

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (ALSO KNOWN AS TRUSTEES) OF THE
PARISH OF HEDGE END, ST LUKE
Charity Registration No: 1142990

St Luke's Church - Hedge End
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Incorporating the
Annual Meeting of the Parishioners
Sunday 14 May 2023



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rev Ben Jones' (Vicar) Introductory Remarks

2022 was a really fantastic year at St. Luke's. There is so much to celebrate and I'm sure I'm going to forget to mention something important!

In some ways it feels like I've been here in Hedge End for ages, but at the start of 2022 I had only been vicar for 4 months. We were still in the early stages of laying solid foundations – building what I called in last year's annual report our 'springboard for growth'.

Therefore, much of the early part of the year involved bedding in our new leadership structures (focusing on accountability, team-building and 'sharing the load'), growing teams (such as the worship group, tech team, children's church leaders etc) and consolidating and building upon the excellent financial work that Louise and her team had been doing over the previous year or two.

As the year went on, the church grew steadily, and it was particularly exciting to see the growth of children's church. Huge thanks to our wonderful leaders and helpers.

Youth Café continued to thrive, and we began to put plans in place for appointing a Youth Ministry Co-ordinator, which we hope to enact very soon.

We also launched a ministry to Snowdrop care home, which has blossomed into monthly services and additional drop-in and chat sessions. It's such a beautiful thing! Receiving the A Rocha Eco Church silver award provided a moment of pride in what we've been able to achieve as a church and also a reminder of how much more we want to do as we encourage climate care in our congregation and beyond.

All of this (and so much more) was and is only possible because of the wonderful people who give so much time, energy, skill and dedication to the ministry of the church. Thank you to everyone who has played a part – your contribution is valued and appreciated.

There are four people in particular whom I'd like to mention. The first is Liz Williams, who has been part of St. Luke's for several years and who was ordained deacon in 2021. Liz served as curate here for 18 months and has now moved on to the next phase of her ministry, focusing on her police chaplaincy work whilst continuing her training in a different church context at St. James', West End. We are very grateful to Liz for all she gave St. Luke's over the years and wish her all the best as she continues her ministry journey.

It has also been a joy to welcome Clive Beard to the team. Clive was ordained deacon in July and has thrown himself into life here with vim, vigour and a perpetual smile on his face! Clive brings with him a wealth of experience, but also a willingness to learn and

adapt. I am looking forward to working and sharing ministry together with him over the next couple of years.

The third person I would specifically like to mention is David Snuggs, who sadly passed away at the end of last year. He is greatly missed, but I know that all of us who experienced his ministry here at St. Luke's will treasure the memory of his dynamism, humility and passion for the Gospel.

Finally, I want to express my huge thanks to Karen Cotton, who, working alongside first Jacob and then Michael, has been churchwarden for the past three years and will now be having a well-earned break! I couldn't ask for a better warden team, and Karen has fulfilled the role with dedication, humility and Godliness. I cannot praise her highly enough and am so grateful for all she has given.

Rev Ben Jones

1.2 Administrative Information

This Annual Report was approved by PCC (Trustees) on 20 March 2023. The Parish of Hedge End, St Luke, is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England and is in the Eastleigh Deanery.

Bank: Co-operative Bank, Kings Valley, Yew Street, Stockport.
Independent Auditor: Russell Lee

1.3 Income and Reserves

St Luke's has the Charity Registration Number 1142990. As anticipated in the last annual report, income has now returned to a level that requires Charity Commission Registration.

It is the policy of this Church to hold in reserve £10,000. This figure is deemed to be appropriate considering (a) the size of St Luke's church and (b) the considerations stipulated by the Charity Commission which include: forecasting for levels of income and expenditure in the current and future years; analysis of future needs, opportunities, commitments and risks; and an assessment on the likelihood of a shortfall arising.

1.4 Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to PCC. Guidelines on the role and responsibilities of PCC and Deanery Synod Representatives are available from the Vicar and Churchwardens.

1.5 Membership of PCC (also known as Trustees)

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex-officio: (where these members have held other roles, during 2020, these are documented below for information)

The Revd Ben Jones	Vicar
Revd Clive Beard	Curate (since July 2022)
Karen Cotton	Churchwarden
Michael Crutchley (Lay Vice Chair)	Churchwarden
Martin Phillips	Licensed Lay Minister
The Revd Liz Williams	Curate

Elected Members of PCC:

Alastair Dobson
 Chris Duff, Deanery Synod Representative
 Janet Compton
 Jenny Little
 Joyce Lynas (until October 2022)
 Sandra Plaw
 Roger Spink

Co-opted Members of PCC: None

Jeanette Harrison, Parish Administrator, has served as Secretary to PCC.

Notes

- Those noted as ex-officio are members by virtue of their position in the Church including all licensed clergy in the parish, LLM's, Churchwardens and Lay Deanery Synod Representatives.
- Co-opted – PCC can co-opt people. Co-opted members have the same voting rights as elected and ex-officio members.

