

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF LUTON ST ANNE WITH ST CHRISTOPHER

England & Wales · Charity number 1134772

Details

Other names	ST ANNE'S WITH ST CHRISTOPHER'S PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	33 Felix Avenue Luton LU2 7LE
Phone	01582850125
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Website	http://www.stannechrisluton.uk/

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all, pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved and promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers groups and other groups within the community. In addition supporting other charities both in the UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Luton

Finances

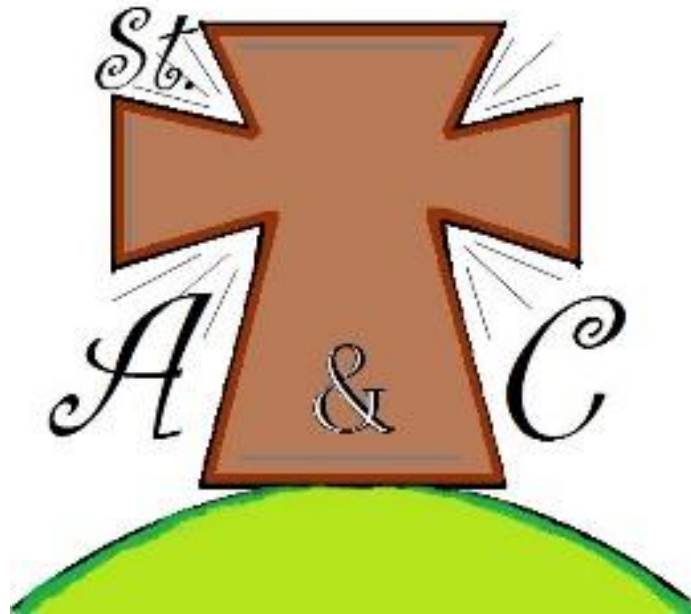
Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£60,364	£58,961	-	-
2023-12-31	£76,018	£73,573	-	-
2022-12-31	£51,763	£48,975	-	-
2021-12-31	£44,909	£65,030	-	-
2020-12-31	£70,903	£77,154	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REV Anne Denise Crosby	Chair	2017-09-04
ANN JEANETTE MOORE		
Dianne Scott		2014-04-30
Emma Reid		2011-11-23
Michael Whelan		2021-04-18
Michelle Tracy Reeves		2016-04-25
Olubukola Olowoye		2021-04-18
Sandra Tuffnell		2020-10-18
Susan Ann Whelan		2021-04-18
Verma Ionie Grey Denny		2020-10-18

Accounts

Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher



Annual Report 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1134772

Including accounts for year ending 31 December

2024

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF LUTON ST. ANNE WITH ST. CHRISTOPHER 2024

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our annual report for 2024. This document contains reports and accounts relating to this parish. To comply with the Charities Act, this report contains information that is supplementary to that which is being presented as a Parish Statement to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, Mother Anne Crosby, 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 two parish churches, St Anne's and St Christopher's, in Luton.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our churches and to become part of the parish community.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for those people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the two churches and their halls.

Achievement and Performance

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services across the parish during the week and over the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

Current patterns of worship comprise: a Sunday morning service at St. Anne's Church (Holy Eucharist except for the third Sunday when an *All Connected* service is held); a varied program of worship entitled *Sunday@4* at St. Christopher's (the third Sunday being a Holy Eucharist); a mid-week service at St. Christopher's (Holy Eucharist except for the first Wednesday which is *Morning Worship*).

Patronal festivals and other special days are celebrated with evening services of Holy Eucharist.

Fellowship time takes place after most services.

Holy Baptism takes place at mutually convenient services There was one Baptism in 2024.

Funeral ministry is undertaken by the vicar.

Weddings potentially take place at both St Anne's and St Christopher's.

The number of electors certified upon the Church Electoral Roll in 2024 was 106.

The parish is part of the *Inclusive Church* Network.

Deanery Synod

One members sits on the Deanery Synod, along with the Vicar and Licensed Lay Reader(ex-officio). There is one vacant position.

The Churches

Various maintenance tasks have been completed in both churches, details of which are in the accompanying Churchwarden's report.

Both church halls are regularly hired out to local community groups.

In association with Neville's Funeral Services, *Talking Elephants* took place monthly in the halls of both churches until August 2024 when the sessions at St. Christopher's Hall were discontinued.

Both churches have gardens to keep in order. At St Christopher's, a member of the local community volunteers his services, cutting the grass and keeping the borders in order. This has been supplemented by volunteers from the Church community and the Community Pay Back Scheme. St Anne's and St Christopher's both receive working parties from the Community Pay Back Scheme. These groups of people undertake gardening and maintenance work in the church and the grounds under supervision from their supervisor. The Garden of Remembrance in St. Christopher's grounds is significant for the community and is a place where parishioners may have the ashes of their loved ones interred.

Pastoral Care

Some members of the parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The vicar, and suitably safeguarded lay members visit and take Holy Communion as appropriate. Those receiving Holy Communion at home are regularly prayed for by the wider church community. Parishioners are also visited in hospital where appropriate and possible.

Young people attend Luton Unite, an ecumenical town wide gathering of Christian young people meeting at Youthscape.

Mission and Evangelism

The Church's Life, Ministry and Mission is always on the agenda of PCC meetings, reminding us of our need for mission and evangelism within the everyday life of the churches.

The parish Mission Planning Group has worked with the PCC to write a new Mission Action Plan this year.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our two churches are the only two church buildings within the parish. Mthr Anne meets regularly with other local clergy in the east of Luton. Mthr Anne serves on the Luton Churches Together executive committee and also attends monthly prayer meetings, when possible, with church leaders of all denominations from across the town.

Financial Review

The parish has one bank account and set of accounts. The PCC has responsibility for the parish's finances, supported by the Parish Standing and Finance Committee.

The parish unrestricted income in 2024 was £54,771 and payments of £55,764. The unrestricted bank balance at 31st December 2024 was £51,229. The full details and report are printed in the annual report, which is available to those on the Electoral Roll before the Annual Church Meeting.

Reserves Policy

The policy states that we plan to have to hand the equivalent of three months' regular expenditure, excluding Building and Fabric costs, money that has been designated for specific projects and restricted funds.

Risk Management

All regular worshippers in the parish have been, and continue to be, encouraged to give generously. Both churches have a contactless payment machine. The parish Facebook page and 'A Church Near You' have options to enable people to financially support the parish, and an 'Easy Fundraising' account has been established. Everyone is encouraged to be part of the stewardship scheme and, if they are taxpayers, to gift-aid their giving.

St Christopher's is considerably dependent on rental income to meet most of its essential expenses. Most of the regular congregation at the church are not full-time wage-earners, the majority being aged 60 and above. There seems no easy way of managing these risks at present.

General Policies

The PCC has now agreed a total of twenty parish policies which are reviewed annually, namely:

- Safeguarding – best practice as per the Church of England
- Safeguarding adults when they are vulnerable
- Safeguarding Children
- Ethnic Minorities Charter (Diocese of St. Albans)
- Church and Hall Evacuation
- Conflict of Interest
- Equal Opportunities
- Domestic Abuse
- Health, Safety and Welfare
- Lone Working
- Race Equality
- Reserves
- Risk Management
- Youth and Children's Work
- Coach trips
- Displaying of hirers banners
- Supporting persons in need
- Noticeboards
- Garden of Remembrance
- Advertisers in parish publicity
- Wedding Arrangements

Volunteers

There are a number of volunteers who give of their time and effort and work so hard to keep the parish a lively and vibrant community. We follow the diocesan guidelines regarding child protection and DBS checking. We are grateful to our churchwarden Michelle Reeves, the parish treasurer Michael Whelan, and safeguarding officer Emma Reid, who have wonderfully fulfilled their duties and responsibilities.

Structure and Governance

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.
During 2023 the PCC met on six occasions.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, is situated in the Deanery of Luton. It is part of the St Albans Diocese in the Church of England. The Registered Charity number is 1134772.

The Parish Office is located at: Parish Office, St. Christopher's Church Hall, Felix Avenue, Luton, LU2 7LE. Further details in the reports from groups and other financial details can be requested from this address.

MTHR ANNE'S REPORT 2024

Introduction

2024 has been a year of looking afresh at the work God would have us do. We continue to grow in faith, service, and community engagement, seeking to align our mission with God's calling.

Gratitude and Acknowledgments

I begin, as always, with huge thanks to the Ministry Team:

- Michelle Reeves, Churchwarden
- Dianne Scott, Lay Reader
- Olubukola Olowoye, Lay Leader of Worship
- Fr Grantley Finlayson, Retired Clergy offering monthly priestly ministry
- Akosua Boafa, newly commissioned as Lay Leader of Worship on 16 June 2024

Special thanks to:

- Michael Whelan, Parish Treasurer, for diligently managing parish finances
- Emma Reid, Parish Safeguarding Officer, for attending to the safeguarding needs
- Dianne Scott, PCC Secretary,
- PCC members

Thanks also to everyone involved in social and fundraising events, building maintenance and those who contribute to the worship and life of the parish.

Worship and Services

We have maintained our worship schedule:

- Sunday: 10:30 AM at St Anne's; 4:00 PM at St Christopher's
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM at St Christopher's

A significant change this year was the decision to simplify Sunday worship at St Christopher's. Holy Eucharist has become the staple service, with Café Church occurring once a month.

St Christopher's Church Hall Project

The PCC has decided to sell St Christopher's Church Hall and use the proceeds to develop St Christopher's Church as both a place of worship and a community space. Some funds will also be allocated to improve heating and other aspects of St Anne's Church and Hall.

The project was launched on Pentecost with the Archdeacon of Bedford, Venerable Dave Middlebrook leading discussions.

- Community and congregation meetings have been held, including creative sessions to reimagine the parish.
- Several expressions of interest have been received regarding the land/building.
- A monthly Prayer Meeting has been established to support the project.

New Appointments and Wider Ministry

This year, I have taken on additional roles:

- Assistant Area Dean for Luton, allowing for deeper connections with clergy and laity.
- Bishop of St. Albans' Nominee for USPG (Partners in Global Mission), strengthening ties between the diocese and USPG.

Attending the USPG Annual Conference, which reflected on Galatians 3:26-28, was particularly inspiring.

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Sessions included insights from:

- The Right Reverend Darcy Badly Dlamini, Bishop of Eswatini
- The Right Reverend Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Bishop of Edmonton
- The Very Revd Dr Kelly Brown Douglas, Dean of Episcopal Divinity School
- Bradon Muilenburg, Anglican Refugee Support Lead, Northern France

I attended Workshops

- The Past in the Present: Mission, Empire, and Racial Justice
- Seeing Differently: Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller-Friendly Churches

Attending this conference enriched my ministry and informed my sermons and parish leadership.

Community Outreach and Engagement

Our parish remains committed to serving the community through:
Craft groups, social events, community lunches, Talking Elephants, Bacon Butty Mornings, and Community Refreshment Stops.
We respond to requests for help and are fostering a reputation for compassion.

Children and Family Ministry

Though we do not have many children worshipping in the parish, our outreach continues to grow:

A new monthly Family Worship led by Akosua Boafa, who has answered an unexpected but clear calling to this ministry;

A First Communion Course prepared four children for communion;

Regular Collective Worship at Wenlock CE Academy;

Termly worship at St Mary's with an invitation to be involved in different parts of the worship;

Leading year group sessions at St Anne's where the children explore the church and their current Christian topic;

Termly sessions with the children at Hart Hill Nursery, including Harvest, Lent, and Christingle;

Improved connections with Crawley Green Infant School enabled an invitation to lead their first Christingle service;

Richmond Hill West School (for children with special educational needs) has enquired about visiting St Christopher's Church.

This ministry needs additional support to flourish fully.

Guides and Scouts

Our connections with the Guide and Scout movements continue to strengthen, with both groups now automatically participating in the Remembrance Sunday service.

Prayer and Digital Fellowship

The WhatsApp Prayer Group provides a safe space for sharing prayer needs.

The Parish Chat keeps the congregation connected, sharing joys, sorrows, and updates.

Facebook is still used to share with the wider community times of worship and social events. We continue to live stream from St Annes most Sundays.

Parish Visibility and Mission

Our decorated 'church railings' continue to be a well-known and loved feature in town, bringing joy to passersby and signaling our active presence.

Alongside St Albans Diocese and Luton Deanery, we are exploring how to Grow Younger and More Diverse, aligning this with our Inclusive Church Network commitment.

Active participation in Luton's Pride event reflects our commitment to inclusivity.

Our missional life continues to enable me to be an active participant in the Diocesan Mixed Ecology Symposium. As a continued member of Luton Churches Together Executive, and the Luton Council of Faiths we remain active in the faith life of Luton.

Strong links with Luton Borough Council's Social Justice Team, are resulting in community connections, including the inclusion of our social events featuring in the Bus Routes for Older People publication. This is showcasing our impact on individual lives.

Conclusion

God has been good to our parish this past year. We continue to see Jesus in the lives of those around us, and we remain committed to our mission of loving God and serving our community. May we move forward in faith, trusting in His guidance for the year ahead.

With gratitude and blessings,

Revd Anne Crosby SMMS (Mthr)

Vicar of the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy states that the church will train and equip church officers to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support children, young people and vulnerable adults and recognise and respond to abuse.

In line with the above statement, we also follow the diocese 'Safeguarding Dashboards'. In doing so our PCC members ensure their training is up to date having the foundation pathway and Domestic Violence Awareness. DBSs have been updated this year for those that had reached their three-year renewal. The Vicar, Church Reader and all PCC members all have these requirements. Additional safeguarding training has been completed by an additional 18 people who carry out different roles within the church.

Safeguarding continues to have a monthly update on the PCC agenda to ensure we are working together to meet the needs of our congregation and the wider community. There has been one issue of safeguarding reported during 2024. This matter has been dealt with according to the relevant Safeguarding policies and guidance by the Parish Safeguarding officer, the Vicar, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Emma Reid (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL as at 31st December 2024

Churchwarden:

Michelle Reeves

Vicar and chairperson:

Mthr Anne Crosby

Elected Members:

Ann Moore (Deanery Synod Rep)

Verma Denny

Carol Mitchell

Olubukola Olowoye

Emma Reid

Dianne Scott

Sandra Tuffnell

Michael Whelan (Treasurer)

Susan Whelan

Churchwarden's Report 2024

This year has been another busy year in the parish. We are still reduced to one Churchwarden covering both churches and ideally could do with at least one more to help share the load! If you feel that this is something you be interested in doing or would like to know more about what the role entails, please let me know.

Across the parish, the boilers in both churches have been serviced, the emergency lighting and fire extinguishers have been tested and routine maintenance has been carried out in both churches.

The wi-fi and alarm system in St Annes has been upgraded

In St Christopher's the repairs to the windows and doors have been completed.

We continue to have the Community Payback team coming in to both churches and have helped with cleaning, maintenance of the church grounds and stripping the floors.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has offered their services throughout the year, your support is invaluable and very much appreciated!

Michelle Reeves

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher is a charity, and its members are Trustees of the charity; as such its constitution and operation are bound by legal requirements. The principle function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church".¹

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org>

The PCC, and her Standing Committee, met regularly during 2024 (usually at St. Christopher's Jubilee Room).

During the past year all PCC meetings have opened in worship based upon the *PCC TONIGHT ©CPAS LITURGY FOR A PCC MEETING*, which includes time both for prayer and for exploring the Gospel reading of the day.

Safeguarding, Finance and the care of our buildings always feature on the meeting agendas alongside consideration of the spiritual life of the parish.

Unfortunately, although several new members were elected to the PCC at the APCM in 2024, for various reasons, none of these felt able to continue in these roles. However, although the size of the body is small, the members of the PCC have continued to work very hard together in love as we seek the flourishing of those we serve in both the Church and the wider community.

Dianne Scott (PCC Secretary)

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Luton Deanery consists of the Anglican Parishes of Luton plus Woodside and Caddington in the Archdeaconry of Bedford. The Synod is a body consisting of clergy together with lay representatives from every parish elected on a three- yearly basis. Those elected also serve on the Parochial Church Council. At the APCM in 2024, both Ann Moore and John Moules were elected as Deanery Synod Representatives although the latter decided not to continue in the role. Mthr Anne Crosby and Dianne Scott -as vicar and licensed lay reader- also serve on Deanery Synod.

Deanery Synod met four times during the year and the Area Dean, Revd David Kesterton, has kindly written the following summary of events.

PCC Secretary

Report on Luton Deanery Synod 2024

Luton deanery Synod met four times during 2024. The "Growing younger and more diverse" bid for resources to boost our mission featured strongly in all our gatherings in 2024. This promises the possibility of strengthening the good work that is already underway across the deanery.

Elections to the Diocesan Synod took place in our summer meeting. Those elected were as follows

From the laity: David Dallinger, Janna Bond, Sandra Millar, Linda Logan

From the clergy: Mike Jones, Josias de Souza, Liz Hughes, Chris Burrows, Anne Crosby, David Kesterton

As David Kesterton became more involved with supporting Stephen Moore (Programme Manager) in the consultation work for the bid, two assistant Area Deans were commissioned to share in the deanery leadership. Revd Josias De Souza and Revd Anne Crosby took on this role in September.

The other deanery officers are

Lay Chair Peter Adams : Vice Lay Chair Steven Dolby: Treasurer David Dallinger: Secretary Vacant

Thanks also go to Winnie Kinninmonth for minute taking and Lesley Dumigan for administrative support. Thanks to Josias for hosting a great deanery BBQ on 20th July. Look out for the date of the next one in 2025. The years meetings and main topics were as follows:

19th February – St. Thomas’s Church Stopsley

We had a presentation on the work of NOAH and heard about the work of parish nurse attached to St Thomas’s.

3rd June – St. Christopher’s Church Round Green

We were challenged about the call towards being a carbon neutral church with input from Tom Abrahams the diocesan officer responsible. We also heard from LBC about their scheme to encourage collaborative approach in this area.

7th October – St. Mary’s Church town centre.

A presentation on the Neighbourhood hubs model was given by Marek Lubelski (Head of social justice and community safety LBC) together with Fr Luke Larner.

25th November – St. Hugh’s Church Lewsey

The main focus was on engaging with the themes of the growing younger and more diverse bid. The Year of spiritual renewal and wellbeing was introduced with encouragement for us to book ourselves onto the various opportunities that are being offered.

Despite our divergent views on some of the current issues in the church, Luton deanery continues to be a strong and supportive grouping of churches and parishes across the town and neighbouring villages.

David Kesterton February 2025

BUILDING AND FABRICS COMMITTEE

Our Buildings & Fabrics Committee is a sub-group of the PCC. It is responsible for the routine maintenance, improvements and upkeep of both Churches, Halls and grounds which is carried out throughout the year by a small group of volunteers. It also advises the PCC about any necessary work that might involve major expenditure. We have only met once during the current year, however we do aim to meet at least quarterly.

We look at repairs and maintenance that have been noted in our Quinquennial inspections and ensure that they are addressed in addition to the general maintenance tasks that need to be done.

We continue to try and make our churches more efficient and are committed to replacing our existing lights and emergency lights to LED as and when they need replacing.

Michelle Reeves

TUESDAY CRAFT GROUP AT ST. ANNE'S

The Craft Group has a steady number of people who come on Tuesday mornings. This year we have sent some of our knitted items to the Salvation Army and we are preparing to send more items when the winter arrives.

The craft group has also:

knitted / crocheted squares which are then sewed into blankets and taken to the local vets/sanctuary for animals use for the duration of their treatment/stay;

responded to a request that came in from the local hospital asking for help for crocheted or knitted hats in orange as they were short of that colour. The hats that are colour coded are used as part of the assessment system to indicate a babies care level.

There are always refreshments on offer and sometimes we are lucky enough to have cake when someone kindly bakes it . As a group we share fellowship ,laughter and support when needed.

Denise Dove

SATURDAY CRAFT GROUP REPORT 2024

The Saturday Craft Group has continued to meet in the Jubilee Room on the fourth Saturday of most months in 2024 - we do not usually meet in August or December.

We are a small but industrious group. During the year we have been attempting to design new altar frontals for St Christopher's. By the end of 2024 we had virtually completed the designs.

Although this has been our main focus, the group is open to anyone even if they do not want to get involved in the ongoing project. We are always happy to sit and enjoy a chat and cup of tea and knit or crochet for a change.

Ann Moore

PARISH CRAFT FAIRS 2024

During 2024 four Parish Craft Fairs were held in St Christopher's Church. Crafters can hire a table to display and sell their handcrafted items. There is usually a good demand for the stalls.

The Fairs this year have again been successful on many front. Firstly, they are good fund raisers for our parish funds, but also it is good to see our Church building open and being used by both the local and the wider communities. Many of our regular crafters have developed links with each other and share ideas with those who are new to Craft Fairs.

The Craft Fairs are hard work for the organisers, the helpers and the crafters but overall they are really enjoyable. If you have not yet been able to visit one of the Craft Fairs, please pop in to one in 2025.

Ann Moore

CREATIVE SCRAPBOOKING

We are a small group who enjoy sharing and creating our memory albums and crafting alongside enjoying some light refreshments. To help you create your memories there are a selection of tools on hand for you to use, there is also a selection of papers or card which can be purchased. Not all our members choose to scrapbook, we have paper crafters who use a die cutting machine to make boxes, bags etc, card makers and some crochet. Whatever your craft you are welcome to join us, maybe you can learn something new. Within the group we support each other with ideas and inspiration. There is a small fee which covers the use of tools and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you for some much needed me time!

Emma Reid

LUTON UNITE

Luton Unite meets at Youthscape on the first Friday of the month, during term-time, from 7-9.30pm. It puts on exciting events for young people from Years 7-13. The evening is an opportunity for them to meet other young people from different churches and denominations across the town, and to be part of a growing, vibrant group. The aim is for young people to experience the breadth and depth of the Christian community in Luton. The sessions are run by Youth workers from Youthscape, along with volunteer leaders from the different churches.

The evening starts with time to socialise with friends, before assembling for worship. Live music and games, along with the opportunity for prayer, are well received. The worship band continues to encourage young musicians to join them; they are fantastic! Leaders take turns to open up the Word. This year we have focused

on heroes from the Bible. The evening concludes with a social activity. Popular events have included; karaoke, movies, murder/mystery, dessert cafe, a silent disco and an escape room.

In addition to the main event, on the third Friday of the month, smaller groups meet for Luton Unite 1. This provides an opportunity to go deeper into the scripture introduced at the main event. The February half term allows young people to attend a Weekend at Home. This year, we were asking, "Why follow Jesus?" For the first time, we incorporated a sleepover, with St Anne's hosting the girls. During the summer holiday, a four day camping event, Satellites, is scheduled.

If you know any young people who would like to know more about these events, please come and speak to me.

Annette Considine

ST. ANNE'S SCOUT GROUP- BEAVERS, CUBS & SCOUTS

Scouting in Luton and especially St Anne's scout Group remains an active and valuable youth development movement within the area offering opportunities for young people aged 6 to 14.

The group actively runs three youth sections: Beavers (ages 6-8), Cubs (ages 8-10½), and Scouts (ages 10½-14). All sections meet on Mondays, offering consistent weekly engagement for their members.

Over the past year we have undertaken a varied program of themed activities focusing on outdoor adventures, skill-building, teamwork exercises, and community involvement. These activities aim to foster confidence, resilience, and leadership qualities in young people

St Anne's Scout Group plays an important role within the wider Falkes (Luton) Scout District, and while one group was forced to close earlier this year, St Anne's is steadily increasing in numbers and continues to contribute to the overall provision of Scouting opportunities in the local area.

Whilst recruiting Leaders and volunteers remains a real challenge, we are committed to providing a positive and engaging environment for young people of Luton to thrive and flourish.

John Carmichael, Group Lead Volunteer, (Group Scout Leader)

TALKING ELEPHANTS

The Talking Elephants bereavement support group meets at St Anne's Church on the third Thursday of the month from 10-11.30am.

We are pleased to host these sessions alongside Neville's Funeral Service, as part of their wider project. Our numbers tend to be fairly low but this gives everyone the time and space they need to engage with the group. Members support one another in an informal setting. There is often much joy and laughter as we share our experiences. Do come along and join us; you will receive a warm welcome.

Special thanks to Michelle, who is our regular representative from Neville's. I give thanks for their team and all that they do.

Annette Considine

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP (ST. ANNE'S, 3rd Thursday)

This intercessory prayer group takes place at St. Anne's Church on the first Thursday of every month in term-time. It is led by a Lay Leader of Worship, Bukky Olowoye. All are welcome to come along to this informal gathering where prayers are offered for the Church, the world and for individuals and their needs.

PCC Secretary

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP (ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, 1ST MONDAY)

The first priority stated in the Parish's new Mission Action Plan is: *to make our buildings fit for purpose thus enabling the parish to become sustainable.*

The second priority involved seeking God's guidance and blessing about such parish development. To this end, a new intercessory prayer group began to meet in September 2024 at St. Christopher's Church.

