# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. LUKE-IN-THE-CITY, LIVERPOOL

England & Wales · Charity number 1152031

## Details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Other names** | PCC ST. LUKE-IN-THE-CITY LIVERPOOL |
| **Status** | Registered |
| **Legal form** | Previously excepted |
| **Registered** | 2013-05-14 |
| **Register** | View on the Charity Commission register |

## Contact

| | |
|---|---|
| **Address** | St Luke in the City Parish Office<br>St. Bride's Church<br>Percy Street<br>Liverpool<br>L8 7LT |
| **Phone** | 0151 378 2131 |
| **Email** | office@stlukeinthecity.org.uk |
| **Website** | www.stlukeinthecity.org.uk |

## Activities

**Objects:** PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

**Activities:** At St Luke in the City we have a team mission statement (since 2002) as follows: "To discover, with others, the freedom, justice and hope of the Kingdom of God: to work for and celebrate it in the lives of individuals, the community and the City"

## Classification

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

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## Geography

- Liverpool City

## Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2024-12-31 | £167,639 | £163,201 | - | - |
| 2023-12-31 | £190,245 | £151,330 | - | - |
| 2022-12-31 | £156,674 | £134,934 | - | - |
| 2021-12-31 | £141,689 | £148,471 | - | - |
| 2020-12-31 | £142,466 | £118,415 | - | - |

## Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| Emma Watson | | 2020-10-11 |
| James Stewart Fleming | | 2020-10-11 |
| KAREN LESLEY PARSONS | | 2013-04-22 |
| Natalie Preston | | 2024-04-28 |
| Philip John Bishop | | 2025-05-11 |
| Professor Philip Nigel Threlfall-Holmes | | 2025-11-17 |
| Rev David Peter Halliwell | | 2024-12-02 |
| Rev Laura Sophia Ferguson | | 2020-10-11 |
| Rev Lucca Ezra Skerratt-Love | | 2024-06-22 |
| Rosemary Margaret Green | | 2019-12-16 |
| Sharon Ginley | | 2017-04-26 |
| Warren Brian Bohan | | 2023-10-23 |

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**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. LUKE-IN-THE-CITY, LI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1152031

# Accounts

The Team Parish of St Luke in the City Liverpool

St Michael's Growing Community in the City stmichaelinthecity.org.uk

St Bride's Creative / Progressive / Inclusive stbridesliverpool.org.uk

St Dunstan's Dramatic / Sensory / Renewing stdunstansliverpool.org.uk

# Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2024

# Clergy Report

Welcome to our Parish report which covers the year January to December 2024.

This year we have faced a number of challenges and a number of joys. In January we eased into the new year with usual services resuming and plans for a Lent soon upon us. We held a simple Ash Wednesday service at St Dunstan's and during Lent our Tsedaqah placement student Liam Higgins led an informative and well-researched zoom course called Mind the Gap where we walked through the period in history between the Old and New Testaments. Out Easter service were special; Maundy Thursday's supper, foot washing and communion at St Michael's was a quiet and thoughtful service, Good Friday offered a moving alternative to the usual Hour at The Cross, and Easter Sunday was celebrated at St Dunstan's Church which was particularly poignant as it was the last regular Sunday service to be held there for the foreseeable future.

Some of our PCC members changed at the APCM with some members stepping down and two new members joining us. We're so grateful to those who share their time and wisdom on the PCC and help shape our church communities. We welcome a new staff member, Beth Powell who was recruited as Open Table's new Ministry Co-ordinator. James Fleming our Parish Warden has completed a year of Reader Training and we have enjoyed him preaching and leading more services with us. In June we were excited to attend the Deacon Ordinations where we not only celebrated (the now Rev'd) Lilly Nelson become a Deacon but also meet and welcome our new Curate Rev'd Lu Skerratt-Love to our Parish. It has been a joy getting to know Lu over the past few months who brings lots of ministry experience, theological insight, a passion for justice and general good humour to our team.

The recruitment for a new Rector stepped up in April onwards as a sub-committee worked tirelessly on the Parish Profile. Unfortunately that round of advertising bore no fruit so with some adjustments the job was re-advertised. Finally in August we interview the successful candidate, Rev'd David Halliwell. David was installed on December 2nd and we are delighted to have such a joyful, experienced, prayerful and hope-filled Rector.

The summer was a busy time with a jubilant concert arranged by Fern Arthurs with Danielle Thomas our music leaders. The entire production, which consisted of three vocalists and a full orchestra, was of a highly professional standard and was greatly uplifting - it also raised £500 for St Bride's. The PCC decided that this will go towards a

much needed dishwasher which should be installed in 2025. In June Open Table celebrated its 16th Birthday with lots of cake to go round.

Three weddings took place this summer. Each were very happy occasions but one of them fell on the Greenbelt weekend leaving Rev'd Laura unable to attend the Festival this year with the other church member who made the trip down to Kettering. St Bride's Warden Sue Say who attended for the first time described Greenbelt as, 'heaven on Earth. Surrounded by thousands of considerate, helpful, caring people, for four wonderfully inclusive days.'

In Late August St Bride's and Open Table Liverpool was generously donated (on long-term load) an artwork by Elizabeth Gray-King via an anonymous donor. The piece *Nativity (Tancred)* is, 'reminding us that the Nativity revealed the presence of God in humanity, who grew to an adult (not stuck in the 'sweet' Nativity narrative) and who as he grew, welcomed all to the temple and to the eternal place of God.' You can find the work hanging in the Narthex of St Bride's.

In September, following conversations over the summer, Revd Laura and Revd Lu were formally appointed as the new Chaplains to Archbishop Blanch School. They succeed the school's long-serving and much-loved previous chaplain, who dedicated decades of faithful service and pastoral care to the school community.
Recognising the high level of clergy engagement the school had grown to value, it became clear that a shared approach was the most sustainable way forward. By dividing the responsibilities between the Team Vicar and the Curate, we were able to maintain a strong and consistent clergy presence while ensuring the role remained manageable for both. This collaborative model has proven to be both effective and energising. The first major event—a whole-school service to welcome students back after the summer break—ran smoothly and marked a significant moment for Revd Laura and Revd Lu, who led worship for over 1,000 students and staff for the first time. It was a joyful beginning to what promises to be a fruitful new chapter in our partnership with the school.

In Autumn our Curate Rev'd Lu launched a course centred on episodes of The Chosen TV series. Participants were invited to attend St Michael's church for 8 weeks where they watched an episode of the show and discussed it afterwards. Ten people attended including some who had no previous contact with the Parish and we are looking forward to running the next series of the course in 2025.

Throughout the year the Team Vicar and Curate have consistently attended the Roots in the City community lunches at St Michael's. This has been a valuable time for deepening links with Faiths4Change and the local participants of the gardening group.

Sadly, in Autumn was sadly said goodbye to two much loved church members; Pam Bishop who had attended St Dunstan's and faithfully served on the worship planning there and Derek Cooper who was a long time member of St Bride's and served tea and coffee week in week out. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

This year saw two of our leaders updating their Leadership Safeguarding Training. Both the Rev'd Anne Kazich and Rev'd Laura Ferguson completed this in depth course. Part of the training required participants to commit to specific tasks within six months of the training and some of these, including updating all of our Parish Risk Assessments will be coming into action in 2025.

Christmas was particularly special this year with the season beginning with a major school event hosted at St Dunstan's run by Lauda and a team of volunteers. The Christmas trail invited students from St Hughs Primary school into the church which was magically transformed into a live nativity. 'Actors' played nativity characters and invited children to enter into the scenes where the drama unfolded. Children were given bags to take away in which small items from each of the six stations were collected enabling them to retell the Christmas story themselves. This was a successful event and much fun for children and volunteers alike. The school was keen to send us their gratitude and although it was a huge amount of work, particularly for Leah Daly, it paid off wonderfully.