1.6 PCC's Objectives and Activities

St Luke's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC operates through several sub-committees that meet in between PCC meetings. These sub-committees are:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Ministry Leadership Team (MLT)
- Children & Youth
- Buildings
- Eco Church
- Finance

The following Working Groups have been established to effect specific tasks:

- Pastoral
- Home Group Leaders
- Socials
- Communications and Publicity

2. Review of the Year 2022

2.1 Reports

(a) Curate's Report

It is hard to believe that I began the year as a civil servant and ended it as an ordained minister!

I was ordained as a deacon in Winchester Cathedral in July 2022 and started my full-time ministry at St Luke's alongside Ben and Liz. Since starting here, I have been humbled by the welcome and generosity of both of them and also the people of St Luke's to me and my family. I have been able to immerse myself in all aspects of the breadth of ministry that St Luke's is involved in, including leading my first baptism in the year – a real privilege. There have been some exciting highlights through the year, like when nearly all the key people for a Sunday service were struck down with Covid and I had to lead a very slimmed down service at very short notice, all good learning!

I love the activities I have been able to be involved in, from being the frontman for the amazing Open The Book team, wielding a tea towel at Youth Café and seeing the love that the team has for the 180 or so young people that come each week, the gentle pastoral care and warmth of the Encounter and Snowdrop teams, visiting around the parish and the many other aspects of St Luke's life that I have been able to join in with occasionally. I have also been able, as part of my curacy, to help lead some of the creation care work across the Diocese.

I have really enjoyed being able to play my part in the ministry of this church to date, and excited as we look forward. Ben has been, and continues to be, great to work alongside and to learn from. I am also looking forward to the (God-willing) appointment of a Youth Ministry Co-ordinator to expand our opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with the youth of Hedge End and to seeing God's kingdom grow in this place. I am also excited as we plan the running of our first Alpha course for a long while.

Most of all I am looking forward to continuing to play my part alongside all of those ministering and volunteering at St Luke's, as we listen to and heed the Holy Spirit's guiding and direction for the coming year.

Rev'd Clive Beard

(b) Ministry Leadership Team (MLT)

The MLT has oversight of the spiritual life and worship services of St Luke's. It is formed from all licensed ministers, those seeking out a vocation into authorised ministry and any others appointed by the Vicar to lead or preach. During this year, the MLT has consisted of:

Rev'd Ben Jones
Rev'd Liz Williams
Rev'd Clive Beard (from July 2022)
Martin Phillips
Michael Crutchley
Anca Antoci

Rev'd David Snuggs was also an invaluable member of the team for much of the year and we miss him, his wisdom and his ministry very much indeed.

The MLT met three times during the year and was mainly focused on planning and reviewing Sunday services, sermon series and special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. One of the meetings was an extended MLT, which also included all worship leaders.

Huge thanks go to all the members of the team, who give so much of their time, energy and skills in preparing for services and in leading and preaching.

All-in Planning Team: This group met once per month (except August) to plan for the upcoming all-in service. The team consisted of Anca Antoci, Rev'd, Liz Williams, Rev'd Ben Jones, Nadja Oliveira (until June) and Rev'd Clive Beard (from July). The all-in services have proved a great success, with lots of creativity, imagination and fun for all ages.

Worship Team: This team is led by Gary and Kerry Holcombe and saw considerable growth over the year, with several new musicians joining, including some who have made the step up from youth band. This is very exciting! We have also seen new additions to our Audio-Visual Team and are so grateful to all who help facilitate worship, whether upfront or behind the scenes.

Rev'd Ben Jones

(c) Pastoral

This year has seen our pastoral ministry develop so that we now have prayer@stlukeshedgeland.co.uk for prayer requests which are not confidential but are then prayed for by a large number of people. Thank you to everyone on the prayer tree for your faithful prayers! We also have the pastoral team on care@stlukeshedgeland.co.uk who also pray, offer practical support, or a listening ear which is confidential to the pastoral team. The pastoral care of church members and others is also done by the small groups, and all the other ministries that we have in St Luke's. I would like to thank everyone who has taken time to

chat, get alongside, WhatsApp and offer support by cooking, giving lifts and befriending another person. A real team effort!

Sue Phillips

(d) Mission and Outreach

(i) **Christian Aid:** Christian Aid works in around 30 countries to transform the lives of those in poverty, working with people of all faiths and none wherever the need is greatest. At St Luke's, we have been continuing our support for Christian Aid in 2022, through both fundraising and campaigning, helping to fight poverty worldwide to give everyone the chance to thrive. In April, St Luke's chose Christian Aid as one of its chosen charities and started regular giving of £112.50 per month to Christian Aid.