Under the leadership of Licensed Lay Reader, Dianne Scott, this group has sought inspiration from the experiences of the early church by reading a chapter of *the Acts of the Apostles* at each gathering.

The proposed development of our parish is for the benefit of all church members and hopefully for our wider communities too. It would be good to see more people attending this time of prayer- all are welcome.

Dianne Scott

HOUSE GROUP/ BIBLE STUDY

During 2024, "House Group" met most Thursday evenings during term-time in St. Christopher's *Jubilee Room* at 7pm.

This group exists to help and encourage us all to “go deeper” in our walk with Jesus and understanding our Christian faith.

The aim is to make Bible study fun and accessible for everyone who wants to take part. During 2024, this learning has included: a USPG Lent course titled- *Who Is Our Neighbour?*; an Old Testament study of *the Book of Esther*; standalone studies from *the Gospel of Mark*; a consideration of what the Bible has to say about the global environmental crisis during Autumn’s *Season of Creation*; for *Black History Month* a series of studies titled- *Around the World*; and a more meditative study – *Hospitality of the Heart*- for Advent.

Evenings begin with tea/coffee and end with a short service of *Compline- Night Prayer*.

Whatever your favoured learning style or ability, everyone is welcome. If you haven’t been yet and want to give it a try just turn up on the night or, for more information, catch me after church or contact me on: readerstannechris@gmail.com

Dianne Scott

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Treasurer’s report for the year ending 31 December 2024

The calendar year 2024 was another challenging year for the parish. Overall, income decreased in 2024 by £19,126 2024 £60,364 (2023:£79,490). Costs also decreased in 2024 by £17,743 2024 £58,961 (2023:£76,704). Net receipts decreased in 2024 by £1,383 2024 £1,403 (2023:£2,786).

Unrestricted Fund Receipts:

The major sources of the receipts of the parish were from stewardship and pledges, rental income resulting from the hire by external parties of the parish buildings and tax rebates. Stewardship and pledges from members of the parish have fallen by £4,781 2024 £19,485 (2023:£24,266). Rental income received from both the halls and churches increased by £2,248 to £17,688 (2023: £15,440). There were no tax rebates received in 2024 £0 (2023: £13,952).

Unrestricted Fund Payments:

The light, heat and water charge fell by £4,786 to £14,460 (2023: £19,246). Our parish share contribution decreased by £12,500 to £18,000 (2023: £30,500).

Restricted Fund Receipts and Payments:

Restricted fund receipts of £3,379 in 2024 related to donations for the buildings and fabric fund of St Christopher £2,821, a donation for a new flowers fund £58 and a donation for a new mission fund of £500. Restricted fund payments of £3,198 related to payments made in respect of the maintenance of St Anne’s church £3,133 taken from the St Anne’s buildings and fabric fund and £65 taken from the Edible Round Green fund.

Bank balances:

The unrestricted funds account balance reduced by £993 to £51,229 (2023: £52,222).

The restricted funds account increased by £2,396 to £59,056 (2023: £56,660).

Interest from the business reserve account £1,414 (2023: £1,221).

The year ahead:

I believe that the year ahead will be another challenging year for the parish. There are expected to be cost pressures generally with inflation running at 3%. There are also concerns that energy costs will still be high in 2025 by historical standards, a particular worry, as we have three large buildings to heat.

Our prospects will hinge on the results of our efforts in the following areas:

1. Increasing our congregation size.
2. Increasing our rental income.
3. Mitigating energy costs.
4. Filing gift aid claims for 2023 and 2024.

I would like to thank all members of the PCC for their support during the year.

Thank you to all the people who have given financially to the parish in any way. Your donations are vital in allowing the important work of the parish to continue.

Thank you to all those who have gift aided their donations. This enables the parish to claim an extra 25% of your donation from the government if you are a UK taxpayer.

Thank you to Colin Sparshott who has continued as the Independent Examiner for the Parish.

M.Whelan Treasurer 05/03/2025.

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher
Charity number 1134772
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
Receipts				
Stewardship and pledges	19,485		19,485	24,266
Gift aided envelopes	365		365	629
Donations and bequests	733	3,379	4,113	8,164
Specific collections	1,005		1,005	548
Income tax refund	0		0	13,952
Collections - loose	5,038		5,038	4,340
Collections - weddings and funerals	514		514	495
Weddings and funeral fees	1,404		1,404	4,331
Refreshments	596		596	402
Hall and church rental	17,688		17,688	15,440
Fundraising events	5,067		5,067	4,634
Buildings and fabrics	0		0	242
Pop in club	0	436	436	436
Grants received	1,250	1,388	2,638	0
Sundry	213		213	0
Insurance claims	0	390	390	390
Interest received	1,414		1,414	1,221

Total Receipts	54,771	5,594	60,364	79,490
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
Payments				
Light, heat and water	14,460		14,460	19,246
Insurance	4,554		4,554	4,363
Repairs and renewals	5,186	3,198	8,383	10,626
Hall and church rent refunds	800		800	520
Service requirements	960		960	623
Maintenance grounds	168		168	271
Parish share scheme	18,000		18,000	30,500
Charitable donations	1,301		1,301	839
Administration, stationery and stamps	99		99	682
Internet / telephone	1,489		1,489	1,335
Photocopier / printer	1,248		1,248	1,537
Clergy expenses	2,784		2,784	2,983
Envelopes / legal / inscriptions	952		952	737
Refreshments	124		124	138
Sundry expenses	35		35	45
Buildings and fabrics	2,456		2,456	0
Fees	1,146		1,146	2,259
Total Payments	55,764	3,198	58,961	76,704

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
Net of receipts / payments	-993	2,396	1,403	2,786
Cash funds last year end	52,221	56,660	108,882	106,096
Cash funds this year end	51,229	59,056	110,285	108,882
Cash Funds				
Deposit account	43,988	54,900	98,888	98,575
Current account	7,241	4,156	11,397	10,307
	51,229	59,056	110,285	108,882

Notes

1. Parish Share liability

Parish Share Liability in respect of:	2024 £	2023 £
2024	32,507	0
2023	19,732	19,732
2022	31,246	31,246
2021	0	18,422
Total	83,485	69,400

The present policy of the Diocese is to consider writing off balances over 3 years old, if proposed by the Deanery. The 2021 balance of £18,422 has been written off under these arrangements. The total parish share liability is not reflected in the above receipts and payments account.

2. Unrestricted Funds Creditors	2024 £	2023 £
Light and heat	1,407	1,407
Fees due to the Diocese	0	236

The light and heat creditor is a disputed liability in respect of our previous gas supplier. Neither of these creditors have been reflected in the above receipts and payments account.

3. Charitable Donations

	2024	2023
	£	£
USPG	82	113
The Bishop's Harvest	100	172
Church Urban Fund	88	143
Children's Society	363	126
Noah Enterprise	82	113
Beds & Herts Historic Church Trust	50	40
Churches Together	40	30
The Woodland Trust	130	0
Beds Hospital NHS	327	0
Local donations	39	102
	<u>1,301</u>	<u>839</u>

4. Restricted Funds

Building Projects St Anne	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	29,903	32,987
Receipts		
Payments	-3,133	-3,084
Balance Carried Forward	<u>26,771</u>	<u>29,903</u>

Building Projects St Christopher	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	23,888	20,416
Receipts	4,599	3,472
Payments		
Balance Carried Forward	<u>28,487</u>	<u>23,888</u>

Edible Round Green Project	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	2,870	2,916
Receipts	0	0
Payments	-65	-47
Balance Carried Forward	<u>2,805</u>	<u>2,869</u>

Flowers	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	0	0
Receipts	58	0
Payments	0	0
Balance Carried Forward	58	0

Pop in Club	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	0	0
Receipts	436	0
Payments	0	0
Balance Carried Forward	436	0

Mission	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	0	0
Receipts	500	0
Payments	0	0
Balance Carried Forward	500	0

Total Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	56,660	56,319
Receipts	5,594	3,472
Payments	-3,198	-3,131
Balance Carried Forward	59,056	56,660

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Anne's with St Christopher's, Luton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

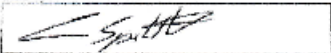
Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

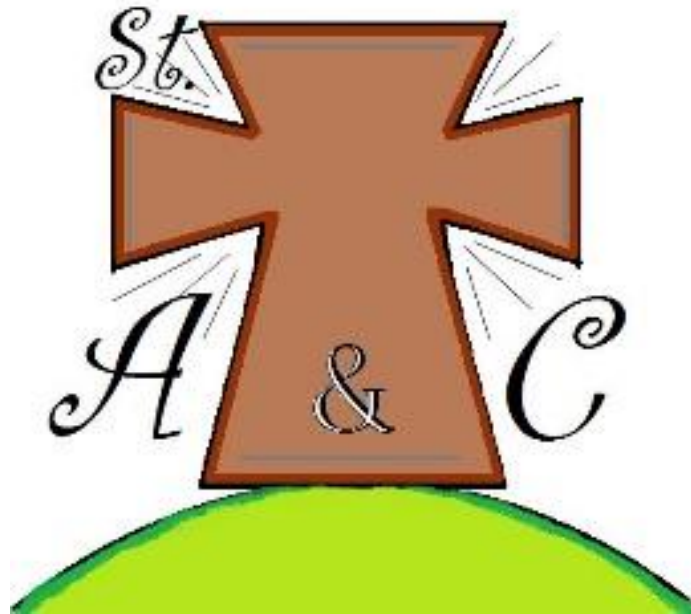
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. 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 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:		Date:	25/2/25
Name:	COLIN SPARSHOTT		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:	F.C.C.A		
Address:	48 LINCOLN CRESCENT BIGGLESWADE SG18 8HW		

Accounts

Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher



Annual Report 2023

Registered Charity Number: 1134772

Including accounts for year ending 31 December

2023

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF LUTON ST. ANNE WITH ST. CHRISTOPHER 2023

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our annual report for 2023. This booklet contains reports and accounts relating to this parish. To comply with the Charities Act, this report contains information that is supplementary to that which is being presented as a Parish Statement to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Anne Crosby, 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 two parish churches, St Anne's and St Christopher's, in Luton.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our churches and to become part of the parish community.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for those people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the two churches and their halls.

Achievement and Performance

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services across the parish during the week and over the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

Current patterns of worship comprise: a Sunday morning service at St. Anne's Church (Holy Eucharist except for the third Sunday when an *All Connected* service is held); a varied program of worship entitled *Sunday@4* at St. Christopher's (the third Sunday being a Holy Eucharist); a mid-week service at St. Christopher's (Holy Eucharist except for the first Wednesday which is *Morning Worship*).

Patronal festivals and other special days continued to be celebrated with evening services of Holy Eucharist.

Fellowship time takes place after most services.

Holy Baptism takes place at mutually convenient services There were 8 Baptisms in 2023.

Funeral ministry is undertaken by the vicar.

Weddings potentially take place at both St Anne's and St Christopher's.

The number of electors certified upon the renewed Church Electoral Roll in 2023 is 100.

The parish is part of the Inclusive Church Network.

Deanery Synod

One members sits on the Deanery Synod, along with the Vicar. There is one vacant position.

The Churches

Various maintenance tasks have been completed in both churches, details of which are in the accompanying Churchwarden's report.

Both church halls are regularly hired out to local community groups.

In association with Neville's Funeral Services, *Talking Elephants* groups take place monthly in the halls of both churches.

Both churches have gardens to keep in order. At St Christopher's, a member of the local community volunteers his services, cutting the grass and keeping the borders in order. This has been supplemented by volunteers from the Church community and the Community Pay Back Scheme. St Anne's and St Christopher's both receive working parties from the Community Pay Back Scheme. These groups of people undertake gardening and maintenance work in the church and the grounds under supervision from their supervisor. The Garden of Remembrance in St. Christopher's grounds is significant for the community and is a place where parishioners may have the ashes of their loved ones interred.

Pastoral Care

Some members of the parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The vicar and lay reader visit and take Holy Communion as appropriate. Those receiving Holy Communion at home are regularly prayed for by the wider church community. Parishioners are also visited in hospital where appropriate and possible.

Due to the leader's retirement, the weekly "Pop in Club" for young children and their carers ceased to run at the end of the summer term. A replacement leader is being sought. Young people attend Luton Unite, an ecumenical town wide gathering of Christian young people meeting at Youthscape.

These groups all have a Christian foundation, including appropriate worship and valuable fellowship.

Mission and Evangelism

The Church's Life, Ministry and Mission is always on the agenda of PCC meetings, reminding us of our need for mission and evangelism within the everyday life of the churches.

The parish Mission Planning Group has worked to fulfil the current Mission Action Plan so that all we do focuses out into our community, seeking to transform the lives of our neighbours, as we grow in faith and enable others to come to know Jesus.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our two churches are the only two church buildings within the parish. Revd Anne meets regularly with other local clergy in the east of Luton. Revd Anne serves on the Luton Churches Together executive committee and also attends monthly prayer meetings, when possible, with church leaders of all denominations from across the town.

Financial Review

The parish has one bank account and set of accounts. The PCC has responsibility for the parish's finances, supported by the Parish Standing and Finance Committee.

The parish unrestricted income in 2023 was £76,018 and payments of £73,573. The unrestricted bank balance at 31st December 2023 was £52,222. The full details and report are printed in the annual report, which is available to those on the Electoral Roll before the Annual Church Meeting.

Reserves Policy

The policy states that we plan to have to hand the equivalent of three months' regular expenditure, excluding Building and Fabric costs, money that has been designated for specific projects and restricted funds.

Risk Management

All regular worshippers in the parish have been, and continue to be, encouraged to give generously. Both churches have a contactless payment machine. The parish Facebook page and 'A Church Near You' have options to enable people to financially support the parish, and an 'Easy Fundraising' account has been established. Everyone is encouraged to be part of the stewardship scheme and, if they are taxpayers, to gift-aid their giving.

St Christopher's is considerably dependent on rental income to meet most of its essential expenses. Most of the regular congregation at the church are not full-time wage-earners, the majority being aged 60 and above. There seems no easy way of managing these risks at present.

General Policies

The PCC has now agreed a total of twenty parish policies which are reviewed annually, namely:

- Safeguarding – best practice as per the Church of England
- Safeguarding adults when they are vulnerable
- Safeguarding Children
- Church and Hall Evacuation
- Conflict of Interest
- Equal Opportunities
- Domestic Abuse
- Health, Safety and Welfare
- Lone Working
- Race Equality
- Reserves
- Risk Management
- Youth and Children's Work
- Coach trips
- Displaying of hirers banners
- Supporting persons in need
- Noticeboards
- Garden of Remembrance
- Advertisers in parish publicity
- Wedding Arrangements

Volunteers

There are a number of volunteers who give of their time and effort and work so hard to keep the parish a lively and vibrant community. We follow the diocesan guidelines regarding child protection and DBS checking. We are

grateful to our churchwarden Michelle Reeves, the parish treasurer Michael Whelan, and safeguarding officer Emma Reid, who have wonderfully fulfilled their duties and responsibilities.

Structure and Governance

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During 2023 the PCC met on six occasions.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, is situated in the Deanery of Luton. It is part of the St Albans Diocese in the Church of England. The Registered Charity number is 1134772.

The Parish Office is located at: Parish Office, St. Christopher's Church Hall, Felix Avenue, Luton, LU2 7LE. Further details in the reports from groups and other financial details can be requested from this address.

REVD ANNE'S REPORT 2023

As the world has begun to know what the "new normal" looks like, so the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, has picked up on much that it was beginning before COVID struck. We have made changes that continue to help us become the missional, loving people of God.

However, before we go any further, I want to offer my huge thanks to the Ministry Team: Michelle Reeves, Churchwarden, Dianne Scott, Lay Reader, Olubukola Olowoye, Lay Leader of Worship, together with Fr Grantley Finlayson and Mthr Gladys Finlayson, retired clergy who offer their priestly ministry each month.

Thank you also to Ann Moore, who did not seek re-election as Churchwarden in 2023, and to everyone who has been a part of our parish worship, mission and social and fundraising activities. Each person has something to offer to the life of the parish and I pray that in this next year more of the God given gifts and talents we have can be used for the work of God in this place.

Thank you too, to Michael Whelan the parish treasurer who has diligently attended to the financial business of the parish, Emma Reid the parish safeguarding officer who has attended to the safeguarding needs of the parish and to Dianne Scott who has served as PCC secretary.

God has been good to this parish during the past year. Each week we seek to share with one another where we have seen Jesus in the lives of ourselves and others we know. The WhatsApp Prayer Group and Parish Chat have continued to flourish. The Prayer Group offer a safe space for prayers to be offered for a wide range of situations and people; Parish Chat enables the congregation to keep in touch with one another, sharing the joys and sorrows of life, information and updates.

During the year, new people have come along to worship in the parish, enabling us to continue to grow younger and more diverse. This is an ongoing work in progress. As we read in Acts 2: 47 (NRSV) 'praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved'. As a worshipping community God has gifted us with continued spiritual growth. A small but committed group of people gather week by week to deepen their faith, to seek to grow as disciples of Christ. God continues to draw people to join us in our worshipping community. At the end of 2023 plans to create a new service, entitled All Connected were formulated for St Anne's. This will be an all age interactive service, preparing people to recognise elements of the service should they come to a service of Holy Eucharist. This means that both churches will be offering a service that is accessible to people with little or no experience of church.

Beyond our worship, we have further embedded our engagement with our wider community. At St Anne's, Welcome Space, Community Refreshment Stop, Bacon Butty Morning, Talking Elephants and Craft groups enable people to engage with the church in ways that meet their needs. Similar opportunities have been offered at St Christopher's: Round Green Community Lunch, Talking Elephants and a craft group. Our Social and Fundraising events have been well received by those of the wider community who have participated. Quiz Nights, Tea @ 2, Craft Fairs and the Christmas Crib and Tree Festival are among the events that the local community look out for.

We have sought to continue working ethically, seeking inclusion and justice for all people. The Fairtrade Cake Baking Competition draws people from across the town to participate, including the Luton Council of Faiths. One visitor this year was delighted to see that one entry was suitable for Vegans- something that we have learnt from and will be encouraged to build on in the future.

As people returned to pre-pandemic shopping patterns and the economic crisis has deepened, fewer people donated to our monthly Foodbank collections. It was therefore decided that we would cease our monthly collections, replacing them with boxes in each church to accept donations, with a couple of times a year having a concerted push to collect extra food for the Luton Foodbank.

We have continued to join with town wide events: the Peace Walk; Luton Pride; the Fairness Taskforce; the Food First Luton Network and the Community Network. I continue to serve on the Luton Churches Together executive. I now also serve on the Luton Council of Faiths

Mission is a vital and integrated part of who we as a parish are. We seek to share the love of God, inviting others to come to worship and events. The congregation are encouraged to give the weekly pew sheet away along with flyers for individual events. The Mission Planning Group, has met throughout the year. The Mission Group is a group of people who are committed to sharing the love of God with all. This is not a closed group. If you have a passion for wanting to share the love of God with family, friends and our local neighbourhood, please speak to me. God continues to bless us both as a parish and individually. Prayer embeds all that we do; before each event and group, we pray for the event. After the event we give thanks for the people who have attended. As we have been faithful, God has been faithful to us.

I was invited to attend the Mixed Ecology Symposium in recognition of our work in Mission. At this residential held at Launde Abbey, Clergy and Diocesan staff shared experiences of things that were working well, things we had tried and hadn't worked as expected and indeed the things that were abandoned because they just didn't work. This excellent symposium informed thinking and led to attending a day conference where further missional exploration took place.

I continue to offer weekly Collective Worship at Wenlock Church of England Junior school, as well as speaking and praying at the termly service at St Mary's Church. It is wonderful to lead worship and share the word of God with approximately three hundred children and twenty adults each week. In addition, a program of education is offered for each year group, in St Anne's, linked to the RE curriculum. Crawley Green Infants School are visiting St Anne's twice a year to learn about the Christian faith. Hart Hill Nursery also has a regular programme. In the Autumn term the children explore Remembrance Day and later take part a Christingle service. During the Spring term they are introduced to Lent, while the summer term focuses on Pentecost and preparing the children to move on.

This year has been a year of many blessings. It has contained its challenges, not least that our finances are very challenging as can be seen in our accounts and our treasurer's report.

To further the work of God in this parish, everyone in the congregations, as the family of God, will need to engage with the work of the parish.

This may be answering God's call to read the Bible in church, lead intercessions, serve as a server or a sidesperson/welcomer in our worship. It may be to help with maintenance of our buildings or serving teas and coffees at events. There are many ways that each one of us can serve God in this parish.

Please pray about what God is asking you to do and then offer your gifts and talents.

Let's together make 2024 a great year. A year when we grow as the people of God in this place.

Every Blessing
Revd Anne

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy states that the church will train and equip church officers to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support children, young people and vulnerable adults and recognise and respond to abuse.

In line with the above statement, we also follow the diocese 'Safeguarding Dashboards'. In doing so our PCC members ensure their training is up to date having the foundation pathway and Domestic Violence Awareness. DBSs have been updated this year for those that had reached their three-year renewal. The Vicar, Church Reader and all PCC members all have these requirements. Across the year there has been three 'group

training sessions' for Safeguarding training these have been offered to those who have difficulty accessing technology and they have proved to be successful. These sessions continue to be offered each month for those who wish to do them this way.

Safeguarding continues to have a monthly update on the PCC agenda to ensure we are working together to meet the needs of our congregation and the wider community. There have been three issues of safeguarding reported during 2023. These matters have been dealt with according to the relevant Safeguarding policies and guidance by the Parish Safeguarding officer, the Vicar, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Emma Reid (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL as at 31st December 2023

Churchwardens:

Michelle Reeves

Vicar and chairperson:

Revd Anne Crosby

Elected Members:

Ann Moore (Deanery Synod Rep)

Verma Denny

Carol Mitchell

Olubukola Olowoye

Emma Reid

Jason Reid

Dianne Scott

Sandra Tuffnell

Michael Whelan (Treasurer)

Susan Whelan

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT 2023

In the Parish of Luton St. Anne with St. Christopher during 2023 we have been reduced to just one Churchwarden. When I first took on the role there were four Churchwardens with two responsible for St. Anne's and two responsible for St. Christopher's, but all having an awareness of what is happening in the Parish and a knowledge of what is happening in each Church. With this in Mind I would like to reach out to the congregation at both Churches to ask you to consider what you could do to support me in this role. If you

would like to know more about what the Churchwarden does, please do not be afraid to ask. Whilst it would be great to have at least one more Churchwarden to share the load I would be grateful of any help that you could offer to make sure that both Churches are functioning smoothly.

During the year across the parish the gas boilers have been serviced, the emergency lighting and fire extinguishers have been tested and the routine maintenance has been carried out in both Churches. The kitchen in St. Anne's has also had its annual Service.

The lighting in the main hall at St. Anne's has been upgraded to LED to help reduce the energy costs going forward.

We continue to have the Community Payback teams coming in to help with the upkeep of the grounds, however they are not as regular as they once were due to the volume of work they have.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone who has helped with the upkeep and maintenance of the Church during the past year, you have done a fantastic Job!

Michelle Reeves

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher is a charity, and its members are Trustees of the charity; as such its constitution and operation are bound by legal requirements. The principle function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church".¹ The PCC, and her Standing Committee, met regularly during 2023 (usually St. Christopher's Jubilee Room). A new Building and Fabric Committee has also been established.

PCC meetings always open with prayer and the Gospel reading for the day. Safeguarding, Finance and the care of our buildings always feature on the meeting agendas alongside consideration of the spiritual life of the parish.

At our meeting in May we were joined by Bishop Richard (of Bedford) as part of his pastoral tour of PCCs.

The parish continues to face a challenging financial situation. Nevertheless, the members of the PCC have continued to work hard, working together in love as we seek the flourishing of those we serve in both the Church and the wider community.

Dianne Scott (PCC Secretary)

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org>

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Luton Deanery consists of the Anglican Parishes of Luton plus Woodside and Caddington in the Archdeaconry of Bedford. The Synod is a body consisting of clergy together with lay representatives from every parish elected on a three- yearly basis. Those elected also serve on the Parochial Church Council. During 2023, our elected Deanery Synod Representatives were: Ann Moore and Dianne Scott (to July); Revd Anne Crosby and Dianne Scott -as vicar and licensed lay reader- also serve on Deanery Synod.

The Luton Deanery Synod met four times in 2023. Our parish has not been represented on every occasion. However, the following report (edited from a summary provided by Area Dean, David Kesterton) provides a good overview of events.

In February there was a presentation from *Engage Worship* which introduced us to some of the new materials they have produced. *Azalea* gave a presentation on their work in the town in our June session. In October we heard from the *Diocesan Adviser on Parish Giving* with a particular emphasis on how we can make use of digital giving. We were also given the opportunity to input to the cathedral's listening exercise which is reviewing its life and work. At our final meeting of the year in November we had a presentation from the *University Chaplaincy Team* and heard about the newly funded project work on the theme of *growing younger and more diverse* which will be coming to Luton during 2024.

