2020- 105) is now 107 people, 67 of whom are non-resident in the parish. During the year 4 people have joined and 2 are deceased.

Worship: - This average attendance over the year was 42 adults and 3 children. This is just based on 'ordinary Sundays' and doesn't take into consideration major festivals and baptism services which can artificially boost our numbers. We average 2 connections on Zoom each Sunday. We have continued to provide a 'Zoom' service for all the churches in the Ecclestone Team. This is later uploaded onto our YouTube channel. In January 2023 we will be launching our Kids Church.

We held 20 baptism services during the year. 11 funeral services were held at church, and we held 3 at the crematorium. There were 2 wedding services.

We have a small team of church family members who make handmade gifts for our baptism children to mark the occasion of Welcoming them into the church family and for the adults we give them a Bible.

Church Buildings

We initiated some investigation and quotation work regarding asbestos in the building during 2021. In January 2022 the actual work was undertaken to deal with the asbestos found in the basement boiler room. For this work to be undertaken safely the buildings was closed Monday to Friday for a week. There was no disturbance to the Sunday Service.

In February the gas boilers were serviced in both the basement and the centre, and Fire Extinguishers were serviced during the year.

This year we had a number of leaks around the community centre the first was in the accessible toilet caused by the water heater servicing the toilets above in the ceiling. The ball cock was not working, but this was repaired. A couple months later we had the ceiling down in the kitchen due to the thermostat not working. The water had heated, building up steam in the loft area therefore the plaster got wet over a period of time. Repairs to the water heater was completed and the ceiling was patched over in the kitchen.

In December, during the week with the bad freeze, the community centre flooded affecting the boiler room, kitchen, pantry, toilets, corridor and the main hall. The water was shut off immediately and the plumber came out and fixed 3 burst pipes but said there was a lot of frozen water in the loft area and we may have more burst pipes once it had started to thaw. The decision was made to contact the insurance company and make a claim. We closed the community centre immediately and moved the food pantry into church and notified the groups and gave them the option to move into church rather than close.

The PCC would like to thank the volunteers who clean the church weekly, flower arrangements in church and look after the gardens around church throughout the year.

Staffing

We employ a cleaner for 4 hours a week to clean the community centre during the year. The Eccleston Team Toddler Group Co-ordinator was for 16 hours per week until September, and then it was reduced (at the employees request) to 12 hours per week.

There are many volunteers who fulfil roles at St Luke's in a variety of ways. There are too many to name individually and if we had to pay for this work, it would cost us thousands of pounds. The PCC are truly thankful and appreciative to all the people who serve the Lord in St Luke's and within the Eccleston Team in whatever role that is.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

St. Luke's Prayer Meeting - Co-Ordinator Stina & Dave Foxford

Year 2022 brought a fundamental change to the operating of our usual Prayer Group at St. Luke's Church. In- person attendance was very low after the pandemic and it was felt by the three/four of us who attended that this wasn't really viable in the long run. Therefore, we had to make the difficult decision to continue to 'meet' through WhatsApp.

It is impossible to say how many actually use the prepared Prayer Guide every first and third Monday, but responses have been encouraging. There is also the option of choosing the Prayer Guide in one's own time as the Guide is published also in Being Church email by Rev. Helen Coffey. Monday WhatsApp Prayer time at 8pm includes 2 songs, a short Bible based reflection and plenty of prayer pointers. We 'meet' for about half an hour.

Due to the personal circumstances, there were some gaps between the usual routine of Prayer Groups, but we 'met' seventeen times over the year. This included the special Thy Kingdom Come – based Prayer time.

Our topics were varied and we prayed for many countries. The topics were: Chinese Church in the UK, Ukraine – Russia War, Energy Crisis, St. Helens Town, St. Luke's and St. Matthew's Local Food Pantries, Fit for Mission 2 and PCCs, Interceding for Individuals, The Nationality and Borders Bill, Living Costs Crisis, The General Synod of C of E, Copenhagen, Chicago & Hong Kong, Food Poverty in the UK, Conservative Leadership Contest, the Prime Minister, Wildfires, King Charles III and the Royal Family, St. Luke's former Vicar Peter Gilroy, DRC, People on Our Sick Lists, Modern Slavery (*to mark Anti – Slavery Week*), East African Crisis, Young People & Youth for Christ (*to mark Anti- Bullying Week*), Christians in Russia, Indonesian Earthquake, Christians in Qatar, Christmas Events in Our Team, Christmas time and People Who Might Struggle.

Needless to say, that we prayed a lot and for many people around the globe! Thank you so much to everyone who has taken the time to pray as praying and interceding is so valuable and it makes a difference in people's lives!

I hope that everyone who takes part in our Prayer times enjoys them as much as I do and benefits from the contents of the Prayer Guides.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

“Teddies” Toddler Group – Team Leader Julie Parry

This is our first full year since returning after covid, and has been very positive. We had 101 families on the register of which 76 are regular attendees. Our increase in numbers has been through word of mouth from our current "Teddies".

We have had three leavers' services at the end of each term, where we present a Bible and wish them good luck in their new school environment.

Tea, coffee, juice, snacks and toast are very popular and our wonderful volunteers are always kept busy. Our craft area is well loved and we provide a variety of activities.

On a sad note, our Team Leader Karen Grant and Toddler Group co-ordinator April Banton have both stepped down. However, all the volunteers have worked together to fill the gaps they both filled wonderfully.

5th Eccleston St Luke's Brownies – Leader Eagle Owl Sue Brindley

We started the year with our new leader Gill Crosby. Our first meeting the girls enjoyed running about on a roadway in the hall indicating as they turned. The spring term plan was to complete a set of 'skills for my future' live smart challenges. We had a delayed Christmas party on 17th January, we had a meal and play on the soft play equipment at the Black Bull. This worked well as the hall was out of action. Cheshire Forest's Commissioner's husband came with a range of wood working tools to show the girls. They all had a go at hammering nails. We finished these challenges with the girls all making their own fajitas. We stopped in the middle of our 'live smart challenges' to celebrate 'Thinking Day' in our unit on 21st February thinking about Brownies around the world. We ended the term making Mother's Day cards, icing Easter biscuits, and making Easter cards.

The Summer term found the girls choosing the 'Explore' part of 'have adventures' this included some outdoor activities. However, our first night back we celebrated St Georges day on 24th April. The girls then took part in learning some compass points, foot care, mapping skills and ended with a penny hike around the local streets.

Gill made crowns for the girls to decorate to celebrate the Queen's jubilee and Sue make a celebration cake to share. On 13th June we made cards with paper shirts and ties on and heart coasters for Father's Day. We did the Aviation badge looking at how things fly and making paper planes to fly down the hall. The term ended with a promise ceremony for three girls, followed by Hannah and Gill. Gill had by then completed her Adult Leadership booklet and become a Leader

who can run the Unit. Many thanks to Alison Nurse who has supported the Unit during Gill's training and signed off many clauses in her Leadership file. We also celebrated the girl's achievements and said goodbye to the girls moving up to Guides.

The Autumn term started with a beetle drive. The girls chose to work on 'be well' section of the programme looking at mindfulness and feel good activities. This included being filmed making videos 'motivating others to move' which were watched at the end of the meeting by the girls and parents before being deleted.

Another activity enjoyed by all was counting bubbles not sheep to go to sleep, with the girls' all blowing bubbles and then leaving with a bottle of bubbles to use.

After half term we had the girls bring in 'junk' to make mini golf courses and ended the night with the girls' all playing rounds of golf on the courses they made. The last weeks of term girls made a range of Christmas crafts including sewing felt Christmas trees, making personalised calendars, button bauble cards, table decorations and crackers. On 19th November we enjoyed a day at Gulliver's World taking part in their Christmas cracker activities. This was arranged by Hannah as part of her 'Adult Leadership' qualification. The girls all enjoyed the rides, decorating biscuits with Mrs Christmas, the show during their meal. They then had then the magical trip by train to Santa's grotto seeing all the animated creatures in the woodland scenes on the way. The following weekend Sue attended the County weekend at Waddow the 'Girl guide training centre' in Clitheroe. Our year ended with a party buffet and traditional party games.

Sue Brindley & Gill Crosby Unit Leaders Hannah Davies Leader in training & Helen Brindley Occasional Leader.

Food Pantry – Co-ordinator Jean Moore

After much prayer and planning, St. Luke's Food pantry opened its doors on February 2nd 2022. We started with 12 volunteers (who were all church members) and on our opening day we had 25 members joined up which included some of the volunteers. We, now, have around 25 volunteers including people from our local community and around 170 members. Each week we collect surplus food from a number of local supermarkets and shops as well as purchase meat from a local butcher. We get a weekly delivery of food from Fareshare and every fortnight, we have a donation of food from Morrisons from their customer donation point. In addition to this we purchase goods in bulk from Morrisons and from charities such as HisChurch and InKind direct. Currently, we are seeing around 70 people a week using the pantry. For £4 a week, members take home around £15-20 of food. We have been able to keep the price at this level despite rising costs to ourselves thanks a number of grants that we have been able to secure and also the generosity of people from our church family and from the wider community who have made either financial donations or donations of goods. It is very much appreciated and our thanks go out to all these people for their generosity. We also offer a clothes exchange for our members. They are able to take clothes, including school uniform, shoes, toys etc. at no cost. We also encourage people to

donate items for these tables as a way of encouraging community spirit as well as recycling. Members are also able to buy books and CDs for a small cost which goes into pantry funds. We offer free

refreshments each week and a listening ear when required. Each week, there is a member of Citizens Advice in attendance at pantry who is there to be able to signpost members and to offer advice. In October, we held a Harvest Supper for our members with hotpot from Cotthams and in December, despite the flood in the centre kitchen, we held a film and hot dog night, where we showed the Nativity. Both of these events were offered free to members, once again thanks to the generosity of our church fellowship. At Christmas, each family who came along, were given selection boxes for each of their children and a Christmas card. Thanks to all those who donated selection boxes. Each week, more than 75 volunteer hours go into providing the food pantry which lasts for 2 1/2 hours. I would personally like to thank all the volunteers for their commitment to this cause and I know that the members who come along each week would also join me in this. As the cost of living crisis continues to worsen, we know that this provision is valuable to our members and we would ask you to pray that we are given the strength to be able to continue to offer it and that the Lord will continue to provide as He has done in the past twelve months.

Tea and Toast – Co-ordinator Lorraine Rose, Julie Parry & Lorna Llewellyn

As 2022 progressed and the number of Covid restrictions disappearing, the cost of living starting to increase and the success of the Food Pantry. A small group from the church family prayed what could we do to help more and decided to start in October 2022 a drop-in Tea & Toast morning 9am-11am on a Tuesday for the local community. With a suggested donation of £1, To help combat loneliness, safe space to talk, to form new friendships and a warm space to come.

It has been a slow start some weeks we had people who are not connected to the church calling in and other weeks only the volunteers. It is early days and we will continue in this ministry and ask for your prayers.

Hobby Hub – Co-ordinator Susan Stewart

Hobby Hub met weekly throughout the year, starting the year on zoom but we were back to meeting in person in St Luke's Community Centre from February onwards. We have a regular group of 8/9 people meeting each week, who have worked on a range of crafts and often just to be in the company of others. It has been great to welcome men and women as well as young and not so young and we have seen strong friendships being built.

During the year we took the decision as a group that we would each start contributing 50p per week and we're delighted to be able to make a contribution to St Luke's for their generosity in letting us use the facilities.

We had our first Christmas Celebration, deliberately arranged on the same evening as the Mens Night and invited ladies from across the Ecclestone Team of churches to join us for for a night of fun, fellowship and friendship. It was a great night and we definitely had lots of fun!

St Luke's Indoor Bowls – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Allan Taggart & Charles Johnson

2022 was another successful year of bowling on the mats in the Church Centre. On average about 10 people could be found on Thursday afternoons puzzling over the contours of the floor in the hall. We were joined by some new bowlers (both male and female). Even if the mysteries of the slopes and dips in the floor prove too challenging for us, we always enjoy the break for refreshments. Alan has shown great discernment in his choice of biscuits for us. If only we could bring the high level of skill shown in our washing up and drying to our efforts at bowling!

