

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

Annual churchwardens report 2024 – Cotford St Luke

PCC & ELECTORAL ROLL

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 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 decreased from 68 members at the beginning of the year to 67 by the end of the year. However, the active adult membership increased slightly to about 50. 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 five parishes in the benefice to co-ordinate services and other activities.

In 2024, the PCC met six times, including after the APCM. 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.

SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

St Luke's Centre

Services were held at St Luke's Centre almost every Sunday, with communion services being held as follows:

- 1st Sunday- All in Family Communion service
- 2nd Sunday- Morning Worship (lay led) with the children going out to Powerhouse Kids group.
- 3rd Sunday- New fresh expression 'FRESH' breakfast all age service around tables started in March
- 4th Sunday – Morning worship with the children going out to Powerhouse Kids.

With thanks to David R, David B & Ant R for leading the 2nd Sunday services. Thanks to Louise, Clare and Rebecca for the wonderful work they do with the children and to all involved in setting up, welcoming and hospitality for these services.

On the fifth Sunday of each month one main morning service of Holy Communion was held for the whole Benefice, the six places of worship (Cotford, Heathfield, Bradford, Nynhead, Oake and Hillfarrance) taking it in turns to host the service. In addition, our informal Fresh Expression "Ignite" services were held once a month on Sunday evenings.

Additional Messy Easter and Christmas services were held for children and their families from Toddler group and the local Schools.

We also ran a Family Light Party for All souls' night in October which was well attended.

All services at St Luke's Centre have a Worship band 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. Wilf Stirzaker prepares PowerPoint slides for songs, prayers and Bible readings for most services. Thanks to all concerned!

Two weekly small groups run in Cotford with others running in other villages and we hope to develop more. A Benefice Alpha course was also run at Cotford during the autumn.

As a church and a benefice want to underpin all we do in prayer, so a monthly Priority prayer day has been running since May on the 1st Thursday of the month, meeting on Zoom at 8 am, a Traditional church at 2pm, and at The Hub at 7.30 pm. This has been a wonderful chance to get together and to pray for our churches, our local communities and our ministries, and although the year has been challenging, we have seen God answering prayers.

Blaze Youth Club continues to meet on Friday evenings, providing a safe space for the young people of the village to meet and interact. The youth club is a wonderful place for valuable

outreach for young people, who otherwise have no activity place in the village. Thanks go to all those involved in Blaze, in particular to Tom and his team of volunteers.

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 morning 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 & Supper evenings have become a regular activity, normally taking place every two months. (thanks to Louise, Claire R, Claire Comer & Dearbhla & their teams).

The Talking Cafe was rebooted with a new team in December, and the Bereavement Support café continues to run on Monday afternoons and has grown in members and team.

The hall at St Luke's Centre is also used by many other organisations in the village for exercise classes. And as a educational venue for the charity 5 Rivers and others on a regular basis and for one-off events such as children's birthday parties.

Our other big fund-raising event was the ever-popular fun dog show. Thanks are due to many people, but especially to Derrick Reid and Dawn Mitford-Slade.

Thanks to Lydia and those that took part in the Bell tower climb at Bishops Lydeard

Taken together, the café and these other "community" events raised significant contributions to the parish funds.

Throughout the year, Rev Suzy has provided both spiritual and practical leadership to both the congregation and Cotford St Luke, but also to the wider community. The aim of St Lukes Centre was to provide a focus for the village to meet in praise, but also in friendship and by connecting with each other. Through Suzy's dedicated hard work, the vision of the centre is being refreshed and seen by many in Cotford and beyond. Thank you Suzy for all that you do.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