During the year a quiet day was held jointly with Dunstable Deanery and some people took part in an evening pilgrimage to the Abbey. Wenlock school which has previously been a "deanery school" moved to be under the Diocesan Multi Academy Trust ahead of the autumn term. At the end of August we held a deanery barbecue.

The questions and concerns raised by the *living in love and faith* process were shared on a number of occasions by some of our parishes and we also set up a mechanism for those who wish to explore these blessings to be able to do so.

We try and create a varied programme of topics for our meetings and avoid having a "meeting for a meetings sake". There will be new opportunities for mission in the years ahead with the aid of new funding so I do encourage parishes to fill vacancies if at all possible and represent the diversity of the Church of England in our town and surrounding villages.

PCC Secretary

BUILDING AND FABRICS COMMITTEE

Our Buildings & Fabrics Committee is a sub-group of the PCC. It is responsible for the routine maintenance, improvements and upkeep of both Churches, Halls and grounds and is carried out throughout the year by a small group of volunteers.

It also advises the PCC about any necessary work that might involve major expenditure.

We have only recently started up again since Covid-19.

Before Covid-19 we started to insulate the Churches and Halls where possible to help keep heating costs down and now we have recently started changing our old lights to LEDs to support our Carbon footprint.

We are also now concentrating on our Quinquennial reports to complete the jobs that need doing.

Jason Reid

CHARITIES COMMITTEE

The challenging financial situation of the parish during 2023 meant that our intention to donate 10% of unrestricted income to charity was not viable.

However, the PCC facilitated monthly retiring collections in each church, encouraging the congregations to directly support those charities recommended by the Parish Charities Committee:

LOCAL: NOAH; NATIONAL: CHURCH URBAN FUND; INTERNATIONAL: USPG

PCC Secretary

TUESDAY CRAFT GROUP AT ST. ANNE'S

The craft group had a successful year . We held T@2 and it was very well received by all who were able to participate it was well supported as always . It's great to see people sharing time together and enjoying the afternoon . The two fairs that were held this year also were successful. The group were able to support two charities in the wider community this Christmas firstly the Salvation Army Christmas appeal . Then we collected an assortment of donations and gave them to Noah enterprise welfare centre. Both charities were very grateful to receive the donations. The group was nominated for an award called bags of kindness which was a complete surprise which were give out to the larger community . Some of us responded to a request for little knitted elephants cosies to put on small Easter eggs for the charity chums . We are looking forward with hope that we all will be able to continue meeting and sharing our time together.

Denise Dove

SATURDAY CRAFTERS

Saturday Crafters continue to meet on the fourth Saturday of most months, in either the Church or the Jubilee Room. Although this is a relatively small, it is an industrious group often with a variety of different crafts going on, lots of laughter, chatting and plenty of tea or coffee. Crafters can bring their own project along or can help

with creating new altar frontals. Do come and join us one month.

PARISH CRAFT FAIRS

During the course of the year we held four Parish Craft Fairs in St. Christopher's Church. Local crafters hire stalls and display hand crafted items that are for sale, and of course refreshments are always available. The Parish Craft Fairs have proved popular with local crafters, and those who come into the church to browse and buy. The Fairs are the ideal place to find something special for that person who is difficult to buy for. As well as being fun, the Craft Fairs raise much needed contributions for our Parish funds. If you haven't yet been to one of the Parish Craft Fairs, then check the date of the next one and pop in.

Ann Moore

CREATIVE SCRAPBOOKING

We are a small group who enjoy sharing and creating our memory albums and crafting alongside enjoying some light refreshments. To help you create your memories there are a selection of tools on hand for you to use, there is also a selection of papers or card which can be purchased. Not all our members choose to scrapbook, we have paper crafters who use a die cutting machine to make boxes, bags etc, card makers and some crochet. Whatever your craft you are welcome to join us, maybe you can learn something new. Within the group we support each other with ideas and inspiration. There is a small fee which covers the use of tools and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you for some much needed me time!

Emma Reid

LUTON UNITE

Luton Unite meets at Youthscape on the first Friday of the month, during term-time, from 7-9.30pm. It puts on exciting events for young people from Years 7-13. The evening is an opportunity for them to meet other young people from different churches and denominations across the town, and to be part of a growing, vibrant group. The aim is for young people to experience the breadth and depth of the Christian community in Luton. The sessions are run by Youth workers from Youthscape, along with volunteer leaders from the different churches.

The evening starts with time to socialise with friends, before assembling for worship. Live music and games along with the opportunity for prayer are well received. This year, the worship band has been encouraging young musicians to join them. Leaders take turns to open up the Word. This year we have focused on the parables of Jesus. The evening concludes with a social activity. Popular events have included; karaoke, movies, murder/mystery, dessert cafe and a silent disco.

In addition to the main event, on the third Friday of the month, smaller groups meet for Luton Unite 1. This provides an opportunity to go deeper into the scripture introduced at the main event. The February half term allows young people to attend a Weekend at Home. This year, we looked at the gifts we have been given by

God, and how best to use them. During the summer holiday, a four day camping event, Satellites, is scheduled.

If you know any young people who would like to know more about these events, please come and speak to me.

Annette Considine

ST. ANNE'S SCOUT GROUP- BEAVERS, CUBS & SCOUTS

2023 was a big year for the group, celebrating our 75th anniversary. We held a group camp and had a visiting cave pod and zoo, as well as a traditional campfire, marshmallows and a lot of noise....erm singing!! A weekend to remember for us all and fitting that our focus, even after 75 years is on our youth members and activities and experiences for them.

Over the last year the group has grown a little, with every section increasing their numbers slightly. We have hiked, camped, attended District activities and encouraged our young people to try lots of new things. They have enjoyed cooking, pioneering, caving and climbing. We have visited the St. Anne's Community Garden and the River Lea where we were Junior River Wardens. Our leaders and the behind the scenes support continue to give their time and energy freely and the group simply wouldn't function without them all. All in all, a great year and of course, we are looking forward to the next 75years of fun!

Tanya Allen

TALKING ELEPHANTS

The Talking Elephants bereavement support group meets at St Anne's Church on the third Thursday of the month from 10-11.30am, and at St Christopher's Church on the first Tuesday of the month from 7-8.30pm. We are pleased to host these sessions alongside Nevilles Funeral Service, as part of their wider project. Special thanks to Michelle, who is our regular representative from Nevilles. I give thanks for their team and all that they do.

Although the groups are small, averaging 3-4 visitors, I am pleased to report that each member appears to find their time with us fruitful. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming. It is wonderful to see God at work as bonds of trust and friendship develop. People use the space to suit their need whether it is to share their story or listen to others. We share laughter and tears, as tea and coffee flows.

Our Blue Christmas service was appreciated by those in attendance. There were favourable comments about the calm, peaceful environment; the appropriate music and opportunities for reflection. The atmosphere during refreshments was positive and warm.

Some members have moved forward to find solace within the Parish through further opportunities, such as attending services or joining various groups. We share information about local events that might be of benefit. For example, sharing details of the Total Wellbeing programme. I pray that our churches continue to support and comfort all those who come along.

Annette Considine

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

During 2023, a new intercessory prayer group was started at St. Anne's. This takes place on the first Thursday of every month in term-time and is headed up by Lay Leader of Worship, under the leadership of Bukky Olowoye. All are welcome to come along to this informal gathering where prayers are offered for the Church, the world and for individuals and their needs.

PCC Secretary

HOUSE GROUP

"House Group" meets most Thursday evenings during term-time in St. Christopher's *Jubilee Room* at 7pm.

This group exists to help and encourage us to "go deeper" in our walk with Jesus and understanding our Christian faith.

We aim to make Bible study fun and accessible for everyone who wants to take part. During 2023, this learning has included: a Lent course covering *the Beatitudes*; an Easter course entitled *the Message of the Resurrection*; a series about Jesus' twelve disciples; an "environmental" themed series for *Creation* season and a more meditative study for Advent.

We begin our evenings with tea/coffee and end in prayer together. In between we sometimes sing, we usually laugh, we always learn!

Whatever your favoured learning style or ability, everyone is welcome to House Group. If you haven't been yet and want to give it a try just turn up on the night or, for more information, catch me after church or contact me on: readerstannechris@gmail.com

Dianne Scott

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Treasurer's report for the year ending 31 December 2023

The calendar year 2023 was another challenging year for the parish. As for many organisations, the Parish has faced increased costs, particularly as regards gas and electricity, which have increased substantially because of the repercussions of the war in Ukraine. However, we did manage to increase our overall receipts by a greater amount, and the extra receipts were used to increase our parish share contribution to £30,500 (2022: £18,000).

Unrestricted Fund Receipts:

The major sources of the receipts of the parish were from stewardship and pledges, rental income resulting from the hire by external parties of the parish buildings and tax rebates. Stewardship and pledges received rose by 4% to £24,266 (2022: £23,334). Rental income received from both the halls and churches fell by 8% to £15,440 (2022: £16,799). Tax rebates received were £13,952 (2022: £0). In 2023, the parish applied for a gift aid scheme in the name of Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher and were able to claim and receive tax refunds covering 2020, 2021 and 2022. Generally, our Parish worked very hard in the year and small increases in income were also seen across several other headings.

Overall, receipts Increased by 47% to £76,018 (2022: £51,763).

Unrestricted Fund Payments:

Payments have increased by 50% to £73,573 (2022: £48,975). The light, heat and water charge increased by 139% to £19,246 (2022: £8,053). As explained already, our parish share contribution increased by 69% to £30,500 (2022: £18,000). These two changes are the main reasons for increases in payments.

Restricted Fund Receipts and Payments:

Restricted fund receipts of £3,472 in 2023 related to donations for the buildings and fabric fund of St Christopher. Restricted fund payments related to payments made in respect of the maintenance of St Anne's church £3,084 taken from the St Anne's buildings and fabric fund and £47 taken from the Edible Round Green fund.

Bank balances:

The current account balance increased by £1,337 to £52,222 (2022: £50,885).

The restricted funds account increased by £341 to £56,660 (2022: £56,319).

Interest from the business reserve account £1,221 (2022: £54).

The year ahead:

I believe that the year ahead will be another challenging year for the parish. There are expected to be cost pressures generally with inflation running at 4%. There are also concerns that energy costs, though not as high as in 2023, will still be high in 2024 by historical standards, a particular worry, as we have three large buildings to heat.

Our prospects will hinge on the results of our efforts in the following areas:

1. Increasing our congregation size.
2. Increasing our rental income.

3. Mitigating energy costs.

I would like to thank all members of the PCC for their support during the year.

Thank you to all the people who have given financially to the parish in any way. Your donations are vital in allowing the important work of the parish to continue.

Thank you to all those who have gift aided their donations. This enables the parish to claim an extra 25% of your donation from the government if you are a UK taxpayer.

Thank you to Colin Sparshott who is the new Independent Examiner for the Parish.

M.Whelan Treasurer 06/03/2024.

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Anne's with St Christopher's, Luton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and **s.145 of the Charities Act 2011** ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and **s.144(2)** of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under **s.145(5)(b)** of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- i. 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 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

4/3/24

Name:

COLIN SPARSHOTT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or
body:

F.C.C.A.

Address:

48 LINCOLN CRESCENT
BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8HW

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Charity number 1134772

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
Receipts				
Stewardship and pledges	24,266		24,266	23,334
Gift aided envelopes	629		629	567
Donations and bequests	4,692	3,472	8,164	13,423
Specific collections	548		548	686
Income tax refund	13,952		13,952	0
Collections - loose	4,340		4,340	2,087
Collections - weddings	495		495	582
Weddings and funeral fees	4,331		4,331	2,336
Refreshments	402		402	231
Hall and church rental	15,440		15,440	16,799
Fundraising events	4,634		4,634	3,405
Bookstall & bible reading notes			0	25
Buildings and fabrics	242		242	
Pop in club	436		436	
Insurance claims	390		390	1,000
Interest received	1,221		1,221	54
Total Receipts	76,018	3,472	79,490	64,529

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
Payments				
Light, heat and water	19,246		19,246	8,053
Insurance	4,363		4,363	4,160
Repairs and renewals	7,495	3,131	10,626	28,215
Hall and church rent refunds	520		520	400
Service requirements	623		623	320
Maintenance grounds	271		271	595
Parish share scheme	30,500		30,500	18,000
Youth group and junior church	0		0	57
Charitable donations	839		839	739
Administration, stationery and stamps	682		682	324
Internet / telephone	1,335		1,335	1,109
Wages	0		0	48
Photocopier / printer	1,537		1,537	1,423
Clergy expenses	2,983		2,983	3,413
Envelopes / legal / inscriptions	737		737	912
Bible reading notes	0		0	9
Refreshments	138		138	263
Sundry expenses	45		45	45
Buildings and fabrics	0		0	1,042

Fees	2,259		2,259	1,082
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Total Payments	73,573	3,131	76,704	70,209
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	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
Net of receipts / payments	2,445	341	2,786	-5,680
Receipts c/f				1,108
Cash funds last year end	49,777	56,319	106,096	111,776
Cash funds this year end	52,222	56,660	108,882	107,204

Cash Funds

Deposit account	46,575	52,000	98,575	54
Current account	5,647	4,660	10,307	107,150
	52,222	56,660	108,882	107,204

Notes

1. Parish Share Liability

Parish Share Liability in respect of:	2023 £	2022 £
2023	19,732	0
2022	31,246	31,246
2021	18,422	18,422
2020	0	20,000
Total	69,400	69,668

The present policy of the Diocese is to consider writing off balances over 3 years old, if proposed by the Deanery. The 2020 balance of £20,000 has been written off under these arrangements. The total parish share liability is not reflected in the above receipts and payments accounts.

2. Creditors	2023 £	2022 £
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Light and heat	1,407	1,407
Fees due to the Diocese	236	0

The light and heat creditor is a disputed liability in respect of our previous gas supplier. Neither of these creditors have been reflected in the above receipts and payments accounts.

3. Charitable Donations	2023	2022
	£	£
USPG	113	96
The Bishop's Harvest Appeal	172	0
Church Urban Fund	143	0
The Children's Society	126	330
Noah Enterprise	113	0
Beds & Herts Historic Church Trust	40	40
Grassroots	0	177
Churches Together	30	40
Local Donations	102	56
	<u>839</u>	<u>739</u>

4. Restricted Funds

Building Projects St Anne	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	32,987	32,687
Receipts		300
Payments	-3,084	
Balance Carried Forward	<u>29,903</u>	<u>32,987</u>

Building Projects St Christopher	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	20,416	32,014
Receipts	3,472	9,258
Payments		-20,856
Balance Carried Forward	<u>23,888</u>	<u>20,416</u>

Edible Round Green Project	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	2,916	87
Receipts	0	3,208
Payments	-47	-379
Balance Carried Forward	<u>2,869</u>	<u>2,916</u>

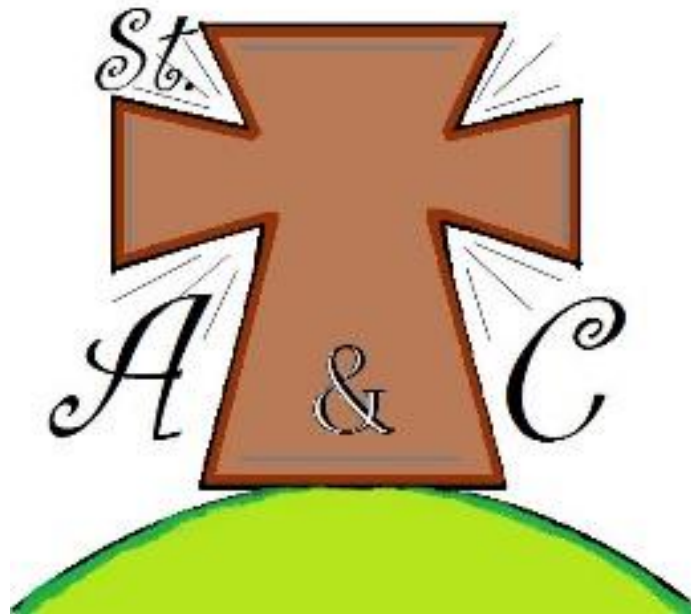
Total Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	56,319	64,788
Receipts	3,472	12,766
Payments	-3,131	-21,235
Balance Carried Forward	<u>56,660</u>	<u>56,319</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees of
the
Parish of Luton, St Anne with St
Christopher

M.Whelan
Treasurer

Accounts

Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher



Annual Report 2022

Registered Charity Number: 1134772

Including accounts for year ending 31 December

2022

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF LUTON ST. ANNE WITH ST. CHRISTOPHER 2022

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our annual report for 2022. This booklet contains reports and accounts relating to this parish.

To comply with the Charities Act, this report contains information that is supplementary to that which is being presented as a Parish Statement to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Anne Crosby, 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 two parish churches, St Anne's and St Christopher's, in Luton.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our churches and to become part of the parish community.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for those people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the two churches and their halls.

Achievement and Performance

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services across the parish during the week and over the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

Current patterns of worship comprise: a Sunday morning service at St. Anne's Church (Holy Eucharist except for the third Sunday when a *Morning Worship* service is held); a varied programme of worship entitled *Sunday@4* at St. Christopher's (the third Sunday being a Holy

Eucharist); a mid-week service at St. Christopher's (Holy Eucharist except for the first Wednesday which is *Morning Worship*).

Patronal festivals and other special days continued to be celebrated with evening services of Holy Eucharist.

Fellowship time takes place after most services.

Holy Baptism takes place at mutually convenient services There were 7 Baptisms in 2022.

Funeral ministry is undertaken by clergy and the lay reader.

Weddings potentially take place at both St Anne's and St Christopher's.

The number of electors certified upon the renewed Church Electoral Roll in 2022 is 96.

The parish is part of the Inclusive Church Network.

Deanery Synod

Two members sit on the Deanery Synod, along with the Vicar.

The Churches

Various maintenance tasks have been completed in both churches, details of which are in the accompanying Churchwardens' reports.

Both churches' halls are regularly hired out to local community groups.

In association with Neville's Funeral Services, *Talking Elephants* groups take place monthly in the halls of both churches.

Both churches have gardens to keep in order. At St Christopher's, a member of the local community volunteers his services, cutting the grass and keeping the borders in order. This has been supplemented by volunteers from the Church community and the Community Pay Back Scheme. St Anne's and St Christopher's both receive working parties from the Community Pay Back Scheme. These groups of people undertake gardening and maintenance work in the church and the grounds under supervision from their supervisor. The Garden of Remembrance in St

Christopher's grounds is significant for the community and is a place where parishioners may have the ashes of their loved ones interred.

Pastoral Care

Some members of the parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The vicar and lay reader visit and take Holy Communion as appropriate. Those receiving Holy Communion at home are regularly prayed for by the wider church community. Parishioners are also visited in hospital where appropriate and possible.

The Parish Pop-In Club, for toddlers and their carers is thriving. Young people attend Luton Unite, an ecumenical town wide gathering of Christian young people meeting at Youthscape.

These groups all have a Christian foundation, including appropriate worship and valuable fellowship.

Mission and Evangelism

The Church's Life, Ministry and Mission is always on the agenda of PCC meetings, reminding us of our need for mission and evangelism within the everyday life of the churches.

The parish Mission Planning Group has worked to fulfil the current Mission Action Plan so that all we do focuses out into our community, seeking to transform the lives of our neighbours, as we grow in faith and enable others to come to know Jesus.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our two churches are the only two church buildings within the parish. Revd Anne meets regularly with other local clergy in the east of Luton. Revd Anne serves on the Luton Churches Together executive committee and together with the Lay Reader also attends monthly prayer meetings, when possible, with church leaders of all denominations from across the town.

Financial Review

The parish has one bank account and set of accounts The PCC has responsibility for the parish's finances, supported by the Parish Standing and Finance Committee.

The parish as a whole had an income in 2022 of £51,763 and payments of £48,975. The overall bank balance at 31st December 2022 was £49,777. The full details and report are printed in the

annual report, which is available to all those on the Electoral Roll before the Annual Church Meeting.

Reserves Policy

The policy states that we plan to have to hand the equivalent of three months 'regular expenditure, excluding Building and Fabric costs, money that has been designated for specific projects and restricted funds.

Risk Management

All regular worshippers in the parish have been, and continue to be, encouraged to give generously. Both churches have a contactless payment machines. The parish Facebook page and 'A Church Near You' have options to enable people to financially support the parish, and an 'Easy Fundraising' account has been established. Everyone is encouraged to be part of the stewardship scheme and, if they are taxpayers, to gift-aid their giving.

St Christopher's is considerably dependent on rental income to meet most of its essential expenses. Most of the regular congregation at the church are not full-time wage-earners, the majority being aged 60 and above. There seems no easy way of managing these risks at present.

General Policies

The PCC has now agreed a total of seventeen parish policies which are reviewed annually, namely:

- Safeguarding – best practice as per the Church of England
- Safeguarding adults when they are vulnerable
- Safeguarding Children
- Church and Hall Evacuation
- Conflict of Interest
- Domestic Abuse
- Health, Safety and Welfare
- Lone Working
- Race Equality
- Reserves
- Risk Management
- Youth and Children's Work

- Coach trips
- Displaying of hirers banners
- Supporting persons in need
- Noticeboards
- Garden of Remembrance
- Advertisers in parish publicity

Volunteers

There are a number of volunteers who give of their time and effort and work so hard to keep the parish a lively and vibrant community. We follow the diocesan guidelines regarding child protection and DBS checking. We are grateful to our two churchwardens, Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves, the parish treasurer Michael Whelan, and safeguarding officer Emma Reid, who have wonderfully fulfilled their duties and responsibilities.

Structure and Governance

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During 2022 the PCC met on seven occasions.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, is situated in the Deanery of Luton. It is part of the St Albans Diocese in the Church of England. The Registered Charity number is 1134772.

The Parish Office is located at: Parish Office, St. Christopher's Church Hall, Felix Avenue, Luton, LU2 7LE. Further details in the reports from groups and other financial details can be requested from this address.

Vicar's Statement 2022

2022 began with hope and expectation. Lockdown was becoming a thing of the past and vaccinations were enabling life to return to 'the new normal'.

We had created a plan for events and fundraising which we felt would bring about a new start in the post pandemic world. We were still live streaming services but more people were

returning to worship. Receiving in both kinds at the Holy Eucharist had been reintroduced and the Sunday @ 4 service at St Christopher's was beginning to become established.

But before we go any further, I want to offer my huge thanks to the Ministry Team, Ann Moore, Michelle Reeves, both Churchwardens, and Dianne Scott, Lay Reader. Thank you for all the time you have given to the parish, for your expertise and attention to detail. Thank you too, to Michael Whelan the parish treasurer who has diligently attended to the financial business of the parish. While Emma Reid the parish safeguarding officer has attended to the safeguarding needs of the parish.

We welcomed to the Ministry Team, Olubukola Olowoye as she was commissioned as a Lay Leader of Worship on Sunday 14 August 2022. In addition, after their retirement at Easter 2022, Fr Grantley Finlayson and Mthr Gladys Finlayson became part of the worshipping community.

The year began well, we celebrated on Sunday 6 February, that Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch in history to achieve Platinum Jubilee. A service of Holy Eucharist, was held with Revd Canon Dave Middlebrook, Archdeacon of Bedford as the president. In June, we celebrated again, having a tea party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Later we opened our churches to enable a space of reflection as the country mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. And now we prepare to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Our Pancake party was a really good event which included people coming in off the street, having seen the posters on the church railings.

With the invasion of Ukraine and the need to house Ukrainian refugees, as a parish we were in the process of agreeing and planning how we might enable a Ukrainian family to be housed at the vicarage. In light of subsequent events this did not happen.

Lent began and was progressing, when the first shock of the year occurred, as on Passion Sunday, 3 April 2022, Colin Crosby, my husband of 45 years died extremely suddenly. Not only was this a personal shock, the parish went into shock too. It is with huge thanks to Dianne Scott, Lay Reader and the Churchwardens Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves that the parish continued to offer its worship as planned. While I continued to take the sacramental worship, we received the support of Revd Canon Dave Middlebrook, Archdeacon of Bedford, who presided at the Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist. I continued to minister as the vicar, for a further six months before taking compassionate leave. This was enabled and gratefully received as Fr Grantley and Mthr Gladys offered to step in, presiding and preaching at all the planned sacramental services including a baptism.

I presided at Colin's Funeral Service, including a Holy Eucharist on Friday 29 April.

On Sunday 8 May we began Sunday @ 4 - Cafe Church. This was very well received with many from the community joining in the worship. Sunday @ 4 - Cafe Church. has become, consistently the best attended service at St Christopher's.

The events and fund raising activities continued. Craft Fairs have become a part of our regular fundraising, while coffee mornings and table top sales have also raised money. The Christmas Crib and Tree Festival was well received with a good number of people gathering to sing carols around the tree. This year we were invited to lead the singing of Christmas carols with Luton Indoor Bowls Club.

As a parish, we were just beginning to dust ourselves down, when a second and even more unexpected death occurred. Ellie Scott, a member of our congregation, the daughter of Dianne Scott, Lay Reader and her husband Jon died on Sunday 21 August 2022. Once again the parish was in shock.