St Luke's Men's Group – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Charles Johnson & Allan Taggart

In Spring 2022 we were finally able to restart our monthly Men's Meeting at the Black Bull. Gareth Banton helped us make a great start with a talk about his experiences of "Wild Camping". We then had some very informative sessions hearing about electric vehicles (some of our ladies wanted to attend that one!) and later in the year on the history of Taylor Park. We held our usual Bowls Night at Prescott and Odyssey Bowling Club. Our curate, Gregor, entertained us with tales from his time as an aircraft engineer travelling the world to fix 747 jets. One first for us was a Christmas event with hotpot supper and a good sing-song. It has been great to see men from all our team churches joining us. Thanks go to our organising committee, to the ladies who help us with creating publicity materials and to the Black Bull. We look forward to more enjoyable evenings in 2023.

FINANCE

Regular giving and donations increased by just under 1%, compared to the same for 2021, whereas our regular commitments (gas, electricity, water, insurance, etc) have increased by 45% during the year, with the bulk of this increase being due to the increase in gas and electricity, as we were on a considerably low fixed tariff until October 2022 but then saw a large increase after. Also, the usage increased this year compared to 2021 as the church and hall were not used as much that year.

Our Parish Share contribution for 2022 was maintained at more or less the same level as 2021, although there was no one-off credit against our payments from the Church Commissioners as had been received during 2021, and hence appears to be an increase of £4,200.

Although people joined the Parish Giving Scheme during 2021, the uptake of this did not continue through 2022.

Payments associated with the vicarage have remained consistent compared to 2021, although they now do only account for the telephone line and broadband connection.

All other costs associated with the vicarage (i.e., council tax, water rates, etc.), which were incurred because it was occupied by Rev Gregor Stewart and his family during his Curacy, are now accounted for separately under the 'curacy costs' line and are paid for by the 4 churches of the Eccleston Team as shown in the 'curacy income' row under the income section. The rent of the vicarage is covered by a curacy grant from the Liverpool Diocese.

A large one-off maintenance cost was incurred during 2022 for the removal of the asbestos lagging and debris around the church boilers in the basement.

We have received a total of £5,760 in tax recovery from regular income. This is lower than during 2021 as tax recovery only been received for 8 months of the year.

Income from hall lettings has increased compared to that in 2021 as community groups continued to return, although it was not back to the pre-covid level.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive several bequests from former members of the church, totalling £16,111, during the year.

We have received investment income totalling £2,795 from the bequest investment fund, which is available for the PCC without any restrictions. This was slightly higher than that received in 2021, even though funds had been withdrawn to pay for the asbestos works, as general interest rates increased.

Performance of Investments from the fund accounts held with the Central Board of Finance from the sale of the school have been good with dividend payments and interest achieving £2,281 which is available to the PCC for restricted items, although the market value of the actual shares has decreased by 12.6%.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the year, between the main deposit and current accounts there was a total of £1,962 available as general funds, there is also £99 available for church upgrade works and a further £1,024 received from Liverpool Diocese and the team churches towards the curacy costs.

The market value of the investment fund from the bequest donations was £82,068 which is available to the PCC without any restrictions. There was also a further £12,877 in restricted funds which are available for the PCC to use for restricted purposes.

Agent Transactions

The PCC acted as a financial agent for the following people / organisations: -

- Liverpool Diocese - £2,410.00 was received in regards to Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals from the wedding couples and funeral directors which has been forwarded to the diocesan board of finance
- Organist Fees - £240.00 was received from funeral directors and wedding couples respectively which has been forwarded to the relevant organist.
- Fundraising events were organised for MacMillan Cancer Care (Coffee Morning), Tear Fund (Harvest Service and Big Quiz) and Children's Society (Christingle Service) which raised £334.07, £664.94 and £77.00 respectively and these have been forwarded to the organisations concerned.

Plans for the Future

- We will continue to develop with our vision for St. Luke's Church: -
"Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others".

Be on your guard; Stand firm in the faith;

Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

- We will continue with the "Leading Your Church into Growth" Programme.
- We will continue to work with the other churches and develop relationships within the Eccleston Team, developing and supporting best practices, worshipping styles and new ideas across the Team.



DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signature 

Full Name: - Rev. Gareth Banton

Position: - PCC Chair

Date: - 28th April 2023

The Parish Church of ST LUKE, ECCLESTON

Financial Statement for the year ending 2022.

Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Ecclestone
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2022
Receipts & Payments Account (Rev 2)

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Regular Giving					
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	23,489			23,489	25,954
Planned Giving - Parish Giving Scheme	6,920			6,920	6,164
Planned Giving - Other	4,570			4,570	5,132
Loose Plate Collections	4,220			4,220	1,619
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	5,760			5,760	9,417
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid on Small Donations				0	0
in memoriam	16,111			16,111	57,337
members' payments		1,828		1,828	370
grants	1,500			1,500	0
other donations	3,090	112		3,202	1,193
special appeals				0	0
				67,600	107,187
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
refreshments	328			328	19
copy printer income	7			7	0
hall lettings	5,587			5,587	2,292
other income (incl cards)	1,454			1,454	865
				7,376	3,176
Receipts from Church activities					
PCC Fees	3,679			3,679	3,026
Donations from Verger				0	0
				3,679	3,026
Receipts from investments					
Bank & CBF interest/dividends	2,802		2,281	5,083	4,973
				5,083	4,973
Other receipts					
Weekend income / outings				0	0
Insurance claim				0	0
Curacy Income		11,238		11,238	11,525
				11,238	11,525
St Luke's Pantry Income					
Grants		12,210		12,210	6,000
Donations		1,697		1,697	121
Members Payments		9,398		9,398	0
Other Payments		419		419	0
				23,724	6,121
Total Receipts	79,516	36,901	2,281	118,699	136,008

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Eccleston
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2022
Receipts & Payments Account (Rev 2)

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Payments					
Church activities					
Missionary giving	6,925	1,326		8,251	10,980
Parish share	51,035			51,035	46,835
Working expenses	1,593			1,593	1,766
Vicarage costs	630			630	620
Curacy Costs		10,723		10,723	11,756
Wages	2,410			2,410	2,855
Church heat/light	4,060			4,060	2,133
Church insurance	3,191			3,191	3,108
Evangelism (incl anniversary)	822			822	572
Church Maintenance	18,937			18,937	1,643
Upkeep of services	198	134		332	473
Equipment		515		515	204
Copier lease/mtce	1,031			1,031	1,215
Community centre maintenance	1,679			1,679	823
Community centre running costs	7,976			7,976	5,241
Weekend accommodation/ outings				0	0
Refreshments	242			242	68
Other working exps	1,568	354		1,923	2,797
Church upgrade works			0	0	10,858
				115,350	103,948
St Luke's Pantry					
Fees		1,575		1,575	500
Equipment		2,783		2,783	2,973
Purchases		10,895		10,895	0
Other Purchases		416		416	0
				15,669	3,473
Total Payments	102,297	28,722	0	131,019	107,421
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(22,781)	8,180	2,281	(12,320)	28,587

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St. Luke's, Ecclestone**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	(3,031)			(3,031)	(9,214)
Bank deposit account	4,994		1,122	6,116	15,063
Community Centre account		10,713		10,713	2,658
Church Board of Finance Deposit Fund		0		0	1,302
Church Board of Finance Deposit Account (764001)			3,588	3,588	1,307
Fund bank accounts and cash		1,669		1,669	2,059
Total bank current and deposit accounts	1,963	12,383	4,711	19,056	13,174
Investment Assets					
CBF Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764002) **			37,816	37,816	42,836
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764003) **			38,802	38,802	44,875
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Bequest) (764004)	44,942		5,349	50,291	70,152
CBF Investment Fund (Bequest) (764005)	37,126		3,940	41,066	53,161
				167,975	211,024
** Investment Assets were previously managed by the trustees of Greenhalls Ecclesiastical Charity. These have now been transferred to St Lukes Parochial Church Council.					
Other Monetary Assets (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
Income tax recoverable from HMRC from August - December 2022				4,435	674
Liabilities (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
None				0	0

Approved by the PCC on 27th November 2023..... and signed on their behalf



**Rev Gareth Banton
PCC Chairman**



**Peter Anderson
PCC Assistant Treasurer**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS:

- These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- The following assets are recognised but are not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:
Freehold land and buildings comprising the Church Centre
Various items of ICT and audio visual equipment
Various tables and chairs purchased in 2010
- The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.
No other payments were made to PCC members.
- The movements in designated funds during the year were:

	b/fwd			c/fwd
	1 Jan 2022	Receipts	Payments	31 Dec 2022
Discretionary fund	366	0	0	366
Flower Fund	38	102	134	6
Hospitality	99	0	0	99
Ladies' Fellowship	0			0
Family Events Fund	57	0	57	0
Boys Brigade	204	0	204	0
Teddies Tuesday	322	1,838	1,389	771
Luke Inn	544		544	0
Luke There	428	0	0	428
St Lukes Puppeteers	0			0
	2,059	1,940	2,330	1,669

- Receipts and payments for the Community Centre are included within the PCC accounts but are identified separately as follows:

	£	£
	2022	2021
Receipts		
Hall lettings	5,587	2,292
Grants	0	0
Contribution from (to) St Luke's Church	5,748	5,305
Total Income	11,335	7,597
Payments		
Community centre maintenance	1,679	823
Community centre running costs	7,976	5,241
Centre Cleaning Costs	1,680	1,534
Total Expenditure	11,335	7,597

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke's, Eccleston, St Helens
on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022, as set out on
pages 18 to 21 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: PMorton

Date: 20th Oct 2023

IE's Name: PAUL HORTON

address: 13 LAUREL DRIVE, ECCLESTON, ST. HELENS
WA10 5JA

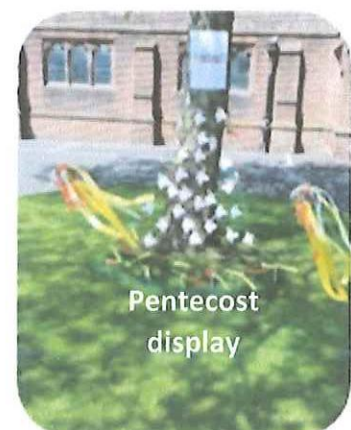
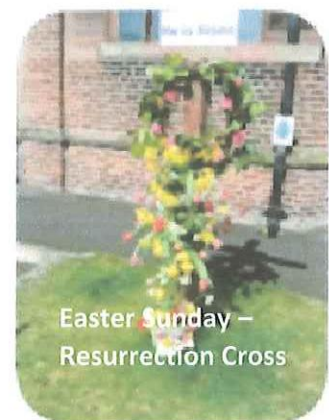
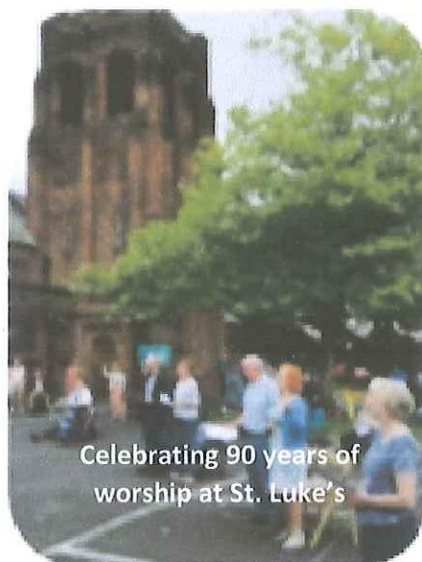
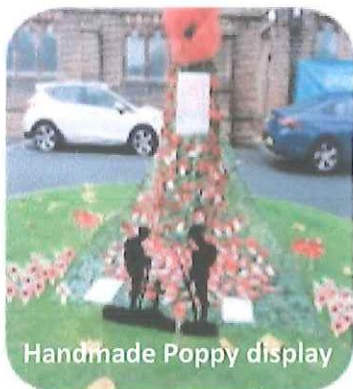
Accounts



ST LUKE'S CHURCH ECCLESTON



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2021



Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to Others

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

St Luke's Church Eccleston, St Helens.

