

Parish of St John the Baptist, Heathfield, with Cotford St Luke

Churchwardens' Report for the year ending 31 December 2022, presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May 2023 and to the Charity Commission.

The ecclesiastical parish of Heathfield with Cotford St Luke includes the small community of Heathfield and the new village of Cotford St Luke, built in the grounds of the old Tone Vale Hospital. We worship in the ancient church of St John the Baptist in Heathfield and in St Luke's Centre in Cotford. The parish, with the parishes of Oake and Hillfarrance, forms part of the Deane Vale Benefice in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The boundaries of the Benefice are currently under review and it is likely that the parishes of Bradford-on-Tone and Nynheath will be included in the same Benefice in the near future.

People

Rector: Rev Clarissa Shaw-Notice had been licensed as Rector of the parishes of the Deane Vale Benefice at a service at Hillfarrance on 30 November 2021 but had to take early retirement for health reasons in September 2022. At the time of writing, there is, once again, a vacancy for incumbent minister in the parish. In the short term, the Deanery has released Rev Emma Kendall, curate at St. Michaels', Milverton, to work as interim curate in the Dean Vale Benefice, taking on many of the tasks which would normally fall to the incumbent. (This arrangement is in place until June 2023)

PCC Secretary: Lindsay Hall

Elected Churchwardens: Dawn Mitford-Slade (Heathfield); David Rhodes (Cotford).

Elected PCC members: Claire Bleloch, Jane Durrant, Phil Hall, Jacqueline Hay-Berry, Sue Harris, Clare Reid, Anthony Reyre, Roberta Winterson.

Treasurer: Rod Latham retired during the year. Mark Turner was appointed as the new treasurer.

Deanery Synod representatives: Dawn Mitford-Slade, Jacqueline Hay-Berry

Youth leaders: Tom and Claisse Tame

Safeguarding Officer: Lindsay Hall

Structure, governance and management:

PCC members are appointed in the manner set out in the Church Representation rules. All who attend church are encouraged to register on the church Electoral Roll and may they stand for election to the PCC. The full body has eleven voting members including the clergy, the treasurer and the two churchwardens, who represent the Bishop. (The PCC Secretary is a non-voting member of the PCC). The Electoral Roll was fully revised in 2019, is reviewed annually, and increased from 63 members at the beginning of the year to 68 by the end of the year (with an active adult membership of 35 to 40). Activities other than worship which take place at St Luke's Centre (e.g. community activities and upkeep of the premises) are the responsibility of the St Luke's Centre Management Committee which reports to the PCC but which also includes representatives of the wider community.

A regular "Benefice Churchwardens' Meeting" also allows the Rector and the churchwardens of all three parishes in the benefice to co-ordinate services and other activities.

In 2022, the PCC met 7 times. The first meeting of the year was held virtually, but after that all meetings were held in person.

Objectives: The PCC has the responsibility of supporting and working with our Rector to promote the whole mission of the church: worship [prayer and praise, through liturgy]; discipleship [fellowship and teaching]; ministry [service and evangelism]. It also maintains the buildings – St John's in Heathfield and (through the SLC Management Committee) St Luke's Centre in Cotford St. Luke.

Our aims, set out in our entry on the Charities Commission website, are:

To celebrate God's love through worship in a variety of styles and settings for all ages.

To care for and serve all people in our church, our community and the wider world.

To grow, spiritually, through teaching, listening, prayer, fellowship and service.

To make known the Good News of the love of God in Jesus.

To provide a centre in the village of Cotford St Luke, as well as in the ancient building in Heathfield, where everyone is welcomed.

Achievement and activities:

Restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had affected many church and community events in 2020 and 2021 were largely removed early in 2022. In principle, this gave the opportunity to resume the regular activities established since the opening of St Luke's Centre in October, 2018. In practice, many of those activities had to be re-established or re-arranged but this has also given the opportunity to start some events afresh.

St Luke's Centre

Services were held at St Luke's Centre almost every Sunday, with communion services being held at least once each month. On the fifth Sunday of each month one main morning service of Holy Communion was held for the whole benefice, the four places of worship (Cotford, Heathfield, Oake and Hillfarrance) taking it in turns to host the service. In addition, informal "Ignite" services were held once a month on Sunday evenings.

At most services at St Luke's Centre we have a music group which is able to lead singing in contemporary worship songs and traditional hymns. In various combinations, Katy, David and Toby Stirzaker, Ant Reyre, Derrick Reid and David Rhodes provide the music and Wilf Stirzaker has made himself invaluable in preparing PowerPoint slides for songs, prayers and Bible readings for most services. Thanks to all concerned!

The harvest festival service, which was also Clarissa's farewell service, was held in the huge potato packing barn at David Mitchell's farm in Hillcommon (where we had held harvest at Christmas services when use of the church buildings while COVID-19 restrictions were in place). About one hundred people gathered to worship, sing praises and eat a wonderful harvest lunch, for which thanks are due to too many people to mention all by name!

The Hub Café in the centre opens for three mornings each week, run by a team of volunteers, led by Roberta Winterson and Jane Durrant; A mother and baby group meets every Monday and there is a parent and toddler session every Friday. The centre is also open for a Breakfast Café on the first Saturday of each month (thanks again, Roberta) and for a Farmers' and Crafts Market on the second

Saturday (thanks to Laura Hills). Quiz evenings have become a regular activity taking place every two months.