Charles Barrowman
Churchwarden, Cotford St Luke

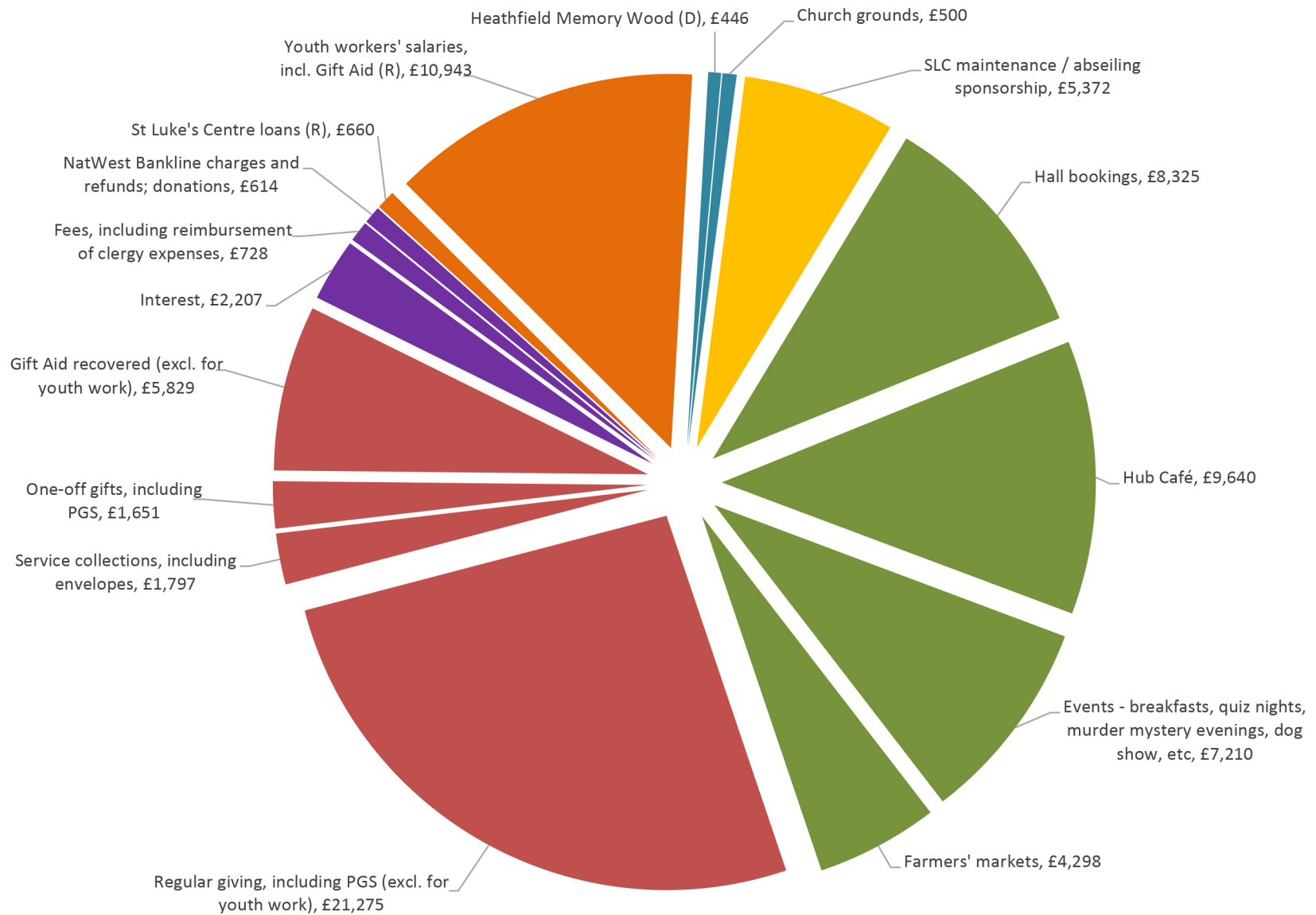
Heathfield with Cotford St Luke's Receipts & Payments Account