The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:-

St Luke's Church
Knowsley Road, Eccleston, St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 4PU.
Tel No 01744 21173
Email address: - info.stlukeeccleston@gmail.com

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the church.

For the period 1st January 2020 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Priest-in-Charge	Rev H Coffey*	Team Rector	
	Rev G Banton*	Team Vicar	Appointed Sept 2021
Lay Readers	Miss D.L. Wright*	Lay Chair Deanery Synod Rep	
Churchwardens	Mrs L Rose*	Treasurer	
	Mrs K Grant		
	Mrs D Kelly		
	Mr T Kelly		
	Miss A Hayes		
	Mr K Lancaster		
	Mrs L Llewellyn		
	Mrs J Moore	PCC Secretary	
	Mr P Anderson	Assistant Treasurer	Co-opted member
	Mrs K Sawyer	Minutes Secretary	Co-opted member

Ex-Officio members are indicated by *

The following were appointed at the PCC meeting on 10th May 2021 as Sides persons: -

Mrs. B. Bird
Mrs. A. Callaghan
Mr. B. Callaghan
Mr. D. Foxford
Mrs. S. Foxford
Mrs K Grant
Mr K Lancaster – Assistant Warden
Mrs. M. Rew

The following have responsibility roles: -

Safeguarding Officer	Miss. D.L. Wright
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mrs J Thorpe
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs. J Griffiths MBE
Health & Safety Officer	Mr. K. Lancaster
Prayer Ministry Co-ordinator	Mrs E Fletcher

Team Rector: - Rev Helen Coffey, St James Vicarage, 159a St Helens Rd, Eccleston Park, Prescot, Merseyside. Tel No: - 07742 590672. Email: - helentcoffey@gmail.com

Team Vicar: - Rev Gareth Banton, St Johns Vicarage, Crossley Road, St Helens, Merseyside.
Tel No: - 07444 811428. Email:- garethbanton@gmail.com

Bankers: - Royal Bank of Scotland, Ormskirk Street, St Helens, Merseyside,

Independent Examiner: - Mr. P. Horton, c/o St Luke's Church, Knowsley Rd, St. Helens.

Architect: - Nicholas Rank, Butress, Manchester

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules as at 2017.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a charity currently accepted by order from registration with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC meets on a monthly basis with the exception of January, August and December.

Day to Day management of the church is exercised by the Standing Committee, the only committee required by law. It has the power to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings and considers strategic issues which may affect the church.

Members of the Standing Committee are: -

Miss. D.L.Wright (Lay Chair)
Mrs. L. Rose (Church Warden)
Mr. K. Lancaster (Church Warden) until May 2021
Mrs. J. Moore (PCC Secretary)
Rev. H. Coffey (Team Rector)
Rev. G Banton (Team Vicar) from Sept 2021

Related Parties:

Queen's Park Primary School, St. Helens – the Priest-in-Charge of St Luke's Church, Eccleston is an ex-officio member of the school governors. This is Rev. Helen Coffey, Eccleston Team Rector and Kate Sawyer appointed as a Foundation Governor in September 2021.

Individual PCC members receive external training as and when deemed necessary by the PCC. Training may include trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk assessment and management and Safeguarding procedures.

Financial Risk:

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with the budget are reported to the PCC at every meeting. The investments held by the PCC are only made in low-risk funds approved for charity use. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling are implemented.

Compliance with Law and Regulation:

The Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines (Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a safer church) have been adopted by the PCC. The PCC have the ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Safeguarding at St. Luke's. Safer Recruitment procedures are followed as directed by the Liverpool Diocesan Safeguarding team and all appointments need to be referred to Rev. Helen Coffey, the Team Rector.

The Diocesan policy gives clear guidelines for procedures to follow regarding recruitment. It also gives clear guidance to follow in the event of a Safeguarding issue.

The Diocese use an online system for DBS checks and all those in positions requiring a check have gone through this process. These are renewed regularly.

All leaders and helpers in groups involving Children and/or Vulnerable Adults are required to complete a confidential internal information form, following the diocesan 'Safer Recruitment' guidelines and procedures.

All PCC members have undergone an online DBS check.

Readers are required to complete Diocesan Safeguarding training and St. Luke's Readers have either completed the training or are due to attend training in the near future.

The PCC continues to be diligent in monitoring legal compliance and changes to legislation.

AIMS AND PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

St. Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church & Community Centre, Knowsley Road, St Helens.

When planning the objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guide on public benefit.

Mission and Outreach Support

The commitment to contribute 10% of the income to missions and charities was maintained with the PCC authorising the distribution as follows: - *(figures in brackets relates to FYE 2020)*

CMS (Eric & Sandra Reed)	£1,549	(£1,260)
CPAS	£388	(£315)
Bible Society	£388	(£315)
SGM Lifewords	£388	(£315)
St Helens Street Pastors	£774	(£630)
Tear Fund	£1,549	(£1,260)
United Christians Broadcasting	£388	(£315)
Hope from Above (Tim & Carol Derbyshires)	£774	(£630)
St Helens Safer Families	£774	(£630)
Hope Centre	£774	(£315)
Evangelical Alliance	£0	(£315)

“Vicar’s” Report:

We began 2021 closed for public worship, as we went into our third national lockdown, not reopening again until a few days before Easter Sunday. We were allowed to begin singing during worship by Advent and it was a great joy to be able to sing Carols at Christmas!

However, as we reflected last year, being church isn't about being in the building at all really, so we've continued to press into what it means to be 'church inside out' – here are some highlights:

Church inside out

In June, St Luke's celebrated its 90th Anniversary with a Team picnic in Rev Gregor's back garden, and a public 'Songs of Praise' on the church car park – the music and singing could be heard at some distance and was a great act of witness in our community!

The grassed garden at the front of church has been the location for:

- The gift tree, offering 'Try Praying' and Lent booklets, yellow ribbons for the National Day of Reflection, Easter and Advent gift bags and ribbons symbolising the Holy Spirit at Pentecost,
- A QR code-based egg hunt around the church grounds and a scarecrow based on the feeding of the 5,000.
- On Remembrance Sunday, not only did the Act of Remembrance take place outside church, but there was also a beautiful art installation around the tree in the church garden – a poppy knitted or crocheted by church family members for every name on the War Memorial in the church chancel.

Discipleship

We have continued to support those in our church family who are unable to access our church services in person – our Sunday morning service is available to join on zoom, which is also uploaded to YouTube. We continue to send out paper-based prayer and discipleship resources regularly and have been able to offer Home Communion at Easter and Christmas – we aim to make this a regular feature in 2022.

We've also sought to grow our network of small groups, with some success – we hope to encourage more of our church family into small groups in 2022.

Our partnership with Queens Park School

We have continued to deepen our relationship with Queens Park school, providing weekly assemblies either online or in person, depending on local restrictions.

We provided age-appropriate Bible Society booklets for both Easter and Christmas.

We welcomed the new Reception children and their parents as well as staff from the school, into church for an activity morning based on the parable of The Lost Sheep.

We continue to support any families in need identified by Mrs Kellett, our headteacher – and going forward, school will be key to directing families to the Food Pantry on a regular basis.

We also hosted a bulb planting session in the eco garden at church and the school provided stones painted with the children's ideas about the Fruits of the Spirit.

Achieving Key Priorities for 2021

A key task for 2021 was to recruit a new team vicar. We worked hard to create a Team profile. Rev Gareth Banton was interviewed and appointed in May 2021, and on Sunday 5th September 2021, we welcomed Gareth, April and their two sons to the clergy team at a service in St Luke's. I am delighted to be sharing in ordained leadership of this parish and team with a colleague of such high calibre.

Another key priority for 2021 was to reopen Teddies, our toddler group. We took a team approach to this and interviewed and appointed a toddler group co-ordinator on a 12-month contract, tasked with expanding and encouraging the volunteer team, reopening and welcoming a whole new generation of babies and toddlers! We appointed April Banton, who has done all of that and more!

Not only has St Luke's always focused on outreach and community, but also on the Gospel message to seek and serve the poor. So, autumn 2021 was spent exploring and visiting existing pantries/seeking funding/building partnerships to enable St Luke's to do all the preparation ready to open one of two Food Pantries in the Team – the other being based at St Matthew's.

This has been an exciting year, which holds much promise for 2022. We asked God to remove and plant, and the thing he seems to be planting most of during 2021 is baptism families! We are delighted to have the 'problem' of a backlog of baptism families – we're working hard to enable them to stay part of our church family long after their baby's baptism.

Again, this year, some precious brothers and sisters have gone home to heaven – we love and miss them. And again, I've been amazed by the faithfulness and determination of all our church family here at St Luke's. On your behalf I'd like to thank Lorraine for being the world's most Wonderful Warden, and I'd like to thank this year's PCC for making brave and exciting decisions! My thanks and loving prayers to each one of you.

Gareth's input

After a long and prayerful discernment, it was so good to finally arrive in the team in September and be at St Luke's for my licensing. I can only speak about the period from September onwards, but it's been a real pleasure to get to know congregation members over the past 8 months and begin to settle into the church community. During that time, we've achieved a great deal.

Our worship has gone through a number of different iterations as we've relaxed various COVID safety measures. As a church we've responded to these changes with a cheerful and generous spirit. We've respected those who have desired more space and accommodated those who desire less.

We've seen the church go through a major redecoration, and my thanks go to the PCC and Lorraine and Keith for shouldering the bulk of organising it.

Of course, in the final few months of 2021, there was a lot of activity and planning around the Food Pantry launch in the New Year. It's an enormous venture and has taken a great deal of work. But it represents a critical service to our community, and an unparalleled opportunity to come alongside folk in our locality. My thanks go to Jean, Tom and Diane, and all the many Pantry volunteers who've helped get it off the ground.

Christmas was a great success, after such a difficult Christmas in 2020. The Christingle service was a great encouragement as we welcomed many families and all ages into our building – the service was interactive and for the first time in a number of months we were able to arrange the seating 'café style'. Our Carol Service was heaving with people glad to be back in the building, singing carols and hearing the Christmas story. Charles and David put a huge amount of effort into organising the programme, and it was a great evening. The Crib Service, too, went very well. We neglected to take a proper count, but we estimated that around 30 children came to enjoy some crafts, an activity and to

prepare themselves for Christmas morning. Particular thanks go to Rev Gregor for preparing a lot of the content for the evening, and to Keith for being helpful and hands on, on the day.

Of course, during the last couple of months of 2021, the PCC and the wider church began to learn and discern about FFM2. At the time of writing, it's still unclear what the future direction of travel will be for our team, and for our deanery. But I am incredibly grateful to the PCC for exploring and investigating the proposals. The church is not static, but a changing, moving, and living community of people. Wherever we're headed, it will look different than where we've been. As the people of God, I'm sure we know better than to hold on too tightly to our own plans and agendas. But we can always hold onto the unconditional promise of God's love and faithfulness. We can trust his promise to build his church. And we can trust that ultimately, all things shall work together for the good of those who love our God.

God Bless

Rev Helen Coffey – Team Rector

Rev Gareth Banton – Team Vicar

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The PCC is delighted with its achievements set out in the previous and following section.

The following section highlights the areas of activity and performance.

The electoral roll (April 2020- 105) is now 107 people, 67 of whom are non-resident in the parish. During the year 4 people have joined and 2 are deceased.