For Christian Aid week in May, we welcomed Laura from Christian Aid to speak at our Sunday service. She spoke about women in rural Zimbabwe, and drought suffered there, causing hunger through failed crops and impacts of worldwide conflicts. Christian Aid is helping families grow drought resistant crops. £379.20 was raised. We also asked people to sign the Loss & Damage petition and an MP briefing guide was sent to the local MP.

We responded with prayer and a collection to 2 emergency appeals in our role as an emergency church:

- DEC Ukraine Crisis Appeal - March 2022 - £564 raised.
- East Africa Hunger Crisis - October 2022 - £320 raised.

On 12 November, members of St Luke's took to the streets of Southampton to stand up for those suffering from the effects of the climate crisis, as part of a Climate Justice Coalition march, waving our Christian Aid placards for Loss and Damage.

On 22 November St Luke's hosted a Christian Aid Talking Climate Justice event. It was a very successful evening, with 36 people coming from St Luke's and a range of different nearby churches. There was a discussion of the links between racial injustice and climate justice, the heavy impacts of the climate crisis on our sisters and brothers across the globe and in this country, and how action on the climate crisis is an integral part of the mission of the church. The event was not just about discussion but also a call to action, finishing with an exploration about how we, as individuals and the church, can tackle poverty and speak up for climate justice.

In December, we supported the Christmas Appeal to help hungry families in Malawi and raised £455.74 in total, which included £134 from the sale of Christmas cakes.

Open the Book: Open the Book is such fun! In 2022 we resumed our pattern of monthly visits to assembly in both schools, Berrywood and Wellstead, and it is obvious that these assemblies are a highlight for both children and staff, as well as for our team.

(iv)

Sue Phillips

brilliant! I also keep in contact with people who miss Encounter. I joined us in the autumn and is with us every week now. The team are have all been there when needed. I would also like to thank Heather who settle in. I would like to thank other helpers, Iain, Karen and Mark who Stacey for her help and is amazing at welcoming new people who quickly to bake a cake every week which is amazing, thank you Sonia! I also thank well received and found to be helpful. Over this year Sonia has continued issues that can be done without the need to see a doctor. She has been linked to St Luke's surgery and can support and signpost people with a prescriber who comes to the first Wednesday of the month tea. She is fellowship, making new friends. During the autumn we welcomed a social join us which is a blessing and a real joy as they become part of the come are not St Luke's members. We have also welcomed new people to people come although not necessarily every week; many of those who china cups and saucers. Over the year we have continued to have regular flowers with waitress service to the table serving the drinks in beautiful meets in the church, where we have the little tables with tablecloths and for donations, and we are blessed that our cakes are donated. Encounter share tea, coffee, and beautiful cakes! We do not charge but have a bowl Wednesday afternoon for anyone to gather between 2 pm and 4 pm to **Encounter Afternoon Tea:** Encounter Afternoon Tea takes place on a

(iii)

Rosie Adams

St James Church, West End in August. Churches Together Children's Holiday Club was successfully held in some delivery of booklets introducing the churches in the area. A second Salvation Army. Monthly prayer for the new homes has continued with service during the week of Christian unity in January, hosted by the different churches in our area. In 2022 we were able to hold a united other in prayer. It is always encouraging to hear how God is working in about what other churches in the area are doing and to support each meet bi-monthly, mostly on Zoom. The aim is to provide a forum to learn Churches Together for Hedge End, West End and Botley continued to **Hedge End, West End and Botley Churches Together (HEWB):**

(iii)

Sian Andrews, St Luke's Christian Aid Representative

Christian Aid in addition to this. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the total raised by St Luke's for 2022 added up to £2731.44, with some gift aid claimed by

(v)

Unfortunately, two of our number have recently had to withdraw, which now leaves us with a team of nine. Each member is very committed and makes a great contribution. During the past year amazing new artistic, creative and practical talents have come to light and we have managed to produce some visual aids and props which are definitely worthy of our dear late friend Anne Collyer, whose death two years ago left such a gaping hole in the team.

Over the years we have developed a very warm relationship with both schools, and they evidently appreciate all the effort we put into preparing the stories which we are acting out, so we feel really welcome when we visit. They are also aware that we are busy people and do their best to be accommodating regarding dates and times, so arrangements behind the scenes generally run smoothly.

We seek to involve a number of children in the drama itself and usually invite the whole school to participate with noises or actions throughout the story, so the children are always very engaged and excited.

We count it a privilege in these days to be able to present stories from the Bible to primary school children, many of whom would not otherwise encounter them. We love what we do and derive a great sense of satisfaction from regularly being invited to share something of God with so many children in such an enjoyable way. The children remember the stories too and often refer to Open the Book when we meet them elsewhere in later years, particularly at Youth Café for example.

It is also a great bonus to have Ben, Clive or Liz available to introduce and conclude the stories. Although we are not allowed to proselytise, this makes a clear statement that we do Open the Book on behalf of St. Luke's Church and because we are Christians.