Again, we continued.

We continued to offer ministry and mission.

Following Ellie's funeral on Thursday 29 September and the internment of her ashes on Wednesday 5 October, Dianne and I both took compassionate leave, returning to the parish on Saturday 5 November. During this time, Churchwardens Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves supported by Olubukola Olowoye, Lay Leader of Worship and retired priests Fr Grantley Finlayson and Mother Gladys Finlayson, along with Julie Taylor a Lay Reader from St Andrew's at Slip End enabled worship to continue. Thank you to you all.

This year has been one of emotional challenge. A year during which we together have practically managed and supported one another. A year through which we have been sustained by our faith in the Living Lord Jesus, the Trinitarian God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Faith has enabled us to do more than exist, we have continued to grow as God's children.

While attending the International Conference of the Sodality of Mary, Mother of Priests: SMMS, I made my life commitment. Sodality is an internationally dispersed community of catholic minded clergy, with a strong support network of prayer and encouragement. We are missionally minded, seeking always, through all we do to draw others to come into a living and real relationship with Jesus Christ.

As a PCC we have spent time thinking about Mission. At each meeting we spend time working through an offering of St Albans Diocese - The Mission Tree.

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/mission-tree/>

The Mission Planning Group, has met throughout the year. This is not a closed group but is open to anyone who wants to see this parish thrive. God has blessed us as we have depended upon our relationship with him. As we have prayed before each event and group, as we have prayed afterwards for the people who have attended, as we have been faithful, God has been faithful to us.

As a parish, we have this year, been one of witnessing God's gifts to us. We have grown. We have witnessed in our fellowship the words of Acts 2: 47 (NRSV) 'praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved'.

As a worshipping community God has gifted us with much spiritual growth. God has gifted us with new people coming to know Christ. The Discipleship course was run twice. This led to two baptisms, four confirmations and seven reaffirmations of baptism most of whom were new to the parish. We have baptised, begun the preparation of couples for marriage and have journeyed with others through life's challenges.

Changes occurred at Wenlock Church of England Junior school; as the governing body disbanded I was enabled to develop a positive ministry within the school. Weekly Collective Worship began in September 2022. It is wonderful to lead worship and share the word of God with approximately three hundred children and twenty adults each week. During this year we have been re-invited into Crawley Green Infants School and Hart Hill Nursery. Work with the local schools is growing.

We seek to serve the local community. We continue to host a Luton Foodbank collection each month outside both churches. Craft Groups, Community Refreshment Stop, Bacon Butty morning and Talking Elephants have all been part of our regular offering. This year we have added a second monthly Talking Elephants, this additional meeting is at St Christopher's Church Hall, in the Jubilee Room.

As the cost of living crisis impacts many of our community, we as a parish decided to offer Warm Spaces. We began these in November, as soon as compassionate leave ended, each Wednesday in St Christopher's and each Thursday in St Anne's. These are attracting people we already know and those we don't. Relationships are being formed and some are already beginning to occasionally come to worship.

Once again, our parish profile has risen in Luton. Through participation in the Fairness Taskforce there is now an image of me in one of the booklets, revealing to Luton, the Christian presence in the work of the wider town. This year saw Luton's first Luton Pride. I attended in collar wearing a pride t-shirt. Many festival goers asked to have their photo taken with me. Numerous conversations took place too. That the parish was present, was important.

Dianne and I attended the USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) conference entitled Living Stones, Living Hope based on 1 Peter. It was a real privilege to attend, to hear from, and have informal conversations with, many bishops from around the Anglican Communion who were in England for the Lambeth Conference. We heard views from the Caribbean (youth leadership), Southern Africa (human trafficking and femicide) and South Asia (reshaping gender attitude to promote equality). The conference included the launch of a report on Human Rights in the Philipppians <https://uspg.org.uk/get-involved/events/uspgconference/>

The year concluded with a wonderful Christmas Day. The Christingle, Blessing of the Crib and singing of carols, Midnight Mass along with Christmas mornings Holy Eucharist were all well attended with people who don't regularly come to church. God has continued to be faithful as we have been faithful.

So, this year has been an unexpectedly hard year, personally and for us as a parish. We have remained faithful, God has been doing amazing things. God is good. And so I conclude once again, saying thank you, for all you have contributed to the life of the church.

Let's continue to work together to make 2023 a great year.

Every Blessing

Revd Anne

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy states that the church will train and equip church officers to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support children, young people and vulnerable adults and recognise and respond to abuse.

In line with the above statement, we also follow the diocese 'Safeguarding dashboard' where we have reached the final level of 'Safer Practices'. In doing so our PCC members ensure their training is up to date having the basic awareness and foundation pathway. In line with the new guidelines for January our PCC members undertook further training on Domestic abuse. DBSs are carried out for our PCC members and those who volunteer for specific activities which are renewed every three years and as the Safeguarding officer it is my duty to inform those to update their training and DBS in accordance.

Safeguarding continues to have a monthly update on the PCC agenda to ensure we are working together to meet the needs of our congregation and the wider community.

Emma Reid (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL as at 31st December 2022

Churchwardens:

Ann Moore (Deanery Synod Rep)

Michelle Reeves

Vicar and chairperson:

Revd Anne Crosby

Elected Members:

Verma Denny

Carol Mitchell

Olubukola Olowoye

Emma Reid

Jason Reid

Dianne Scott (Deanery Synod rep)

Sandra Tuffnell

Michael Whelan (Treasurer)

Susan Whelan

PARISH CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

In the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher during 2022 there were just two Churchwardens for the whole Parish. Each Churchwarden has responsibility for the Parish, but for practical reasons each Churchwarden has particular responsibility for one of the Churches however they work together on all Parish issues and matters pertaining to both churches. In this way each Churchwarden knows what is happening in the Parish and has an awareness of what is happening in each Church and are therefore able to support each other more readily. Going back two years and beyond, there were four Churchwardens so now we have two people doing the same amount of work, if not more than four people were doing previously taking in to account what has happened over the last two years!! It is possible that in 2023 there will be just one Churchwarden for the entire Parish! Please do consider what you can do to help and support your Churchwarden(s), if you are not sure what you can offer then do ask.....

This has in many ways continued to be a very difficult and unusual year, whilst we have been able to worship regularly in our Church buildings we have had to continue to work hard to ensure the health and safety of the whole congregation and indeed the Parish.

This year both our Incumbent and Lay Reader have suffered a close personal bereavement, which has significantly affected them both and also the Parish. It was disturbing to discover through these events that there does not appear to be either a Diocesan or Deanery Bereavement Policy in place to cover these situations, which for an organisation which provides comfort and support to the wider community seems totally inadequate.

The Quinquennial Inspection of St Anne's Church finally took place in 2022, the report has been received will ultimately be used to inform practical work that needs to be completed at St Anne's.

During the course of the year, across the Parish gas boilers have been serviced, emergency lighting has been tested, fire alarms have been tested and most of the routine maintenance work has been carried out. Also, the kitchen equipment at St Anne's has been serviced.

The Churchwardens always work closely with the regular hall users, however the number of groups using our halls has reduced. Many groups have closed since the pandemic and this has severely affected the parish income.

Thank you to those of you who have helped and supported the Churchwardens during 2022. A very particular thank you to the volunteers from the local community and to the Community Payback team who have all helped to keep the Church Grounds so wonderfully tidy.

Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves (Churchwardens)

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher is a charity, and its members are Trustees of the charity; as such its constitution and operation are bound by legal requirements.

The principle function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church".¹

To this end the PCC, and her Standing Committee, have met regularly both in person (usually St. Christopher's Jubilee Room) and online via *Zoom*.

PCC meetings always open with prayer and the Gospel reading for the day.

Safeguarding, Finance and the care of our buildings always feature on the meeting agendas alongside consideration of the spiritual life of the parish.

In 2022 we continued to set aside 30 minutes of each meeting to engage with a training module -*the Mission Tree*- offered by the Diocese of St. Albans to help parishes *Live God's Love*.

There have been significant difficulties facing the parish this year owing to personal bereavements and an increasingly challenging financial situation. Nevertheless, the members of the PCC have continued to listen to one another and work together in love as we seek the flourishing of those we serve in both the Church and the wider community.

Dianne Scott (PCC Secretary)

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org>

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Luton Deanery consists of the Anglican Parishes of Luton plus Woodside and Caddington in the Archdeaconry of Bedford. The Synod is a body consisting of clergy together with lay representatives from every parish elected on a three- yearly basis. Those elected also serve on the Parochial Church Council. Since 2020, Ann Moore and myself have had the privilege to serve in this capacity. New candidates will be appointed at the APCM in 2023.

Deanery Synod enables us to encourage one another as we live as Anglicans in this town. It sometimes has to deal with difficult issues, such as financial constraint and parish re-organisation. It also carries out duties relating to Wenlock Church of England School and many other aspects of Church management.

Meetings usually consist of a guest speaker, followed by news, planning, business and financial reports from chaplaincies and news from Diocesan and General Synods.

During 2022, Deanery Synod convened four times as follows:

Christchurch, Bushmead, 21/02/2022

Including a presentation, entitled *Living Hopefully*, led by the Diocesan Environmental Officer, Rachel Johnson.

St. Augustine's (held at Holy Trinity Biscot, Church Hall), 13/06/2022

Including a presentation by Lynda Logan re the East of England Ambulance Chaplaincy and a time of working together re "Mission" in Luton.

St. Hugh's Church, Lewsey, 03/10/2022

Including a presentation from Jessica Rowlands re Luton Community Chaplaincy.

Christchurch, Bushmead, 21/11/2022

Including a presentation about the proposed *Diocesan Racial Justice Group* consultation exercise led by Revd Jairo Nyaingo (in his role as Bishop's Advisor of Ethnic Minority Concerns).

Dianne Scott

CHARITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

It is the policy of the Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher to donate ten per cent of our unrestricted income each year to charity. This Committee meets annually to talk about this, and make recommendations to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

During 2022 we financially supported the following charities which the PCC agreed truly reflected the values of our parish at this time:

1/3	LOCAL:	NOAH
1/3	NATIONAL:	CHURCH URBAN FUND
1/3	INTERNATIONAL:	USPG

Unfortunately, the financial situation of the parish was not conducive to fulfilment of this policy at this time.

The work of this committee relates only to those donations that are made directly from our church income and it is good to remember that the people of this parish continue to generously support many other charities and good causes through specific fundraising.

The Parish Charities Committee, met at the Vicarage on Monday 5th September 2022 to pray together and discuss how parish charitable giving might be distributed for 2023.

PCC Secretary

TUESDAY CRAFT GROUP AT ST. ANNE'S

The group has a steady number of people on Tuesdays mornings but it varies. They were pleased to be together and able to meet up again as lots had missed it. It is an all-inclusive and diverse group, all are welcome. It ranges in ages, gifts and talents which are also always shared- you only have ask others therefore we then all benefit from the advice, knowledge and others' experiences . We share time, tea, laughter and fellowship and sometimes cake. We had a successful year in 2022. Again lots of different projects took place. Some took part in outreach and items were created and able to then go out to the wider community, not forgetting it's benefit to our own churches. We tentatively had an autumn celebration and it took us by surprise. It was a success so we aim to repeat it again this year. For some time several ladies crocheted and knitted squares for the tree project. It seemed to take for ever and two of the ladies spent time sewing and finding a way to erect the tree so we were able to have a Christmas tree outside. Hopefully we will be able to repeat it again this year.

On our return we started thinking about what worked and did not last year. We are looking at different types of stuff that might work that could be creative, inviting and needed so we are more focused and more prepared this year. During the later part of last year it became clear that some things needed to have started earlier and then completed to avoid last minute issues.

Denise Dove

SATURDAY CRAFTERS

The Saturday Craft Group at St Christopher's has continued to meet during 2022.

The group meets in the Church on the fourth Saturday of most months between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Generally we will not meet in December.

During our meetings we often bring our own projects to work on, but often spent more time chatting than we did crafting. We have also spent time sorting out and replenishing the bunting and flowers that are used to decorate the church fences. Also we have spent some time planning the new altar frontals we hope to work on in 2023.

We are a small, friendly but productive group who continue to work on projects at home and always swap ideas with each other.

Ann Moore

CREATIVE SCRAPBOOKING

Due to COVID-19 we have recently returned in the September, during this time our numbers have recently grown which has been lovely. We are a small group who enjoy sharing our albums alongside refreshments. To help you create your memories there are a selection of tools on hand for you to use, there is also a selection of papers or card which can be purchased. Not all our members choose to scrapbook, we have paper crafters who use a die cutting machine to make boxes, bags etc, card makers and some crochet. There is a small fee which covers the use of tools and refreshments.

Emma Reid

POP-IN-CLUB

We have had another good year . We celebrated the Queens Jubilee with flags, bugles and ice-creams . This last year we had to cancel our Strawberries and ice-cream summer event due to the weather been much too hot for anyone to do anything . On return in September we said goodbye to Maureen who after been with us for 12 years had decided she needed to retire .

We made our Christmas Nativity Scene which was good fun to make and gave us many opportunities to tell the children the Christmas story. We had our Christmas party which was a great success

This past year we have new volunteers . I would like to thank them all long serving and new for all they do.

We continue to serve and support all the families that join us every week to play.

Carol Mitchell

COMMUNITY REFRESHMENT STOP

St Anne's Church continues to provide a warm welcome on the 4th Thursday of each month from 9.00-12.00. Visitors can relax with tea, coffee and a range of delicious home-baked cakes. Thank you Pauline for gifting your time and talent to provide such wonderful treats.

Maybe you are looking for a peaceful moment with a magazine or puzzle book; or perhaps you want to meet friends, old and new for a chat; our team aims to provide for your needs. Children are welcome too. We look forward to meeting you.

Annette Considine

LUTON UNITE

Luton Unite meets at Youthscape on the first Friday of the month, during term-time from 7-9.30pm. It puts on exciting events for young people from Years 7-13. Each evening is an opportunity for them to meet those from different churches and denominations across the town, and to be part of a growing, vibrant group. The aim is for young people to be introduced to the breadth and depth of the Christian community in Luton. Each church has a Youth Leader present to support its young people.

The evening starts with an opportunity to socialise with friends, before assembling for worship. Live music and games, along with the opportunity for individual prayer are well received. Leaders take turns to open up the Word. Until summer 2022, we continued to study the 'I am' statements. From September, we have been exploring people from the Bible, whose lives have been transformed by God. The evening concludes with a social activity; popular examples have included karaoke, a dessert cafe, a murder mystery, a creative night and toasting marshmallows on fire pits.

During the summer holidays, a successful 4-day event took place, which was a huge success. This year, the summer trip will take place at Shepton Mallet, from 4-8th August. A Weekend at

Home took place during the February half-term holiday; another opportunity for young people across Luton to explore their faith.

Annette Considine

SCOUTING

Beavers – Beavers have had a great year with lots of fun activities. celebrating our late queens jubilee with a party and welcoming our new king, we were water wardens, looking at how clean the River Lea is and then our Christmas singalong and fundraising stalls, we have done lots of badge work with two Beavers earning their Chief Scouts award. We also had a camp with the cubs and scouts at Phasels Wood and are looking forward to a Beaver sleepover later this year and a camp to celebrate our 75 years as a group.

Cubs – Cubs have had a full programme over the last year, we hunted for eggs at Easter, worked on badges, did lots of outdoor and teamwork activities at our Phasels Wood camp and joined the parish at the cemetery for Remembrance Day. We enjoyed hiking out with the Beavers and Scouts and renewed our promise to the new King.

Scouts - The scouts have enjoyed a wide range of activities over the last 12 months. They have taken part in three camps: one camp at Phasels Wood with the Cubs in the Summer where they tried multiple activities, the Santa Camp in January at Haverings and finally a joint camp with the 15th St. Pancras Cubs and Scout groups at Scout Park in London, where they did rock climbing, a hike to Alexander Palace, archery and completed their navigation stage 1 badge. They have completed a lot of badge activities to complete their challenge badges. For example, they have completed their personal challenge badge. Some have completed their teamwork challenge badge and they are currently working on their creative challenge badge, where they are doing their musician stage 1 and 2 badges, photography badge and crafting badge.

Group – 2023 sees the group celebrate our 75th anniversary and while we continue to enjoy modern scouting, we also benefit from members who have been with the group for many years. Two of our current leaders, Reg and Brian have been in scouting for many years, Reg started as a leader with St. Anne's in 1961 having been a youth member for many years before that.

We have had an adventure packed year with lots of indoor and outdoor activities, hikes, camps and are looking forward to our anniversary camp later this year.

As always we would like to thank our executive committee, whose work behind the scenes goes mainly unnoticed but without whom we couldn't function, to our leaders and young leaders for all their time and efforts and to our young people and their parents and carers for their continued support.

Here's to the next 75 years!

Tanya Allen

TALKING ELEPHANTS

The Talking Elephants bereavement support group continues to meet at St Anne's Church on the third Thursday of each month from 10.00-11.30am. Last autumn, we introduced an additional group, which meets at St Christopher's Church on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.00-8.30pm. This was in response to the need of those attendees, who had returned to work.

We have built up an excellent working relationship with Neville's Funeral Service, who work in partnership with us. Special thanks to Michelle, who has been our regular representative. I give thanks for their team and all that they do. Recent attendance has averaged 3-4 people during the winter months, compared to 7-8 the rest of the year. It is pleasing to report that each member appears to have benefited from their visit. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming. It is wonderful to see God at work, as bonds of trust develop. People use the space to suit their needs, be it to listen to others or to talk about their situation. We share laughter and tears, as tea and coffee flows.

A few members from the groups attended our Blue Christmas service. The service was much appreciated, with favourable comments about the calm and peaceful environment; the appropriate music and opportunities for reflection. The atmosphere during refreshments was positive and warm.

Some members have moved forward to find solace within the Parish through further opportunities, such as attending services or joining various groups. I pray that our churches continue to be a support and comfort to them.

Annette Considine

House Group

2022 has been a blessed year for learning together in our parish. The "House Group", which had been meeting most weeks online throughout the Covid pandemic, made the transition to "in-person" at the vicarage after Easter and then to St. Christopher's *Jubilee Room* towards the end of the year.

Meetings are held most Thursdays in term time and, although it is great if people can make every session, it is ok to come along just occasionally if that works better for you.

Revd Anne and I had been co-hosting the sessions for the past couple of years. However, from September I have taken on the running of this group as part of my Lay Reader ministry.

Our aim is always to make deepening our faith together fun and not “too scary”. To this end, in addition to our Lent and Advent courses, we have offered other a wide variety of other studies during the year, together with some “one-off” sessions such as a Prayer Walk in June.

Whatever your favoured learning style or ability, everyone is welcome to House Group. If you haven't been yet and want to give it a try just turn up on the night or, for more information, catch me after church or contact me on: readerstannechris@gmail.com

Dianne Scott

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Treasurer's report for the year ending 31 December 2022

The calendar year 2022 was another challenging year for the parish. Our potential rental income has been reduced because of the loss of one tenant who ran out of funds and ceased activity. As for many organisations, the Parish has faced increased costs particularly as regards gas and electricity, which have increased substantially because of the repercussions of the war in Ukraine.

Income:

The major sources of income of the parish were again from stewardship and pledges, and rental income resulting from the hire by external parties of the parish buildings. Stewardship and pledges fell by 13% to £23,334 (2021: £26,763). Rental income from both the halls and churches rose by 59% to £16,799 (2021: £10,584).

Overall, income Increased by 15% to £51,763 (2021: £44,909). This is an increase of approximately £7k. The increase of £6k for rental income, £3k for fund raising events and the reduction of approximately £3k for stewardship and pledges are the main reasons for this overall increase.

Expenditure:

Expenses have reduced by 23% to £48,975 (2021: £65,030). The PCC took the difficult decision to cut the parish share payment to £18,000 (2021:£31,200), because of the increase in gas and electricity prices and general economic uncertainty affecting rental income and cost increases. The parish no longer has a part time parish administrator and wages have fallen by £4k in the year. The overall expenditure has fallen by £16,055 and the above two items are the major reasons for the decrease.

Bank balances:

The current account balance increased by £2,788 to £49,777 (2021: £46,987).

The Buildings and Fabric account decreased by £8,468 to £56,319 (2021: £64,787). This was due to the cost of the new central heating system in St Christopher's Hall – £21k less funds raised of £10k and monies received from Luton Borough Council of £3k for the Edible Round Green project.

A business reserve account was opened in the year to earn interest on our bank deposits.

The year ahead:

I believe that the year ahead will be another challenging year for the parish. There are expected to be cost pressures generally with inflation running at 10%. There are also concerns that energy costs will rise substantially in 2023, a particular worry, as we have three large buildings to heat. Our prospects will hinge on the results of our efforts in the following areas:

1. Increasing our congregation size.
2. Increasing our rental income.
3. Mitigating energy costs.
4. Processing our income tax refund claims.

I would like to thank all members of the PCC for their support during the year.

Thank you to all the people who have given financially to the parish in any way. Your donations are vital in allowing the important work of the parish to continue.

Thank you to all those who have gift aided their donations. This enables the parish to claim an extra 25% of your donation from the government if you are a UK taxpayer.

Thank you to Ian Gorton who has once again served as the Independent Examiner for the Parish.

Michael Whelan

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Anne's with St Christopher's, Luton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages to is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and **s.145 of the Charities Act 2011** ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and **s.144(2)** of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under **s.145(5)(b)** of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- i. 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 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Ian Gorton

Date:

13/3/23

Name:

IAN R GORTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or
body:

FELLOW OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE
OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Address:

2 CRESSMANS WALK LILLEY BOTTOM ROAD

WHITWELL HITCHIN HERTS SG4 8AW

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Year Ending 31 December 2022

General Fund - Income

2021			2022	
£	£		£	£
		Balances brought forward at 01/01/2022		
<u>67,110.10</u>			<u>46,988.96</u>	
	<u><u>67,110.10</u></u>			<u><u>46,988.96</u></u>
26,763.34	Stewardship and pledges			23,334.48
455.00	Gift aided envelopes			567.00
228.23	Guild			0.00
1,268.54	Donations and bequests			657.05
140.00	Specific collections			685.69
	Collections			
1,100.16			2,086.70	
<u>135.70</u>	1,235.86	Loose		
		Weddings	<u>582.31</u>	2,669.01
3,504.00	Weddings and funeral fees			2,336.00
27.50	Refreshments			231.18
10,446.17	Hall rental			16,637.61
138.00	Church rental			161.00
387.21	Fundraising events			3,405.25
35.00	Bookstall & bible reading notes			25.00
	Due to B & F account			1,000.00
220.00	Transfer to B & F account			0.00

	Interest received	53.81
60.00	Sundry income	0.00
44,908.85	Total income for the year	51,763.08
112,018.95		98,752.04

**General Fund -
Expenditure**

2021		2022	
£	£	£	£
2,436.93	Church:	3,318.83	Light and heat
1,507.88		1,519.47	Insurance
3,013.33		607.80	Repairs and renewals
			Organ repairs
	6,958.14		5,446.10
	260.79		319.86
	160.00		594.88
	31,200.00		18,000.00
	Youth group and junior church		57.50
	230.00		739.61
	568.44		323.98
	929.41		1,109.49
	4,416.35		48.00
	797.87		1,422.75
	2,709.86		3,412.83
	1,315.79		912.41
	69.55		8.98

13.73	Educational books		0.00
322.25	Outreach magazine		0.00
	Hall :		
2,603.48		Repairs and renewals	6,371.93
5,794.26		Light, heat and water	4,734.23
700.00		Rent deposit refunds	400.00
<u>2,613.14</u>		Insurance	<u>2,641.02</u>
11,710.88			14,147.18
18.07	Refreshments / church café etc		262.71
411.86	Sundry expenses		45.00
60.00	Transfer B & F account		1,042.00
2,877.00	Fees		1,082.00
<u>65,029.99</u>	Total expenditure for the year		<u>48,975.28</u>

Balances carried forward at 31 December 2022

0.00	Bank - business reserve	53.81
46,988.96	Bank - general fund	50,831.23
	Due to Pop in Club	-317.58
	Due to B & F St Chris	<u>-790.70</u>
<u>46,988.96</u>		49,776.76
<u>112,018.95</u>		<u>98,752.04</u>

**Parish Share outstanding:
In respect
of:**

	2022	2021
	£	£
2022	31,246	0
2021	18,422	18,422
2020	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total	<u>69,668</u>	<u>38,422</u>

In the year to 31 December 2022, £18,000 was paid to the Diocese in respect of parish share. The full parish share requested by the Diocese for the year ended 31 December 2022 was £49,246 and the balance of £31,246 has been added to the parish share outstanding.

The present policy of the Diocese is to consider writing off balances over 3 years old, if proposed by the Deanery.

No balance has been written off under these arrangements.

The total parish share outstanding is not reflected in the above income and expenditure account or closing balances.

Light and heat

There is a disputed liability of £1,407 in respect of our previous gas supplier.