On the evening of the same day we were overjoyed to finally welcome Rev'd David Halliwell who was listened by Bishop John at a full and memorable service at St Bride's. The church was packed out and we had a number of visitors coming from David's sending church, his curacy church, St Margaret's of Antioch and members of our own churches. We also welcomed folk from the local community including representatives of Micah, the Community Police, Archbishop Blanch school and ecumenical partners.

This year saw the much-anticipated return of the Open Table Carol Service in full force, drawing a remarkable crowd of over 200 people. Every chair in the main worship space was filled, and even the Narthex was packed to capacity—testament to the enduring appeal and deep resonance of this beloved event.

As always, the service was a moving and joy-filled celebration, lifting spirits and setting a festive tone for the season ahead. A heartfelt thank you and congratulations to Warren and the whole team for delivering such a warm, inclusive, and memorable evening.

Throughout the year, our Parish has remained actively engaged in the ongoing process of discerning our place within the Fit for Mission (FFM) framework. Rev'd Laura and Rev'd Lu attended weekly sessions, exploring a range of key themes- outlined in more detail below- that continue to shape the vision for a more sustainable and collaborative future. Becoming part of a larger, single Parish structure offers significant potential benefits, particularly in easing the governance and buildings-related responsibilities that currently place heavy demands on our clergy and lay leaders. However, important questions remain, particularly around how diversity and inclusion will be addressed within the new model. We look forward to gaining greater clarity on these issues in 2025.

In the autumn, we hosted the Cultivate course - a deanery-wide FFM initiative designed to equip those discerning a call to plant new worshipping communities. While the course offered inspiring possibilities, our Parish discerned that our current priorities lie elsewhere. At this time, we feel called to focus on deepening pastoral care and strengthening discipleship, rather than launching new initiatives.
A key decision point will come in March 2025, when the PCC will vote on whether to formally become part of the proposed Hope Liverpool Parish. We remain committed to thoughtful, prayerful discernment as we move forward.

Financially, we ended the year in good health. The parish is paying its Parish Share and has committed to increasing our payments over the course of three years in line with our Deanery's financial plan. Our rentals have continued to contribute greatly to our finances and we have seen a slight increase in our income this year. We are hugely grateful for all those whose faithful giving to the church ensures that we have a stable base of support with which to carry out our ministry. This enables us to continue making the church spaces available at no charge for the Foodbank, the community market and Roger Smalley's homeless meals project, for some of the community garden activities and for the Lauda project.

As we move into 2025, we do so with renewed hope. With a new Rector joining us, we are beginning to lift our eyes beyond the steady, faithful maintenance of the vacancy period and ask what God might be inviting us to next. This is a moment to reimagine our our identities as three congregations, three justice projects and one Parish. We aim to prayerfully discern our priorities, especially in light of what may emerge through Fit for

Mission. We hope discover how we can grow like a tree rooted in Christ, with deeper roots, a stronger core, and branches that bear the fruits of new life.

**Laura Ferguson**
Team Vicar

## Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Team Parish of St Luke in the City is a registered charity, and its registered number is 1152031. Details of PCC members, who are the charity trustees, have to be provided to the Charity Commission.

The parish includes three churches: St Bride & St Saviour, located on Percy Street; St Dunstan on Earle Road, and St Michael in the City on Upper Pitt Street. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is: St Luke in the City Parish Office, St Bride's Church, Percy Street, Liverpool L8 7LT.

The following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

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|---|---|
| **Team Rector** | Vacancy |
| **Team Vicar** | Laura Ferguson |
| **Curate** | Vacant until July 2024 when Rev'd Lu Skerratt-Love became our Assistant Curate |
| **SSM Priest** | Sara Doyle (until 29th December 2024)<br>Anne Kazich |
| **Reader** | Christopher Bartley |
| **Reader in Training** | James Fleming |
| **Churchwardens** | Christopher Bartley (until 28th April 2024)<br>James Fleming |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Deanery Synod representatives** | Sue Say<br>John Denno (until 28th April 2024)<br>James Fleming<br>Christopher Bartley (until 28th April 2024) |
| **Elected Members** | John Denno (until 28th April 2024)<br>Sharon Ginley<br>Rose Green<br>Karen McCaldon<br>Suzie Rotheram<br>Sue Say<br>Helen Stocker (until 28th April 2024)<br>Emma Watson<br>Natalie Preston (formally elected on 28th April 2024) |
| **Treasurer** | Raymond Bissex |
| **Co-Opted Members** | Warren Hartley (until formally elected onto PCC on 28th April 2024) |
| **Officer** | Jackie Corcoran |
| **PCC Secretary** | Suzie Rotheram |
| **Safeguarding Officers** | Rose Green |
| | Sue Say (until 28th April 2024) |
| **Recruitment Lead** | Laura Ferguson |

The licensed clergy and Reader are each ex-officio members of the PCC. The Team Rector is ex-officio Chair of the PCC and this defers to the Team Vicar when in Vacancy.

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|---|---|
| **Bankers:** | The Cooperative Bank PLC<br>1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP |

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|---|---|
| | Central Board of Finance of the Church of England<br>80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ |
| **Independent Examiner** | Mr. I Wright B.A. F.C.A.<br>15 Stretton Drive, Southport PR9 7DR |
| **Legal Advisors:** | Mr. H. Dellar<br>1, The Sanctuary, Westminster, Liverpool SW1P 3JT<br><br>Hill Dickinson LLP<br>1 St Paul's Square, Liverpool L3 9SJ |
| **Estate Management:** | PKPM Chartered Surveyors<br>Suite 7, Church House, 1 Hanover Street, Liverpool,<br>L1 3DN |
| **Architects: (St Bride's, St Dunstan's and St Michael's)** | Finlayson's Architects, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9SY |

## Structure, Management and Governance

The St Luke in the City PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC business has a sub-committee, the Building Sub-Committee.
The function of the PCC is to enable and support mission, to foster communication and collaboration between the individual churches as appropriate and to provide a framework of accountability to the Diocese, Charity Commission and other legal bodies.

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

## Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.
Our specific objectives in 2024 were to

1. Achieve a balanced budget and maintain financial stability.
2. Deepen our links with and mission in our local communities whilst engaging with Fit for Mission.
3. Develop our discipleship and pastoral care in order to rebuild and grow our congregations

Over the course of the year we have made some progress with these objectives, as outlined in the Clergy Report at the start of this document. (Overview/ summary of the finances) Our Parish links continue to develop, particularly at St Dunstan's where Lauda, our outreach to the Romanian Roma community and the Community Food Marker continue to make a notable impact in the local community.

## The Electoral Roll

There are 65 people on the Electoral Roll of the parish:

St Michaels - 13 Members

St Dunstans (until Easter Sunday 2024) - 9 Members

St Brides - 43 Members

## Public Worship

Since Easter 2024 the PCC took the difficult decision to pause regular Sunday Worship at St Dunstan's church. A combination of very low numbers and fewer clergy maintaining the Eucharistic services was becoming increasingly difficult. The maintenance and upkeep of the building was placing increasing strain on an already over-worked congregation. The PCC decided to request that St Dunstan's apply to the Bishop to become a Festival Church. This requires the church to host 6 worship services annually and continue to carry out occasional offices.

Our other Sunday services have continued as in the previous year with the continuation of the last Sunday of the month being a joint service that rotates across

the two churches. Open Table meets twice monthly on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of the month for an Agape meal and a Eucharist service with both being available on zoom.

St Bride's Sunday morning 10am service numbers have continued to vary and we have therefore spent the majority of our time worshipping in the Narthex.These services are Eucharistic twice or three times a month. On alternate months our Reader in Training have continued to co-ordinates a Taize service at 6pm. Open Table continues to meet twice monthly with the first Sunday being Agape meal and the second Sunday being a Eucharist service. These services have been well-attended, particularly the 3rd Sunday service which often hosts notable church leaders and theologians.