Diana Snuggs

Snowdrop Care Home: During 2022 we have continued to grow our links with Snowdrop, providing a Communion service once a month and more recently we have been visiting for a coffee and chat time with the residents; both are well received and attended. We also visit some residents in their rooms for a chat. Over the year we have developed a service book which is easy to use with large print for reading. We have been working alongside Zoe and Gemma at the care home who are both very encouraging and supportive. This year we have welcomed Anne and Sandra to the team with Ben and Clive visiting to do communion when Liz has been away. Sadly, David is no longer with us. Many thanks to the team including Liz and Brenda who have been around for the whole year.

Sue Phillips

(vi)

Youth Café: Youth Café meets every Thursday during the school term from 3 pm - 4 pm in the main worship area of the church. We have a wonderful team of 14 volunteers who help each week. We have about 180 youngsters (quite often over 200) mainly from Wildern School, but we do have about 10 children who now come from Deer Park School. The children from the two schools are now beginning to integrate and chat together. With the increases in food prices, we are spending about £16 more per week than this time last year but we were blessed with a large generous gift which will keep us afloat at least until the summer. We are constantly blessed by the children who come to the Youth Café. A few weeks ago, a group of girls at a table were holding hands with eyes closed and heads bowed. I went up to them to see if they were ok and they said they felt that as they were in a church, they should say a prayer to thank God for their food so that is what they were doing! Many of the children tell us about the stories they remember from 'Open the Book' coming to their primary school! Open The Book has obviously had a great impact on many of the children. Our prayer and desire is that we are a light to these children and that seeds of faith will be sown in their lives. Please pray for us regularly. Thanks.

Rose Spink and all the Youth Café team.

(vii)

Minnows Playgroup: Minnows playgroup meets Fridays 10 am to 11.30 am for parents, carers and under 5's for free play, and a snack of cheese, fruit, bread, water with coffee/tea for the adults; we also have left over Encounter cake most weeks. We finish with a time of singing where we have introduced a Christian goodbye song. We make a small charge of £1 per family which covers the cost of refreshments and a Christmas present. We have had a good number attend each week and with great joy have been building good relationships. We held a Christmas party with a visit from Santa who gave every child a book for a present. We have had such encouraging feedback from those who come. The team are Rosie, Roger and Sandy who do most of the kitchen duty; they also put out toys with Karen, Emma and me and chat with everyone during the sessions. Many thanks to the team for their help and support.

Sue Phillips

(viii)

Book Club: The book club continues to meet monthly and discuss books chosen from sets provided by Hampshire libraries. Talking about the book often leads onto other issues, particularly those relating to women, and we enjoy a good chat with tea and cakes provided by Dorothy Hare. We try to have a wide selection of books. Occasionally we all agree whether we like or dislike it, but generally there are differences of opinion which leads to interesting discussions. We have read thrillers, murders, spy stories, a time hopping romance and a story expounding three versions of 'what might have been' with very different conclusions.

Rosie Adams

(ix)

St Luke's Walkers: 21 walks were organised during this period.

Unfortunately, the day long summer walk (Old Winchester Hill) was cancelled due to the atmospheric conditions in place during August (approximately high 30's degrees centigrade) in which it could have been difficult and unsafe to walk. All the walks were well attended with a regular number of people coming. The average number of walkers was in the region of eight to ten; on some occasions we had up to 16. We were regularly joined by two dogs. This year we have had several newcomers join us. We have tried to restrict the distance travelled and encourage more car sharing to reduce the amount of fuel being consumed. We are preparing for the coming year and looking for new walks in the local area.

Chris Duff and Roger Cooper

(x)

Israeli Dancing: When in May 2022 we decided to change the evening

we meet from the last Saturday to the last Thursday in the month, the group gained an immediate impetus, numbers grew, and people found they were able to attend more consistently. Currently we have about a dozen regular members, which is a comfortable number for the church worship area, but we could still accommodate a few more. An added advantage of our meeting on a Thursday is that at the end, when we are tired, we do not need to set out all the chairs for worship the next morning! The dances vary from month to month, and we try to keep enhancing our repertoire with new ones. Now that more people are attending more regularly, we have a better chance of all learning the newer dances at the same time, but we still have our old favourites which we enjoy simply because they are familiar. One of the nicest things about Israeli Dancing is that it is a very ecumenical gathering, with people coming from a number of other churches in the wider area and some from no church at all. It is also an activity which can be enjoyed on several different levels: for some of us it is a great means of exercise, for others an evening of fun and fellowship, for others it is an expression of worship and for yet others a way of connecting with the Jewish roots of our faith. From time-to-time people may choose to sit out a dance during the evening, but the Israeli folk music is beautiful and the dances are lovely to watch, so they can simply be enjoyed by spectators too. Israeli Dancing is good for the body, the brain, the mind and the heart – I wholeheartedly recommend it!