This light and heat liability is not reflected in the above income and expenditure account or closing balances.

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Year Ending 31 December 2022

Charitable Donations

2021		2022
£		£
	USPG	96.20
120.00	The Bishop's Harvest	
20.00	Luton Food bank	
	Children's Society	330.21
40.00	Beds & Herts Historic Church Trust	40.00
50.00	Love Moldova Fund	
	Grassroots	177.20
	Churches Together	40.00
	Local donations	56.00
<u>230.00</u>		<u>739.61</u>

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Year Ending 31 December 2022

Restricted Funds

Building Projects St Annes

2021	
£	
32,827.03	Balance Brought Forward
1,441.00	Receipts
0.00	Income Tax Refund
0.00	From General Fund
<u>-1,581.26</u>	Payments
<u>32,686.77</u>	Balance Carried Forward

Building Projects St Annes

2022
£
32,686.77
300.00
0.00
0.00
<u>0.00</u>
<u>32,986.77</u>

Building Projects St Christopher

2021	
£	
30,983.69	Balance Brought Forward

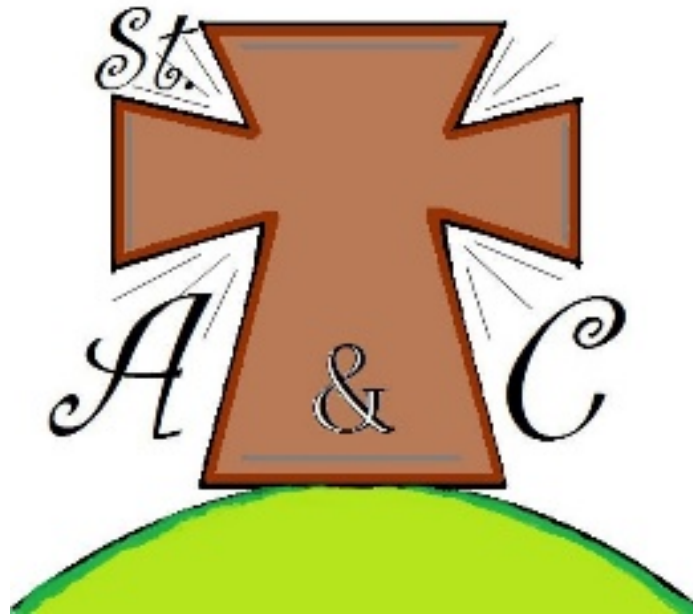
Building Projects St Christopher

2021
£
32,013.69

0.00	Kitchen & toilet fund	42.00
1,030.00	Receipts	24,271.13
<u>0.00</u>	Payments	<u>-35,911.12</u>
<u>32,013.69</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>20,415.70</u>
Edible Round Green Project		Edible Round Green Project
2021		2022
£		£
86.96	Balance Brought Forward	86.96
0.00	Receipts	3,208.43
<u>0.00</u>	Payments	<u>-378.71</u>
<u>86.96</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>2,916.68</u>
Total Buildings and Fabrics		Total Buildings and Fabrics
2021		2021
£		£
63,897.68	Balance Brought Forward	64,787.42
2,471.00	Receipts	27,779.56
0.00	Income Tax Refund	0.00
0.00	From General fund	0.00
0.00	Kitchen and Toilet Fund	42.00
<u>-1,581.26</u>	Payments	<u>-36,289.83</u>
<u>64,787.42</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>56,319.15</u>
64,787.42	Made up as:	56,319.15
<u>64,787.42</u>		<u>56,319.15</u>
	Bank Nat West	

Accounts

Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher



Annual Report 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1134772

**Including accounts for year ending 31 December
2021**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF LUTON ST. ANNE WITH ST. CHRISTOPHER 2021

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our annual report for 2021. This booklet contains all reports that appertain to this parish, including the accounts. Also included are reports from the different organisations who have met in our premises for the last 12 months. These reports are requested because all these groups come under the umbrella of the Parochial Church Council and are ultimately responsible to them apart from the uniformed groups which are directly responsible to their own organisations. This annual report gives an indication of the diversity of this parish.

To comply with the Charities Act, this report contains information that is supplementary to that which is being presented as a Parish Statement to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

VICAR'S STATEMENT TO ANNUAL MEETINGS 2021

2021 began as a year of uncertainty, we were back in lockdown, but we knew what to do, live streaming was well established and we had a network of people keeping in touch with different members of the congregation. Those unable to access the live streamed services from the parish were encouraged to pick up the phone and dial in for worship (Daily Hope) which the Church of England had created earlier in the Pandemic. In actuality, this was a difficult time. People were feeling worn down by the constant yoyo of, we're in lockdown, oh, no we're not. As we neared the end of 2021 we again held this uncertainty. Lockdown didn't come, which meant that with caution and wearing masks when inside, including for singing we we're able to gather to celebrate Christmas. Everyone who attended in person spoke very positively saying how much they had missed this part of Christmas last year.

As with 2020 we had planned, but we had planned this year with the possibility of not being able to meet as we intended. We used the learning from 2020, meaning we were more easily adaptable. There has been this year an increased ministry and mission through the fences of both churches. By placing decorations and posters on the fences along the pavements we have increased our visibility and our engagement with the localities, especially at Round Green. It was through the fence decoration that we were invited to join in the Stopsley Scarecrow Festival. A good event to be part of.

But before we go any further, I want to offer my huge thanks to the Ministry Team, Ann Moore, Michelle Reeves, both Churchwardens, and Dianne Scott, Lay Reader. Thank you for all the time you have given to the parish, for your expertise and attention to detail. Thank

you too, to Michael Whelan who became our new treasurer this year and has diligently attended to the business of the parish. Thank you too, to Emma Reid the parish safeguarding officer, who this year has enabled us as a parish to make huge progress with the safeguarding dashboard.

Thank you to the PCC members and others who took on the role of keeping in contact with parishioners with regular phone calls. Thank you to those who delivered the regular newsletters and the Christmas cards. 3,000 homes received hand delivered Easter and Christmas cards. Thank you to everyone who helped with the delivery.

Thank you to those of you who have been on a journey of deepening your faith and growing in confidence as you have attended the weekly House Groups, the Lent Course, Advent Course and Start Course. All ways in which you have given God an opportunity to enable you to experience more of God's transforming love.

Thank you to those of you who have cleaned the churches, stood outside the churches collecting food for the Luton Foodbank or stewarded the churches for individual prayer.

Thank you to all who have created and decorated the fences. You have helped with the mission of the parish.

Thank you to those of you who have returned to worship in our church buildings. We have continued to live stream worship on Facebook, to upload it to YouTube and have used Zoom for meetings and House Group.

Thanks also to Jen Drummond, the parish administrator, who worked hard under difficult circumstances, working from home and then working from the Parish Office throughout the Year. Jen tendered her resignation as her own circumstances changed. She left the administration in good order. We are seeking new and creative ways to organise our administrative needs.

GO LOVE PRAY SERVE SHARE



We also said goodbye to Sandra and Brian Riley who moved, to return to live in Garstang, the town from where Sandra originated. We miss them but know that this was the right decision for them and their family.

2021 began with being in lockdown. But that didn't stop the ministry and mission of our parish.

Regular virtual refreshments were held on Zoom, the WhatsApp Parish Chat group gained momentum providing a place for parishioners to chat. The WhatsApp Prayer Group has become a place where people pray for the needs of others, requests come in for people beyond the congregation and all are prayed for. We even launched a new prayer time - 'We Pray Together' on Zoom in February. This now meets in St Anne's Church and has become an in person time of prayer.

We have looked at our depleted finances, holding services themed around Generosity and Gratitude. We have created a PayPal account to enable online giving. We have joined the scheme #easyfundraising where companies have given us money when those signed up to our page have made purchases via their site. These are regularly promoted in monthly newsletters and during services.

It was wonderful to begin to work with the children from Wenlock Church of England Junior School; year 4 spent an afternoon thinking about 'what kind of world Jesus wanted' and then year 6 came to think about 'Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?'. I have continued to be a part of the Open the Book team who share with years 3 and 4 a different Bible story every couple of weeks.

As we have finally come out of lockdown, we have begun to revisit our plans. What do we still want to do, what are we leaving behind? The Mission Planning Group has undertaken

some really important work, looking at how we as a parish are intentionally missional in all we do. An updated Mission Action Plan was developed which the PCC agreed. It was during this process that a new Parish Mission Statement was created.

The planning of events and fundraising now has criteria from the Mission Action Plan, that say all 'Parish Events are fun, engaging, enable faith to grow and seek to raise funds.' Events are prayed for in the planning, before the event and afterwards too. Each event is evaluated to ensure that we learn through the experience and therefore the intention is that we continually refine the events we offer. As the Parish Mission Planning Group began to meet in person, this also became the evening when once again the parish Quiz team, Living in Hope, began to participate in the quiz nights at the Jolly Toppers. Another way in which we are increasing the visibility of Christians in the locality.

Another way in which we reached out to our local community was to place buckets of palm crosses by the main entrances to both churches. Many were taken. Something to repeat in 2022.

We offered to the community a Sunflower Growing competition, and this was won by a lady currently unable to get to church. Entries came from people on the fringe of the church and regular worshippers.

Our planned Harvest Thanksgiving supper to raise money for the Bishops' Harvest Appeal became 'A Stay at Home Harvest Thanksgiving Supper'. We had a simple meal at home, and donated how much we would otherwise have spent to the appeal to bring clean, safe water to communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In September, we introduced a new time of worship, Sunday @ 4. At 4pm each Sunday afternoon at St Christopher's there is a different style of service with the exception that on the third Sunday we celebrate the Holy Eucharist together.

Again we reached out into our community as we held a simple Alternative Hallowe'en , A Festival of Light event outside St Christopher's church, giving away to children goody bags that shared something of God's love for them, for the adults a hot chocolate.

As we planned for Thy Kingdom Come, we were blessed to have a session with **Revd Canon Jean Kerr** from the national Thy Kingdom Come team, to which all PCC members and any members of the congregation interested in sharing the love of God with family, friends and community were invited to attend. This was a good and inspiring evening that enthused those who attended. This year, we distributed Cheeky Panda Prayer Booklets for children, interactive Family Prayer Maps and Prayer Journals. And online we prayed the Novena, Listening on the Way, devised and gifted by the Canterbury Diocese. We also made good use of Luton's offering to Thy Kingdom Come - we played and have continued to use the Thy Kingdom Come anthem - We Seek Your Kingdom. It quickly became a favourite.

Things we have done to help others.

- Collected food for the Luton Foodbank
- Donated bedding for those fleeing domestic violence
- Knitted hats and gloves for the ladies supported by Azalea
- Created Christmas boxes for refugees

We have learnt together. The weekly House Group has covered many diverse subjects including an exploration of Diverse Saints as a way of engaging with Black History Month. We linked to COP 26 as we followed the York course - Caring for Creation. We followed 1 Peter, a Global Commentary supported by online material that had been made available to Bishops who had been going to attend the postponed Lambeth Conference.

It is really good news that one of the regular attendees of the House Group, with the support of the PCC, has undertaken training as a Lay Leader of Worship, Olubukola Olowoye (Bukie). Once all of the requirements of this training have been completed and permission given Bukie will be licensed.

The Leading Your Church into Growth, Start Course was offered three times during the year. This was completed only once.

We have prayed together, including a weekly prayer time in our own homes. We have added new groups of people whom we regularly pray for, those whose anniversaries of death occur during each week and those who receive their Holy Eucharist at home. Once it felt safe, we began to take Holy Communion to those unable to get to church. Both churches have developed ways of opening each week for private/individual prayer. This has developed as changes in the COVID-19 regulations have adjusted. Currently St Anne's is open on a Thursday morning from 9am - 10am, while St Christopher's remains open after the Wednesday morning worship until 4pm.

A quiet day, based at St Christopher's, was held, where we used cameras as a tool to help us pray. A selection of the photographs were used as the backdrop for a hymn during the Harvest Festival at St Anne's which we combined with Climate Change Sunday.

In person events went online as necessary. We made Easter Story Gardens, shared photographs on Facebook and WhatsApp before sharing the completed Garden photos on our fences.

Our Fences also became an Advent Calendar, with a new image being added each day. This was based on an Advent book entitled An Advent Book of Days by Gregory K. Cameron.

It was with great delight that from September onwards we have been able to relaunch groups that had been on hold since March 2020. St Anne's Craft Group is going strong. Pop-in Club is thriving. These and all the other church groups that meet are now prayed for using specially written prayers for each group, before the session begins.

The parish is cautiously moving forward, taking care to avoid spreading COVID-19.

The PCC took the decision during the year that we would develop pray and play spaces in each church. These were to have a very clear Christian theme to them, including a small altar to enable the children to engage more fully with the Holy Eucharist. We were blessed to receive a small grant from the Diocese of St Albans to support the setting up of these. We now have a child's set of chalice, ciborium, paten, candle sticks and hosts that the children can use. All materials in these areas are to enable the children to interact with their responsible adults. There will be themed materials appropriate to the season; each church will have a Christmas and Easter, Advent and Lent set of materials. Other sets such as creation and the story of Noah, will be changed between the churches.

It has been a hard year, but as you can see, it has had many, many rewards. CoVID-19 has not stopped us, our Ministry and Mission have adapted, continued and developed. We have met and ministered to existing people in the congregations, we have met and begun to build relationships with new people and others who have returned. We have encountered people who are searching, who are seeking something more in their lives. People whom we are called as God's children to love and bless, to draw into the fellowship of faith.

So once again, thank you. For all you have contributed to the life of the church. Let's make 2022 a great year.

Every Blessing

Revd Anne

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Anne Crosby, 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 two parish churches, St Anne's and St Christopher's, in Luton.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our churches and to become part of the parish community.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for those people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the two churches and their halls.

Achievement and Performance

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services across the parish during the week and over the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. At the start of the year,

the pandemic continued to impact our ability to hold in-person services. Where possible, the PCC ensured that correctly risk assessed, and stewarded services took place, and to be as inclusive as possible, services were live streamed to Facebook and later uploaded to YouTube. Following the relaxation of restrictions, with the exception of Compline (offered weekly via *Zoom* and livestreamed to Facebook), all services are currently held in-person, and most are also live-streamed. This includes times of weekday *Common Worship* Morning, Evening and Prayer during the Day. In addition both churches are open for a period each week providing the opportunity for quiet individual prayer.

Current patterns of worship comprise: a Sunday morning service at St. Anne's Church (Holy Eucharist except for the third Sunday which is a more informal *All Together* service); a varied programme of worship entitled *Sunday@4* at St. Christopher's (the third Sunday being a Holy Eucharist); a mid-week service at St. Christopher's (Holy Eucharist except for the first Wednesday which is *Morning Worship*); *Common Worship* Morning Prayer (Tuesday), Prayer during the Day (Tuesday) and Evening Prayer (Monday) and Compline (Thursday) are each offered once per week.

Patronal festivals and other special days continued to be celebrated with evening services of Holy Eucharist.

Fellowship time was restricted to online 'refreshments' at the start of the year but later came to be restored to in-person gatherings after the Sunday and Wednesday services with people bringing their own drinks.

The 'Talking Elephants' group that had been run until the first lockdown (2020) in partnership with Nevilles, funeral Directors and Keech Hospice offering a safe space for the bereaved to meet re-started in the Autumn.

A successful Coffee-Morning was held during the October half-term, and it is anticipated that other opportunities for people within both the church and the wider community will re-start in due course.

Holy Baptism takes place at mutually convenient services. During 2021, in total there were 2 baptisms in the parish.

Funeral ministry is undertaken by clergy and the lay reader. In 2021, a total of 16 were taken on behalf of the parish.

Weddings potentially take place at both St Anne's and St Christopher's. In 2021, however, no weddings took place.

The Church Electoral Roll in 2021 totals 97 individuals, of whom 64 are residents and 33 are non-residents.

The parish is part of the Inclusive Church Network.

Deanery Synod

Two members sit on the Deanery Synod, along with the Vicar. There is also one vacancy. These members are part of our PCC.

The Churches

Various maintenance tasks have been completed in both churches, details of which are in the accompanying Churchwardens' reports.

Both churches' halls are regularly hired out to local community groups, including uniformed youth groups, non-Anglican Christian worship groups, dancing classes, and martial arts groups to name but a few. At St Christopher's this includes the Round Green Pre-School.

Both churches have gardens to keep in order. At St Christopher's, a member of the local community volunteers his services, cutting the grass and keeping the borders in order. This has been supplemented by volunteers from the Church community and the Community Pay Back Scheme. St Anne's and St Christopher's both receive working parties from the Community Pay Back Scheme. These groups of people undertake gardening and maintenance work in the church and the grounds under supervision from their supervisor. The Garden of Remembrance in St Christopher's grounds is significant for the community and is a place where parishioners may have the ashes of their loved ones interred.

Pastoral Care

Some members of the parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The vicar and lay reader visit and take Holy Communion as appropriate. Those receiving Holy Communion at home are regularly prayed for by the wider church community. Parishioners are also visited in hospital where appropriate and possible.

In September, the Parish Pop-In Club, for toddlers and their carers, re-started and is thriving. The young people attend Luton Unite, an ecumenical town wide gathering of Christian young people meeting at Youthscape.

These groups all have a Christian foundation, including appropriate worship and valuable fellowship.

Mission and Evangelism

A parish committee recommended to the PCC which charities would be supported locally, nationally and internationally. In total £230 was given to missions and charities.

A newsletter from Revd Anne is distributed monthly (by email where possible) and also available publicly via the *A Church Near You* website. This includes some spiritual guidance from the vicar together with a list of services each month, a calendar of events and some tips for prayer.

Across the whole parish, much appreciated Christmas and Easter cards were delivered to 3,000 homes.

The Church's Life, Ministry and Mission is always on the agendas of the Church Councils as a set item, so that we are reminded of our need for mission and evangelism within the everyday life of the churches.

The parish Mission Planning Group, has worked to develop a new Mission Action Plan so that all we do seeks to look out into our community, seeking to transform the lives of our neighbours, as we grow in faith and enable others to come to know Jesus.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our two churches are the only two church buildings within the parish. Revd Anne meets regularly with other local clergy in the east of Luton. Revd Anne serves on the Luton Churches Together executive committee and together with the lay reader also attends monthly prayer meetings with church leaders of all denominations from across the town.

Financial Review The parish has one bank account and set of accounts for the general funds, and alongside this is a bank account for each church which holds the building and fabric funds. The PCC has responsibility for the parish's finances, supported by the Standing and Finance Committee of the PCC.

The parish as a whole had an income in 2021 of £44,908.85 and payments of £65,029.99. The overall bank balance as at 31st December 2021 was £111,689.42. The full details and financial report are included in the Parish Annual report which is available to all those on the Electoral Roll before the Annual Church Meeting.

Risk Management

All regular worshippers in the parish have been, and continue to be, encouraged to give generously. Since the pandemic we have developed new ways to enable people to give. Both churches now have a contactless payment machine. The parish Facebook page and A Church Near You have options to enable people to financially support the parish and an Easy Fundraising account has been established. Everyone is encouraged to be part of the stewardship scheme, and if they are taxpayers, to gift-aid their giving.

St Christopher's is considerably dependent on rental income to meet most of its essential expenses. Most of the regular congregation at the church are not full-time wage-earners, the majority being aged 60 and above. There seems no easy way of managing these risks at present.

General Policies

The PCC has now agreed a total of seventeen parish policies which will be reviewed annually, namely:

- Safeguarding – best practice as per the Church of England
- Safeguarding adults when they are vulnerable
- Safeguarding Children
- Church and Hall Evacuation
- Conflict of Interest

- Domestic Abuse
- Health, Safety and Welfare
- Lone Working
- Race Equality
- Reserves
- Risk Management
- Youth and Children's Work
- Coach trips
- Displaying of hirers banners
- Supporting persons in need
- Noticeboards
- Garden of Remembrance
- Advertisers in parish publicity

Volunteers

There are a number of volunteers who give of their time and effort and work so hard to keep the parish a lively and vibrant community. We follow the diocesan guidelines regarding child protection and DBS checking. We are grateful to our two churchwardens, Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves, the parish treasurer Michael Whelan, and safeguarding officer Emma Reid, who have wonderfully fulfilled their duties and responsibilities.

Structure and Governance

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During 2021 the PCC met eight times, of which one was in person and seven were via Zoom.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, is situated in the Deanery of Luton. It is part of the St Albans Diocese in the Church of England. The Registered Charity number is 1134772.

Until the Autumn of 2021 the parish appointed a part time Parish Administrator, working nine hours per week.

The Parish Office is located at: Parish Office, St. Christopher's Church Hall, Felix Avenue, Luton, LU2 7LE. Further details in the reports from groups and other financial details can be requested from this address.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Emma Reid (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy states that the church will train and equip church officers to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support children, young people and vulnerable adults and recognise and respond to abuse.

In line with the above statement, we also follow the diocese 'Safeguarding dashboard' where we have reached the final level of 'Safer Practices'. In doing so our PCC members ensure their training is up to date having the basic awareness and foundation pathway. In line with the new guidelines for January our PCC members undertook further training on Domestic abuse. DBSs are carried out for our PCC members and those who volunteer for specific activities which are renewed every three years and as the Safeguarding officer it is my duty to inform those to update their training and DBS in accordance.

Safeguarding continues to have a monthly update on the PCC agenda to ensure we are working together to meet the needs of our congregation and the wider community.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL as at 31st December 2021

Churchwardens:

Ann Moore (Deanery Synod Rep)
Michelle Reeves

Vicar and chairperson:

Revd Anne Crosby

Elected Members:

Verma Denny
Carol Mitchell
Olubukola Olowoye
Sally Philp
Emma Reid

Jason Reid
Dianne Scott (Deanery Synod Rep)
Sandra Tuffnell
Michael Whelan (Treasurer)
Susan Whelan

To be approved by the PCC on 07 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Anne Crosby (PCC Chair)

PARISH CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Ann Moore & Michelle Reeves

In the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher there are still just two Churchwardens. Both Churchwardens have responsibility for the Parish, but for practical reasons each Churchwarden has particular responsibility for one of the Churches however they work together on all Parish issues and matters pertaining to both churches. In this way each Churchwarden knows what is happening in the Parish and has an awareness of what is happening in each Church and are therefore able to support each other more readily. Going back two years and beyond, there were four Churchwardens so now we have two people doing the same amount of work, if not more than four people were doing previously taking in to account what has happened over the last two years!! Please do consider what you can do to help and support your Churchwardens, if you are not sure what you can offer then do ask.....

This has in many ways continued to be an unusual year, whilst we have been able to worship in our Church buildings more often than in 2021 we have had to continue to work hard to ensure the health and safety of the whole congregation and indeed the Parish. Church and Government Guidelines have continued to be followed at all times and Risk Assessments have been updated appropriately.

The Quinquennial Inspection of St Anne's Church was scheduled to take place in December but the surveying architect was unwell so it did not happen! A new date is still to be arranged. The report from the Quinquennial Inspection at St Christopher's Church in 2020 was finally received in 2021! Fortunately, the report did not contain anything unexpected and will ultimately be used to inform practical work that needs to be completed.

During the course of the year, across the Parish gas boilers have been serviced, PAT testing has been carried out, emergency lighting has been tested, fire alarms have been tested and most of the routine maintenance work has been carried out. Also, the kitchen equipment at St Anne's has been serviced.

The Churchwardens always work closely with the regular hall users and it was good that some of our regular hall users were able to start meeting again in 2021, but obviously with some changes to the way in which they were able to meet. All groups provided a risk assessment before they were able to return and have been encouraged to view these assessments as working documents which will need reviewing and updating as guidelines change.

Thank you to those of you who have been helped and supported the Churchwardens during 2021 while keeping themselves safe. A very particular thank you to the volunteers from the local community and to the Community Payback team who have all helped to keep the Church Grounds so wonderfully tidy.

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dianne Scott (Secretary from October 2021)

2021 proved to be another extraordinary year for the PCC due to the continuing Covid pandemic.

Nevertheless, the PCC and her Standing Committee met regularly throughout the year, mostly via *Zoom*, but also in person for the September meeting.

PCC meetings always open with prayer and the Gospel reading for the day.

Safeguarding, Finance and the care of our buildings always feature on the meeting agendas alongside consideration of the spiritual life of the parish.

In May, most PCC members took the opportunity to attend an online training session- *PCC Tonight*- delivered by our parish patron, CPAS. One thing that was taken from this training was the idea to intentionally evaluate the content and conduct of PCC meetings.

On Saturday 31st July, a well-attended PCC Day was held in person at St. Anne's. Following a shared breakfast, the group took part in a series of activities relating to the Anglican Communion *Five Marks of Mission*. The day ended joyfully with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist in church.

From September onwards the PCC have set aside 30 minutes of each meeting to engage with a training module *-the Mission Tree-* offered by the Diocese of St. Albans to help parishes *Live God's Love* as is our intention.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Dianne Scott

Luton Deanery consists of the Anglican Parishes of Luton plus Woodside and Caddington in the Archdeaconry of Bedford. The Synod is a body consisting of clergy together with lay representatives from every parish elected on a three- yearly basis. Those elected also serve on the Parochial Church Council. Since 2020, Ann Moore and myself have had the privilege to serve in this capacity.