Our other big fund raising event was the ever popular fun dog show which was run in conjunction with the fete. Once again the weather was kind to us & there was a good turnout although nothing had beaten 2021 when we were released from lockdown!

The hall at St Luke's Centre is also used by many other organisations in the village for exercise classes, Brownies and others on a regular basis and for one-off events such as children's birthday parties.

David Rhodes

St John the Baptist, Heathfield

Heathfield church may only play a small part in the life of the community but its impact is still significant. We continue to hold a 9 am holy communion service on the second Sunday in the month plus a benefice service on the 5th Sunday which is in a rota system. There has been one wedding & one baptism. The Christmas Day service reverted to Heathfield where everyone one packed in for a joyful celebration.

Our pretty little church in a peaceful rural setting lends itself to prayer & meditation attracting both parishioners & those outside too. The finances are our biggest worry with both the ceiling & the north wall of the nave needing urgent attention. Oake PCC very generously gave us £5000 towards the upkeep & both Hillfarrance & Cotford have also helped out. We held a fund raising event in Sept when Anne & Paul Harding gave an interesting talk on Florence Nightingale & the Princess followed by refreshments.

My churchwarden duties are very much a shared ministry with Sue Harris & Jacqueline doing much of the work. Without them I would resign! Jacqueline's husband Andy is an invaluable handy man beside helping out with key duty with the reliable team comprising of Philip Wade, Laura & Peter Lewis & Richard & Julia Payne. I am very grateful to them all. The Rev Clarissa was a huge support encouraging our work & outreach & it was with a heavy heart that we had to say goodbye to her in September. The Rev Helen Stainer from Milverton helped us continue & then wonderfully loaned us Emma Kendal for six months. We have been very blessed by her ministry as although not permanent she has enthusiastically helped us continue. A retired vicar, The Rev David Ager has also kindly helped out occasionally.

With God's help we will continue.

Dawn Mitford-Slade

Children and young people

We have a regular group of around 5 children attending Powerhouse during the service at St Luke's Centre every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month. Led by Clare Reid and Louise Frost, we have a Bible story, make a craft, maybe play a game, or sing a song. Often as Leaders we find we don't need to teach the children very much, as they know a lot about the Bible stories already, and we learn a lot from them too. We had fun at Easter making Easter gardens and doing an Easter egg hunt. We have also put up a display space in the Centre where the children's work can be seen by visitors throughout the week.

The Friday night Youth Club, Blaze, is now well established with a regular group of around 20-25 young people aged from 11-16. Led by Tom and Claisse Tame, with helpers Claire and David Bleloch, Clare and Derrick Reid, Charles Barrowman, and Hillary Knight. The hall is used for games with table football and table tennis, and usually some football which is very popular. In the Hub we have cards and board games, a Wii, and a place to chill out and relax. We've had fun making pizzas and mug cakes, and at Christmas Claisse cooked a fantastic Christmas meal for everyone. In June 2023 we are taking 6 young people to Spree, a Christian camp at Westpoint.

Safeguarding

There have been no incidents reported since the last APCM in May 2022.

The PCC renewed its commitment to the Diocese's policy on Safeguarding at the March PCC meeting this year.

2023 will be a busy one for DBS checks as we begin the transition to 3-yearly renewals. We continue to encourage as many church members as possible, and especially PCC members, to take at least the Basic/CO Church of England online course on Safeguarding.

Heathfield and Cotford St Luke PCC

Receipts and Payments Account Year ended 31st Dec 2022

Income

		Restricted	Total	Previous
	£16,722.4		£16,722.4	£17,845.0
Planned giving	1		1	0
	£17,852.1		£17,852.1	
Service Collections and other income	1		1	£8,018.21
Bookings	£8,423.00		£8,423.00	£1,800.00
Interest	£60.89		£60.89	£8.78
Events	£863.97		£863.97	£2,041.73
Fees	£469.00		£469.00	£320.00
				£28,315.0
Grants	£4,067.00	£1,413.00	£5,480.00	0
Gift Aid	£6,980.55		£6,980.55	£4,304.67
	£55,438.9		£56,851.9	£62,653.3
Total	3	£1,413.00	3	9

Payments

	£10,743.2		£10,743.2	
Running Expenses	3		3	£6,818.78
Energy	£4,133.81		£4,133.81	£3,147.63
Deanery Expenses			£0.00	
Church yard maintenance	£888.00		£888.00	£396.00
Sundry Expenses			£0.00	
	£23,271.9		£23,271.9	£23,816.6
Parish Share	6		6	4
Charity			£0.00	£1,827.00
	£11,771.6		£11,771.6	
Loan repayments	4		4	£490.93
Youth		£1,810.50	£1,810.50	
	£50,808.6		£52,619.1	£36,496.9
Total	4	£1,810.50	4	8

Excess of payments over receipts -£4,232.79

£46,837.4
Balance bfwd 0

£51,070.1 (£10,402.5
9 0 Restricted)

CCLA £173.00
£24,056.8
40881989 7
75149303 £25,745.6

	2
Petty cash	£300.00
Cash in hand	£794.70
	£51,070.1
	9



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Heathfield with Cotford St Luke PCC

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1148869

Set out on pages

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

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

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

Signed:

C. Barrowman

Date:

20/3/23

Name:

CHARLES BARROWMAN

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body