Diana Snuggs

(xi)

Women's Meetings: These did not take place for most of the year until a meeting in December to hear about Catherine Spiers' trip to Nepal. We feel there is a need for Women's Meetings, and it is hoped they will take place more regularly in 2023.

Rosie Adams

(i) Children's Church groups for 0-11 year olds

This report is for the year 2022 and is about groups offered on a Sunday morning for children aged 0-11 years old, excluding the first Sunday of each month, when there is the All-in service.

Following our appeal for more volunteers in 2021, we started the year with seven volunteers, which meant being able to offer a group every Sunday, apart from the All-in service, for children spanning the age of 0-11. This is a huge age group, but the children and volunteers embraced and adapted the activities to be inclusive for all attending.

The theme for the spring and most of the summer term was Jesus' friends, taken from the New Testament. PCC granted permission for Children's Church to use the banister of the church's entrance stairs to display their work on this theme and a vine was created to link with us all being Jesus' friends and the fact that 'he is the vine' and we are his friends and the branches. The resources for this term were created by Nicki and Juliette, with a bible story and activities being provided. Volunteers were able to add to the resources or change them. During Mothering Sunday, the children made the posies for the ladies of the church, and these were handed out in the service. Apologies for lack of information on the average number of children attending both the spring and summer terms. The registers were not available with this information at the time of writing this report.

During the summer term the volunteer numbers increased to nine. Despite this increase, the number of volunteers were not sufficient to offer more groups, as two adults are needed for each group and would still stretch the volunteers too much.

During the autumn term the volunteer numbers reduced back to seven. The topic for this term was God's promises. Stars were added to the vine display to eventually link with the nativity and God's ultimate promise of Jesus. The stories were mostly from the Old Testament, which included the creation, Noah, Isaac, Moses, Joshua, David before going into the New Testament for Mary and Joseph. These resources were taken from the Scripture Union Resources already owned by the church. As alluded to, the Nativity took place on 11 December. With Junction 7 children and Children's Church leading, providing the music and performing the Nativity Story through a book 'Stan the Man' by local writer Jenny Whitthard. Jenny kindly gave the church written permission to perform her version of the Christmas Story. The term and year ended with a small party on 18 December. For this term the mean average number of children attending the 12 weeks that Children's church ran was an increase of 100% from last year.

Consent forms are being completed when new children attend the group. These are kept in the register which is locked in a box in the office.

Birthday cards: Jeanette sent out hand-made cards to the church's children on their birthday during the year. Consent for this is included on the consent forms. This is a lovely gift, which is appreciated by the children receiving them.

Resources: As mentioned, resources this year were written by Juliette and Nicki, plus taken from Scripture Union Resources. 'Stan the Man' written by Jenny Whitthard, was used for the Nativity this year. Jenny kindly gave permission for the church to use her book in our performance.

Displays: Children's Church has used the stair banister at the church entrance to display children's work this year and created a canvas for future work. It is hoped to continue using the vine, to add new pieces of work and themes in the coming year. This is also visible to the community from outside and showcases the work and the importance of our children's work at St Luke's. The display boards in room 3, upstairs, are still used to display church events and important themes and is updated by Juliette. Although this room is not currently used by Children's Church, the display is visible for those hiring the room.

Weekly Email: Jeanette kindly adds to the weekly news email, the bible passage and a glimpse of what the session will consist of for everyone's information prior to the Sunday group.

Looking forward

- There was an increase in the number of children attending Children's Church during the autumn term, with new families joining the church community.
- We will continue to review the large age range (1-11 years old) currently in our one group. Resources for all ages are being provided so all are included and have appropriate activities around the bible story.
- Junction 7 members have voiced wanting to help in Children's Church. To explore this further and review their input and the support they offer with the age range in the group.
- Ongoing displays to increase the awareness of the children's work, plus occasional sharing in the service of themes being taught, so the church community are aware.

I would like to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers who continue to give their time and enthusiasm to the children's work through Children's Church. Thank you.

(iii) Youth Groups – Junction 7

Junction 7 has continued to grow over the last year. We have been meeting every other week and we have a solid core of youngsters coming regularly; usually 10 to 12 of them. In September we had no new youth come up from Children's Church and we allowed the older year of youth to continue with us. This has meant that the group has grown well together and there is a very good atmosphere, but we cannot do this every year.

We have had some good social events; a visit to Ninja Warrior in the spring, and we finished the summer term with a visit to the QE Activity Centre where we played non-stop cricket and cooked sausages and marshmallows over a firepit. In the autumn we took a visit to a bowling alley and finished off the year with a Christmas Dinner in the church.

For teaching we ran a Youth Alpha Course through the autumn term which was very good and explained the Christian faith clearly. I think it was beneficial to all who came and generated some good discussions, and as we moved into 2023, we have commenced a series learning about Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount.