Deanery Synod enables us to encourage one another as we live as Anglicans in this town. It sometimes has to deal with difficult issues, such as financial constraint and parish re-organisation. It also carries out duties relating to Wenlock Church of England School and many other aspects of Church management.

Meetings usually consist of a guest speaker, followed by news, planning, business and financial reports from chaplaincies and news from Diocesan and General Synods.

Once again, Covid has massively influenced so much during the last year. Nevertheless, in 2021, Deanery Synod has convened four times as follows:

Zoom Meeting, 23/02/2021

Including a presentation from Paul Davies, Archdeaconry Church Growth Officer

Zoom Meeting, 16/06/2021

Including a time of working together in creating a new Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP).

Holy Cross , Marsh Farm 04/10/2021

Including a presentation from Christian Cole Diocesan Youth Missioner: 'Faith in Young People.'

St. Francis Church, 25/11/2021

Including opening prayers from the new incumbent Revd Josias de Souza, and a brief reflection upon how the events of COP26 would influence the Church, in our Deanery, Diocese and beyond.

The Area Dean, Revd David Kesterton paid tribute to the late Valerie Dallinger who had served the Deanery so much over many years, including as Deanery Secretary.

My memory of Valerie for this year will be at the Deanery Barbecue held on 28/07/2021 in St Mary's Churchyard. This was a joyous gathering after all the months that Synod members had been kept apart due to the pandemic. Valerie organized it with precision; it was a good evening; she will be greatly missed.

MISSION PLANNING GROUP

Dianne Scott

Despite beginning the year under Covid restrictions, the Parish Mission Planning Group continued to meet regularly throughout 2021.

The Parochial Church Council adopted the updated Mission Action Plan (MAP) for the parish in February. Since then the Mission Planning Group (Annette Considine; Revd Anne Crosby; Verma Denny; Carol Mitchell; Ann Moore; Emma Reid and Dianne Scott) has worked to enable our stated priorities for the next five years to bear fruit. These priorities are:

- *Prayer will be at the heart of everything we as the Christian community of faith in this place undertake.*
- *Parish Events are fun, engaging, enable faith to grow and seek to raise funds.*
- *Have an established programme of learning available to seekers, enquirers, returnees and existing congregation members to support their journey of faith.*

Just a few highlights of this year's activity include: offering the *Start* course three times; attending Diocesan *MAP Refresh* training; participation in nationwide *Thy Kingdom Come* mission; enabling the leaders of Church groups to have designated prayer time before activities; encouraging the growth of the WhatsApp Prayer Group; enabling the establishment of 'Pray and Play' spaces in both church buildings; engaging with "knitting in public" day; meeting folk on the street for hot chocolate at *Alternative Halloween*; meeting folk inside at the October coffee morning and the December Crib and Tree Festival; Carol singing on Abbottswood Estate; and of course looking outwards into the community beyond our doors through the continued embellishment of our fences featuring prayers, poppies, sunflowers, doves, a community Advent Calendar and much, much more ...

Although, the Mission Planning Group started the year on *Zoom*, we usually now meet about once a month in the Jolly Toppers, joined later by those who wish to participate in the quiz. In October an open meeting was held at Venue 360 to consider the programme of social and fund-raising events for next year in conjunction with the aims of the Mission Action Plan (MAP).

It is good to participate in God's mission together as the family of Christ in this parish. If you are being called to this work, have a word with Revd Anne or Dianne- this is not a closed group.

Dianne Scott, January 2022

CHARITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Dianne Scott

It is the policy of the Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher to donate ten per cent of our unrestricted income each year to charity. This Committee meets annually to talk about this, and make recommendations to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

During 2021 we financially supported the following charities which the PCC agreed truly reflected the values of our parish at this time:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------------|
| 1/3 | LOCAL: | AZALEA |
| 1/3 | NATIONAL: | CHURCH URBAN FUND |
| 1/3 | INTERNATIONAL: | USPG |

The work of this committee relates only to those donations that are made directly from our church income. However, it is good to remember that the people of this parish continue to generously support many other charities and good causes through specific fundraising.

During 2021, for example, we have supported: Luton Deanery appeals to help refugees and asylum seekers; the Children's Society through boxes, Christingle and carol singing; the Bishop's Harvest Appeal through a 'virtual' supper; Luton Food Bank through regular collections.

The Parish Charities Committee, met at the Vicarage on Tuesday 7th September 2021 to thank God for his generosity, to pray together and discuss how our charitable giving might be distributed for 2022.

TUESDAY CRAFT GROUP AT ST. ANNE'S

Denise Dove

The craft group were able to meet later in 2021 even through the ups and downs of restrictions that were in place. It has been a successful year even in times of adversity. We were able to take part in the parish tree festival with some success. This year brings hope and with that in mind we are looking forward to new exciting ideas and projects, sharing laughter joy, friendship and fellowship.

SATURDAY CRAFTERS

Ann Moore

The Saturday Craft Group at St Christopher's was finally able to resume meeting in September 2021, and we were pleased to be back! The group meets in the Church on the fourth Saturday of most months between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Generally we will not meet in December. During our three meetings in 2021 we generally brought along our own projects to work on, but often spent more time chatting than we did crafting. We are a small but productive group who continue to work on projects at home and always swap ideas with each other.

The meeting is not just for crafters but for anyone who wants to pop in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

CREATIVE SCRAPBOOKING

Emma Reid

Due to COVID-19 we have recently returned in the September, during this time our numbers have recently grown which has been lovely. We are a small group who enjoy sharing our albums alongside refreshments. To help you create your memories there are a selection of tools on hand for you to use, there is also a selection of papers or card which can be purchased. Not all our members choose to scrapbook, we have paper crafters who use a die cutting machine to make boxes, bags etc, card makers and some crochet. There is a small fee which covers the use of tools and refreshments.

POP-IN-CLUB

Carol Mitchell

Pop-in started back in September 2021 after not meeting since March 2020. We were worried about what attendance would be like, as some of our regular children would now have moved on to nursery or school. After much prayer we are pleased to say Pop-in is as popular as ever and growing. We are a happy group and always find something to talk about. It is a pleasure to see how the children interact with each other and play

.
Also grown in number are our volunteers which has made a big difference to us. As usual I say a big thank you to you all.

LUTON UNITE

Annette Considine

Luton Unite meets at Youthscape on the first Friday of the month, during term-time from 19:00-21:30. It puts on exciting events for young people from Years 7-13. Each evening is an opportunity for them to meet those from different churches and denominations and to be part of a growing, vibrant group. The aim is for young people to be introduced to the breadth and depth of the Christian community in Luton. Each month, two youth leaders from St Anne with St Christopher go along, in order to support our 5 regular attendees. The evening usually starts with an opportunity to socialise with friends before assembling for worship. Live music and games, along with the opportunity for individual prayer are well received. Leaders take turns to open up the Word. Recently, the focus has been on the 'I am' statements. The evening ends with a social event. Previous events have included playing a real-life version of the hugely popular video game Fortnite, a summer beach party, toasting marshmallows over fire pits and a dessert cafe. There is also a Christmas Ball held every December.

During the summer holidays, a 4 day event took place, which was a huge success. In the light of this, a 2 day event is planned for February half term. Please speak to Annette Considine, Michelle Reeves or Emma Reid for more information.

SCOUTS

Tanya Allen

While some of the year was still spent virtually, we were fortunate enough to return to face to face scouting. St. Christopher's garden played host to our meetings for a while, giving us an outdoor space to use before we returned to using St. Anne's hall in September. We worked on our bike badges, learning maintenance as well as safety, we practised knots and planned a cookery evening. The following week we all made pasta bake, Eton Mess and mini pizzas.

The whole group had a night hike from Cockernhoe to Tea Green then to our Treasurers house for hot dogs and hot chocolate. We also paraded from St. Anne's down to the memorial in Crawley Green Road cemetery for Remembrance Day and Cubs then enjoyed a fun day up at Ross Park, taking part in lots of challenges including science experiments, crossbows, backwoods cooking and some particularly tuneful campfire singing.

As usual leaders and young leaders collected the Peace light from St. Saviours Church mid-December and brought it back to our parish where it burned throughout the Christmas period. We even had a visit from the Posada, our Beavers were thrilled to meet the tiny Mary and Joseph touring the parish, tying in perfectly with our Christmas craft activities, they continued their journey the next day from our leaders house to their next stop. We finished the year with our usual festive sing song for parents and raised over £200 from our crafts, tombola and refreshment stalls.

We are off to Santa Camp this week, our first since before the pandemic and we are looking forward, hopefully, to a more normal 2022 but as always pass our thanks on to all our supporters, the group could not continue with all the help we get from our young leaders and our committee. Thank you all for everything you have done throughout 2021 and continue to do.

TALKING ELEPHANTS

Revd Anne

Talking Elephants is a bereavement support group, which was suspended with the outbreak of COVID-19.

In September 2021, in partnership with Neville Funerals, we relaunched this monthly meeting.

Each time we meet there is a different group of people, coming along as their need arises and their availability permits. Generally, there are approximately 8 or 10 people in attendance. Some are quiet, others need to talk. Tears are shed, and a listening ear is offered. Tea and coffee is flowing.

Those attending were invited to the Blue Christmas Carol Service, some came along.

The group continues to meet on the third Thursday morning of each month.

The Talking Elephants prayer is prayed before each meeting.

Heavenly Father,

Your Son Jesus knew what it was to mourn a friend,

and acted with love towards those who had lost someone close.

Heal us from experiences of loss in our own lives and,

through your grace, give us generous hearts

that quietly make room for the suffering of others.

Help us to walk beside those we encounter today;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever.

Amen.

“WE PRAY TOGETHER” Report

Dianne Scott

The first priority of our parish Mission Action Plan (MAP), is that: ***prayer will be at the heart of everything we as the Christian community of faith in this place undertake.***

“We Pray Together” is a weekly group that enables us to gather and bring before our loving Heavenly Father the needs of individuals, the community of Luton, our nation and the world as we feel called to do. The order for *Common Worship Daily Prayer* guides each session, followed by a time of open prayer.

The group launched live using *Zoom* in January, replacing *Evening Prayer with Extended Intercessions* which had been prayed through most of 2020 on *Facebook Live*. We did experience technical hitches here and there; nevertheless it was good to have more than one voice on air.

In October, it finally became possible to meet in person and open to the public. **12 Noon on Tuesdays at St. Anne’s Church** is now regular slot and everybody is welcome with the freedom to say as much or as little as feels comfortable.

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Treasurer’s report for the year ending 31 December 2021

The calendar year 2021 was another challenging year for the parish. Like so many other organisations, the work of the parish was severely curtailed by both lockdowns, covid related restrictions and the understandable concern of some people in attending a service while the virus was active.

Income:

The major sources of income of the parish were again from stewardship and pledges, and rental income resulting from the hire by external parties of the parish buildings. Stewardship and pledges fell by 18% to £26,763 (2020: £32,826). Rental income from both the halls and churches fell by 52% to £10,584 (2020: £21,940).

Parish income also usually includes an amount of gift aid, where income tax on donations is reclaimed by the parish where the giver is a UK taxpayer. The claims were processed historically by submitting a claim for each of our two churches separately. The change to processing a combined claim, and the setting up this of process with HMRC, has delayed our latest claim which had not been processed by our year end. The income tax refund claim has, therefore reduced by 100% to £0 (2020: £8,822).

Overall, income reduced by 35% to £45,909 (2020: £70,904). This is a reduction of approximately £25k. The reductions of approximately £6k for stewardship and pledges, £11k for rental income and £9k for the income tax refund, explained above are the major reasons for this reduction.

Expenditure:

The PCC is very aware that the parish is operating in a difficult financial environment and has made every effort to control costs in the year. In addition, the fact that there was less activity at our churches meant that costs linked to usage would also reduce temporarily. As a result costs overall have reduced by 16% to £65,030 (2020: £77,154). Due to financial

constraints, charitable donations reduced by 95% to £230 (2020: £4,198). Other cost reductions fall across several expenditure lines with none large enough to merit a particular note.

One item that always causes considerable debate for the PCC is the parish share. The parish share represents the amount paid to the Diocese of St Albans to reimburse them for their costs, which include all costs relating to the provision of a vicar. The parish was not able to pay the full amount of parish share in 2020. It then paid £31,323, which was approximately 61% of the requested £51,323. As explained already, this year's discussion was held in a difficult financial environment. The conclusion reached was that it would not be desirable to reduce the amount paid for the parish share % lower than last year. This year, we have paid £31,200, which is approximately 63% of the requested £49,622. We do take our responsibilities in respect of the parish share very seriously and it remains our long-term aim to reach a financial position where we can pay it in full. For all the reasons discussed, our current account bank balance has reduced to £47,989 (2020: £67,110).

The year ahead:

I believe that the year ahead will be another challenging year for the parish. There are expected to be cost pressures generally with inflation running at 5%. There are also concerns that energy costs will rise substantially in 2022, a particular worry, as we have two large churches to heat. However, we also expect our income to rise. Rental income is expected to rise to more than double this year's figure as activity recommences. Also, we expect to make up the income tax refund claim amount not shown this year. Overall, and subject to no further covid outbreaks or restrictions, we expect a slightly better outcome than in 2021.

Thank you:

This is my first year as treasurer and I would like to thank all members of the PCC for their support during the year.

Thank you to all the people who have given financially to the parish in any way. Your donations are vital in allowing the important work of the parish to continue.

Thank you to all those who have gift aided their donations. This enables the parish to claim an extra 25% of your donation from the government if you are a UK taxpayer.

Thank you to Ian Gorton who has once again served as the Independent Examiner for the Parish.

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Anne's with St Christopher's, Luton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages to is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- i. 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 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Ian Gorton

Date:

25/2/2022

Name:

IAN GORTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or
body:

FELLOW OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE
OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Address:

2 CRESSMANS WALK
LILLEY BOTTOM ROAD
WHITWELL
HITCHIN HERTS SG4 8AW

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Year Ending 31 December 2021

General Fund - Income

2020

2021

£	£		£	£	
		Balances brought forward at 01/01/2021			
73,361.00			Bank general fund	67,110.10	
	73,361.00			67,110.10	
	32,825.92	Stewardship and pledges		26,763.34	Planned giving
	507.28	Gift aided envelopes		455.00	Gift aid
		Guild		228.23	
	762.05	Donations and bequests		1,268.54	Unrestricted and restricted
	614.85	Specific collections		140.00	
	8,822.45	Income tax refund			
		Collections			
650.39			Loose	1,100.10	Cash
35.00			Weddings	135.70	
	685.39				
	3,236.52	Weddings and funeral fees		3,504.00	
	168.38	Refreshments		27.50	
	17,414.42	Hall rental		10,446.17	
	4,525.75	Church rental		138.00	
	590.47	Fundraising events		387.21	
	500.00	Magazine advertising revenue			
	0.00	Bookstall & bible reading notes		35.00	
		Receipt from B & F fund		220.00	

250.01	Sundry income	60.00
70,903.5	Total income for the year	44,908.8
144,264.		112,018.

General Fund - Expenditure

2020		2021	
£	£	£	£
2,829.0	Church:	Light and heat	2,436.9
1,482.3		Insurance	1,507.8
4,725.5		Repairs and	3,013.3
0.00		Organ repairs	
9,036.83		6,958.14	
987.20	Service requirements		260.79
1,355.90	Maintenance grounds		160.00
31,323.0	Parish share scheme		31,200.0
127.16	Youth group and junior church		
4,198.07	Charitable donations		230.00
1,031.42	Administration, stationery and		568.44
1,306.90	Internet / telephone		929.41
5,119.20	Wages		4,416.35
1,218.12	Photocopier / printer		797.87
2,546.43	Clergy expenses		2,709.86

1,690.99	Envelopes / legal / inscriptions		1,315.79
-13.78	Bible reading notes		69.55
122.00	Educational books		13.73
293.00	Parish magazine		
276.60	Outreach magazine		322.25
1,758.1	Hall :	Cleaning	
2,612.3		Repairs and	2,603.4
5,377.9		Light, heat and	5,794.2
500.00		Rent deposit	700.00
2,562.7		Insurance	2,613.1
<u>12,811.2</u>			<u>11,710.8</u>
26.02	Refreshments / church café etc		18.07
1,225.25	Sundry expenses		411.86
84.85	Publicity		
	Transfer B & F account		60.00
2,388.00	Fees		2,877.00
<u>77,154.4</u>	Total expenditure for the year		<u>65,029.9</u>

Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021

0.00	Cash	0.00
67,110.	Bank - general	46,988.
<u>67,110.1</u>		<u>46,988.9</u>
<u>144,264.</u>		<u>112,018.</u>

Parish Share

In respect of:

2021 2020

	£	£
2021	18,422	
2020	20,000	20,000
2019	0	0
2018 or earlier	0	14,447
Total	38,422	34,447

The present policy of the Diocese is to consider writing off balances over 3 years old, if proposed by the Diocese.

The 2018 or earlier balance of £14,447 has been written off under these

The total parish share liability is not reflected in the above income and expenditure account or closing balance sheet.

Light and heat

There is a disputed liability of £1,407 in respect of our previous gas supplier.

This light and heat liability is not reflected in the above income and expenditure account or closing balance sheet.

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Year Ending 31 December 2021

Charitable

2020		2021
£		£
	Church Army	
1,739.00	Keech Hospice Care	
	Mission to Seafarers	
869.52	USPG	
110.00	The Bishop's Harvest	120.00
869.52	Church Urban Fund	
50.00	Azalea	
210.00	Luton Food bank	20.00
90.00	Children's Society	
	Alzheimer's Society	
	Noah Enterprise	
	Level Trust	
220.00	Hands of Mercy	
40.00	Beds & Herts Historic Church Trust	40.00
	Love Moldova Fund	50.00
4,198.00		230.00

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Year Ending 31 December 2021

Restricted Funds

Building Projects St Annes

2020	
£	
33,299.56	Balance Brought Forward
1,297.47	Receipts
	Income Tax Refund
	From General Fund
-1,770.00	Payments
<u>32,827.03</u>	Balance Carried Forward

Building Projects St Annes

2021	
£	
32,827.03	Balance Brought Forward
1,441.00	Receipts
0.00	Income Tax Refund
0.00	From General Fund
-1,581.26	Payments
<u>32,686.77</u>	Balance Carried Forward

Building Projects St Christopher

2020	
£	
30,556.44	Balance Brought Forward
400.00	Kitchen & toilet fund
27.28	Receipts
	Payments
<u>30,983.72</u>	Balance Carried Forward

Building Projects St Christopher

2021	
£	
30,983.72	Balance Brought Forward
0.00	Kitchen & toilet fund
1,030.00	Receipts
0.00	Payments
<u>32,013.72</u>	Balance Carried Forward

Big Ideas Project

2020	
£	
0.00	Balance Brought Forward
250.00	Receipts
-163.04	Payments
<u>86.96</u>	Balance Carried Forward

Big Ideas Project

2021	
£	
86.96	Balance Brought Forward
0.00	Receipts
0.00	Payments
<u>86.96</u>	Balance Carried Forward

Total Buildings and Fabrics

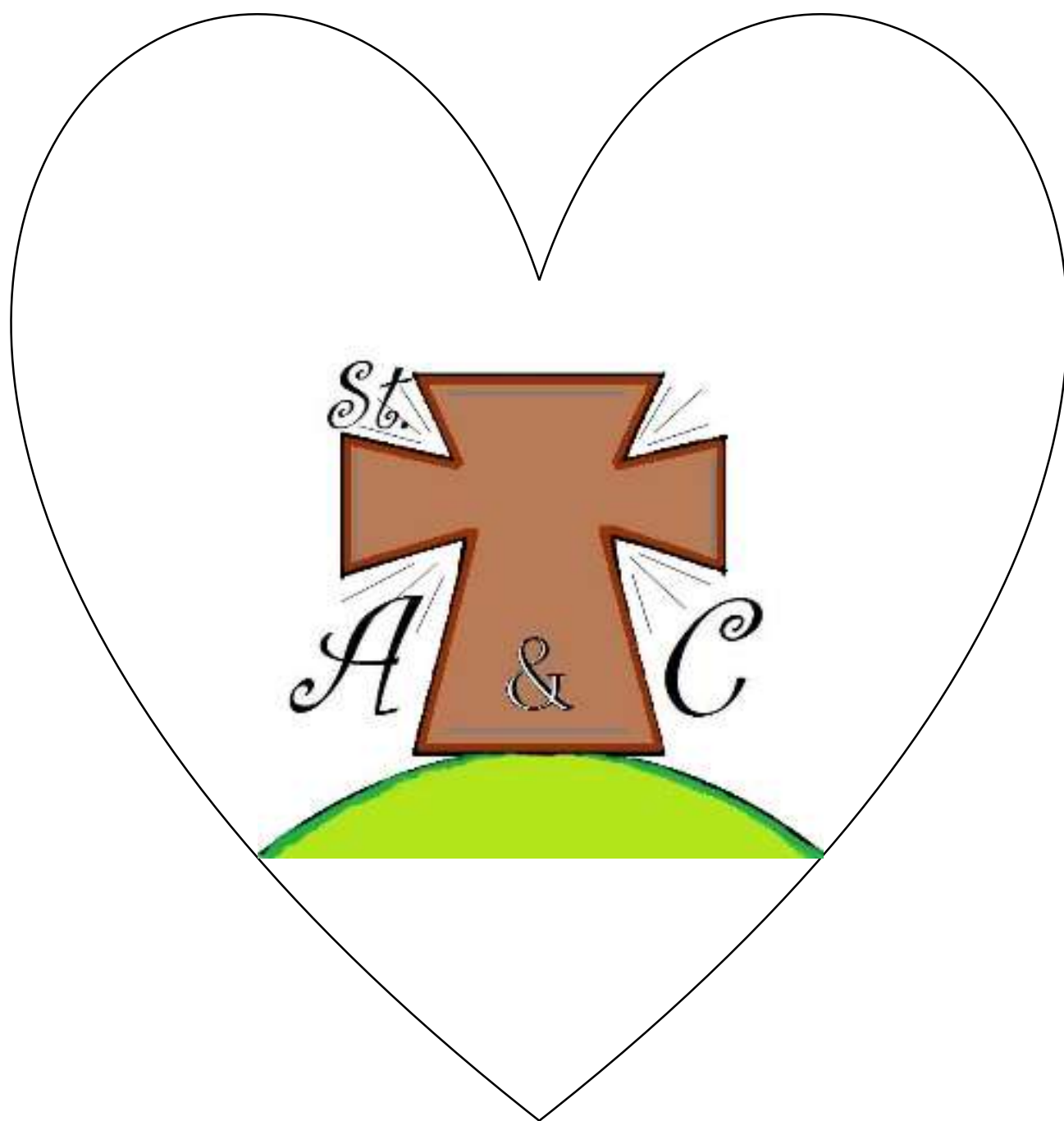
2020	
£	
63,855.00	Balance Brought Forward
1,574.70	Receipts
0.00	Income Tax Refund

Total Buildings and Fabrics

2021	
£	
63,897.00	Balance Brought Forward
2,471.00	Receipts
0.00	Income Tax Refund

0.00	From General fund		0.00
400.00	Kitchen and Toilet Fund		0.00
-1,933.0	Payments		-1,581.
<u>63,897.</u>	Balance Carried Forward		<u>64,787.</u>
<u>68</u>			<u>42</u>
30.00	Made up as:	Bank HSBC	0.00
63,867.		Bank Nat West	64,787.
<u>68</u>			<u>42</u>
63,897.			64,787.
<u>68</u>			<u>42</u>

Accounts



Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Annual Report 2020

Registered Charity Number: 1134772

Including accounts for year ending 31 December 2020

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF LUTON ST ANNE WITH ST CHRISTOPHER 2020

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our annual report for 2021. This booklet contains all reports that appertain to this parish, including the accounts from both churches and the parish accounts. Also included are reports from the different organisations who have met in our premises for the last 12 months. These reports are requested because all these groups come under the umbrella of the Parochial Church Council and are ultimately responsible to them apart from the uniformed groups which are directly responsible to their own organisations. This annual report gives an indication of the diversity of this parish.

To comply with the Charities Act, this report contains information that is supplementary to what is being presented as a Parish Statement to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

VICAR'S STATEMENT TO ANNUAL MEETINGS 2020

2020 began full of promise, of expectation and excitement.

We had much planned for this year.

2020 became a year of huge challenge, but one of enormous growth and learning. For during this year, we encountered Corona Virus. We have been closed for public worship twice and a third time was coming as we entered 2021.

But let us begin with thanks.

A huge thank you to Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves the Churchwardens for this parish and Dianne Scott, who began the year as a Lay Reader in training and ended as a fully-fledged Lay Reader. They have each worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of this parish. Thank you personally for all your support, thank you from the parish for all that you have undertaken, thank you from the community for the way in which you have enabled the parish to support the needs of those in need in the parish and more widely in the town.