St Michael's continues to meet at 11.15am with a regular pattern of alternating services of the word with Holy Communion. On the second Sunday each month St Michael's has a Godly Play service which is geared towards interactive worship and play. This service makes use of the new TV and sound system which gives the service more of a contemporary feel. Due to our Eco church volunteer stepping back our Joint services at St Michael's have not offer the same level of Eco focus but this is something that, when better resourced we'd really like to revisit. We have teamed up with Faiths4Change for a Christmas fair which offered crafts and activities for all ages. St Michael's was host to the Nativity Service this year and we were able to borrow the resources from Lauda's Christmas trail and reenact the scenes.

Our midweek worship pattern has reduced as the Team Vicar is occupied with other duties - this is temporary as we aim to appoint new full-time team members. With the arrival of the new Team Rector David Halliwell in December 2024 we have begun conversations about new patterns of daily prayer and a new rhythm of worship for the churches. We look forward to 2025 when we can implement those.

As for our occasional offices, we have had 3 weddings this year, 1 baptism and 9 funerals.

## Pastoral care and service to our community

St Bride's is home to a number of local charities and organisations including: Refugee Women Connect, Narcotics Anonymous, Roger Smalley's Homeless Meals Project,

the British Red Cross, two community choirs, Jackie Corcoran's community music group and our social justice anchor project, Micah Foodbank. Both the Parish currently offer informal support to individuals and there the early stages of a pastoral care group beginning. Open table offers support one-to-one and is developing its wider team to assist in pastoral care (see full report below). There remains potential to offer considerably more support throughout the Parish and as the ministry team builds up again we hope to make this a priority for 2025. Once again Toxteth's Kuumba Imani centre invited our Parish and other religious sites locally to be participate in an Interfaith Walk. Warren Hartley has been a committed member of the planning group and in August this year around 120 to 130 people attended and visited the chosen sites of worship in L8 with a short talk, a walk between the buildings and shared food at the end.

St Michael's continues to be home to the Chinese Well-being group, Liverpool Rainbow Choir and Faith Clinic church. Our social justice anchor project Roots in the City continues to offer green space, therapeutic gardening and horticultural training for various groups. The Team Vicar now regularly attends the Tuesday drop-in group for local people. The church and F4C won a Deanery grant to run a series of 3 week courses to school aged children which would explore spirituality, creation care and cooking - called Sow, Grow, Cook, Serve. The first of these will roll out in early 2025.

St Dunstan's is home to Kumon language school, Pastor Shelley's church and Garden of Hope, the Community Market as well as the social justice anchor project Lauda. This outreach to the Roma community in the Parish has continued to grow with secondary and primary schools requesting Lauda run projects with them. Lauda now runs an after school club in St Hugh's and children love 'Lauda Bible Club' so much that there is a waiting list. In April 2024 St Dustin's hosted 80 children for an Easter Trail at which groups were invited to move around the church and engage with volunteer led stations. There were stories, crafts/reflections and take-away items at each station and it was hugely successful way for children to engage with the Easter story. The school sent a glowing report saying as much.
Due to this success St Dunstan's further hosted another similar event at Christmas with the volunteers this time acting as biblical characters from the nativity.

Wednesday's at St Dunstan's have become a significant community hub with Roma women taking part in a language class, clothes stalls and refreshments. Micah

stepped back from running the session and assistant church Warden Karen Parson along with Lauda's Leah Daly have worked together wonderfully in managing the morning. The team of volunteers have been outstanding and there are plans to offer the A Level Students at Archbishop Blanch high school to volunteer with us too.

Towards the end of the school year Archbishop Blanch approached our Team Vicar Laura to ask if she might consider becoming Archbishop Blanch's new Chaplain. Such a special opportunity could not be refused but it was agreed that when the new Curate arrived in Parish that they too would share the Chaplaincy role. This has ensured that the Team Vicar's role is not spread too thin and it has been a wonderful opportunity to offer to our Curate.

As a Parish we continue to take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and are regularly reviewing our practices.

## Our Church Buildings

Our appointed Architecture firm Finlayson's were finally able to make headway this year on Quinquennial Inspections that are overdue. St Bride's inspection was completed, fortunately only minor recommendations were made including some gutting repairs to on the roof which are causing a leak to the front facade. The PCC has begun to explore the possibility of convening a new group to explore funding opportunities to repair the internal plastering work and think longer term about more ambitious renovations. St Bride's has also benefitted from a meeting with Tom Rickwood the Church Buildings Support Officer for the Diocese to explore the possibility of applying for some funding through the Parish Disability Grant Scheme. Installing a new Hearing Loop system and some braille signage were considered and we hope to move forward on this in 2025.

Unfortunately St Bride's also had some unexpected issues this year; firstly a large tree came down on some cars parked in the grounds. Fortunately there were no injuries (although two cars were damaged) and we were able to have the tree cut down and removed within 24 hours. Secondly, in June a drain in the grounds of St Bride's appeared to be overflowing and after a in depth investigation we were informed that the drains had partially collapsed towards the Catherine Street end of the site. To repair the damage initially seemed like a straightforward job and affordable job but as the contractors began the work of digging down into the carpark they discovered that the drains were in a worse condition and were in fact much deeper than they

expected. The work is expected to cost well over £10,000 and so progress has paused while new quotes are requested and our insurance company offers advice. The work is ongoing.

At St Dunstan's, The building has increasing issues with blocked external gutters and drainpipes which cause leaking throughout. Roofers have made remedial repairs but the drain clearance that is needed requires scaffolding to be installed which places the cost well into the tens of thousands. The upkeep of the building continues to place great pressure on those involved in keeping it open. Keeping the spaces clean has been increasingly an issue as there is now no congregation to keep on top of the maintenance required. In November our Curate Lu found a company who could clear the gutters without requiring scaffolding and they were able to come out and inspect the roof using ropes and climbing gear. The were able to quote for the work which was considerably less than the earlier options and hope to carry out this work in 2025.

Progress has been slow at St Michael's and the flat remains vacant while we wait for resources to focus their attention on the drain damage. Lack of security on the site has us particularly vulnerable to vandalism. This year the garden suffered at the hands of vandals who damaged crops and broke the greenhouse, amongst other things. Therefore the focus this year has been to put energy into finding a contractor to replace the fencing around the entire site. The PCC approved up to £30,000 to replace the fencing around St Michael's and the PCC were able to acquire three quotes by the end of the year. We are aiming for the work to begin in early 2025. In November St Michael's was due to host the Deanery's Cultivate course but it was then that we discovered that most of the lightbulbs on the ceiling of the worship space had blown. After calling out the electrician we were informed that to replace the bulbs we would be required to hire scaffolding and there was no guarantee that the electrician could find the outdated fluorescent bulbs needed anyway. It was decided that new lights would be installed at head height throughout the church for a third of the cost. The work was completed in time for the course and now were are well-illuminated at St Michael's.

## Deanery, Diocese and the wider church and mission

This year we received grants from the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund for a Faiths4Change/St Michael's schools project. The team vicar and a PCC members have continued to serve on the Deanery and Mission Pastoral Committee which has enabled our Parish to offer more support to the Deanery.

After a PCC vote in March the Parish committed to entering into the Fit for Mission's Imaging-as-if we were part of Fit for Mission. As such work began with the Deanery's new Change Facilitator Clayton Rowe and clergy Change Lead Keith Hitchman to set up the Navigation Team. This team would be made up of clergy and Lay people and would steer the FFM journey for our Deanery addressing concerns and setting up sub-committees to envision how our governance, finance, buildings, unity and diversity, leadership and mission might look.