for the year ended 31 December 2024

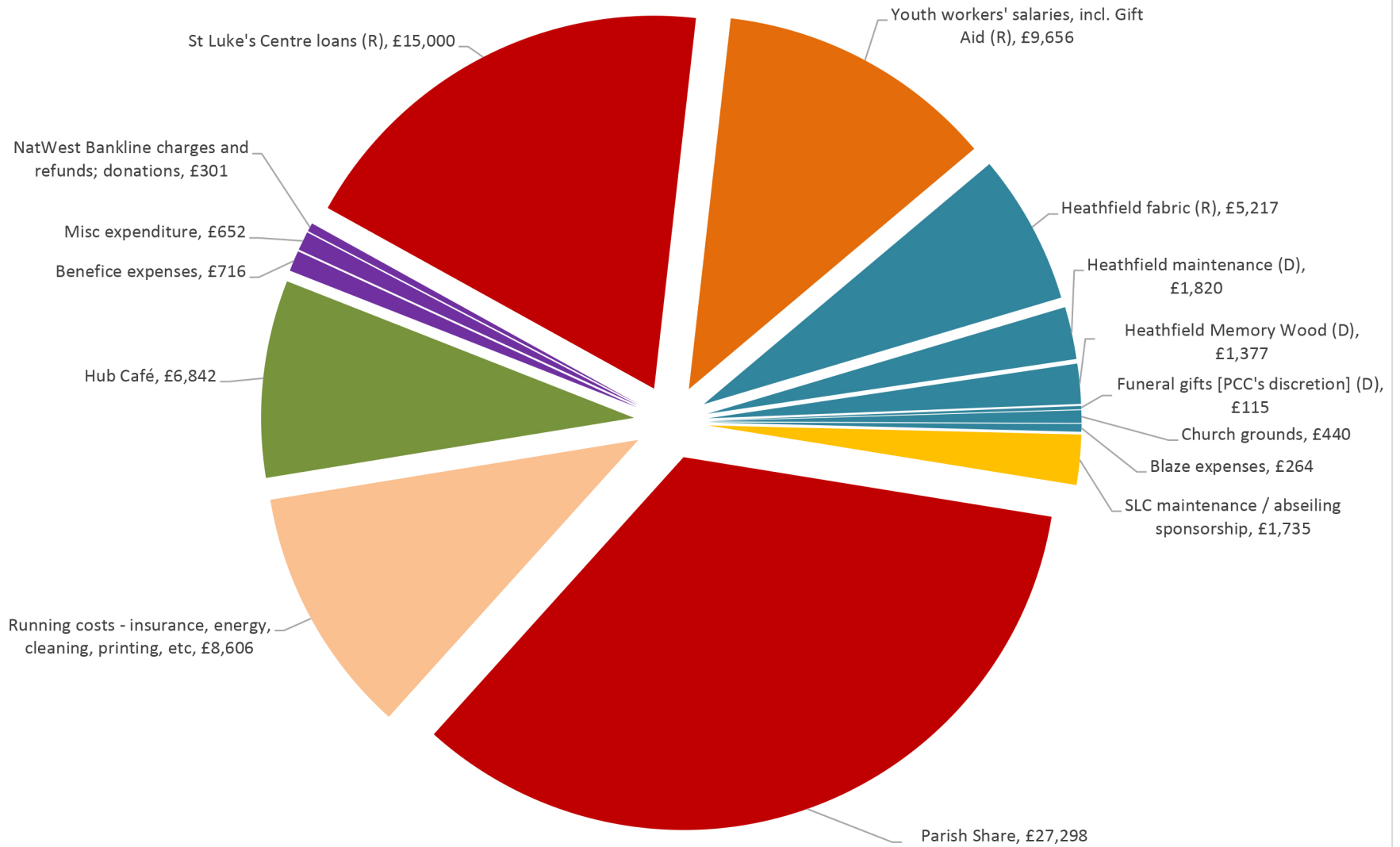
	General fund £	Designated fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 £	2023 £
Receipts					
Donations and Legacies:					
Planned giving	22,154	-	7,514	29,668	22,315
Collections, donations & other giving	8,609	466	2,000	11,075	15,898
Income tax recovered	5,829	-	2,089	7,918	8,448
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Other Trading activities					
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	8,325	-	-	8,325	6,878
Income from other Properties	-	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events	11,508	-	-	11,508	8,933
Receipts from Investments:					
Interest & dividends	2,207	-	-	2,207	551
Receipts from Charitable activities:					
Parochial fees	728	-	-	728	1,226
Other Receipts					
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
Sale proceeds from fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
Other	10,552	-	-	10,552	9,089
Total Receipts	69,912	466	11,603	81,981	73,338
Payments					
Charitable activities:					
Donations/Grants to charities	-	-	-	-	-
Mission & Evangelism	(264)	-	-	(264)	(2,068)
Parish Share	(27,298)	-	-	(27,298)	(24,669)
Clergy expenses	-	(115)	-	(115)	-
Church running expenses	(3,446)	(400)	-	(3,846)	(6,451)
Churchyard maintenance	(440)	-	-	(440)	(3,750)
Cost of raising funds	(13,808)	-	-	(13,808)	(11,646)
Support costs					
Support costs	(716)	-	-	(716)	(1,125)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	-	-	(9,656)	(9,656)	(11,250)
Governance Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other	(953)	(1,377)	-	(2,330)	(569)
Major expenditure					
Repairs to church buildings	-	(1,420)	(5,217)	(6,637)	-
Repairs to other property	-	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions	-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments	(14,360)	-	(640)	(15,000)	(15,255)
Total payments	(61,285)	(3,312)	(15,513)	(80,110)	(76,783)
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over payments	8,627	(2,846)	(3,910)	1,871	(3,445)
<i>Transfers between funds</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan (Actual Balance)</i>	8,627	(2,846)	(3,910)	1,871	(3,445)
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)</i>	3,040	35,011	9,575	47,626	51,070
<i>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)</i>	11,667	32,165	5,665	49,497	47,625

*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

Heathfield with Cotford St Luke PCC - Receipts to 31 December 2024



Heathfield with Cotford St Luke PCC - Payments to 31 December 2024



Account	Account Name/Description	Opening Balance	Opening Unrestricted	Opening Designated	Opening Restricted	Closing Balance	Closing Unrestricted	Closing Designated	Closing Restricted
A	NatWest 40881989 (general)	£5,933.94	£348.33	£1,938.51	£3,647.10	£1,622.27	£1,602.27		£20.00
B	NatWest 75149303 (special funds)	£1,205.12	£1,205.12			£420.12			£420.12
D	CCLA CB3126952 (deposit)	£39,000.00		£33,072.53	£5,927.47	£47,000.00	£9,610.99	£32,164.92	£5,224.09
E	Petty cash - Hub Café	£300.00	£300.00			£300.00	£300.00		
F	Cash in hand at year-end	£1,187.04	£1,187.04			£154.87	£154.87		
	Totals	£47,626.10	£3,040.49	£35,011.04	£9,574.57	£49,497.26	£11,668.13	£32,164.92	£5,664.21



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

HEATHFIELD WITH COTFORD ST LUKE PCC.

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1148869.

Set out on pages

1-2.

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Signed:

M Wheatley

Date:

8 APRIL 2025

Name:

MARGARET WHEATLEY

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

Address:

11 NEEDHAMS PATCH

COTFORD ST LUKE

TAUNTON TA4 1JF

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

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

N/A.