Worship: - This year again, the average attendance has been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. The church building was closed for a number of months at the beginning of the year and was open for a number of months with limits on the number of people allowed in the building. We have continued to provide a 'Zoom' service for all the churches in the Eccleston Team. This is later uploaded onto our YouTube channel. Before Covid restrictions in 2020 the average attendance at Sunday Services remained constant at 65 over 2 services each week, except for the 5th Sunday in the month, when there was only 1 service. We are now hold 1 service per week and by the end of the year were averaging 40 plus people watching over Zoom and later on YouTube.

However, this does not include baptism services, in total 6 during the year, funeral services – 12 at church, 5 at the crematorium and 2 burial of ashes, wedding services 2 and wedding blessing services of which there were 2.

Church Buildings

The Church and Community Centre buildings at the beginning of 2021 were closed for a few months due to high covid infection rates in the area. We re-opened for services at the end of March and a couple of groups started back with the number increasing during the year. We have lost one group and welcome a new group starting in September using the facilities 2 evenings per week.

In May, a lump of plaster fell from above one of the windows in the church nave. This happened whilst no-one was present in the building. Due to the age of the building, we required an asbestos survey, before we could contact any contractors to repair the work. An asbestos survey was completed on the church and the community centre during June. The area of concern due to active asbestos was the basement. With immediate effect the area was closed, and locks were changed to avoid anyone going into the area until it was made safe. The good news is that there was no asbestos present in the plaster in the church building and so the repair work could go ahead. During the next couple of months, quotes were obtained to repair areas around church where the plaster was loose and also to repaint. The work was completed in October. The asbestos urgent work required quotes which were obtained and agreed to, but due to the Health and Safety notice required to the local authority, we were unable to complete in 2021 and the work was programmed to be completed in January 2022. PCC agreed to use reserves for all this work to be done.

In the Community Centre Main Hall and Meeting Room 2, a number of the lighting tubes had stopped working. New lighting tubes are now all LED. PCC agreed for the lighting to be changed to LED and for the work to be completed quickly due to evening actives in the centre becoming unsafe. The new lights would be more energy efficient. A donation was received from the Indoor Bowling Group towards the cost. PCC sent a note of thanks.

On the Car Park we have a couple of sink away grids. One of these had to be repaired in the summer, The contractor who carried out the work, did not charge and said it was his donation to church. PCC sent a note of thanks.

The PCC would like to thank the volunteers who look after the gardens around church and those who clean the church.

The annual inspection of the heating boilers for the church and community centre normally takes place in the autumn. This was put on hold until the asbestos work was completed in the basement. An inspection of the fire extinguishers took place.

Staffing

We employ a cleaner for 4 hours a week to clean the community centre during the year. The Eccleston Team agreed to employ a Toddler Group Co-ordinator for 16 hours per week for a 12-month contract starting from September 2021. St Luke's PCC agreed to be the legal employer for this role with contributions being received from the other 3 churches in the team to cover the cost.

There are many volunteers who fulfil roles at St Luke's in a variety of ways. There are too many to name individually and if we had to pay for this work, it would cost us thousands of pounds. The PCC are truly thankful and appreciative to all the people who serve the Lord in St Luke's and within the Eccleston Team in whatever role that is.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Prayer Ministry - Co-ordinator Enid Fletcher

Unfortunately, since March 2020 with covid and the restrictions within the church we have been unable to offer this support after a service.

As soon as we are able, we will start the Prayer ministry again. We are looking for volunteers, if you are interested, please get in touch.

In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:6

St. Luke's Prayer Meeting - Co-Ordinator Stina & Dave Foxford

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021

Prayer Group was working very much via WhatsApp this year, totalling to 13 meetings. We met fortnightly on Mondays at 8pm for about half an hour.

A prayer Guide was sent beforehand through Team Rector Helen Coffey's Being Church email. This ensured that everyone had the opportunity to take part, whether in real time or at a more convenient time to them. Prayer Guide included two songs, reflection and various prayer pointers.

Themes of WhatsApp Prayer Groups were: Norway, Chinese journalists, Education in UK, Team Clergy, COVID vaccines, Myanmar, Mental health of NHS staff, Children's exploitation, North Korean Christians, Alpha courses, Lent, Universal Credit top up, NHS staff, Persecuted women, Christian values & Freedom of speech in UK, Homeless young people, Domestic abuse survivors, Iranian and Nigerian Christians, PM & UK Government, Easter, Queen & the Royal family, Syrian Christians, Unlocking of UK, APCMs & PCCs, India, Thy Kingdom Come Give Him 5, Modern Slavery & Seasonal workers and Refugees.

In May we were encouraged to do an Individual Prayer Walk around our neighbourhood, either virtually or physically. This was inspired by Thy Kingdom Come initiative.

Prayer Group had an extended break during summer due to a bereavement in the family and an illness of a leader.

On the 27th of September, Prayer Group finally managed to start meeting up in-person at St. Luke's Church 8pm for an hour. COVID-safe rules were followed.

Prayer Guides continued to be distributed through email as before, so that people could take part in the Prayer Group either in-person or during their own time. However, the future of in-person Prayer Group is uncertain because the average attendance in the meetings was only 4.4 people, which includes two leaders. We had five in-person meetings in total.

Themes of the in-person Prayer Groups were: Women & children in Afghanistan, Niger, Poverty in UK, Modern Slavery (to mark Anti-Slavery Day), COP26 Summit, Halloween, Persecuted Christians (IDOP), Armed Forces, Afghanistan & Afghans, Christmas events and Nigerian Christians.

We want to offer a heartfelt thank you to those who have faithfully taken part in the Prayer Groups during the past year. We have had a lot to pray for and it is vitally important to continue to pray together. We might not see immediate results, but it's great to be able to spend time together and make a difference in this world, locally, nationally and globally.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

“Teddies” Toddler Group – Team Leader Karen Grant

The new volunteer team re-opened Teddies in September with much excitement, but slight trepidation after lockdown. We weren't sure if many families would attend, but to our amazement we now have 89 families on our register – 63 of whom attend regularly.

All of the families have expressed how wonderful Teddies is, they feel loved and welcomed and have said that it feels like one big family. After the isolation during Covid the families have said how wonderful it has been to see the children integrating well, laughing and playing with others. Lots of friendships have been made between both the children and adults. The families enjoy free teas, coffee, toast also juice, fruit and biscuits for the children.

We have Bible story time towards the end of the session and we finish off with songs that both the adults and children enjoy immensely. At Christmas time we had a wonderful party with fab food and games, after which we went into church for a small carol service and whilst there, Father Christmas arrived to give out gifts. A number of children who were leaving Teddies were presented with a Children's Bible as a memento of their time with us.

A few families that attend have now asked for their children to be baptised how wonderful is that!

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their continued help, love and patience! Lastly, I would like to thank our Toddler Group Co-ordinator April Banton for all her help, her infectious enthusiasm, boundless energy and her love for children's evangelism.

5th Eccleston St Luke's Brownies – Leader Eagle Owl Sue Brindley

We started the year still on Zoom with the girls having an activity pack to cover the term. We started with a Promise / Resolutions night, with girls thinking about how they could keep their promise better and particularly help at home! Our Second meeting was covering Scottish Burn's night with the Scottish flag, tasting the Cling film wrapped shortbread and making a monster from instructions. On 25th January we started looking at Countries around the world Australia was that night's theme with the girls making Boomerangs of the promise and finding out it always came back to them! The next week was South Africa and the week before half term was Switzerland with the girls having Toblerone to taste! In the middle of this theme, we had a Zoom sleepover with a 'people we love' theme

The girls were really excited and built dens under their dining tables or in their bedrooms. Some were even decorated with fairy lights. We had a lovely evening of activities with Helen and Gregor doing a church slot with stained glass (tissue paper) a bible story and a game. The evening ended with a sachet of hot chocolate and a marshmallow on a stick being cooked on a tealight (under the parent's supervision) and then squashed between two chocolate digestives while they had a last bedtime story. The following morning, we started again at 9am and continued with activities until noon. The Leaders, all agreed it was the best sleepover with no one asking for first aid or saying they didn't like part of a meal. As for bedtime as the computers were turned off at 9pm we could go to bed undisturbed by the usual sound of little feet traipsing to the toilet for the next couple of hours!

We celebrated 'Thinking Day' on 22nd February still on Zoom and had a St David's Day meeting on 1st March. The following week we made Mother's Day cards with scent bottles on the front and made Teabag holders to go with them. We celebrated St Patrick's Day and spent the last two weeks of term making Easter cards and Easter Egg holders for the girls Crème eggs.

The Easter holiday was spent writing risk assessments in reams for Girlguiding to agree we were safe to meet face to face, so we could start back soon!

We continued on Zoom, with a St George's day meeting having looked at all the other saints of the UK it seemed only fair we looked at England's. We told the girls about the Guiding Region being 50 and looked at their '50th Birthday Challenge Pack' and the girls chose which challenge they would like to do from each section. The rest of the term we enjoyed watching them do the challenges. Putting on 50 items of clothing, doing a quiz about our area, learning the symbols on the 'County Standard' and what they represent. Sticking on tissue to make a collage of the world badge and creating a gold bracelet threading all the beads on.

After half term all the paperwork was signed off and we started to meet back at the hall - we made Father's Day cards and crafts. The second week back the girls completed an obstacle course doing 50 different things and then made the number 50 out of their bodies! They then handed in their 50 acts of kindness sheets, and it was great to see the range of things they had done. Of course, no Birthday challenge could end without a Birthday party and the girls each brought in a party packed tea and we organised the games they could play while keeping them at a safe distance. The last week of term we had a Presentation night and Promise ceremony. We presented the girls going onto Guides gifts and all the

girls left with all the Birthday Challenge badges to sew on. It was great to see Helen and she presented some of the badges for us.

The Autumn term started badly the first week being cancelled as Sue was in hospital.

The second week began much better as we welcomed Brownies from our waiting list and all agreed to work on the 'Know myself' skill builders this term we did activities about how to deal with bullies, putting our best feelings forward and trying not to get upset when things don't go our way, working as part of a team and making individual items. After half term we invited Brownies to bring a parent to our 'Secret Service Challenge Night' and the girls and parent worked together through the challenges. We then started our Christmas makes including a pinecone angel, Christmas pudding fridge magnet, girl's calendars for 2022, table centres and pop-up nativity cards, Reindeer wooden door wreaths and card slippers containing sweets.

The last week of term we had a Promise Ceremony for the girls that started that term. We asked Mary Dinn the Division Commissioner and Helen her Assistant to join us and Helen Coffey from church. Sue Kirkham had helped me at Brownies for over six years but had said in the summer that she would be leaving at Christmas to spend more time with her grandchildren living down near London. Mary presented her with a Girlguiding 'Thanks Badge' and certificate and thanked her formally for all her hard work over the years. Thank-you for all your input and hard work with the girls, Sue.

This left the Unit with a problem as only Sue Brindley remained out of the team of 5 helpers at the start of covid. Gillian Crosby was interested in helping and chatted to Sue on the phone, she was put in touch with Mary and started her DBS checks and 'Safe Space' online training and we hope she can start her Leadership Training next term.

Sue Brindley Unit Leader, Sue Kirkham Unit Helper & Helen Brindley Occasional Leader.

Hobby Hub – Co-ordinator Susan Stewart

Hobby Hub was started over zoom during the lockdown in 2020, so people within the Eccleston team churches could join in on a Wednesday evening for a couple of hours to show what their craft/ hobby is and for a chat, even if they didn't have a hobby. During 2021 we have now moved to meet in St Luke's Community Centre on a Wednesday between 7pm-8.30pm and continuing to be able to join over zoom at the same time, due to a few people finding it difficult to attend in person but wanting to remain in contact with the group. The group continues to grow slowly with people who live in the community coming but no connection to church and a mixture of ages from teenagers to the 'young at heart'.

Bring your things with you and work on your hobby in the company of friends. If you don't have a hobby and would like to learn something new, why not come along and see what others are working on. All are welcome.