Thank you to Jackie Ives, the PCC treasurer for keeping our finances in order as these were hit dramatically, by the reduction of income from the rental of our church halls and the reduced planned giving.

Thank you to the PCC members and others who took on the role of keeping in contact with parishioners with regular phone calls. Thank you to those who delivered the regular newsletters and the Christmas cards. 3,000 Christmas cards were delivered across the parish in two weeks. A mammoth achievement.

Thank you to those of you who have been on a journey of deepening your faith and growing in confidence as you have attended the weekly House Groups, the Lent Course, Advent Course and Start Course. All ways in which you have given God an opportunity to enable you to experience more of God's transforming love.

Thank you to those of you who have cleaned the churches, stood outside the churches collecting food for the Luton Foodbank, stewarded the churches for individual prayer and to those who have created and decorated the fences, thus raising a smile in the hearts of those who have passed by.

Thank you to our parish administrator, who throughout this year has approached the challenges and new ways of working with a positive and helpful attitude, adapting the work undertaken to support the current needs.

Thank you to those of you who worshipped online with us, on Facebook, YouTube and Zoom.

Thank you to those of you who attended in-person worship when this was possible.

2020 began so well.

We began with a party as we said farewell to Robert Bates, a long-term member of St Christopher's and Parish Churchwarden until 2019, as he left to live in Lowestoft. A sadness for us, a new adventure for Robert.

As we entered 2020, many ideas were swirling around. This was to be the year when we could begin the work to develop the mission and outreach of the parish. We had already recognised that part of that needed the facilities at St Christopher's Church Hall to be improved. With this in mind a very good piece of training was attended entitled, 'From Vision to Reality: Developing your project and making it happen'. Good progress was being made with the creation of new altar frontals at St Christopher's. The parish Quiz team, Living in Hope, were still attending the Quiz nights in the Jolly Toppers, which was forging good relationships with the organisers and local quizzers. A review of the work we as a parish were doing with the Scouts and Guides was undertaken and plans and ideas were refined. Members of the parish attended A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity event hosted by Holy Ghost RC Church. This was an event that inspired and excited those who attended. Wenlock Church of England Junior School came to St Anne's to consider 'Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?'. Craft Fairs were beginning to be embedded in the regular fundraising programme and we began to look at reviewing our Mission Action Plan.

A group of six from across the parish travelled to Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, for the Diocesan Leading Your Church into Growth Conference, while Bishop Richard presided at an All Together Service in St Christopher's, with both Guides and Scouts participating in the

service, followed by a service of Holy Communion at St Anne's. Those attending the course, received some fabulous teaching and returned to Luton, a bit windswept as storm Ciara swept across the UK, full of excitement and eager anticipation about what we would do next. This was followed up with more training, this time from the Reaching New People team, where another group of people attended 'Innovation in the Box - Designing for a Christian Life.' Another creative way to look at how we became more missional. The decision was taken to bring together the people who had engaged with the Reaching New People training and those who had attended Leading your Church into Growth, into one group - The Parish Mission Group. A group with porous edges which anyone who had a yearning to see this parish grow could come and become a part of.

The last event we hosted before the pandemic struck was the Fairtrade Baking Competition. This was the second time we had run this event. This time we had a surprise visit by Dr. Nazia Khanum OBE DL, the chair of the United Nations Association Luton Branch and Purbachal - the eastern sky. Dr Nazia was delighted to see such a diverse gathering of Luton people and the quality and quantity of cakes. This year's winners were invited to provide a cake for the inaugural meeting of the Luton Women's Network which included a Fairtrade tea as a way of joining with the celebrations for Fairtrade Fortnight 2020. Eight-year-old Molly, who had won the prize for the best Sponge cake at the parish Fairtrade Cake Baking competition, was presented with an award at the Luton Women's Network in recognition of her outstanding baking skills and her willingness to be an ambassador for young people.

On Wednesday 18 March 2020, closely followed by Mothering Sunday, the first Sunday of the first lockdown, began my steep learning curve of learning to live stream worship. Setting up tripods and a phone to film and record the service was one like we had never experienced before. Thursday 19 was the very first Zoom meeting for the parish. The USPG Lent Course, Living with a World of Difference, went online. At that time no-one had heard of Zoom.

But even then, it felt really important, that even though it may only be for a few weeks, we had to continue to find ways to worship together.

Worship was live streamed directly to our parish Facebook page, initially the services of Holy Eucharist and the daily offices. Subsequently, the services were also uploaded to YouTube to enable those who did not have Facebook accounts, but did have internet access, to be able to engage with the parish worship. Stations of the cross was the first act of worship where images were shared alongside the spoken word. Our worship together has been enhanced as we have heard sermons from the Bishops and Archdeacons from the Diocese of St Albans as well as several from USPG.

That first weekend of lockdown, a few people from across the parish helped print, fold and staple Lent service and prayer booklets, along with what was to become the first of the regular newsletters that have been distributed to those on the mailing lists. This first mailing was

hand delivered. A huge thank you to everyone who enabled this to happen. This was a big piece of work.

PCC meetings went online using Zoom. The PCC has met on Zoom since that first Lockdown.

As a parish we have not stopped, but through the leadership of the Ministry Team we have continued to ensure that worship, outreach, pastoral support, in fact the whole of the ministry of the parish, has continued with the exception of social gatherings.

Following the re-emergence of the Black Lives Matter campaign, following the death in America of George Floyd, and the protests in this country, we held our own event to provide a voice for those of differing ethnicities who worship in this parish as we explored 'What it is to be an Inclusive Church' on Tuesday 7 July. This was held as part of the parish commitment to being an Inclusive Church. This meeting was well attended. Questions to those presenting were submitted prior to the meeting, and each presenter was allocated a time slot in which to speak.

Since March 2020, and the first lockdown, the PCC and Ministry Team have engaged in webinars. There have been too many to possibly attend all of them. These have broadened and deepened the knowledge of those who have attended. They have varied from webinars about coping with the challenges of the pandemic, through to child bereavement, dealing with conflict, Bible study and incarnations mission.

Regular newsletters, sent out at least every month, pastoral phone calls from the PCC and others, along with WhatsApp Parish Chat have ensured that people across the parish have been kept in touch with.

During this year, we have begun to hold an outdoor Foodbank collection on a monthly basis for the Luton Foodbank. This has been a real opportunity to show the community Christ's love, in that it could be seen that we were doing something to help other people. But it also gave opportunities for conversations with people of the community, who came along to drop off a bag or two of food. This along with decorating the fences, railings, and grounds of our churches, visually showed our love for our neighbours. It has raised many smiles and conversations. The outsides of our churches have become places for prayer ribbons to be tied, prayer posters to be seen and used, knitted decorations to be fixed. All to try to add a little bit of colour to the lives of our communities.

It was wonderful over the Christmas period to be able to decorate the fences and railings with nativity pictures created by Hart Hill Nursery and Round Green Pre-School. At St Christopher's this was in addition to the outdoor Christmas tree festival which was supported by the St Anne's Scouts.

Newsletters have been distributed since the very beginning of the first lockdown. I began by encouraging everyone to continue to be a voice of hope to our community. Those who were self-isolating were invited to ask for help, and those able to support those isolating to become isolation volunteers.

I shared prayers and reflections on various Bible readings and the seasons of the church year. All of this alongside keeping the wider community up to date with church services, activities and requests for help. I encouraged those reading to grow in faith, through engaging with House Groups offered by the parish, webinars, acts of worship on the television, radio and live streamed by other churches. Daily Hope, the Church of England telephone line, continues to be promoted to those without access to the internet.

A deepening of spending time has been encouraged during this time. As a way of encouraging everyone to pray, a weekly time of private prayer was introduced each Saturday morning at 9am. A selection of prayers was offered in each newsletter.

The WhatsApp Prayer group and the prayer chain have grown in importance as people beyond the parish community have requested prayer.

Flourishing Churches in the Diocese of St Albans shared the Prayer for Spiritual Communion. This was introduced to enable parishioners attended online worship to participate in the service of the Holy Eucharist.

To participate in Thy Kingdom Come during the pandemic, Zoom was used for the platform to host a Novena based on Mark Cazalet's artwork for 'Listening on the Way'.

The PCC held an evening of prayer over Zoom, where different ways of praying were offered.

Both churches opened for individual prayer between lockdowns. It was good to be able to offer this to those of the neighbourhood. Another way in which we were able to show the importance of prayer.

Throughout this most challenging of years, we have continued to worship together. The Holy Eucharist has been celebrated throughout, Daily Offices have been live streamed and have drawn an increased number of people who have gathered to pray Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline (Night Prayer). I am looking forward to us once again being able to sing together to the time when we can move about and reintroduce the All Together services.

A regular letter was distributed to families, including activities and links to video clips. I recorded and shared a reading of 'Candle Walk, A Bedtime Prayer to God' on the parish

YouTube channel. Permission was granted by the publishers, Church Publishing inc, on behalf of the author Karen Holsinger Sherman.

Finances have been an issue for us, as they have been for many organisations. We have encouraged and provided different ways in which to support the work of God in this parish, with a PayPal account, an Easy Fundraising account and online donation options on both A Church Near You and the parish Facebook page.

Social Media has become a very useful platform. The Parish now uses Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Instagram to share with the wider community what we as a parish are doing.

Mid Pandemic, Sunday 6 September 2020, Dianne Scott was licensed as a Lay Reader. It was a privilege to be in St Alban's Abbey as Dianne was licensed. A time of joy and celebration. That evening Dianne presided at Evening Prayer. I look forward to being able to celebrate Dianne's licensing with the whole parish.

Surveys were undertaken to ensure that everyone was able to share their thoughts on the worship and communication they had experienced and to look forward to returning to church, including how they felt God was encouraging them to get involved in the life of the church.

As a parish we have not stopped trying to encourage and enable people to deepen their relationship with God. The first ever Start Course hosted by the parish began in St Anne's Church on a Wednesday afternoon in October. The course ran in St Anne's until it was necessary to return to gathering online only. Zoom again was used to enable this course to be completed. This is a really good accessible course for anyone just starting out, wanting a new start, or wanting to support others in their journey with Christ. The Parish also ran an Advent Course on Zoom entitled Songs of Advent.

To add a little positivity as the pandemic continued to drag on, the idea of creating a Parish COVID-19 scrapbook began to be considered.

We participated in the Prayer for the Nation, clapped for the NHS and lit candles of hope. We have displayed rainbows in our windows and demonstrated that we are a part of our local community. We have knitted hearts, angels, flowers, baby hats and hats for the ladies of Azalea. We have collected food and have prayed for and with many people. As a community of faith, we have demonstrated God's love for all of his people.

So a big thank you to each of you. You will know how you have helped, for the ways you have been involved in serving the needs of God's people during this most challenging of years.

Thank you.

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Anne Crosby, 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 two parish churches, St Anne's and St Christopher's, in Luton.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our churches and to become part of the parish community.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for those people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the two churches and their halls.

Achievement and Performance

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services across the parish during the week and over the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. This year, the pandemic has impacted on our ability to hold in-person services. However, where possible the PCC has ensured that corrected risk assessed, and stewarded services took place. To be as inclusive as possible, services have been live streamed to Facebook and later uploaded to YouTube. Services have also been offered through Zoom, live streamed to Facebook. These include weekday Morning and Evening Prayer, and occasional services of Compline which provide quiet and reflective environments for prayer. Both churches have been open for Individual Prayer on a weekly basis between the second and third lockdown - September to December 2020.

The year began with Sunday Morning worship being a mixture of sacramental worship being shared in both St Anne's and St Christopher's twice a month, with a monthly service of Holy Eucharist with anointing for healing at one of the regular service times. Once a month each church had a Sunday morning service, which provided an opportunity for more outgoing and lively worship through the All Together informal service. Midweek services of Holy Eucharist, Morning Worship and Wednesday Praise also gave opportunity for worship for those who are

unable for family and other reasons to attend on a Sunday. Patronal festivals and other special days continued to be celebrated with evening services of Holy Eucharist.

With the onset of Corona Virus, all worship went online via Facebook live, initially live streaming from both churches, until the Church of England instructed that we were not allowed to travel to the church. We moved to live streaming from the Vicarage. Later when regulations changed, we moved back into St Christopher's Church for live streaming, again in line with Church of England guidance that worship could be live streamed by one person from the nearest church to the vicarage. Holy Eucharist and Daily Offices have been live streamed in line with the existing current guidelines and in line with the Parish, PCC approved Risk Assessments. The parish offering has this year included an online, live streamed Novena held over nine consecutive days, Stations of the Cross, Meditations and an Evening of Prayer

Times of fellowship after the services went online. After each Sunday and Wednesday service of Holy Eucharist a time of Virtual Refreshments was held.

As the year began, we were continuing with our increasingly popular opportunities for people to gather for refreshments. St Anne's Community Refreshment Stop and the well-established and popular Bacon Butty Morning. St Christopher's Coffee-in-Church twice a month and a regular Saturday Coffee Morning. Until the first lockdown we continued to work in partnership with Nevilles, funeral Directors and Keech Hospice offering a safe space called 'Talking Elephants' for the bereaved to meet. The Neville's employee who coordinated this work was made redundant during the summer of 2020.

Holy Baptism takes place at mutually convenient Services. During 2020, in total there were no baptisms in the parish. Families who approached the parish decided to postpone until they could bring their families together for the celebration.

Funeral ministry is undertaken by clergy. In 2020, a total of fifteen were taken on behalf of the parish.

Weddings take place at both St Anne's and St Christopher's. In 2020, one wedding was booked. The couple decided to postpone until they can gather without restrictions on numbers able to attend.

The renewed Church Electoral Roll in 2020 has one hundred and one parishioners, of whom sixty eight are residents and thirty three non-residents.

The average weekly attendance (which includes midweek services, both churches, but only counting people once), recorded during October as the Statistics for Mission require, was twenty eight adults and three children and young people who participated in in-person

worship. The average number of people who participated per service online during this period was thirty six.

The parish is part of the Inclusive Church Network.

Deanery Synod

Two members sit on the Deanery Synod, and there is also one vacancy along with the Vicar. These members are part of our PCC.

The Churches

Various maintenance tasks have been completed in both churches, details of which are in the accompanying Churchwardens' reports.

Both churches' halls are regularly hired out to local community groups, including uniformed youth groups, dancing classes, and martial arts groups to name but a few. At St Christopher's this includes the Round Green Pre-School. Since the start of Corona Virus, hall lettings have ceased, with the exception of the Round Green Pre-School who have continued to operate as they are a part of the Early Years provision.

Both churches have gardens to keep in order and have working parties for that purpose, made up of volunteers. At St Christopher's, since the start of the pandemic a member of the local community has volunteered his services, cutting the grass and keeping the borders in order. This has been supplemented by volunteers from the Church community and the Community Pay Back Scheme. St Anne's and St Christopher's both receive working parties from the Community Pay Back Scheme. These groups of people undertake gardening and maintenance work in the church and the grounds under supervision from their supervisor. The Garden of Remembrance in St Christopher's grounds is significant for the community and is a place where parishioners may have the ashes of their loved ones interred.

A positive relationship has been maintained between the parish, specifically St Christopher's Church and the Romanian Orthodox Church who traditionally hire the church each Sunday and twice during the week. Until the first lock down hiring continued in the usual and accepted pattern. Since this first lockdown we have been unable to make the necessary arrangements to enable this church community to hire St Christopher's Church and Hall.

Pastoral Care

Some members of the parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The vicar visits and takes Holy Communion as appropriate. Parishioners are also visited in hospital. Hospitality is available after most services, which supports the pastoral care for the congregations. During the pandemic, a few of the elderly and infirm members of St Christopher's congregation have taken the decision that they will not be returning to in-person worship.

As 2020 began, the Parish Pop-In Club, for toddlers and their carers, continued to thrive. The young people were beginning to be established in attending Luton Unite, an ecumenical town wide gathering of Christian young people meeting at Youthscape. The Wednesday Guild, a group serving the needs of the older members of the congregations and wider, had not recommenced its meetings for 2020 before lockdown began.

The group leaders have made every effort to maintain contact with those in their groups throughout the year.

These groups all have a Christian foundation, including appropriate worship and valuable fellowship.

Mission and Evangelism

A parish committee recommended to the PCC which charities would be supported locally, nationally and internationally. In total £4,198.07 was given to missions and charities, which is around 10% of our non-designated and unrestricted income.

At the beginning of 2020 the parish continued to publish the Outreach magazine monthly and a Parish News quarterly, both of which are without charge. Both include a list of services each month, a calendar of events and a letter from the vicar that is aimed at those who rarely or never worship at one or other of the churches. The parish offers a quarterly magazine (Parish News) and around 500 are printed and distributed, and a simpler and smaller magazine (Outreach) has 830 copies printed and distributed each month. Since the pandemic began, these have ceased to be published. However, the parish went online distributing, to all contacts who had given or gave their permission, a regular newsletter from the Revd Anne. This was sent by email to those for whom this was possible, some were printed and posted, while others were printed, and hand delivered.

Across the whole parish, Christmas cards are delivered to 3,000 homes. These cards shared the Church of England's message of Comfort and Joy along with Christmas greetings from the parish. They were greatly appreciated.

The Church's Life, Ministry and Mission is always on the agendas of the Church Councils as a set item, so that we are reminded of our need for mission and evangelism within the everyday life of the churches. This year six people attended a Leading your Church into Growth conference in Swanwick at the Hayes Conference Centre. This was specifically for parishes in the St Albans 'Diocese. The group who attended this conference have combined with those who had already participated in the Reaching New People training to form the parish Mission Planning Group, which is looking at ideas for the next Mission Action Plan and how these can be implemented, so that all we do seeks to look out into our community, seeking to transform the lives of our neighbours, as we grow in faith and enable others to come to know Jesus.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our two churches are the only two church buildings within the parish. We have good relationships with the Romanian Orthodox Church at St Christopher's. Revd Anne meets with

other local clergy in the east of Luton. During the first lockdown this was weekly prayerful support, later returning to a monthly gathering. Revd Anne also attends monthly prayer meetings with church leaders of all denominations from across the town and serves on the Luton Churches Together executive committee.

Financial Review

The parish has one bank account and set of accounts for the general funds, and alongside this is a bank account for each church which holds the building and fabric funds. The PCC has responsibility for the parish's finances, supported by the Parish Standing and Finance Committee.

The parish as a whole had an income in 2020 of £72,628.25 and payments of £78,924.40. The overall bank balance at 31st December 2020 was £130,920.82. The full details and report are printed in the annual report, which is available to all those on the Electoral Roll before the Annual Church Meeting.

Reserves Policy

The policy states that we plan to have to hand the equivalent of three months 'regular expenditure, excluding Building and Fabric costs, money that has been designated for specific projects and restricted funds.

For several years now, we have had a policy to ensure that, year on year, we have not run with a deficit to our regular income and expenditure accounts. This year, however, due to the reduced income from hall hire and fund raising, the PCC decided to pay a little more of the Parish Share than our income allowed in order to support the Diocese of St Albans by spending from our reserves.

Stewardship is an area for development.

Risk Management

All regular worshippers in the parish have been, and continue to be, encouraged to give generously. During the Corona Virus we have developed new ways to enable people to give. Both churches now have a contactless payment machine. The parish Facebook page and A Church Near You have options to enable people to financially support the parish and an Easy Fundraising account has been established. Everyone is encouraged to be part of the stewardship scheme, and if they are taxpayers, to gift-aid their giving.

St Christopher's is considerably dependent on rental income to meet most of its essential expenses. If the Pre-school closed and the Romanian Orthodox Church decided to cease hiring the building, there would be major problems. Most of the regular congregation at the church are not full-time wage-earners, the majority being aged 60 and above. There seems no easy way of managing these risks at present.

General Policies

The PCC has now agreed a total of seventeen parish policies which will be reviewed annually, namely:

- Safeguarding – best practice as per the Church of England
- Safeguarding adults when they are vulnerable
- Safeguarding Children
- Church and Hall Evacuation
- Conflict of Interest
- Domestic Abuse
- Health, Safety and Welfare
- Lone Working
- Race Equality
- Reserves
- Risk Management
- Youth and Children's Work
- Coach trips
- Displaying of hirers banners
- Supporting persons in need
- Noticeboards
- Garden of Remembrance

Volunteers

There are a number of volunteers who give of their time and effort and work so hard to keep the parish a lively and vibrant community. We follow the diocesan guidelines regarding child protection and DBS checking. We are grateful to our two churchwardens, Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves, the parish treasurer Jackie Ives, and safeguarding officer Emma Reid, who have wonderfully fulfilled their duties and responsibilities.

Structure and Governance

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During 2020 the PCC met ten times, of which two were in person and eight were via Zoom

Administrative Information

The Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher, is situated in the Deanery of Luton. It is part of the St Albans Diocese in the Church of England. The Registered Charity number is 1134772.

At the beginning of 2020 the parish appointed a part time Parish Administrator, working nine hours per week. The parish administrator was not furloughed, and continued to work, often from home when this was advised throughout the lockdowns.

The Parish Office is located at: Parish Office, St. Christopher's Church Hall, Felix Avenue, Luton, LU2 7LE. Further details in the reports from groups and other financial details can be requested from this address.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in The Parish of Luton, St Anne's with St Christopher's.

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Emma Reid

The PCC endorsed the updated Safeguarding policy on 3rd December 2019. In addition, the parish has policies regarding domestic violence, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Within the guidelines for the Diocese, DBS checks have been carried out with most of our PCC members, junior church leaders and our pop-in team. Our Clergy and Reader have been checked externally through the Diocese. These will be renewed in 3 years time.

This year our training has consisted of 11 people completing the CO, 9 people have completed a C1- both these are online courses. 2 people have completed a C2 and a further 2 completing a C3 – these have been face to face training.

In addition, as we endeavour to ensure all are safe in our churches, the parish has introduced risk assessments for activities and allergens are now identified where food is available.

In light of last year's report, an additional recruiter has been appointed – Revd Anne.

With a view to next year, the Diocese have recently updated their training requirements, this will involve our leaders who work with children attending a C2 training session.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL as at 31st December 2020

Churchwardens:

Ann Moore (Deanery Synod Rep)
Michelle Reeves

Vicar and chairperson:

Revd Anne Crosby

Elected Members:

Carol Mitchell
Dianne Scott (Deanery Synod rep)
Emma Reid
Jackie Ives
Yvonne Stone

Sally Philp
Jason Reid
Verma Denny
Sandra Tuffnell

To be approved by the PCC on 31 March 2021 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Anne Crosby (PCC Chair)

PARISH OFFICERS' REPORTS

PARISH CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves

Within the Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher there still continues to be just two Churchwardens. Both Churchwardens have responsibility for the whole Parish, however for practical reasons each Churchwarden has particular responsibility for one of the Church, but they work together on Parish issues and matters which pertain to both churches. In this way each Churchwarden is aware of what is happening in the Parish and each Church.

Nothing could have prepared us for the impact of a pandemic on the Parish and thus the work of the Churchwardens. Regular meetings have continued to take place with the Vicar, Revd Anne and the Parish Lay Reader Dianne Scott (who was licensed in September 2020) but all via Zoom, email or WhatsApp rather than in person.

It is probably true to say that all Churches, not only the two in this Parish have been closed more than they have been open in 2020, due to Church and Government Guidelines put in place to ensure the health and safety of the whole population. During these periods of closure the Churchwardens have still been required to carry out a weekly health and safety check in the buildings to comply with the guidelines from the insurance company used by the Parish.

When Church and Government Guidelines have permitted Churches to open for public worship, much thought, prayer and planning have gone into the decision to comply with this. Stringent Risk Assessments have been written and adhered to and constantly updated as the Guidelines change, Maximum numbers for service have been worked out, hand sanitiser dispensers have been installed, appropriate cleaning materials have been sourced, the list is endless!!

At those times when Guidelines have permitted, contractors have visited the buildings in order that regular servicing of equipment could take place.

The Quinquennial Inspection of St Christopher's Church took place in October; however the report is still to be received.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to help and support the Churchwardens while keeping themselves safe. A particular thank you to the volunteers from the local community and to the Community Payback team who have all helped to keep the Church Grounds so wonderfully tidy.

PCC SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Sally Philp
(PCC Secretary until October 2020)

The Parochial Church Council for the Parish of Luton St Anne with St Christopher met mostly via Zoom meetings during 2020/20. The Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM) and election of Church Wardens was postponed until October 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The PCC agenda covers a wide variety of items that are pertinent to the Parish. The Churchwardens can also raise items that need to be discussed. Any forthcoming events are also highlighted.