Th year was divided into phases - April to May was the Discover period where the clergy team meetings began, the monthly news letter was established, the Parish surveys were sent out and a community research piece began. June- September was the Dream phase where PCC's were invited to participate in a Pyramid review, a workshop was organised to explore unity and potential mission goals. Then October-January was the Discern phase where all churches were invited to sign up to the Cultivate course and consider how our Parish could develop a number of new worshipping communities. Three members from St Bride's attended this course in November. The final phase is the Discern phase which runs from January-March when the final vote will take place. The Team vicar has attend the weekly clergy meetings throughout the year and is on the Navigation Team which also meets weekly.

## Ecumenical and Inter-faith relationships

With Fit for Mission commitments taking up so much time it has been difficult to seek out relationships with other denominations. We hope in 2025 to rekindle our good relationship with the Roman Catholic folk at St Vincent de Paul. Our commitment to the inter-faith walks organised by the committee at Kuuba Imani continue and the Team Vicar and Curate attended an afternoon of Scriptural Reasoning with local faith leaders in August, not long after the summer riots (some of which took place in our Parish). This therefore felt like a significantly and important event for us to attend and was a very positive experience.

# FINANCE OVERVIEW

(see full report below)

## The Performance of Investments

The PCC's funds are held in a Current Account with Co-operative Bank and in deposit funds with CCLA Investment Management in the Church of England's Finance Deposit Fund and the Church of England Global Equity Investment and Property funds. To see more read the attached finance document.

## Reserves Policy

The trustees have established the level of operating reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have, which is roughly equal to six months general expenditure, £100,000. Reserves are needed to even out any short term funding gaps between spending and related income. The PCC are content with the current level of reserves.

## Income from lettings

Lettings income this year was a total of £66,867 which is an increase compared to the £56,284 in 2023.

## Giving to the church

Our second largest source of income is giving by the congregation. Planned giving in 2024 was £24,148 (up from 2023 which was £22,805, with an additional £4567 given as donations, in collections and other. These gifts allowed us to reclaim £5,387 tax from HMRC. In addition we received £6,375 from grants.

## Financial Risk

The Standing Committee closely monitored the evolving financial situation. Having finally turned around years of deficit budgets and now finding ourselves in profit. The PCC is committed to sustaining balanced budgets in 2024 and beyond. These years have shown that our income is very dependent on lettings and in 2024 a focus has been diversifying the mix of lettings income that we receive to increase our financial resilience. We will continue to promote the Parish Giving Scheme and will invest in two new digital giving terminals which are installed in St Bride's and St Michaels. This all contributes to us managing our financial risk. All assets are insured and levels will be reviewed by our insurer Ecclesiastical.

## Employees

The parish employed three part time staff: Jackie Corcoran as parish administrator, Vicky Clarke, cleaner at St Michael's and Megan Fleming cleaner at St Dunstan's and St Brides'. Leah Daly, Lauda leader was employed by Liverpool Parish Church but will come onto our Parish payroll in 2024. All continue to be supervised and support by the Team Vicar in our Parish. Our payroll is managed by LCVS.

## Risk Assessments

The PCC regularly monitors risk. Risk assessments are undertaken for all new or extraordinary undertakings.

## Compliance with Law and Regulation

Our procedures are reviewed regularly and formally reported to the PCC.

## Safeguarding

Sue Say stepped down as Safeguarding Officer at the APCM on 28th April and Rose Green continues as a Safeguarding Officer with Laura Ferguson remaining as Lead Recruiter. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda and steps have been taken to recruit the second officer.. The Team Parish of St Luke in the City takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.liverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding.

Looking forward: Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. As a parish we aim to be 'Living Life in Full Colour from the Still Centre of God'.

Our three priorities continue to be:

- Sustainability: developing our financial resilience and recruiting a new Rector.
- Locality: deepening our roots in our local parish communities
- Growth: in numbers in our churches, in spiritual depth, and in service to our communities

In addition, we aim to contribute to the Deanery Priorities by fully engaging with the Fit for Mission 'working-as-if phase' which was voted and agreed on in March 2024 PCC meeting.

# ADDITIONAL REPORTS

## CURATE'S REPORT

**Rev'd Lu Skerratt-Love, Assistant Curate of the Team Parish of St Luke in the City**

I can't believe it's been almost a year since I became your assistant curate. Time has flown by! Over the last 10 months I have been exploring lots of elements of parish life and finding my feet as a newly ordained minister. The 3 years as an assistant curate is a time where I 'learn the ropes' of what it means to be a deacon, and then a priest, with all its joys and its challenges. I care deeply about incarnational ministry and much of my ministry has evolved outside of church on a Sunday morning, especially with young people and those who are ostracised, isolated or alone in our community.. Since joining the ministry team I've become the chaplain (with Laura) at Archbishop Blanch School which is very exciting and have been working closely with Leah as part of The Lauda Project (our ministry with the Roma community). This project is continuing to blossom. There are a wonderful community of children and young people at St Michael's which is growing and it has been a delight to support, encourage and empower them through worship. We have exciting plans in the pipeline for how we can resource this community further, so watch this space! Another particular highlight of this past year has been running





The Chosen Course – a bible study using the first season of tv series, The Chosen. I'm hoping to run The Chosen Season 2 soon! I am looking forward to what the next year of my curacy may bring, especially after being priested.






## MICAH

## Philip Bishop, Micah Trustee & Volunteer at the St Bride's Foodbank & St Dunstan's Community Market

St. Bride's Church is one of the three founder members of Michah – the Liverpool Social Justice charity – the other two are the Anglican and RC cathedrals. Two **foodbanks** are part of Micah's work – at St. Bride's on Thursday mornings and St. Vincent's RC church on Tuesday mornings. Both churches are within easy reach of three large hostels serving asylum seekers and refugees – so it is not surprising that 80% of our visitors come from these categories. (Two **food markets** – pay £2 and choose 15 items - at St. Dunstan's and in Toxteth, provide for local, well-established communities.) About 240 people are currently served across the Tuesday and Thursday foodbanks. They come from war-torn and poverty-stricken countries. The biggest group at present is from Eritrea. Two years ago, we welcomed many families, but most of our guests are now young, single men and women. If you would like to know more, please talk to Leslie Fenton, Margaret Gibson or Philip Bishop.



## LAUDA
## Leah Daly, Lauda Co-ordinator

2024 was another lovely year with the Lauda Project!



**Community Market** at St. Dunstan's continues to be a wonderful partnership between St. Dunstan's, Micah Food Bank and Lauda. We also continue to be supported by NHS Liferooms with social prescribing and various health related workshops. Philharmonic continued to run their community music programs on Wednesdays, often providing beautiful live music for all our visitors and creating a wonderful atmosphere. Liverpool Women's came to support us often this year with clothing donations and support for the women. And with the ongoing partnership with Granby Toxteth development trust we were able to provide ESOL lessons during our market hours. We also have been working with Picton Network of GPS and healthcare providers who have started running health sessions.







Our **Afterschool Lauda Bible club** has continued at St. Hugh's Catholic Primary school, as we enjoy working with 20-30 of their children each week. We have been supported by Tsedaqah interns and Youth with A mission Liverpool volunteers which have been a tremendous help. Leah Daly who leads the project has also had the pleasure of supporting children in Year 1 once a week as more than half the class are Roma and many of them are benefiting from some extra help and attention, especially with English language development.



**Archbishop Roma Girls group** has continued, though instead of reading with them, we now use our Wednesday Lunch times as a catch up and wellbeing group. We have been using Rooted from Scripture Union as a guide to talk about life goals and journey, identity and dealing with emotions. We also do creative activities and eat lunch together.

Leah also supported the girls to participate in a multilingual poetry project at the school and Lu and Leah helped the girls set up a table at the school's annual Cultural Market and share a special Roma traditional salad and artifacts and photos about Roma culture with their friends and teachers.