St Luke's Indoor Bowls – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Allan Taggart & Charles Johnson

After a lengthy break due to Covid restrictions, we were delighted to restart Indoor Bowls in the Church Centre on Thursday 7th October. A range of safety measures were put in place to reduce the risk of infection, such as no more than 4 players per mat, and with numbers usually between 8 and 12 we had either 2 or 3 mats in use. There has been no doubting the quality of the biscuits and hot drinks, but there are still questions about the quality of the bowling: we have a range of different bowlers such as highly skilled left-handed bowlers, those who talk to their bowls (the bowls don't seem to listen!), those who like total silence when they are bowling and, of course, those whose eyesight lets them think that their bowl is always closest to the jack.

We each pay 50p each week and now that the mats have been purchased, we have been able to pass some money to the Church funds (this went some of the way towards the cost of the new lights in the Hall).

We want to spread the word that bowls is not an exclusively male activity. There has been only one female bowler recently and she has shown that she can compete successfully with all the males, so please feel free to join us, ladies. You could not be any worse than some of the men! We always have bowls available if you wish to come along and have a go. We hope to be back in the Church Centre at the beginning of October 2022.

St Luke's Men's Fellowship Group – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Charles Johnson & Allan Taggart

Unfortunately, due to Covid, we have been unable to hold our monthly Wednesday meetings in the Black Bull. We have not given up yet and hope to start again later in 2022 if the infection rate suggests that it is safe to do so.

Other regular community activities

St Luke's Walking Group – meet the first Saturday of the month in the morning normally starting approximately 9am. This is a walking group at a gentle pace with a place for lunch at the end of the walk for fellowship. If people are unable to come on the walk you are welcome to join for lunch. Unfortunately, since March 2020 this has ceased due to covid. We are looking forward towards the future when we can re-start the walks and fellowship again in 2022.

Thank you!

Helping Hearts

This year, the 'Helping Hearts' bereavement group sadly came to a natural conclusion. This group has run successfully for over 17 years and during this time, many people have been helped through difficult periods in their lives through the hard work and dedication of the members. God's love has definitely been shared in the darkest of times.

A special 'thank-you' must go to Linda Fairclough, who has organised and led this group faithfully since it first began.

Luke-Inn

The members of the Luke-Inn committee have, after much prayer, decided that this group should also not re-open again after the pandemic. Again, Luke-Inn has run very successfully for many years. Many folk from the community have enjoyed afternoon tea with delicious home-made cakes, a variety of speakers, outings and much more - God's love being shared in practical ways. A special 'thank-you' must go to all those folk who have been involved in organising and leading this group over the years.

Finance

Regular giving and donations decreased by just under 5.5%, compared to the same for 2020, whereas our regular commitments (gas, electricity, water, insurance, etc) remained more or less the same as the previous year.

Our Parish Share contribution for 2021 was maintained at the same level as 2020, however, a £1000 contribution was paid on St Luke's behalf anonymously and we received a £3,200 credit against our 2020 contribution from Liverpool Diocese, from the Church Commissioners, which reduced our payments over the year. The PCC decided to donate the £3,200 credit to St James with St Matthews to help with their financial situation.

Continuing on from 2020, more people who regularly donated via the collection plate, changed their way of giving to either standing order or through the Parish Giving Scheme.

Payments associated with the vicarage have remained consistent compared to 2020, although they now do only account for the telephone line and broadband connection.

All other costs associated with the vicarage (i.e., council tax, water rates, etc.), which are now incurred because it is occupied by Rev Gregor Stewart and his family during his Curacy, are now accounted for separately under the 'curacy costs' line and are paid for by the 4 churches of the Eccleston Team as shown in the 'curacy income' row under the income section. The rent of the vicarage is covered by a curacy grant from the Liverpool Diocese.

A couple of one-off maintenance costs, under the "upgrade works" heading were incurred during 2021 for the repainting of the main body of the church, lounge and porch (£10,230) and the lights within the Main Hall and Meeting Room 2 were replaced with LED lights, similar to those in the main body of the church (£586.44), with all other maintenance costs being for the general upkeep and servicing of the buildings.

We have received a total of £9,417 in tax recovery from regular income. This is lower than during 2020 as 15 months had been claimed during 2020 whereas only 12 months has been claimed during 2021. Also, no claims were submitted for Small Donations during 2021, a combined claim will be submitted for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 tax years during 2022.

Income from hall lettings have decreased further by nearly 20% as not all external groups returned to normal meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive several bequests from former members of the church, totalling £57,337, of which £35,000 was transferred into the bequest investment fund to generate additional investment income.

We have received investment income totalling £2,617 from the bequest investment fund, which is available for the PCC without any restrictions. This was lower than that received in 2020 because a withdrawal had been made in September 2020 of £21,264 to enable the Parish Share for September to December to be paid and to ease the pressure on the general funds.

Performance of Investments from the fund accounts held with the Central Board of Finance from the sale of the school have been good with dividend payments and interest achieving £2,354 which is available to the PCC for restricted items. The market value of the actual shares has increased by 2.6%.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the year, between the main deposit and current accounts there was a total of £5,241 available as general funds, there is also £99 available for church upgrade works and a further £509 received from Liverpool Diocese and the team churches towards the curacy costs.

During the year, it was agreed that the Community Centre bank account, which started the year with a balance of £11, would be used for the Food Pantry operations. A grant of £6,000 was received to cover the costs associated with the franchise fees and setup costs, of which a total of £2,648 was still available.

The market value of the investment fund from the bequest donations was £112,665 which is available to the PCC without any restrictions. There was also a further £11,956 in restricted funds which are available for the PCC to use for restricted purposes.

Agent Transactions

The PCC acted as a financial agent for the following people / organisations: -

- Liverpool Diocese - £2,666.00 was received in regards to Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals from the wedding couples and funeral directors which has been forwarded to the diocesan board of finance
- Retired Clergy / SSM Ministers / LTO Readers - £379.50 was received from funeral directors in regard to Assigned Fees which were payable to the retired clergy / SSM Ministers / LTO Readers who officiated at funerals and weddings in place of the vicar which have been forwarded to the people concerned.
- Organist Fees - £160.00 was received from funeral directors and wedding couples respectively which has been forwarded to the relevant organist.
- Fundraising events were organised for MacMillan Cancer Care and Tear Fund which raised £445.00 and £128.00 respectively and these have been forwarded to the organisations concerned.

Plans for the Future

- We will continue to develop with our vision for St. Luke's Church: -

"Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others".

LET US consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.

LET US not give up meeting.

LET US encourage one another.

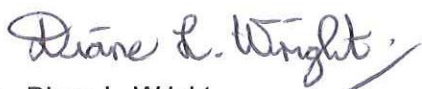
HEBREWS 10:24 & 25

- We will continue to work with the other churches and develop relationships within the Eccleston Team, developing and supporting best practices, worshipping styles and new ideas across the Team.
- We will continue to pray and discuss Fit For Mission 2 Cohort 1 within the St Helens Deanery.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signature



Full Name: - Diane L. Wright

Position: - PCC Lay Chair

Date: - 6th May 2022



ST LUKE'S CHURCH ECCLESTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2021

Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Eccleston
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2021
Receipts & Payments Account**

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Regular Giving					
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	25,954			25,954	29,014
Planned Giving - Parish Giving Scheme	6,164			6,164	4,327
Planned Giving - Other	5,132			5,132	4,859
Loose Plate Collections	1,619			1,619	2,800
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	9,417			9,417	10,493
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid on Small Donations in memoriam	57,337			57,337	404
members' payments		370		370	422
grants				0	353
other donations	930	263		1,193	3,928
special appeals				0	0
				107,187	57,659
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
refreshments	19			19	48
copy printer income				0	0
hall lettings	2,292			2,292	2,791
other income (incl cards)	865			865	359
				3,176	3,198
Receipts from Church activities					
PCC Fees	3,026			3,026	1,710
Donations from Verger				0	0
				3,026	1,710
Receipts from investments					
Bank & CBF interest/dividends	2,620		2,354	4,973	5,840
				4,973	5,840
Other receipts					
Weekend income / outings				0	0
Insurance claim				0	0
Curacy Income			11,525	11,525	7,775
				11,525	7,775
St Luke's Pantry Income					
Grants		6,000		6,000	0
Donations		121		121	0
Members Payments		0		0	0
				6,121	0
Total Receipts	115,374	6,755	13,879	136,008	76,181
Payments					
Church activities					
Missionary giving	10,980	0		10,980	7,347
Parish share	46,835			46,835	51,035
Working expenses	1,766			1,766	1,377
Vicarage costs	620			620	640
Curacy Costs			11,756	11,756	7,035
Wages	2,855			2,855	0
Church heat/light	2,133			2,133	2,288
Church insurance	3,108			3,108	2,905
Evangelism (incl anniversary)	572			572	300
Church Maintenance	1,643			1,643	1,603
Upkeep of services	200	273		473	179
Equipment	104	100		204	493
Copier lease/mtce	1,215			1,215	701
Community centre maintenance	823			823	2,047
Community centre running costs	5,241			5,241	5,193
Weekend accommodation/ outings				0	0
Refreshments	68			68	92
Other working exps	2,358	439		2,797	2,019
Church upgrade works			10,858	10,858	1,632
				103,948	86,885
St Luke's Pantry					
Fees		500		500	0
Equipment		2,973		2,973	0
Purchases		0		0	0
				3,473	0
Total Payments	80,522	4,285	22,614	107,421	86,885
Excess of Receipts over Payments				28,587	(10,704)

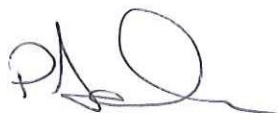
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St. Luke's, Eccleston
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
For the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	(9,214)			(9,214)	(8,286)
Bank deposit account	14,455		608	15,063	22,136
Community Centre account		2,658		2,658	11
Church Board of Finance Deposit Fund		1,302		1,302	1,279
Church Board of Finance Deposit Account (764001)			1,307	1,307	1,953
Fund bank accounts and cash		2,059		2,059	2,237
Total bank current and deposit accounts	5,241	6,019	1,915	13,174	19,329
Investment Assets					
CBF Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764002) **			42,836	42,836	37,451
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764003) **			44,875	44,875	48,045
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Bequest) (764004)	63,966		6,186	70,152	51,613
CBF Investment Fund (Bequest) (764005)	48,698		4,463	53,161	35,488
				211,024	172,597
** Investment Assets were previously managed by the trustees of Greenhalls Ecclesiastical Charity. These have now been transferred to St Lukes Parochial Church Council.					
Other Monetary Assets (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
Income tax recoverable from HMRC from December 2021				674	603
Liabilities (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
None				0	0

Approved by the PCC on 6th May 2022 and signed on their behalf



Diane Wright
PCC Lay Chair



Peter Anderson
PCC Assistant Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS:

1. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but are not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:
Freehold land and buildings comprising the Church Centre
Various items of ICT and audio visual equipment
Various tables and chairs purchased in 2010
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.
No other payments were made to PCC members.
4. The movements in designated funds during the year were:

	b/fwd			c/fwd
	1 Jan 2021	Receipts	Payments	31 Dec 2021
Discretionary fund	386	0	20	366
Flower Fund	111	200	273	38
Hospitality	99	0	0	99
Ladies' Fellowship	0	0	0	0
Family Events Fund	57	0	0	57
Boys Brigade	204	0	0	204
Teddies Toddler Group	408	434	519	322
Luke Inn	544	0	0	544
Luke There	428	0	0	428
St Lukes Puppeteers	0	0	0	0
	2,237	634	812	2,059

5. Receipts and payments for the Community Centre are included within the PCC accounts but are identified separately as follows:

	£	£
	2021	2020
Receipts		
Hall lettings	2,292	2,791
Grants	0	0
Contribution from (to) St Luke's Church	5,305	4,450
Total Income	<u>7,597</u>	<u>7,240</u>

Payments		
Community centre maintenance	823	2,047
Community centre running costs	5,241	5,193
Centre Cleaning Costs	1,534	0
Total Expenditure	<u>7,597</u>	<u>7,240</u>

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke's, Eccleston (764) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021, as set out on pages 12 to 14 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: 12th May 2022.
Paul Horton, Eccleston, St Helens

Accounts

ST LUKE'S CHURCH ECCLESTON

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2020



Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

St Luke's Church Eccleston, St Helens.