The Junction 7 room has been decorated and with some calm lighting, sofas and beanbags it is a comfortable place for us to meet. Cakes have kindly been baked for us by someone in the church each week and it is a privilege to be able to be involved in this group as they move along their spiritual journey.

Our hope for the future is that we can see the older youth move on in their journey, strong in their faith to live a spiritual life of their own wherever God may lead them. And we want to see the younger ones in Children's Church keen to come and join us as they grow older. Praise God for all of them!

Roger Spink

(f) Buildings Sub-Committee

We have had some new people on the team to assist with the weekly clean and tidy and any minor repairs and replacements around the building. Michael Crutchley has taken over the liaison with the co-ordination of the roof works and preparatory works are due to start shortly. A contractor has been appointed, the Architect has signed off the quote and an interim faculty has been approved by the Diocese for initial works. Initial works planned for early 2023.

*On behalf of the Buildings Team
Chris Duff*

Eco Church was as active as ever during 2022, continuing to raise awareness of the climate crisis and actions we can all take to tackle the challenge at a local, national and international level. We are thrilled to have celebrated the achievement of our Silver Eco Church award.

A total of four Eco church meetings took place during the year, in which we discussed and shared eco-related ideas and measured our progress at St Luke's using the A Rocha questionnaire, as well as planning events.

In March, we opened the church for 'Earth Hour' to switch off and sit by candlelight, chatting and praying about all things Eco.

We promoted 'No Mow May' by sharing details on social media to encourage the congregation to leave their lawns wild, and we left some portions of the churchyard grass to grow throughout May. The Eco church team led a service in May where we celebrated the achievement of the Silver Award. A short video was produced showing what we've all achieved together as a church, Ben spoke to us, and the congregation shared what Eco church has meant to them. We ended the service by celebrating the Silver Award achievement with a delicious plant-based cake.

St Luke's also hosted a service for Christian Aid week in May (see Christian Aid report) where we heard about drought and hunger made worse by climate change and asked people to sign the Christian Aid Loss and Damage petition.

Heating was identified as a priority in the Church of England's *RouteMap to Net Zero by 2030* as it accounts for such a high proportion of the energy usage (and, in turn, emissions) from churches. The Eco Church group at St Luke's has responded to this by producing a heat decarbonisation plan that has been presented to the PCC. It contains context as to the importance of transitioning to non-fossil fuel heating systems, specifications of the current system in use, and an assessment of the viable options going forward. It concludes that an air source heat pump is the optimal choice, but this is likely to require significant upfront capital. In the short term, the heat decarbonisation plan also recommends the installation of smart heating controls to improve the efficiency of the church's heating system to save money and carbon emissions. The Eco Church is actively investigating the installation of smart controls with the intention to do so in 2023.

We also gave a recommendation to the buildings committee that when the oven is replaced it should be electric (to enable compliance with the decarbonisation plan). In past years, the Eco Church group have collected a substantial number of 'Eco Bricks' created from non-recyclable plastics cut up and forced into plastic bottles. Plastic that would otherwise be destined for landfill is instead able to be formed into something else. This year, it was decided that the Eco Bricks would be used to create a raised plant bed. A wooden frame has been constructed using

repurposed wood and black plastic has been re-used to provide a waterproof lining. A suitable site has been identified in the church land and it is hoped the plant bed will be completed in 2023.

Church supply of toilet roll has been changed to Naked Sprout as it is thought to be the most sustainable option. More eco-friendly sanitary disposal bags have been put in the ladies' loos and reusable sanitary pads (kindly sewed by Karen) have been offered free of charge for girls/ladies using the church.

The Eco church team organised a litter pick from the church in October after a Sunday service; a good number of people took part, collecting lots of bags of rubbish, then we reconvened at church afterwards to share cake.

During COP 27 in November, a number of us from St Luke's marched in Southampton with Christian Aid placards, together with many others at the Climate Justice march to highlight that urgent action is needed on the climate and calling for climate loss and damage to be paid.

Later in November, St Luke's hosted a Christian Aid Talking Climate Justice event. It was a very successful evening, with 36 people coming from St Luke's and a range of different nearby churches. There was a discussion of the links between racial injustice and climate justice, the heavy impacts of the climate crisis on our sisters and brothers across the globe and in this country, and how action on the climate crisis is an integral part of the mission of the church. The event was not just about discussion but also a call to action, finishing with an exploration about how we, as individuals and the church, can tackle poverty and speak up for climate justice.

Throughout the year, we continued to promote the LOAF principles for food (Local, Organic, Animal-Friendly, Fairtrade) to the church catering team to consider whenever possible.

In terms of publicity, as well as sharing updates and tips on our website and Facebook pages, A Rocha featured the Eco Church poem <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/encouragement-at-the-start-of-2022-lots-of-small-things-poem-by-st-lukes-hedge-end/> and the Diocese of Winchester featured St Luke's attendance at the Global Day of Action march in the weekly newsletter. We look forward to continuing to put our faith into action and show our love for our local and global neighbours through care for God's creation.