Lu and Leah were also grateful to join the staff of Archbishop Blanch for a Roma culture and language training session given by Juice Vaimos who is a fantastic Roma advocate and leader of Kaskosan charity serving Roma in Bradford and all over Europe.



Leah has also been able to go into school to help translate for families when they have meetings with teachers and help them to develop mutual

trust and cooperation.



**Liverpool John Moores University's Gypsy Traveller Roma Showman Boater (GTRSB) History Month event** was a wonderful experience. Lauda helped to organize some of the ladies to volunteer and help host the event and we also organized some fun crafts for the children who came. The event was very well attended and it was wonderful to be part of this celebration and invitation to see more Roma going for higher education. We heard from different members of the GTRSB community who were all the first in their families to go to University. It was inspiring!






**Christmas Trail**

In early December with the help of Karen McCaldon, St. Dunstan's church warden, Laura, Lu and Leah ran a fabulous Christmas experience trail at St. Dunstan's for three year groups from St. Hughs. We were also supported by two YWAM Liverpool volunteers and two Scripture Union Liverpool Staff. We had a great team and a lot of hard work went into setting up each station where the children would visit and experience part of the Christmas story of Jesus' birth. It was a lovely time!



**Roma Ladies Christmas Meal**

This year we were invited by Bold Street Community Centre in the old "Bread Church" to use their facilities to cook and eat together a traditional Romanian Roma Christmas meal. The ladies showed off their talent, whipping up a fantastic spread of stuffed cabbage rolls, special potatoes salad and sweet bread called cozonac. It was delicious and a wonderful way to spend time together, learning more about their traditions and celebrate the season.







Lauda has been a part of **Shucar Glasso,** a research and community change initiative, run in partnership with Kuumba Immani Millenium Centre, Liverpool Hope University, NHS Life Rooms and Granby Toxteth Development Trust. We meet with professionals from all areas, education, social work, healthcare and community to discuss working together to improve the lives of Roma youth in Liverpool. From there we organized a parents feedback session at St. Dunstan's to hear from the community about their perceptions of life in Liverpool for them, their families and their young people. After that, we held another listening session to hear more on challenges Roma families face regarding education. We have learned a great deal and have built a network of working professionals to collaborate with. We use the information we have gathered to help equip these professionals to work with Roma families and be more effective at improving the outcomes for Roma young people. We have held a training session on Overcoming Barriers to Education and our next session will be on removing barriers to health care access.





**Supporting Individuals**

Besides our regular programs, we also support people individually according to need. We visit families, resource items they may need like baby buggies or beds, clothes, etc. and provide support and encouragement for different life situations. We helped one lady study for her driving theory test and another we helped to enroll in school and search for jobs. As much as our capacity allows we enjoy working with the families to meet practical needs.

This covers the bulk of activity from 2024. Since 2025 we have started new activities so stay tuned to hear more of all the exciting things happening here at the Lauda Project! Thank you so much for your prayers and support!





## ST BRIDE'S COMMUNITY MUSIC Report
## Jackie Corcoran, St Bride's Community Music Co-Ordinator

Co-Muse Community Music runs on Thursday evenings at St Bride's Church



We are an inclusive group, welcoming music folk who are returning to music practice and music folk who are experienced.
We are intergenerational and we have a friendly vibe going on. We continue to explore different genres of music, but currently explore jazz music more intently and our members really enjoy improvisation. We also take time during sessions to perform solo music that we are working on.

**During 2024**
In June we supported the British Red Cross' Refugee Week celebration by playing music for them after the special lunch. This is a music activity that is now a regular annual event for our group.

In July we supported a small concert produced by Nick Branton, who has supported St Bride's worship services in the past. The concert featured duo Jessica Ackerly , Canadian, and Eli Wallace, from Brooklyn. These composers/improvisers played some amazing music of their creation and Co-Muse members helped out in the kitchen and cleared a small sum of about £100 for St Bride's building projects.

In October we held our concert 'Musical Affirmations', also in support of St Bride's building projects. It was a great night and attracted about 75 members of our local community. Our guest artist was decolonial hip hop artist Andre Jahnoi. We enjoyed playing live music supporting one of Andre's hip hop pieces using a riff from our own Amy Crane's composition 'Acceptance'. This was the formal premiere of her work. This concert was really enjoyed by the people. As a 'dry' event we raised close to £300. We gave passes to the British Red Cross and ticket prices were tiered 'Waged' and 'Unwaged' to provide accessibility to all.

Also In October Co-Muse provided live but quiet 'election jazz' as unobtrusive, neutral background music while St Bride's was used as a polling station This was appreciated by the polling station staff and by the voters and we think it may have been a world first in the use of live music. :)

Co-Muse continues to be a place for musicians, both new and experienced to practice their craft and perform in unique ways that support our local community and bringing positive attention to our St Bride's church building.

# READER IN TRAINING
## James Fleming, Reader in Training, Parish Warden & Taize Service leader

### Taizé



During 2024 we have held fewer Taizé services while discerning how best to develop this ministry of praying through song and contemplation. Highlights included an evening prayer service in January 2024 to pray for new opportunities in the new year, and, at the beginning of Holy Week, we held a special Taizé service entitled 'Wait for the Lord', which was attended by many students and visitors to St. Bride's. This was followed by a special service to celebrate Pentecost and Trinity season in May 2024, and an autumn service in September 2024 to mark the beginning of a new academic year for students.

I am so pleased that we have been able to incorporate Taizé songs and worship into other services, including the Open Table Easter Day Communion service and agape breakfast morning prayer in 2025. In addition, I look forward to helping to present a Taizé Communion service as part of our creative Holy Communion series at St. Bride's in 2025.

### Lay Minister training

I have been continuing my training at Emmanuel Theological College during 2024, as I prepare for licenced lay ministry as a lay reader, very much supported by Rev. Laura, the leadership team and the whole community. This has been a wonderful journey on which I have met many wonderful people and benefitted hugely from experiencing a wide range of viewpoints and worshipping traditions. I have been learning about biblical studies, theology, liturgy and worship, leadership and the traditions of the church, along with pastoral ministry and funeral ministry. The most important part of the training is being on placement in the parish where I have gained experience of planning and leading worship, giving reflections, pastoral ministry, children's ministry, and helping with funerals, weddings and baptisms.

Hopefully, I am due to finish college classes in July 2025 and assignments in early September 2025, with hopefully a licensing service taking place in late September 2025. I hope that I can continue to serve you in the parish for many years to come.

Please would you join me in praying for the community at Emmanuel Theological College – the students preparing for ministry, and the wonderful tutors and support colleagues who encourage and support them:

*Merciful Father, your son Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us; Give us grace, that we who bear his name may fix our eyes on him, and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaim his gospel in word and deed; until that day when he shall come again and all things shall be made new. Amen.*

## ROOTS IN THE CITY
### Annie Merry, Director of Faiths4Change

Faiths4Change continues to enjoy our partnership with the clergy and church team at St Micheal's in the City as we work with and continue to grow relationships & community through the Roots in the City Garden.



**Annie with our 6kg harvest of Swiss**

Our regular activity has been:

**Grow Well Together** – Tuesdays – a drop-in group for all, seasonal gardening & craft activity throughout the year. This group has just taken on the maintenance of the Upper Pitt Street Rain Garden for the community. 22 people have enjoyed the Grow Well Together activities, many are regulars and play a significant role in shaping the garden and community focused approach.

**Practical Horticulture Skills** – City & Guilds Level 1 & 2 qualifications in partnership with Myerscough College – Thursdays & Fridays. We've welcomed over 30 students to courses this year.

**Garden Drop In** – Thursdays – As well as many folk attending other groups and courses, an additional 9 people have dropped in to the garden.