The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:-

St Luke's Church
Knowsley Road, Eccleston, St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 4PU.
Tel No 01744 21173
Email address: - info.stlukeeccleston@gmail.com

The Liverpool Diocesan Board of Finance acted as Custodian Trustee for the inalienable property of the church.

For the period 1st January 2020 until the date of approval of this report, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Priest-in-Charge	Rev H Coffey*	Team Rector	
Lay Readers	Mr D Foxford		Retired ACPM 2020
	Mr D Thorpe		Retired ACPM 2020
	Miss D Wright*	Lay Chair Deanery Synod Rep	
Churchwardens	Mr K Lancaster*		
	Mrs L Rose*	Treasurer	
	Mr B Callaghan		Retired ACPM 2020
	Mrs K Grant		
	Mrs D Kelly		Appointed ACPM 2020
	Mr T Kelly		Appointed ACPM 2020
	Miss A Hayes		
	Mr R Lee		Retired ACPM 2020
	Mrs L Llewellyn		
	Mrs J Massey	Deanery Synod Rep	Retired ACPM 2020
	Dr. L Miles		Retired ACPM 2020
	Mrs J Moore	PCC Secretary	
	Mrs A Parry		Deceased March 2021
	Mr P Anderson	Assistant Treasurer	Co-opted member
	Mrs K Sawyer	Minutes Secretary	Co-opted member

Ex-Officio members are indicated by *

The following were appointed at the PCC meeting on 2nd November 2020 as Sides persons: -

Mrs. B. Bird
Mrs. A. Callaghan
Mr. B. Callaghan
Mr. D. Foxford
Mrs. S. Foxford
Mrs. M. Rew

The following have responsibility roles: -

Safeguarding Officer	Miss. D. Wright
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mrs J Thorpe
Gift Aid Secretary:	Mrs. D. Follis
Health & Safety Officer	Mr. K. Lancaster
Bereavement Support Co-ordinator	Mrs L Fairclough
Prayer Ministry Co-ordinator	Mrs E Fletcher
House Managers	Mr B Callaghan, Mrs E Fletcher.

Team Rector: - Rev Helen Coffey, St James Vicarage, 159a St Helens Rd, Eccleston Park, Prescot, Merseyside.
Tel No: - 07742 590672. Email: - helentcoffey@gmail.com

Bankers: - Royal Bank of Scotland, Ormskirk Street, St Helens, Merseyside,

Independent Examiner: - Mr. P. Horton, c/o St Luke's Church, Knowsley Rd, St. Helens.

Architect: - Nicholas Rank, Butress, Manchester

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules as at 2017.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a charity currently excepted by order from registration with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC meets on a monthly basis except for January, August and December.

Day to Day management of the church is exercised by the Standing Committee, the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact PCC business between PCC meetings and considers strategic issues which may affect the church.

Members of the Standing Committee are: -

Miss. D. Wright (Lay Chair)
Mrs. L. Rose (Church Warden)
Mr. K. Lancaster (Church Warden)
Mrs. J. Moore (PCC Secretary)
Rev. H. Coffey (Team Rector)

Related Parties:

Queen's Park Primary School, St. Helens – the Priest-in-Charge of St Luke's Church, Eccleston is an ex-officio member of the school governors. This is Rev. Helen Coffey, Eccleston Team Rector.

Individual PCC members receive external training as and when deemed appropriate by the PCC. Training may include trustee responsibility training, basic health and safety, risk assessment and management and child protection procedures.

Financial Risk:

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC at every meeting. The investments held by the PCC are only made in approved low risk funds approved for charity use. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling are implemented.

Compliance with Law and Regulation:

The Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines (Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a safer church) have been adopted by the PCC. The PCC have the ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Safeguarding at St. Luke's. Safer Recruitment procedures are followed as directed by the Liverpool Diocesan Safeguarding team and all appointments need to be referred to Rev. Helen Coffey, the Team Rector.

The Diocesan policy gives clear guidelines for procedures to follow regarding recruiting. It also gives clear guidance to follow in the event of a Safeguarding issue.

The Diocese use an online system for DBS checks and all those in positions requiring a check have gone through this process. Currently, many of our members are undergoing a renewal of their DBS check.

All leaders and helpers in groups involving Children and/or Vulnerable Adults are required to complete a confidential internal information form.

All PCC members have undergone an online DBS check.

Safeguarding training for the Eccleston Team took place in May 2019. This was led by the Liverpool Diocesan Safeguarding team. Due to the current pandemic situation in the country at the time of preparing this report and the increase in online worship, the PCC have recently ensured that all Safeguarding procedures are in place for online worship etc.

Readers are required to complete Diocesan Safeguarding training and St. Luke's Readers have either completed the training or are due to attend training in the near future.

The PCC continues to be diligent in monitoring legal compliance and changes to legislation.

AIMS AND PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

St. Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of Church & Community Centre, Knowsley Road, St Helens.

When planning our objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guide on public benefit.

Mission and Outreach Support

Although general funds were tight, by drawing on the unrestricted reserves held in investment funds, the commitment to contribute 10% of the income to missions and charities was maintained. The PCC authorised the distribution as follows: - (*figures in brackets relates to FYE 2019*)

CMS (Eric & Sandra Reed)	£1,260	(£1,415)
CPAS	£315	(£475)
Bible Society	£315	(£475)
Evangelical Alliance	£315	(£475)
SGM Lifewords	£315	(£475)
St Helens Street Pastors	£630	(£475)
Tear Fund	£1,260	(£1,180)
United Christians Broadcasting	£315	(£475)
Hope from Above (Tim & Carol Derbyshires)	£630	(£715)
St Helens Safer Families	£630	(£0)
Hope Centre	£315	(£0)

“Vicar’s” Report:

2020 was of course the strangest of years – I’m sure that St Luke’s and the community we serve had not experienced anything like it outside of the war years.

These verses from 2 Corinthians come to mind ...

‘We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body’ ... 2 Cor 4:8-10

As I write this, we are still in Step one of coming out of lockdown. It has been a tough year, during which we have lost some dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We have demonstrated amazing resilience and creativity, and we have reflected long and hard on what it means to be a community of faith.

It seems clear that we have also learned some really important lessons about those aspects of being a church that we would previously have considered vital and unchanging before we closed the church doors in March 2020. And I’d like to offer the following reflections on this time:

- We quickly established how to keep in touch with everyone – updated contact details to ensure older, more vulnerable members of the church family were supported. We offered phone calls, support with shopping and collecting prescriptions.
- There was no public worship between mid-March and September and then a further gap during the second lockdown in November. However, we have kept the life of prayer and worship alive within the parish by using smart phone and internet technology. We quickly established a weekly prayer and praise

session on our WhatsApp group. Similarly, with our fortnightly prayer meeting. In the first lockdown, we encouraged people to join online worship and excellent teaching wherever they felt drawn. By the second lockdown, we'd established an online team service. We've had a Sunday evening gathering for most of the lockdown, and in September, we established a joint kids and families gathering early on Sunday mornings. We were able to have church open for most of Advent and those Christmas services that were safe to hold, and Holy Communion was offered both in church and on the doorsteps of those unable to come to church. And we've sent out a series of discipleship packs to all those on our Electoral Roll who are not able to access the internet.

- Money isn't everything, but losing our cash-based giving as well as our rentals at the centre severely impacted our finances. We have all worked incredibly hard to move towards direct debit giving via the Parish Giving Scheme, digital giving by QR smart phone or text giving, to improve our cash flow.
- Outreach – this is where folk at St Luke's have been incredibly inventive and creative – posters, banners, scarecrows, Father Christmas, a community Christmas tree constantly replenished with free gifts, the noticeboard signs that St Luke's are famous for to name but a few! The church may have been closed but St Luke's have been seen and heard in the community as we've embraced a 'Church inside-out' ethos! We commissioned a brand-new website www.stlukeeccleston.org as our digital shop window, and have boosted our social media presence on twitter and facebook. This has increased our reach further beyond our church doors than we would have dreamed possible before lockdown.
- We've continued to support Queens Park school, both in terms of the provision of online assemblies and pastoral support for the staff, but also meeting the practical needs of families in need – food, clothing, a new cooker, Easter eggs, Christmas gifts. Mrs Kellett, our Head Teacher, knows that she only needs to send a message and the church family will respond to any need as a priority. We donated, collated and delivered care bags to every single member of staff across the school, as well as to the staff of three residential and nursing homes in the parish.
- In terms of the life of discipleship outside Sunday worship, we've offered Alpha online several times during 2020, and a shortened form currently form part of the preparation for Baptism parents and brides and grooms seeking to get married at St Luke's. This has helped us grow in relationship with some of our fringe families. We've also formed a couple of small groups from church members who've joined Alpha or done The Bible Course. As the nature of Sunday worship continues to change, belonging to a small group who meet mid-week is a priority for discipleship.
- We have certainly grown together as a team of churches, particularly as a result of the buildings being closed. We've learned to share resources and ideas and we've grown in relationship too through our online coffee morning and crafty zoom, and our occasional quiz nights. We've welcomed Rev Gregor Stewart and his family as a stipendiary curate in the team, and a priority in 2021 is the appointment of a 2nd Team Vicar.

I have been humbled and amazed by the faithfulness and determination of the church family here at St Luke's, in the most trying of circumstances. I have seen you rely on God as you support each other, and meet human need beyond yourselves. So many people have stepped forward to offer new gifts, new ideas, recognising new opportunities - we have much to be grateful for.

Verse 7 of 2Corinthians 4 says this *'But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us'*. From one cracked clay jar to another, may I express my thanks to you all – but most particularly to our Wardens and Lay Readers, who have stepped forward in the most incredible ways, far beyond their role descriptions; and to whom I owe an enormous debt as they have supported me through a unique period of church leadership that was definitely not covered in my ordination training 😊

In conclusion, my words of encouragement for 2021, as we continue our journey of change, remain the same – that together, we will allow God to remove and plant whatever he wants, so that, while St Luke's might be smaller, it will also be more agile and responsive to the urgent need for people of this community to hear the Good news of God's saving love for themselves.

As always, my door is open and the kettle is always on – so if you have any concerns, questions, hopes or dreams for the future, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

God bless

Helen

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The PCC is delighted with its achievements set out in the previous and following section.

The following section highlights the areas of activity and performance.

The electoral roll (April 2019- 99) is now 105 people, 67 of whom are non resident in the parish.

Worship: - This year the average attendance has been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. The church building has been closed for a number of months and when it re-opened, it was with the restricted number of 30 people maximum being able to attend. Before the closure the average attendance at Sunday Services remained constant at 65 over 2 services each week, except for the 5th Sunday in the month, when there was only 1 service.

However, this does not include baptism services, in total 2 during the year, funeral services – 8 at church and 5 at the crematorium and wedding services, of which there were none.

Church Buildings – The Church and Community Centre had to close in March 2020 due to the national lockdown and all services and group activities were suspended. During the summer we concentrated on preparing the Church building to re-open following the Government Covid Guidelines and restrictions. A risk assessment was completed and agreed by the PCC in August. This enabled us to re-open for Public Worship in September. Following this we concentrated on preparing the Community Centre and producing a Risk Assessment following Covid Government Guidance and restrictions. The dance group was able to start back for a short period of time before the Government put Merseyside back into lockdown again for a period of 5 weeks in November. We re-opened the Church building again in December for Public Worship Services.

The annual inspections of the heating boilers and fire extinguishers took place. With the building being closed for most of 2020 this has impacted on the financial income received. As a result, works, which we had planned for 2020 such as, changing more of the light fittings to LED and the re-painting of inside the church have been put on hold until the financial situation improves. The grant we started to draw on for the ECO garden in front of the Community Centre has also been affected. The Grant Funder has put this on hold until we can re-start the project again, hopefully in 2021.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Prayer Ministry - Co-ordinator Enid Fletcher

First of all, I would like to thank all current members of the Prayer teams for their continued support and dedication to this vital service of offering pray in the side chapel after each service.