Items discussed at the PCC meetings in 2020/21 were as follows: -

- The Parish's Life, Ministry, Mission and Mission Action Plan
- Safeguarding
- Reopening of both Churches and Risk Assessments and safety measures
- New noticeboards at both Churches
- Finances – including the impact of reduced income particularly from hall hire and being able to pay the Parish Share.
- Policies reviews
- St Christopher's Church hall electrics
- Online services
- St Anne's Church camera to improve live streaming.
- Church Services
- Luton Foodbank collections

REPORTS FOR THE WHOLE PARISH

LUTON DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2020

Dianne Scott

Luton Deanery consists of the Anglican Parishes of Luton plus Woodside and Caddington in the Archdeaconry of Bedford. The Synod is a body consisting of clergy together with Lay representatives from every parish elected on a three- yearly basis. 2020 was an election year, and at our parish Annual Meeting (deferred to October) Anne Moore and myself were elected to serve you. Meetings usually consist of a guest speaker, followed by news, planning, business and financial reports.

Deanery Synod got off to a flying start in 2020 by convening the first meeting of the year at our own St. Anne's Church in February. There was a good turn-out of clergy, representatives and guests who were treated to excellent refreshments provided by our team. Revd Anne led those gathered in a short act of worship which was followed by a very interesting talk by guest speaker, Kelvin Woolmer who informed us about *The Clewer Initiative to stop Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking*.

And then came Covid-19, lockdown, and so much uncertainty to mission and ministry in our town.

By the Summer, Synod meetings had transferred to *Zoom*.

Revd Canon Dr Tim Bull (then Director of Ministry in the Diocese of St. Albans) addressed Synod on the subject of clergy wellbeing in June.

In September, the newly appointed Assistant Minister at All saints with St. Peter's, Revd Jo Burke, talked about her ongoing work addressing the physical and spiritual welfare of refugees housed in the area during lockdown.

In November, Revd Tim Madeley of Christchurch Bushmead was introduced to Synod as the new Assistant Area Dean. The Area Dean, David Kesterton, spoke about how it had been a difficult year all round due to the wide-reaching effects of the pandemic.

For myself, I am sad that people have left the Deanery without the usual send-offs, and people have arrived without the welcomes usually offered. We have not been able to visit neighbouring churches to worship God together as we are used to doing.

In view of this, I am including here the words of the Deanery of Luton prayer, which I ask you to pray as we look forward in hope to a future together *Living God's Love* in this town.

Eternal Father, look with love
upon your people of Luton
and pour upon us the gifts of your Spirit.
Draw us to you and to one another
that our growing unity
may bring healing and life to all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEALING MEETING REPORT

Ann Moore

The Healing Group was able to meet monthly at the very beginning of 2020. These meetings provided an opportunity for spiritual refreshment, teaching and prayer.

The Group has been unable to meet together since February as a result of the pandemic which led to various lockdowns and other restrictions.

The members of the Group still support anyone who requests prayer for healing. All requests are circulated via the telephone, and each member of the group offers prayers for the person concerned. Requests are treated in strict confidence.

If you, or someone in your family need our prayers please contact Revd Anne, Dianne Scott or Ann Moore, and there will be a chain of people praying for you.

PRAYER MEETING REPORT

Dianne Scott

A small group of faithful intercessors have met weekly in St. Christopher's Church for many years bringing the needs of the Church, the world and individuals before our loving Heavenly Father in prayer.

When the Covid-19 lockdown was announced in March, it was clear that prayer could not be abandoned even though meeting in person was now not permitted. It was not easy to find a practical format for this group that could accommodate everyone. Therefore, after some experimenting with group telephone prayer, it was decided that intercessions would be prayed on Thursday evenings as: Evening Prayer with Extended Intercessions and transmitted online via Facebook Live. In the late Autumn we began to use Zoom so that more voices could be heard.

We give thanks to God for the gift of technology that has actually enabled more people to participate in these weekly intercessions than before. However, we also long for a time when members of our fellowship will be able to pray together in person again.

PARISH CHARITIES COMMITTEE

Dianne Scott

It is the policy of the Parish of Luton, St. Anne with St. Christopher to donate 10% of our unrestricted income each year to charity. The Parish Charities Committee, therefore, met in September via Zoom to thank God for his generosity, to pray together and discuss how our charitable giving might be distributed for 2020.

We considered how the Covid-19 pandemic was causing a great call on the work of charities at the same time as raising funds became more challenging for them.

It was agreed to allocate our donations for 2020 to charities which we considered to truly reflect the values of our parish as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------------|
| 1/3 | LOCAL: | AZALEA |
| 1/3 | NATIONAL: | CHURCH URBAN FUND |
| 1/3 | INTERNATIONAL: | USPG |

The work of this committee relates only to those donations that are made directly from our church income. However, it is good to remember that the people of this parish continue to generously support many other charities and good causes through specific fundraising. Even though our usual events were severely disrupted through 2020, many appeals were made and responded to.

Mission Planning Group (Previously Reaching New People) 2020

This Group has continued to meet regularly throughout the pandemic, all meetings since March 2020 have been via Zoom.

We were fortunate to have a team of representatives present at The Jolly Toppers monthly quiz night in both January and February. One of the questions at the February quiz night was - what is the name of the virus currently affecting parts of the world? Unbelievably, someone could remember it was Covid but no-one could remember the number!

This year the group started reviewing the Parish Mission Action Plan. Our aim was that it would reflect the way forward within the parish both now and after the pandemic.

In our work on reviewing the Mission Action Plan we have been supported by the Diocesan Flourishing Churches Team. Revd. Paul Davies (Church Growth Officer) attended our meeting in December 2020 and offered some thought provoking comments and ideas. The Flourishing Churches Team organised a very helpful event, via Zoom, called "Mission Action Plan Refresh", several members of the Parish Mission Planning Group were able to attend, and this further informed the revision of our Parish Mission Action Plan.

Also, the Parish Mission Statement has also been reviewed, it was felt that the previous one was rather wordy and not easy to memorise. So we set ourselves the task of revising the statement to make it shorter, but still appropriate and more readily memorable.

After much prayer, reflection and conversation the final Parish Mission Statement is now 'Love, pray, give, share', the written statement is supported with visual symbols for each aspect within it.

The Parish Events Diary for 2021 was devised in the autumn months and following on from that the Mission Planning Group looked carefully at all the events to ensure that all the objectives set in the Parish Mission Action Plan were covered. As with all planning, we have stressed the need to be flexible and at all times follow guidelines to make sure that as and when anything is able to happen it happens in a safe way.

All meetings have been grounded in prayer. We look forward to the challenges 2021 will bring!

If you would like to know any more, please speak to Revd Anne, Dianne Scott, Carol Mitchell, Emma Reid, Annette Considine or Ann Moore

PARISH NEWS

Hilary Stubbs (Editor)

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were only able to produce the Spring copy of the Parish News. This was out for distribution on 1 March and for the first time we found that some copies were incomplete. The printer has agreed that allowance will be made for these misprinted copies in the cost when we next produce a Parish News.

In 2020 we were able to add two new advertisers to the magazine- they were Penrose, the Estate Agent at Round Green and Print & Frame It based on Flowers Industrial Estate, Latimer Road. As they only had one edition instead of four in which to advertise, they, together with our other six advertisers will be given the opportunity to advertise free in three editions of the Parish News whenever it is published again.

Hopefully we will be able to resume our church services and activities later this year.

I am grateful to Alan and Maureen Fitzgerald, who help with the proof reading and setting out of the copy and also to Jude Chapman, who has so kindly designed the covers for the Parish News for a number of years.

I also appreciate any photographs or reports on the activities at the churches.

OUTREACH MAGAZINE

Sally Philp

Production of the Outreach magazine was halted in March due to the Coronavirus pandemic and, as yet, has not been resumed. It has meant, unfortunately, that there has been limited contact with those in the community and those outside the Parish who receive the magazine monthly.

The magazine is an important outlet to give those in the parish a view of what goes on at the Church and includes a monthly message from Reverend Anne.

GROUP REPORTS FOR ST ANNE'S CHURCH

CRAFT GROUP

Coordinator: Denise Dove

As the new year started little did, we all know what 2020 had in store. It has been impossible to meet as the craft group in 2020 after February, however a few of us met in late spring and

then in the summer and started gardening within the church grounds as the garden began to look unkempt. When it came to November, we then put up a display of poppies outside. Christmas came next and as we could not take part or support St Christopher's tree festival an idea came to the group that perhaps we could craft Christmas trees and display outside St Anne's. I was very pleased at the response we received. (All activity's taken were within gov guidelines). We now have had some good ideas put forward for St Christopher's tree festival this year which emerged from the need to be joyfully and keeping positive. Some of us have continued carrying on creating items for the community and NHS. The group have stayed in contact with each other throughout this past year giving support where needed or just to check in for a chat. We are ever hopeful ready excited and looking forward to this year to be able to meet again safely.

WEDNESDAY GUILD

President: Sandra Riley

Wednesday Guild has not met since December 2019. The Guild traditionally does not meet in January or February due to the likelihood of bad weather conditions. The first meeting for 2020 was therefore scheduled to be in March but due to Covid 19 this meeting, together with all meetings for the remainder of the year was cancelled.

Contact with Guild members has been maintained throughout the closure period by telephone calls and cards.

We look forward to the time when we can safely meet again and discuss the future of the Guild.

WIDE EYES CLUB

Mavis Knowles

This small group usually meets every six weeks or so to discuss a chosen topic, through stories, poems, music etc. Unfortunately due to the pandemic we were unable to meet in 2020.

OPEN CHURCH

Vicky McDowell

St Anne's is looking forward to welcoming visitors back to our Open Church soon. The stewards will be here to ensure everyone is safe and to make our visitors very welcome.

ST ANNE'S LIBRARY

Vicky McDowell

Looking forward to our church library being used once again as soon as restrictions allow. Please do spend a few minutes looking to see if there is a book you would like to borrow, we have plenty of choice.

POP-IN CLUB

Carol Mitchell

We started the year well and there were plans to make an Easter frieze for the main hall which we all enjoy doing. Plans obviously came to an abrupt halt.

We managed to have a meeting in Wardown Park in the summer so we could say goodbye to the children that were moving on to big school. Thanks to Anna Hutchinson for arranging this. It was a lovely warm afternoon and great to catch up with everyone social distancing of course.

I hope we can soon get back to meeting again at church.

We are looking for volunteers to help when we do restart.

It doesn't have to be a weekly thing just as and when you can.

Looking forward to when we can start again.

ST ANNE'S FLOWER MINISTRY

Sally Philp

Up until the end of March when Churches were closed for worship, Sandra and Madge continued to ensure there was always a display in Church. I wish to thank them for their continued help and support.

When St Anne's reopened in September the guidance stated that we could not have flower arrangements. Hopefully, this will change at some point in 2021 as the displays give pleasure to a lot of people.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Brenda Biley

Junior church unfortunately has not been able to meet from March 2020 due to the ongoing epidemic of covid 19.

It has been difficult for us not being able to interact with the children.

We have kept in touch with sending cards in the first lockdown, Christmas and again in the New Year and will do so again for Easter.

We look forward to seeing the children in the future.

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING GROUP

Sally Philp

There was a full year of events planned but due to the Coronavirus pandemic the majority had to be cancelled.

We did manage to go ahead with the Film Night in January, the February Half-Term Coffee Morning, and the Pancake Party, also in February. Thank you to Michelle and Pauline for cooking the pancakes and to those that helped at the other events.

Of all the events cancelled I was most disappointed that the Tea Party planned to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day could not go ahead. Revd Anne organised a Tea Party via Zoom.

I hope that we will be able to hold some form of events later in 2021 as it is important for us to get together socially and to engage with the wider community.

SCOUTS

Tanya Allen

2020 has been a year like no other, we were lucky to get our Santa Camp in during February having great fun at Haverings. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts spent the weekend playing with 'snow', having campfires and finishing off with a lovely Christmas Dinner. On the 23rd of March 2020 we had our last face to face meeting just before the first lockdown came in.

Since then we have carried on Scouting, meeting virtually each Monday, even through the summer holidays, and while it may not be what we have been used to, wow, have we had some fun. We have virtually met the birds of prey from Joe's Bows, had a visit from the Flying Army and escaped from Hogwarts. We have camped at Home and hiked to the moon, clocking up miles and miles with each young person walking in their garden or local area with their family. For VE Day, we had tea parties in our front garden and made over 30 packed up afternoon teas that we are safely dropped to friends and neighbours.

We have managed to present Chief Scout awards to all sections and invested our new Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – all from the safety of our own homes.

Leaders have dropped 3 lots of activity bags out to the whole group with badge work, craft and some fun activities in, we even managed to drop a goodbye gift off to our outgoing chairman as we couldn't let his hard work and support go unmarked.

At Christmas we joined in with St. Christopher's Christmas Tree festival and displayed some of our artwork on the fence outside the church.

A fun filled year, but we are now looking forward with much excitement to when we can meet again, busily planning camps and group hikes for later this year.

We would like to thank our fantastic executive committee for their support throughout a particularly challenging year, and of course we simply wouldn't work without all our young people and their families who have joined in the fun and continued to Scout in ways we had never imagined until we needed to stay safely in our own homes.

We are also very lucky to have a great team of leaders, both young and old who have spent hours learning new technology, collecting activity material and thinking up new ways to make sitting in front of a screen fun.

Maybe 2020 was not a year we would want to repeat but we have made some memories along the way and are proud to have such a great group of young people still Scouting with us, here's to more adventures in 2021!

GROUP REPORTS FOR ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING GROUP

Ann Moore

Little did we realise when we meet in 2019 to plan the Parish Diary of Events for 2020 how few of the events would be able to take place. Covid 19 has meant that since March 2020 we have not been able to meet together for our planned social events.

We were fortunate that we were able to have a Craft Fair in the Church on Saturday 1st February, this was well supported particularly by members of the local crafting community.

We were also able to hold the second Fair Trade Baking Competition on Saturday 29th February. This was again well supported, both in terms of those entering the competition and those of us who came along to judge the cakes by tasting them!!

Our regular Saturday coffee mornings in the church, were only able to take place in January and February.

We have planned a Parish Diary of Events for 2021, and we look forward to seeing you at any of the planned events that are able to take place safely as allowed by local and national guidelines.

CRAFT GROUP

Ann Moore

When St Christopher's Craft Group took the decision that they would reduce their meetings to once a month in 2020, little did they realise that from the middle of March they would not be able to meet together again that year as a result of the restrictions both locally and nationally due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Although we have not been able to meet together, we have continued to craft and kept in touch through phone calls. Throughout the year we made items for our bazaars which were not able to take place, but everything is stored safely and hygienically for when we are next able to have a bazaar or sale.

During the year we have also made various knitted items to decorate the Church fence. Sunflower bunting decorated the fence for Harvest, and poppies were again displayed for Remembrance Sunday.

Unfortunately, we were not able to have the Christmas Tree Festival in the Church, so we made Christmas tree bunting to decorate the fence. Thanks also to our Scout Group, Hart Hill Nursery and Round Green Pre-School for their contributions to the decorations on the fence. It looked really festive.

The group also supported the appeal by the University Chaplain for knitted angels; the angels were to be given to the students with an appropriate message. Together St Christopher's Craft Group donated 74 angels for this initiative.

COFFEE IN CHURCH

Ann Moore

We were able to meet for Coffee in Church during January and February but only on the first Friday in March. Little did we realise how the Covid 19 virus would affect our plans for 2020. After the middle of March various lockdowns and restrictions occurred nationally and locally which meant that we were unable to gather together for coffee.

The regular helpers and visitors have kept in touch with occasional phone calls, but we have all missed gathering together. We wait to see what happens in the future.

SUNDAY COFFEE IN CHURCH

Ann Moore

Along with everything else, our Sunday Coffee after the morning service had to stop in March 2020.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Ann Moore

This year has been a very different year, from January until March there were flower displays in the Church. Artificial flowers were used for these displays, as it has been agreed that these will be used on a regular basis for the altar displays at St Christopher's.

At the end of March all flower displays were removed from the building as indicated by various guidelines relating to the way forward with Covid 19 restrictions.

Robert Bates, who for several years has arranged the floral displays in St Christopher's moved away from the area. We thank Robert for all his work over the years and we also thank Gill Mardle for working alongside Robert in the latter part of 2019 and then undertaking to arrange the displays as permitted in 2020.

We do now have a good stock of artificial flowers and greenery in the flower cupboard, and displays are arranged in colours to suit the prevailing church season. Once guidelines change and we feel that it is safe and possible to have flowers in the church this will resume.

As previously, donations towards the cost of building up this resource would always be welcome.

Once we are able to resume having flowers in the church, anyone wishing to provide flowers in memory of a loved one or a special event is able to use the Remembrance Corner for this purpose.

As guidelines governing weddings in church change, any floral arrangements for weddings at St Christopher's will be discussed individually with those involved.

Parish of Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

Treasurer's Report 2020

Jackie Ives

I have pleasure in presenting the Parish Accounts for 2020, as laid out over the coming pages.

As agreed at last year's APCM the accounts are now reported as one whole Parish and not broken down by individual church and PCC.

The accounts have been audited by Ian Gorton and my thanks is extended to him. Ian has agreed to act as Auditor for the 2021 accounts.

As a Parish there was a loss of £6,250 during what has been a very difficult year. This excludes any restricted income.

The Parish Share for 2021 was £51,323 and of that the Parish paid £31,323. The Parish Share liability is currently recorded at £34,447 and this figure is recorded as a note to the accounts but is **not** included in any figures as they are operated on a cash basis.

Total income for the year was down by £26,543 when compared to 2019. The major variances being seen in Fundraising, Church Hall and Church hire income, this is a direct result of COVID and lock down. It is to be noted that planned giving was less than the 2019 total by only £1,507.

Expenditure for the year was £19,943 less than that recorded in 2019, again due mainly to a decrease in the running costs of the halls including which includes the associated cleaning costs.

A decision was made in December to use some of the reserves the Parish holds to make another contribution to the Parish Share (£7,323). The Parish still adheres to its Reserves Policy of holding reserves equivalent to at least 3 months running costs.

This is my final year as Treasurer to the Parish as I am standing down after 13 years as Treasurer to St Christopher's Church in the first instance and then Parish Treasurer.

A huge debt of thanks goes to the Church Wardens, Ann Moore and Michelle Reeves. Thanks also to Jason Reid for all his support and Robert Bates.

I hope the new Treasurer enjoys this role as much as I have.

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Jackie Ives

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Anne's with St Christopher's, Luton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages to is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- i. 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 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

/s/ Gorton

Date:

20/2/2021

Name:

IAN GORTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or
body:

FCMA - Fellow of the Chartered Institute of
Management Accountants

Address:

2 Cressmans Walk, Lilley Bottom Road

Whitwell Hitchin Herts SG4 8AW

PARISH OF LUTON, ST ANNE WITH ST CHRISTOPHER - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**GENERAL FUND - INCOME**

2019		2020	
£	£	£	£
Balances Brought Forward At 1 January 2020			
73,361.00	Bank - General Fund	73,361.00	
0.00			
	73,361.00		73,361.00
34,333.18	Stewardship and Pledges	32,825.92	
666.90	Gift Aided Envelopes	507.28	
4,569.88	Donations and Bequests	762.05	
	Specific Collections	614.85	
9,171.66	Income Tax Refund	8,822.45	
	Collections:		
3,634.68	Loose	650.39	
963.69	Weddings	35.00	
	4,598.37		685.39
5,260.00	Wedding and Funeral Fees	3,236.52	
874.46	Refreshments	168.38	
22,048.77	Hall Rental	17,414.43	
0.00	Hall Cleaning	0.00	
9,552.63	Church Rental	4,525.75	
4,900.79	Fundraising Events	590.47	
84.30	Outreach Magazine	0.00	
	Magazine Advertising Revenue	500.00	
	Bookstall, & Bible Reading Notes	0.00	
1,385.60	Sundry Income	250.01	
97,446.54	Total Income for the Year	70,903.50	
170,807.54		144,264.50	

PARISH OF LUTON, ST ANNE WITH ST CHRISTOPHER - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020GENERAL FUND - EXPENDITURE

2019		2020	
£	£	£	£
3,139.88	Church:	Light and Heat	2,829.01
1,530.92		Insurance	1,482.31
3,998.10		Repairs and Renewals	4,725.51
		Organ Repairs	0.00
	8,668.90		9,036.84
	1,164.88	Service Requirements	987.20
	0.00	Honoraria: Organists	0.00
	2,032.57	Maintenance Grounds	1,355.90
	44,932.00	Parish Share Scheme	31,323.00
	266.62	Youth Group and Junior Church	127.16
	5,496.54	Charitable Donations	4,198.07
	5,815.43	Administration, Stationery and Stamps	1,031.42
		Internet/ Telephone	1,306.90
		Wages	5,119.20
		Photocopier/Printer	1,218.12
	4,181.93	Clergy Expenses	2,546.43
		Envelopes/ Legal/ Inscriptions	1,690.99
		Bible Reading Notes	(13.78)
		Educational Books	122.00
		Parish Magazine	293.00
		Outreach Magazine	276.60
7,346.72	Hall:	Cleaning	1,758.12
4,109.59		Repairs and Renewals	2,612.39
6,645.47		Light, Heat and Water	5,377.95
400.00		Rent Deposit Refunds	500.00
2,648.73		Insurance	2,562.78
	21,150.51		12,811.24
		Fundraising/ Socials	
		Refreshments/ Church Café etc	26.02
	621.76	Sundry Expenses	1,225.25
		Publicity	84.85
	2,769.00	Fees	2,388.00
	97,098.14	Total Expenditure for the Year	77,154.40

Balances Carried Forward At 31 December 2020				Sheet 3
0.00		Cash	0.00	
<u>73,361.00</u>		Bank - General Fund	<u>67,110.10</u>	
	73,361.00			67,110.10
	<u>170,459.14</u>			<u>144,264.50</u>
	348.40			(6,250.90)

NOTE: The Parish is Carrying a liability of £34,447 as at Dec 2020 for underpaid Parish Share
The Diocese has confirmed it will not request this balance and could be written off if requested
via the Deanery (after 3 years)
This Liability is NOT reflected in the above figures or closing balances

PARISH OF LUTON, ST ANNE WITH ST CHRISTOPHER - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

2019		2020
£		£
1,088.18	Church Army	0.00
	Keech Hospice Care	1,739.03
1,145.88	Mission to Seafarers	0.00
	USPG	889.52
144.75	The Bishop's Harvest	110.00
	Church Urban Fund	889.52
56.00	Azalea	50.00
	Luton Food bank	210.00
343.87	Children's Society	90.00
203.50	Alzheimer's Society	0.00
1,088.18	Noah Enterprise	0.00
1,088.18	Level Trust	0.00
310.00	Hands of Mercy	220.00
28.00	Beds & Herts Historic Church Trust	40.00
<u>5,496.54</u>	Total	<u>4,198.07</u>

PARISH OF LUTON, ST ANNE WITH ST CHRISTOPHER - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

2019 £		2020 £
	<u>Building Projects Fund St Anne</u>	
41,248.72	Balance Brought Forward	33,299.56
2,484.70	Receipts	1,297.47
1,181.51	Income Tax Refund	
0.00	From General Fund	
(11,595.37)	Payments	1,770.00
<u>33,299.56</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>32,827.03</u>
33,299.56	Made up as:	30.00
0.00	Bank HSBC	
<u>33,299.56</u>	Bank Nat West	<u>32,797.03</u>
		<u>32,827.03</u>
	<u>Building Projects Fund St Christopher</u>	
	Balance Brought Forward	30,556.41
	Kitchen & Toilet Fund	400.00
	Receipts	27.28
	Payments	
	Balance Carried Forward	<u>30,983.69</u>
	Made up as:	30,983.69
	Bank Nat West	
	Of which £24,710.77 Toilet & kitchen Fund	<u>30,983.69</u>
	<u>Big Idea's Project</u>	
	Balance Brought Forward	0.00
	Receipts	250.00
	Payments	163.04
	Balance Carried Forward	<u>86.96</u>
	Made up as:	86.96
	Bank Nat West	

PARISH OF LUTON, ST ANNE WITH ST CHRISTOPHER - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

FUNDS HELD BY ORGANISATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHURCH

	<u>JUNIOR CHURCH</u>	
21.59	Balance Brought Forward	16.09
0.00	Receipts	0.00
(5.50)	Payments	0.00
<u>16.09</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>16.09</u>
	<u>FLOWER MINISTRY</u>	
58.81	Balance Brought Forward	73.60
79.50	Receipts	50.00
(64.71)	Payments	(5.00)
<u>73.60</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>118.60</u>
	<u>POP IN CLUB</u>	
226.74	Balance Brought Forward	367.99
447.84	Receipts	0.00
(308.59)	Payments	0.00
<u>367.99</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>367.99</u>
	<u>WEDNESDAY GUILD</u>	
427.88	Balance Brought Forward	488.28
200.00	Receipts	
(139.60)	Payments	
<u>488.28</u>	Balance Carried Forward	

Thank you

to the people of the Parish of

Luton, St Anne with St Christopher

for sharing and supporting the cost of ministry
in the Diocese in an exceptional year.

The amount of Parish Share paid in 2020 was:

£31,323



+ Alan

Bishop of St Albans



Susan Pope

Diocesan Secretary

DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS
Living God's Love

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