**Linda's Loves** – Young people's gardening and growing group weekly March – October, monthly during autumn and winter - 19 individual young people have come together over the year to plan, grow, harvest, share and enjoy fresh food and related activities. The group concludes with a shared meal.

We offer a free plant-based community meal and refreshments, open to all on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Growing Vegetables & Herbs for the Micah Foodbank** underpins our activity in the Roots Garden, with all people attending having a hand in the process from seed sowing and watering to harvesting. People gain social, cultural, wellbeing and spiritual connections; knowledge, skills, sharing, friendships, kindness and so much more from being in and working the garden. Giving to others by growing delicious organic veg and herbs for them, is a collective and shared joy.
This year (January – December 2024) we donated 0.238 tonnes of vegetables and herbs at a value of £2622.69. An average of 500g per household, 476 households benefitted.

**Student & drop in gardeners weeding the rockery in the Roots Garden; Tuesday gardeners maintaining the Rain Garden on Upper Pitt Street.**

Our one-off projects:

**Wellbeing & Woodwork** Late Autumn 2024, Hanni, Emma & Crystal led a series of wellbeing & wood workshops over 4 months. A team of girls and young women excluded from school and based at Everton in the Community worked with us to build 3 new amazing, raised beds in the garden over 3 sessions. All other workshops were open to adults and enabled them to learn to use wood working tools and work as a team to create a raised pond, hedgehog and bird houses - new friends, skills, fun and inspiration.

*'The Wellbeing and Woodwork workshop was a great experience; it gave me the confidence to try using new tools and inspired me to think of projects I'd like to try at home. I would recommend this workshop to everyone'.*



**Brian planting out Broad Beans in one of the new raised beds built by girls and young women as part of the Wood & Wellbeing project.**

**Sow Grow Cook Serve (projects were delivered in 2025)** – working together Laura (Team Vicar) & Lu (Curate), Crystal & Emma (Faiths4Change) welcomed groups from Archbishop Blanch C of E Girls High School, Liverpool Community College and St Vincent de Paul RC Primary School to St Michael's to experience 3 social and climate justice workshops exploring the connections of faith, wellbeing, fair trade through growing, cooking and art.

**Water Stories** - Water & Climate Change are inextricably linked. Climate change is exacerbating both water scarcity and water related hazards such as floods and droughts. For many of us, understanding and changing our behaviour to reduce the impacts of climate change requires an emotional connection which is often missing. Water stories: memories, photos, rituals, teachings, beliefs & much more, offer us an emotional connection with our environment, each other and inspiration to act.

Our Water Stories & Actions project is exploring themes of flooding, drought, pollution, habitat, food growing, rainwater harvesting, energy and much more through creative, informative 'story' workshops and practical active sessions.

## OPEN TABLE
## Warren Hartley, Open Table Coordinator

Open Table Liverpool (OTL) is a Fresh Expression of Church and a ministry and congregation of St Luke in the City Team Parish led by our Local Missional Leader (LML), Mr Warren Hartley commissioned by the Bishop of Liverpool to this ministry. Open Table is for everyone but especially welcomes and affirms folk who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex & Asexual (LGBTQIA+). Open Table gathers at St Bride's on the first and third Sunday of every month. The first Sunday is a bring and share agape meal including a time of informal worship sharing life, faith and food together. The third Sunday of the month is a service of Holy Communion except in December when it hosts the parish Carol Service.
Our Open Table community is a member of the Open Table Network (OTN). OTN is "a growing partnership of communities across England & Wales which genuinely welcome and affirm people who are LGBTQIA + our families, friends & anyone who wants to belong in an accepting, loving community."



**Overview**

2024 has been a great year for OTL as we've continued to grow and share life, community and worship together. One of the great joys has been the continued growth of the music group with new members joining all the time it has deeply enriched our worship. Numbers at services have now exceeded pre-covid numbers which is deeply encouraging. An average of 42 people attend all services with an average of 18 at Agape service and 65 at communion services.

**Community Development Process**

In 2023, to mark 15 years, we began a process of Community Development, reflecting on the past, valuing what is and dreaming about what the future will be. This process developed further in 2024 with excellent engagement from the OTL community.

We held two days of reflection one on 9th March and the other on 28th September. Both days were very well attended with around 45 individuals taking part across the two days. From this reflection we've set out a vision to be:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | A Community of Welcome | We invite all people into safe and inclusive spaces of belonging, care, and friendship through our daily practices of radical hospitality. |
| 2. | A Community of Celebration | We honour the sanctity and sacredness of life in our relationship with God and others, through our creative expressions of words, music, and the arts. |
| 3. | A Community of Learning | We desire to follow and model the teachings of Jesus Christ through times of study, reflection, silence and sharing the lessons of our spiritual journey. |
| 4. | A Community of Justice | We seek the inherent dignity for all people by actively challenging all barriers to an equitable and just society. |

The whole community has also discerned areas for development under each of these headings and we've safely recruited a Team Lead for each area to take this forward. All the Team Leads are members of the Open Table Leadership team. We've also committed to organising an annual gathering of the whole community at which we'll make plans and set priorities for the coming year.

Ae we approach our 17th birthday in 2025 we are excited to see how this will serve our community and those who haven't yet discovered it more widely and deeply.

**Events:**




2024 has been a busy year with lots of services and events. We've continued our regular pattern of two services a month with an Agape Meal on the 1st Sunday and a Communion Service led by a different minister on the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is hard to pick out highlights but here is just a tiny selection

Agape Service – these continue to be popular and frequently attract new people each month.

People like the informality and the chance to sit, eat and get to know each other. We also host a "sharing circle" after the meal for folk to share more deeply. A new development in 2024 was to add the opportunity for someone to share their story as part of the meal. As part of this Merseyside Police LGBT+ Network visited on 1st September to share their stories.



We are very grateful to the PCC, the Clergy and the Bishop of Liverpool who support the ecumenical nature of the OTL community consenting to using Canon B35 provision to allow ecumenical partners to preside. In 2024 we invited retiring Chair of the Methodist District, Sheryl Anderson, to preside (pictured left). It was a real gift to be able to celebrate in this way.

The Communion Services continue to be the highlight of our month and to be extremely well supported by clergy across the our team, diocese and beyond. To name just a few in 2024 we were joined by the Archdeacon and Associate Archdeacon Liverpool, the Archdeacon of Knowsley and Sefton, the former Bishop of Liverpool, the Dean of Diversity as well as our very own beloved St Luke in the City Team Clergy Laura, Lu, Anne and David.

We joined the Diocese of Liverpool Equal Marriage Group for a vigil at Liverpool Parish Church on 23rd June. Over 50 people joined the vigil committing to calling for full equality of LGBTQIA+ people in the Church of England.

Liverpool Pride is one of our most significant outreach events. In 2024 we hosted a Screening of the document 1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture on 15th July. This documentary tracks the story of how the English word 'homosexual' first

appeared in an English translation of the bible in 1946 and how it truly is a mistranslation. We again joined with Christians at Pride to march in the city's Pride Festival and hosted a stall. On the Sunday we collaborated with Liverpool Cathedral to organise a post-festival Pride service. Our music team did an exceptional job with the music with 108 people attending the service led by our dear friends Lu Skerratt-Love and Lilly Nelson both of whom had only been deaconed a few weeks beforehand.



At our October communion service, we joined with Aimee and Carrie (pictured left) to pray for God's blessing on their wedding. It was the first time we've used the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) as a parish. It was good to celebrate the love Aimee and Carrie and share in their marriage. It did also highlight for us how inadequate the PLF resources are.

Fr Richard Sloan, joined us again to lead a Contemplative Prayer Day (pictured left) on October 26th at Irenaeus Project. Fr Richard is a priest of the Liverpool Catholic Archdiocese, with pastoral experience in both the UK and the Bolivian Andes. He is trained as an Integrative Psychosynthesis practitioner and counselling supervisor offering spiritual accompaniment, retreat, counselling and supervision. Contemplative prayer is something many at Open Table have expressed interest in exploring.