Unfortunately, since March 2020 with covid and the restrictions within the church we have been unable to offer this support after a service.

As soon as we are able, we will start the Prayer ministry again. We are looking for volunteers, if you are interested please get in touch.

In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:6

St. Luke's Prayer Meeting - Co-Ordinator Stina Foxford

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020

The Prayer meeting began the year meeting at St. Luke's Church fortnightly on Mondays 8 pm for an hour. Meetings started with encouraging worship followed by reflection/Bible study and introduction of the prayer themes for the evening. We had prayer pointers, but everyone was welcome to bring their own prayer requests. We finished the time of prayer with a song.

We had good time sharing and uplifting each other and we also went out for a meal together in January.

The prayer topics until 9th March included Iran, Brexit, Australian wildfires, St. Luke's Sick lists, HFA, China, Lent, Mental health and Coronavirus. We had four meetings in the church until the first lockdown.

Our first Prayer Group via WhatsApp took place on 30th March. It is open to all the Eccleston Team churches and beyond – this is the benefit of modern technology! Dave Foxford has been very faithfully taking care of the practicalities to get everyone who wants to on board the WhatsApp Prayer Group.

I have led sixteen meetings and, in August, Anita Fath and Gregor Stewart kindly led one meeting each.

We still meet fortnightly on Mondays, but only for half an hour. Prayer pointers is sent beforehand for participants to use as they wish. This makes it possible for people to take part either in real time or otherwise.

WhatsApp Prayer Group includes encouraging worship songs at the beginning and at the end, reflection and prayer pointers.

Prayer topics have always included the NHS. We have also prayed for the victims of domestic abuse, India, Africa, COVID-19 patients, Persecuted Christians, Poor, Homeless, Hospital Chaplains, the Church, Sick, Bereaved, Child labourers, Migrant workers in India, Yemen, USA, Scientists, Street children, 2nd Wave of the COVID-19, Development of the vaccine, Church finances, South Asia, Rohingya refugees, Middle East, South Sudan, Mental health, Foodbanks, Education, Partners of Christian Charities, Elderly/ Isolated/ Vulnerable, Economic wellbeing in UK, Advent and Vaccination process.

On the 14th September, we were all encouraged to pray for our Neighbourhood – by walking safely at a social distance or at home in our minds.

We can safely say that we have been praying hard!!!! But, the true thanks go to God for He has been with us all along and we have seen many prayers answered!

Plans were made to open up the In-person Prayer meeting again in Autumn as well as running the WhatsApp Prayer Group. A robust Risk Assessment was completed with the help of Lorraine Rose and Jean Moore. Unfortunately, the 2nd wave of COVID-19 altered the plans and therefore, we stayed only as a WhatsApp Group.

It has been a very challenging year, but many new people have come along to pray, which has been a great encouragement to carry on regardless.

We have also had the privilege of joining in the Town Wide Prayer Gathering Online a couple of times, which is held once a month on Mondays via Zoom

We will never run out of the need to pray, and together we are always stronger, no matter what we face.

Thank you so much to everyone who has taken the time and opportunity to pray. I know that it's not always easy!

On behalf of the St. Luke's Prayer meeting and Monday WhatsApp Prayer Group.

Helping Hearts Bereavement Support – Co-ordinator Linda Fairclough

It's been a strange year since our last Bereavement Support update. Helping hearts in-person meeting had to close due to covid and the team got worried about being unable to cope if we were unfortunate enough to get lots of people bereaved due to covid. Thankfully that didn't happen and we continued to support people who are struggling with loss.

We couldn't have a memorial service but did send out memorial boxes to all bereaved people around the team. Each box contained a card, a tea light, written prayers and a wooden holding cross, we really hope they helped people with their grief.

I'm very proud of the team, Barbara, Dorothy and Irene do an amazing job, it's not always easy but is very rewarding. Most people really appreciate the phone call and give some lovely feedback. We are always open to volunteers if you'd like to join us.

The Net – Co-ordinator Jean Moore

The Net met 3 times between January and March 2020. As usual we provided a variety of crafts on a theme and provided a lunch for those who attended. The themes we covered were New Year; Love and Water. We put bible verses on these themes around the room and used a "menu" to promote discussion through questions. Between 13 -15 adults attended over the 3 months and the number of children ranged from 3-10. We continued to have a small team downstairs who chatted to leisure centre users and invited them to join us upstairs if they wished to do so. Sadly, although people took the information from us, we did not get people taking us up on the offer. We felt though, that it was still worthwhile as there were several people who were there regularly for exercises classes and we were building up a relationship with them. In February, we had to relocate to the church centre as there was flooding at Queens Park Leisure centre so we could not access the Boundary Suite.

We had been encouraged in recent months as a family that had started to come to church and parents and children who had come along to Family events were starting to come on a more regular basis.

Obviously, we have not met since March as although the leisure centre did re-open, the format of our meeting did not lend itself to the stringent Covid 19 precautions that would need to be in place. Reluctantly, we have informed the Leisure Centre that they should not hold the booking open for us as we did not know when we would be able to restart and it seemed morally wrong to deprive them of possible income. The Centre Manager said that they had loved having us at the Leisure Centre and they would be happy to have us back.

When things return to “normal” the Net team will have to meet up with the clergy team to discuss whether or not we should restart the Net and if so, what changes we might need to make and a suitable time and venue. Please pray for any decisions that are made that we may be acting according to the Lord’s will for outreach ministry at St. Luke’s.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

“Teddies” Toddler Group

The Teddies group continued to meet until March 2020, when we had to close due to the national lockdown. Sadly, we have been unable to open since then. Parents and Carers have kept in touch via a WhatsApp group. During this time and after much prayer, a number of our volunteers have decided it is time to retire. We would like to thank them all for the dedication and care which they have shown towards our ‘Teddies’ families – they have all been a terrific witness for the Lord and there is no doubt that many seeds will have been sown.

It is with great sadness that we report that our dear friend and Teddies co-ordinator, Anne Parry, went to be with her Lord in March 2021. Just a couple of weeks prior to that, she was looking forward to the re-opening of the group and praying for guidance re’ new volunteers within the team. Anne was an enthusiastic leader and she loved being with the children and their families. Her ultimate aim was to share God’s love with each member of the group. She will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Mark, her son and his family at this time.

Please be prayerful about the future of this group. At the present, time we have not got enough volunteers to run the group successfully. If you feel that God is calling you or someone that you know into ministry in the Teddies group, please contact Rev Helen Coffey or one of the Church Wardens.

5th Eccleston St Luke’s Brownies – Leader Eagle Owl Sue Brindley

We started the year with a ‘welcome back’ games night and some Promise activities. We picked some countries to look at Brownies around the world and had a beetle drive on our second week. Bev ran a very successful night about Iceland, Isabel then ran a night about Egypt and the girls all wrote their names in hieroglyphics. Helen ran a night about her visit to Sri Lanka with Girlguiding and Sue K finished off the half term with a night about Spain. The two weeks after half term we did ‘fajita fun’ making fajitas in two groups and did some preparation for Pack Holiday making table mats and colouring charts.

On 6th to 8th March, we had a Pack Holiday at Woodbank. A Harry Potter theme was enjoyed by everyone and it was hard to realise we were only a mile from home. Girls enjoyed looking after their home, helping to prepare food, and a wide range of games and activities. The little sock owls organised by Sue K were sewn on Saturday morning and the girls enjoyed a magic wide game on Saturday afternoon. Helen was non-stop as Guider in Charge, Sue B cooked with help from Isabel who also helped Helen and Bev was our First Aider. Monday 9th March, we had off to recover!

On Monday 16th March we were doing the preparation for Mother’s Day when the government announced vulnerable people should shield. As Sue B is in total renal failure and Sue K’s son has a heart problem and knowing how busy Bev would be as an Intensive Care Nurse, we did quick notes for the girls and met them on the carpark to say we were cancelling Brownies for a couple of weeks and hand out kit left on Pack Holiday. Little did we know at the time this would be a Pandemic and we would not see the girls in person for well over a year!

Summer Term with no chance of meeting, from the 21st March we sent out emailed activity packs for the girls to pick and choose activities to do. We sent out packs for 15 weeks to the 26th June 2020. Each week we included a Brownie Badge, Promise or Law activity, a physical activity, some science to do at home, a simple craft and a puzzle.

Towards the end of June Girlguiding had organised a deal for Leaders to get a cheap deal for zoom meetings. Sue got onto zoom with Helen’s help and we held a few one-hour meetings on zoom for girls who wanted to zoom. Over the Summer and early Autumn this proved very popular even though the girl’s numbers were halved the girls who took part were very keen.

We had a Leaders chat online and Isabel dropped out to concentrate on her teacher training year. Bev also decided with pressure of work she could no longer commit to helping and left the Unit. We thank Bev for all her time and

skills and hope to see Isabel back after her training. Helen graduated as a Service Engineer and moved south so Sue B and Sue K continued on zoom, but it was agreed we would need more help before we met face to face with the girls. Helen will continue to help as needed on zoom and for trips and holidays in the future.

During the Autumn half term, a selection of Christmas crafts were prepared in individual bags for each girl. Then parents were asked for payment (to cover these and a bit for insurance due in February), as they picked up the packs from Sue B's home. We demonstrated the crafts for the girls to follow. We made Christmas cards, snowmen tree ornaments, photo baubles, calendars with a month on each side, Santa door hangers and crackers. Although we were very disappointed not to be able to have an end of year party, we made a promise to the girls that at the end of January we would hold a zoom 'sleep over'.

Sue Brindley Unit Leader, Sue Kirkham Unit Helper & Helen Brindley Occasional Leader.

St Luke's Family Events – Co-ordinator Jean Moore

In February, we held a Messy Lent event which was well attended. There were crafts associated with Lent. At the end of the craft making time, we joined together and talked about the meaning of Lent. We then sat down and enjoyed pancakes together with a variety of toppings.

The next event was due to be a Mad Hatter's Tea Party but this was cancelled owing to the Covid 19 pandemic. We had already started a Whats App group to inform parents/carers who came along of future events and we have used this to keep in touch with people over the last months of lockdowns and restrictions.

I would like to thank all those from St. Luke's fellowship who come along faithfully to help at these events. It would not be possible to put them on without their help. I would also like to thank the hospitality team for their generous donation to our funds.

As yet we do not know when we would be able to start up our Family events again but we hope and pray that we will be able to continue to reach out to the families in the parish in some way or other physically in the future.

Luke Inn – Co-ordinator Dave Foxford

Annual Report from January – December 2020

Luke Inn is a social event that is held on the second Monday of each month, except for July and August. There is a team of seven people who organise Luke Inn. This is can be setting up the room with tables and chairs, baking cakes, making tea, being the treasurer, and organising the entertainment. There is a great team work and everything is organised well. This is due to everyone doing their part and helping others when needed. Open communication is evident within the team especially during the meeting that we have before Luke Inn starts.

Luke Inn is for all ages, but the older generation are the ones who attend.

On average 18 people attended Luke Inn.

We continued to announce each Luke Inn, along with that month's entertainment, in different places by putting a notice in Frans Newsagent, Costa Coffee and Parish Church in the town centre, Christchurch on Church Lane, as well as in St. Luke's Notice Sheet in order to try and increase the numbers.

At the beginning of each meeting there are announcements about the next Luke Inn, celebrating of birthdays and a short talk. It is then handed over to those who are providing the entertainment.

Luke Inn has a variety of entertainers. This year's entertainers were:

- Joanne Halliwell with part three of Betsy: Live Happily Ever After;
- Keith Lancaster, St. Luke's Church Warden who sang Folk and Older Pop and played the guitar
- Peter Roberts whom spoke about the Toxteth Riots

Normally Luke Inn would have a Summer outing, which would have included a meal. Also, Luke Inn would normally have a Christmas Dinner and entertainment. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was not possible.