(h) Finance Sub-Committee

Finance Sub-Committee Members: Ben Jones, Clive Beard, Martin Phillips, Chris Duff, Louise Brown (Treasurer)

The committee met about every two months before the PCC meeting to review the accounts and agree actions that needed to be taken to the PCC. Louise, as

Church Treasurer, presented the accounts for review of income and expenditure, demonstrating due diligence as Stewards and Trustees of the Churches' finances.

We produced a budget forecast for 2022 which was regularly reviewed, and a budget forecast has been produced for 2023.

Our donated income has continued to be remarkably resilient during the year, our thanks to all who give. Tax refunds from Gift Aided giving has been an important income stream. We have seen our income from lettings continue to increase, although nowhere near the pre-Covid levels.

We received a donation of £3750 and cash donations of £70 for Youth Café. We received an Energy Grant from the central Church of England of £1825. We have received donations totalling £40,505.00 which is restricted money for use for employing a Youth Minister and further grants are being applied for.

We have invested in a card reader to enable card payments to be made at services and other times.

We are very fortunate that our Gas and Electricity bills are on a fixed rate until March 2024.

We are aware that there will be a substantial bill to pay for the roof repairs, and we have set aside £26,342 towards this, and our policy is that all gift aid receipts are put towards this.

We continue to keep a strict policy on any expenditure and check to see if there are cheaper alternatives.

We have a financial reserve policy, as advised by the Diocese, at a total of £10,000.

The accounts show an overall surplus for the year of £39,622. We continue to be grateful for Ian Taylor's management of the Gift Aid applications for the Church.

Louise Brown and Martin Phillips

2.2 Standing Committee

One meeting of the Standing Committee was held due to cancellation, because of the very high temperatures, of the PCC meeting that was due to take place on 18 July. Standing Committee met to discuss urgent business on the agenda i.e. reviewing hire charges and issues relating to the card reader were also discussed. Following that meeting, proposals were emailed to PCC members for them to indicate whether they would support the proposals. Where urgent business has needed to be conducted between meetings on one other occasion, regarding approval to open a new bank account, the business was again conducted via email with PCC members.

Revd Ben Jones

The year saw a change in wardens with Jacob Blamey stepping down after three years dedicated service through an interregnum and a global pandemic; exceptional service through exceptional times which we are so grateful for. Michael Crutchley commenced as a warden following the AGM on 8 May 2022, alongside Karen Cotton who commenced her third year.

We are pleased to see Ben continue to settle in, bringing leadership and growth to the ministry of St Luke's and the wider Parish. We are also thankful for Liz and Clive as curates, providing vital contribution to the leadership of the church alongside their own ministry journey. We also want to remember and thank God for all the work and ministry that David Snuggs gave to St Luke's.

We continue to recognise and thank Jeanette as church administrator for her dedication and incredible eye for detail, much needed in the requirements of the Church of England. Louise as Treasurer continues to have excellent oversight of the church accounts; because of this the PCC has started to be able to future-plan resources for the ministry of the church. All members of the PCC have been committed to the future direction of the church; we thank them for their time and commitment. A special note to the work of Joyce Lynas as Safeguarding Officer for the church. Due to her moving to the Isle of Wight she leaves St Luke's, embedding a culture of safeguarding; providing a safe foundation for the church with her work being recognised as a beacon of good practice by the Diocese.

The 'business as usual' operational running of church was focused on the end of the COVID restrictions; by the end of 2022 the congregation was worshipping at pre-pandemic controls. Through the pandemic we lost some regular hirers although a number have returned, and Jeanette is continuing to respond to several enquiries for room hire that align with the outward community mission of the church.

The church roof repairs progressed in 2022. There is now a project plan with timescales for the roof to be repaired in two stages; a test piece then on successful completion a full repair later in 2023. The church has permission from the Diocese for the test piece then if all is successful, a full faculty application for the remainder of the work.

The grounds are well maintained by the maintenance team. The building required ongoing maintenance and cleaning with particular attention to carpets being cleaned and addressing the annual ant invasion! With the support and recommendations from the Community Police Liaison Officer, a security camera covering the porch was installed in response to vandalism and litter. A disability audit was completed and action plan to improve the experience of those with a disability who use the church. Church parking signs were improved reducing inappropriate use of parking in the church. A card reader was installed in the church foyer, recognising the changes in the way people donate in society, exacerbated since the pandemic.

The church opened for the jubilee celebrations and also following the death of the Queen, providing a place of spiritual reflection at a time of national bereavement for the parish community.

We thank all those who have not specially mentioned in the report for their contribution to the life and ministry of St Luke's Church.