To end the year, we had our biggest Carol Service ever with at least 220 people attending. We had to keep finding more chairs as more people arrived! The music group led by Fern Arthurs out did themselves and it was a delight as always to welcome the Liverpool Rainbow Chorus to the celebrations. David led the service with Sue Say preaching. It was wonderful to welcome David to Open Table.





**Other highlights**

In April 2024 following a period of recruitment and with permission from the PCC we appointed Beth Powell as Ministry Co-ordinator for Open Table. Beth's primary role was to develop our social media, on the financial and event administration. Our social media following and interaction has increased considerably and Beth has plans for more for 2025. Beth has also been working on redeveloping our presence on the St Bride's website.

In 2024 we also launched a Welcome Pack which we give out to any new people. The pack contains a message of welcome, our activities, ways of staying in touch and more. They've been very well received. In addition, ready for the Pride Festival, we launched a tri-fold flyer as publicity material to share with folk.

As mentioned above our leadership team has expanded to nine members and includes Laura as our Clergy Lead. This includes the new team leads for the areas mentioned above.

While not strictly Open Table events Warren and others were part of a range of other activities:

- Warren led the Radical Welcome Course at St Bride's on behalf of Together Liverpool
- We took part in the L8 Interfaith Walk in August 2024 and made a financial donation and volunteered with refreshments.
- Warren was invited to the Toxteth and Wavertree Deanery Synod in April 2024 and shared the OTL Story
- We continued our relationship with Merseyside Police. Representatives attended the "Apologise Now" event on 5th June when the Chief Constable apologised to the

LGBT+ community for past persecution of our community. Warren has also continued to service on the Merseyside Police Trans Community Advisory Group

• Our relationships with Sahir House continue to grow and we've publicied and taken part in their "Queer Town Hall" community consultation events. These have been an excellent initiative.

• Open Table supported St Bride's to welcome Jonathan Clatworthy back to give a valedictory Lecture on 17/6/24

- Warren and Sue Say were invited by South Sefton Deanery to preach in two different churches in as part of their "Justice for All" initiative on 30/6/24
- Warren was invited by 3 churches in L23 to delivery Inclusive Welcome Training in July
- A number of OTL folk were at Greenbelt over the August Bank Holiday.
- We were very grateful indeed to the anonymous donor who has given the art work "Nativity Trancred" to OTL and St Bride's on a long term loan. This has now been mounted in the Church with an explanatory plaque underneath. This will be treasured for as long as the loan continues. (pictured right with artist Revd Elizabeth Grey-King.



Finally in December we launched a new monthly gathering which we've called "A Pint with Richard Rohr". The first gathering was on 8th December with 8 people joining us in Ma Boyles Pub in town. The group reflects on the Daily Meditations and other writings published by Richard Rohr and the Centre for Action and Contemplation.

**Future Plans**

Heading into 2025 we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. In particular we'll be focusing on the ongoing community development process began in 2023 and embedding this into the life of our community. We'll continue safely recruiting new leaders and volunteers. Two new initiatives in development are: seeing how we can offer a regular slot for Contemplative Prayer and to launch what we are calling "Open Table Out" (OTO). OTO will be an informal social event at an offsite venue once a month but also with the aim to create safe

space for people who wouldn't walk into a church to have conversations about spirituality and faith.

In 2025 we'll celebrate our 17th birthday which will be led by our very own Lu Skerratt-Love who will also be celebrating their ordination as priest just a few short weeks prior.

The Music Group continue to develop has life beyond Open Table! They are doing other concerts which included a Fundraising Concert for St Bride's on 7/6/24 and at the Masonic Hall in December.

Our greatest joy and greatest challenges are that almost everything happening at OTL is run by lay volunteers. It is a joy to see empowered lay ministry and peer to peer support. The challenge lies in having sufficient volunteer hours to do all that could be done. There is simply more to do than can be done in volunteer hours. Expanding the leadership team and volunteer base will go someway to alleviating this.

It continues to be the privilege of my life to serve the OTL community as a lay minister. Thank you for all your support and encouragement as PCC to the life of this ministry. Please continue to pray for us in the words of the Open Table Network prayer "Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, among us in Jesus' name. Amen"

*See Open Table Liverpool in Number below:*

**Open Table Liverpool in Numbers**

**Attendance** has now exceeded pre-covid levels:
Agape Average – 18
Communion Service Average – 65
Carol Service – 220
Pride Service – 108
Vigil - 54

**Finance Report - 2024 @ 31/12/2024 bank balance £3,874.64**

Income

| | |
|---|---|
| Plate | £624.45 |
| Parish Giving Scheme | £5,203.36 |
| Ministry Co-ordinator Grant | £2,400.00 |
| SumUp | £425.49 |
| Ticket Sales (e.g. Quiet Day etc) | £317.22 |
| Mugs Sales | £69.78 |
| **Total Income 2024** | **£9040.30** |

Budget Funds – Money available (including previous years income)

| | |
|---|---|
| Unrestricted Cash Available | £1,597.71 |
| Justice Project (3% of income) | £255.82 |
| Ministry Co-ordinator Salary Underspend | £441.55 |
| Discipleship Project | £200.00 |
| Pastoral Care Training | £200.00 |
| Research Project | £1000.00 |
| Away Day Underspend | £140.00 |
| Artists Print | £39.56 – to be split between Artist and St B |
| **Total Funds in Budget Columns 2024** | **£3,874.64** |

Expenditure

| | |
|---|---|
| Away Day | £50.00 |
| Books | £84.21 |
| Carol Service | £384.12 |
| General | £97.27 |
| Hospitality | £208.86 |
| Lectures (travel and speaker fees) | £65.00 |
| Musician | £100.00 |
| Open Table Network Tithe (10% of Income) | £587.22 |
| Payroll – Ministry Co-ordinator | £1958.45 |
| Postage/Stationery | £47.77 |
| Pride | £398.41 |
| Social Media Adverts | £68.61 |
| St Bride's Contribution (40% of Income) | £2,118.43 |
| Travel | £32.71 |
| Zoom Subscription | £155.88 |
| **Total** | **£6,356.94** |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

| | | General | Restricted Funds | Total 2024 | Total 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME from:** | | | | | |
| Donations | 2 | 28,732 | 11,743 | 40,475 | 49,807 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 1,520 | 138 | 1,658 | 1,900 |
| Fundraising activities | 4 | 67,156 | 190 | 67,346 | 56,817 |
| Investments | 5 | 32,429 | 858 | 33,287 | 36,986 |
| Other | 6 | 764 | 24,109 | 24,873 | 44,735 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | | 130,601 | 37,308 | 167,639 | 190,245 |
| **EXPENDITURE on:** | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 154,992 | 8,209 | 163,201 | 151,330 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDENDITURE** | | 154,992 | 8,209 | 163,201 | 151,330 |
| Net income before gains and losses on investments | | (24,391) | 29,829 | 4,438 | 38,915 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | | 13,251 | (16) | 13,235 | 7,950 |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (11,140) | 29,813 | 17,673 | 46,865 |
| Transfers between funds | | 48,487 | (48,487) | - | - |
| **NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS** | | 37,347 | (19,674) | 17,673 | 46,865 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 502,480 | 48,922 | 551,402 | 504,537 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 539,827 | 29,248 | 569,075 | 551,402 |

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

| | Note | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FIXED ASSETS** | | | |
| Tangible assets | 10 | 7,476 | 11,282 |
| Investments | 11 | 484,541 | 416,869 |
| | | 492,017 | 428,151 |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 1,017 | 46,606 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 13 | 84,035 | 83,935 |
| | | 85,052 | 130,541 |
| **CREDITORS**: amounts falling due within one year | 14 | 7,994 | 7,290 |
| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** | | 77,058 | 123,251 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | 569,075 | 551,402 |
| **FUNDS OF THE CHARITY** | 15 | | |
| General | | 120,814 | 91,472 |
| Designated | | 419,013 | 411,008 |
| Restricted | | 29,248 | 48,922 |
| | | 569,075 | 551,402 |

Approved by the Parochial church Council on 13th May 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Rev David Halliwell

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

## *1. Accounting policies*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

**Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the trustees are also unrestricted.
Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal.
Transfers of funds are made to recognise the release of restricted funds or to meet expenditure not covered by restricted income.
The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is held responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**Income**

*Donations, legacies and other voluntary income*
Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is received by or on behalf of the charity. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the repayment is received. Funds raised by seasonal fairs, fundraising events and similar events are accounted for gross.