9th March 2020 was the last Luke Inn before it was closed due to Lockdown and to keep everyone safe.

Due to Lockdown, Self-Isolation, and restricted activities, some of the Members of Luke Inn have been contacted by phone to see how they were. Also, Birthday Cards from the Team, which are normally given out at Luke Inn, are being sent to the Luke Innners.

St Luke's Men's Fellowship Group – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Bernard Cragg & Charles Johnson

We had barely started our 2020 programme of meetings when the pandemic brought a sudden end to our monthly gatherings on the last Wednesday of the month. We had a great start to the year when Lynn Aconley (yes, a female speaker at the men's meeting! What next? Female vicars? Oh, hang on a minute.....) came to tell us of her experiences in amateur dramatics and also as an extra in some TV productions like "Last Tango in Halifax" alongside stars like Sir Derek Jacobi. For those of us who have attempted acting at the front of church it was reassuring to hear that the great professional thespians don't always know their lines! We had no meeting in February due to Ash Wednesday being the last Wednesday of the month and we were all set in March to listen to Ali Hassan talk about his homeland of Cyprus, when we got the instruction to stay at home. Let's hope that we can start up again before too long as the numbers attending have been very encouraging. Thanks to Alan and Bernard for all their work in organising these meetings and to Black Bull for the use of the room.

St Luke's Indoor Bowls – Co-ordinator Alan Cresswell, Allan Taggart & Charles Johnson

We were approaching the end of the Indoor Bowls season when we had to curtail our activities due to the spread of the coronavirus. Our regular Thursday meetings had been well attended with friends from St Luke's, from Christ Church and Prescot and Odyssey Bowling Club coming along to make use of our 4 mats. One notable newcomer was none other than our Churchwarden who said that she had never bowled before but then proceeded to display an astonishing array of skills. We were unable to start again in September 2020 so we shall have to hope for an opportunity to bowl on the greens in the summer in order to prepare for a full indoor season in the Autumn of 2021. We know that some people have been watching the experts in the Indoor Bowls on television hoping to pick up some tips. We shall see if they can match Lorraine when the mats are eventually rolled out (no doubt she has found somewhere to practise and will beat us all handsomely). I hope that we can all remember the difference between thumb and finger, that we remember to keep quiet when our resident engineer is bowling, and that the biscuit tin is well stocked (Lorraine, did we mention that winners buy the biscuits?). Here's to some great Thursday afternoons in the Church Centre –you are all welcome to join us.

Other regular community activities

St Luke's Walking Group – meet the first Saturday of the month in the morning normally starting approximately 9am. This is a walking group at a gentle pace with a place for lunch at the end of the walk for fellowship. If people are unable to come on the walk you are welcome to join for lunch. Unfortunately, since March 2020 this has ceased due to covid. We are looking forward towards the future when we can re-start the walks and fellowship again.

Finance

Regular giving and donations have decreased again by just over 4.5%, compared to the same for 2019, whereas, our regular commitments (parish share, gas, electricity, water, insurance, etc) have only decreased by just over 2.5% even though the buildings were closed for the majority of the year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the buildings being closed, a large majority of people who used to donate via the collection plate have changed their way of giving to either standing order or through the Parish Giving Scheme.

Payments associated with the vicarage have slightly increased compared to 2019, although it now does only account for the telephone line and broadband connection.

All other costs associated with the vicarage (i.e. council tax, water rates, etc.), which are now incurred due to it being occupied by Rev Gregor Stewart during his Curacy, are now accounted for separately under the 'curacy costs' line and are paid for by the 4 churches of the Eccleston Team as shown in the 'curacy income' row under the income section. The rent of the vicarage is covered by a curacy grant from Liverpool Diocese.

A one-off maintenance cost was incurred during 2020 for the repainting of the church centre kitchen (£550) along with various other costs associated with making the church and centre COVID-Secure (£545), with all other maintenance costs being for the general upkeep and servicing of the buildings.

We have received a total of £11,552 in tax recovery from both regular income and small donations which is higher than during 2019 as only 10 months had been claimed during 2019 whereas a total of 15 months has been claimed during 2020.

Income from hall lettings have dramatically decreased by nearly 70% due to the hall being closed for the majority of the year.

We have received investment income totalling £3,200 from the investment fund created from a large bequest donation received in 2017 which is available for the PCC without any restrictions. A total of £21,264 was withdrawn from this fund to enable the Parish Share for September to December to be paid up front and ease the pressure on the general funds. Despite this withdrawal, the capital investment only decreased in value by £17,128 over the year and is also still available to the PCC at any time without any restrictions should the need arise.

Performance of Investments from the fund accounts held with the Central Board of Finance from the sale of the school have been good with dividend payments and interest achieving £2,636 which is available to the PCC for restricted items, the market value of the actual shares has increased by 4.9%.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of the year, between the main deposit and current accounts there was a total of £5,194 available as general funds, there is also £7,915 available for church upgrade works and a further £740 received from Liverpool Diocese and the team churches towards the curacy costs.

There is also £11 remaining in the Community Centre account which is available for works required within the hall or for repairs associated with any of the works covered by the recent grants.

The market value of the investment fund from the bequest donations was £76,576 which is available to the PCC without any restrictions. There was also a further £12,478 in restricted funds which are available for the PCC to use for restricted purposes.

Agent Transactions

The PCC acted as a financial agent for the following people / organisations: -

- Liverpool Diocesan - £1,913.00 was received in regards to Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals from the wedding couple and funeral directors which has been forwarded to the diocesan board of finance
- Retired Clergy / SSM Ministers / LTO Readers - £335 was received from funeral directors in regards to Assigned Fees which were payable to the retired clergy / SSM Ministers / LTO Readers who officiated at funerals in place of the vicar which have been forwarded to the relevant people.
- Organist Fees - £350 was received from funeral directors and wedding couples respectively which has been forwarded to the relevant organist.
- Tear Fund - £239.80 was found within the safe from a special service held in a previous year for the works by Tear Fund which has been forwarded.

Plans for the Future

- We will continue to develop with our vision for St. Luke's Church: -

"Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others".

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart, soul and strength. *Deuteronomy 6:4*

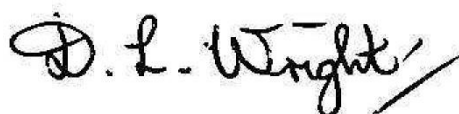
MAY THE GOD OF HOPE fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him. *Romans 15:13*

- We will continue to work with the other churches and develop relationships within the Eccleston Team, developing and supporting best practices, worshipping styles and new ideas across the Team.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signature: -



Full Name: - Miss Diane Wright
Position: - Lay Chair
Date: - 12th April 2021



ST LUKE'S CHURCH ECCLESTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2020

Knowing Jesus, Growing in Jesus, Showing Jesus to others

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St Luke's, Ecclestone
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2020
Receipts & Payments Account**

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Regular Giving					
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	29,014			29,014	32,446
Planned Giving - Parish Giving Scheme	4,327			4,327	360
Planned Giving - Other	4,859			4,859	5,598
Loose Plate Collections	2,800			2,800	4,586
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	10,493			10,493	6,768
Tax Recovered - Gift Aid on Small Donations	1,059			1,059	1,603
in memoriam	404			404	2,408
members' payments		422		422	1,705
grants	353			353	100
other donations	3,534	394		3,928	1,817
special appeals				0	0
				57,659	57,392
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
refreshments		48		48	193
copy printer income				0	0
hall lettings	2,791			2,791	9,137
other income (incl cards)	359			359	387
				3,198	9,717
Receipts from Church activities					
PCC Fees	1,710			1,710	4,081
Donations from Verger				0	0
				1,710	4,081
Receipts from investments					
Bank & CBF interest/dividends	3,204		2,636	5,840	6,519
				5,840	6,519
Other receipts					
Weekend income / outings				0	1,930
Insurance claim				0	0
Curacy Income			7,775	7,775	0
				7,775	1,930
Total Receipts	64,906	864	10,411	76,181	79,639
Payments					
Church activities					
Missionary giving	6,308	1,039		7,347	6,713
Parish share	51,035			51,035	51,415
Working expenses	1,377			1,377	431
Vicarage costs	640			640	559
Curacy Costs			7,035	7,035	0
Church heat/light	2,288			2,288	3,068
Church insurance	2,905			2,905	2,792
Evangelism (incl anniversary)	239	16	44	300	617
Church Maintenance	1,603			1,603	1,380
Upkeep of services		179		179	547
Equipment	493			493	333
Copier lease/mtce	701			701	1,065
Community centre maintenance	2,047			2,047	2,647
Community centre running costs	5,193			5,193	5,859
Weekend accommodation/ outings				0	2,039
Refreshments		92		92	129
Other working exps	1,654	365		2,019	3,051
Church upgrade works			1,632	1,632	2,669
Total Payments	76,482.90	1,691.00	8,710.86	86,885	85,312
Excess of Receipts over Payments				(10,704)	(5,673)

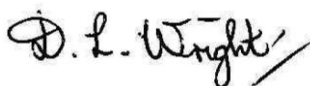
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
St. Luke's, Ecclestone
For the year ended 31 December 2020**

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Cash Funds					
Bank current account	(8,286)			(8,286)	(6,871)
Bank deposit account	13,481		8,656	22,136	7,469
Community Centre account		11		11	11
Church Board of Finance Deposit Fund		1,279		1,279	1,279
Church Board of Finance Deposit Account (764001)			1,953	1,953	3,817
Fund bank accounts and cash		2,237		2,237	3,064
Total bank current and deposit accounts	5,194	3,527	10,609	19,329	8,769
Investment Assets					
CBF Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764002) **			37,451	37,451	35,032
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Old School Sale) (764003) **			48,045	48,045	46,431
CBF Fixed Int Investment Fund (Bequest) (764004)	44,990		6,623	51,613	63,246
CBF Investment Fund (Bequest) (764005)	31,586		3,902	35,488	40,508
				172,597	185,218
 Other Monetary Assets (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
Income tax recoverable from HMRC from December 2020				603	3,160
 Liabilities (all in respect of unrestricted funds)					
None				0	0

** Investment Assets were previously managed by the trustees of Greenhalls Ecclesiastical Charity. These have now been transferred to St Lukes Parochial Church Council.

Approved by the PCC on 12th April 2021 and signed on their behalf



Diane L Wright
PCC Lay Chairman



Peter Anderson
PCC Assistant Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS:

1. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but are not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:
Freehold land and buildings comprising the Church Centre
Various items of ICT and audio visual equipment
Various tables and chairs purchased in 2010
3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.
No other payments were made to PCC members.
4. The movements in designated funds during the year were:

	b/fwd			c/fwd
	1 Jan 2020	Receipts	Payments	31 Dec 2020
Discretionary fund	357	29	0	386
Flower Fund	3	288	179	111
Hospitality	178	48	128	99
Ladies' Fellowship	465	0	465	0
Family Events Fund	31	67	40	57
Boys Brigade	204	0	0	204
Teddies Tuesday	820	304	716	408
Luke Inn	555	128	139	544
Luke There	428	0	0	428
St Lukes Puppeteers	24	0	24	0
	3,064	864	1,691	2,237

5. Receipts and payments for the Community Centre are included within the PCC accounts but are identified separately as follows:

	£	£
	2020	2019
Receipts		
Hall lettings	2,791	9,137
Grants	0	0
Contribution from (to) St Luke's Church	4,450	(631)
Total Income	<u>7,240</u>	<u>8,506</u>
Payments		
Community centre maintenance	2,047	2,647
Community centre running costs	5,193	5,859
Total Expenditure	<u>7,240</u>	<u>8,506</u>

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke's, Eccleston (764) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020, as set out on pages 12 to 14 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Date: 22nd April 2021

Paul Horton, Eccleston, St Helens