Karen Cotton and Michael Crutchley on behalf of the Churchwardens and Assistant Churchwardens

2.4 Eastleigh Deanery Synod Representatives' Report

Eastleigh Deanery Synod met three times in 2022 and discussed matters including:

- Arrangements following the departure of Bishop Tim
- Deanery finances
- The potential appointment of an archdeacon for the south part of the diocese
- The rooftop prayer event
- Progress of churches in the eco church scheme
- Appointments within the deanery and diocese

Revd Ben Jones

2.5 Electoral Roll and Church Attendance

As required, revisions to the electoral roll will be made prior to the APCM on 14 May 2023. Prior to 31 December 2022, an indication of some names to be removed from the Electoral Roll had been received and this will be dealt with when the electoral roll is revised. As of 31 December 2022, there were 108 people on St Luke's Electoral Roll.

Melvyn Plaw

During October 2022, the average church attendance was 72 adults and 12 children/young people.

2.6 Safeguarding

Thanks to Joyce Lynas for leading safeguarding so efficiently until her move away in November. After working alongside Joyce for six months, Janet Compton took on the role of Safeguarding Officer in November and has completed the required checks and extra training.

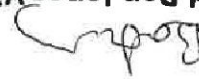
St Luke's adheres to all the diocesan and national guidance on safeguarding including safer recruitment and working policies for volunteers. All volunteers are now required to have a DBS check and to undertake online training in best practice. Currently we have 56 persons with DBS checks and diocesan training, with a small number of the recently joined about to do so. Members of the PCC now are mandated to undertake Domestic Abuse Awareness Training, and this is taking place.

In addition, each volunteer has received a copy of the 'Code of Safer Working Practices' as an aide memoire.

In January, a review of the room and activity risk assessments took place - thanks to Karen and Joyce for putting such comprehensive documentation into place and meeting required standards.

The PCC have renewed their adoption of the Church of England Model Safeguarding Policy Document and the relevant information is displayed on the website and on the church notice board.

Janet Compton, Safeguarding Officer



Revd Ben Jones Vicar, Michael Crutchley (Lay Vice Chair, PCC)
On behalf of the PCC (Trustees)



	2020	2021	2022	2021
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary income				
Tax efficient planned giving	60333.50	49769.48		
Other Planned Giving	60.00	60.00		
Collections of loose cash at Services	1062.50	1945.50		
All other giving & voluntary Receipts	9620.89	4175.64		
All tax recovered through gift aid	15739.68	14080.32		
Other income	43661.33	710.28		
Income from Grants	1825.00	1550.00		
Total	132302.90	72291.22		
Activities for generating funds				
Fund raising				
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest				
Church Activities				
Parochial fees paid to PCC	508.00	1780.49		
Use of Church	11542.25	8047.50		
Room Hire		350.00		
Holding Accounts				
Total	12050.25	10177.99		
Income	144,353.15	82,469.21		
Income over expenditure	144,353.15	82,469.21		
Income over expenditure	62,444.65	15,326.06		
ST LUKE'S CHURCH BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER				
CURRENT ACCOUNT				
Current Account Brought Forward	56,716.03	41,389.97		
Income over Expenditure	62,444.65	15,326.06		
TOTAL	119,160.68	56,716.03		
CO-OP CURRENT ACCOUNT				
Current Account Brought Forward	56,716.03	41,389.97		
Income over Expenditure	62,444.65	15,326.06		
Total = Balance @31st December	119,160.68	56,716.03		
RESOURCES EXPENDED (PAYMENTS)				
Costs of Generating Funds - Fundraising costs				
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants and Donations				
Church Activities				
Common Mission Fund				
Salaries & Consultant Fees (LC)				
Expenses of Clergy, Pastoral Staff, Children's Worker				
Mission and Evangelism				
Church Running Expenses				
Church Utility Bills				
Holding Account Balance				
Total	80218.91	63539.07		
MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
Major repairs to the building and installations inc. redecoration				
Parochial Fees, etc				
Other Expenses				
Outstanding Room Hire Dec				
Total	1689.59	3604.08		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	81908.50	67143.15		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE AS PER ACCOUNTS				
ST LUKE'S CHURCH BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER				
CURRENT ACCOUNT				
Current Account as at 31st December				
Current Liabilities				
TOTAL	119,160.68	56,716.03		
CO-OP CURRENT ACCOUNT				
Current Account Brought Forward				
Income over Expenditure				
TOTAL	119,160.68	56,716.03		

I have examined the accounts from the books and vouchers presented to me and certify that they represent a true position of the finances of St Luke's Church, Hedge End

Date:

24/2/2023

Signed:

Lee

Name:

Russell Lee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of St Luke's Church, Hedge End,
Parochial Church Council.**

I report on the accounts for the year 1st January to 31st December 2022 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- (1) Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- (2) Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act:
- (3) State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiners Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act, and
 - (b) To prepare accounts which accord with the records have not been met, and
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Russell N Lee, ACIB

46 St James Park, SO52 9BJ

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Current Liabilities				
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022	119,160.68	56,716.03		

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