The charity received substantial amounts of voluntary help from its supporters, but no attempt is made to place a financial value on these services and they have not been included.

*Rental income*
Rental income from the letting of the charity's premises is recognised when the rental is due.

*Income from investments*

Dividends and interest are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

**Expenditure**
Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

**Tangible assets**
Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the churches inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2010 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years.

**Investments**
Investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end.

*Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

**Debtors**
Amounts owed to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, loans or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

**Cash at bank and in hand**
Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Donations | | | | |
| | Gift aid donations | 17,075 | 6,143 | 23,218 | 20,492 |
| | Income tax recovered | 3,927 | 1,460 | 5,387 | 4,803 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other planned giving | 930 | - | 930 | 2,313 |
| Collections | 1,905 | 615 | 2,520 | 2,717 |
| Donations | 1,520 | 525 | 2,045 | 1,865 |
| Grants | 3,375 | 3,000 | 6,375 | 17,500 |
| Other | - | - | - | 117 |
| | 28,732 | 11,743 | 40,475 | 49,807 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Fees | 1,520 | - | 1,520 | 1,481 |
| | Events | - | 138 | 138 | 419 |
| | | 1,520 | 138 | 1,658 | 1,900 |
| 4 | Fund raising | | | | |
| | Rent from lettings | 66,867 | - | 66,867 | 56,284 |
| | Other | 289 | 190 | 479 | 533 |
| | | 67,156 | 190 | 67,346 | 56,817 |
| 5 | Investments | | | | |
| | Dividends | 16,373 | 858 | 17,231 | 17,397 |
| | Interest | 3,723 | - | 3,723 | 1,922 |
| | Rent from land | 12,333 | - | 12,333 | 17,667 |
| | | 32,429 | 858 | 33,287 | 36,986 |
| 6 | Other | | | | |
| | St Dunstan's Bequest | - | - | - | 44,735 |
| | William Bate Dumbell | | 24,109 | 24,109 | - |
| | Insurance claim | 764 | - | 764 | - |
| | | 764 | 24,109 | 24,873 | 44,735 |
| 7 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Missionary and charitable giving | 2,132 | 3,853 | 5,985 | 15,075 |
| | Ministry | | | | |
| | Diocesan parish share | 45,099 | | 45,099 | 40,923 |
| | Salaries | 15,103 | 1,665 | 16,768 | 18,193 |
| | Clergy housing costs | 10,055 | | 10,055 | 5,014 |
| | Clergy expenses | 2,289 | | 2,289 | 1,798 |
| | Other expenses | | | - | 210 |
| | Church costs | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Council tax and water | 624 | | 624 | 733 |
| Insurance | 11,648 | | 11,648 | 11,595 |
| Heat and light | 31,387 | | 31,387 | 21,862 |
| Maintenance | 8,791 | | 8,791 | 9,428 |
| Churchyard | 8,233 | | 8,233 | 1,805 |
| Security | 1,248 | | 1,248 | 1,248 |
| Cleaning | 6,439 | | 6,439 | 6,301 |
| Carried forward | 143,048 | 5,518 | 148,566 | 134,185 |



| | | General Fund | Restricted Funds | Total 2024 | Total 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 7 | Note continued | | | | |
| | Brought forward | 143,048 | 5,518 | 148,566 | 134,185 |
| | Cleaning | | | | |
| | Music | 511 | 200 | 711 | 917 |
| | Upkeep of services | 765 | | 765 | 997 |
| | Events | 306 | 345 | 651 | 1,011 |
| | Training and education | 70 | 50 | 120 | 305 |
| | Telephone and website | 3,323 | 156 | 3,479 | 3,791 |
| | Publicity | 742 | | 742 | 629 |
| | Depreciation | 3,111 | 695 | 3,806 | 3,714 |
| | Administration | 2,966 | 1,245 | 4,211 | 4,631 |
| | Legal and professional | 150 | | 150 | 1,150 |
| | | 154,992 | 8,209 | 163,201 | 151,330 |

| | | Total 2024 | Total 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Legal and professional | | |
| | Composition of charge | | |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Independent examiner's fees | 150 | 150 |
| | Other fee | - | 1,000 |
| | | 150 | 1,150 |

| | | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Paid employees | | |
| | Staff costs | | |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Salaries | 16,768 | 18,193 |
| | Employer's national insurance | - | - |
| | | 16,768 | 18,193 |

The average number of employees employed by the PCC during the year was 5 for 2024 and 3 for 2023.

The trustees received no remuneration during the year however expenses were reimbursed for services other than as trustees.
There is no trustee indemnity insurance.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

10 Tangible assets

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Cost at 1st January 2024 | 32,865 | 20,419 |
| Additions at cost | - | 12,446 |
| Cost at 31st December 2024 | 32,865 | 32,865 |
| | | |
| Depreciation at 1st January 2024 | 21,583 | 17,869 |
| Charge for the year | 3,806 | 3,714 |
| Depreciation at 31st December 2024 | 25,389 | 21,583 |
| | | |
| Net book value | 7,476 | 11,282 |

11 Investments

The investments held at the year-end are either investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or investments in authorised investment trusts.

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Market value at 1st January 2024 | 416,869 | 405,497 |
| Addition | 54,437 | 44,735 |
| (Disposal) | - | (41,313) |
| Gain/(loss) on revaluation | 13,235 | 7,950 |
| Market value at 31st December 2024 | 484,541 | 416,869 |
| | | |
| Historical cost | 423,000 | 393,000 |

12 Debtors

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 487 | 793 |
| Other debtors | 530 | 45,813 |
| | 1,017 | 46,606 |

13 Cash at bank and in hand

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Short term deposits | 68,782 | 62,904 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 15,253 | 21,031 |
| | 84,035 | 83,935 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Accruals and deferred income | 7,994 | 7,290 |

15 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

| | At 1st January 2024 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General fund | 91,472 | 127,086 | (146,231) | 48,487 | 120,814 |
| Designated funds | 411,008 | 16,766 | (8,761) | - | 419,013 |
| | 502,480 | 143,852 | (154,992) | 48,487 | 539,827 |

| | At 1st January 2024 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Restricted funds | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Open Table Network | - | | | | - |
| St Dunstan's Bequest | 44,412 | 664 | - | (45,076) | - |
| Lauda | - | 3,000 | (3,000) | | - |
| Taste of God | 476 | - | - | | 476 |
| Baltic Mission | 1,305 | - | (695) | | 610 |
| William Bates Dumbell | | 24,436 | (149) | | 24,287 |
| Open Table Liverpool | 2,729 | 9,070 | (4,513) | (3,411) | 3,875 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 48,922 | 37,170 | (8,357) | (48,487 | 29,248 |
| Total funds | 551,402 | 181,022 | (163,349) | - | 569,075 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

15 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

| | At 1st January 2023 £ | Income (inc. gains) £ | Expenditure (inc. losses) £ | Transfer of funds £ | At 31st December 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| St Luke in the City | | | | | |
| General | 89,029 | 137,636 | (132,453) | (2,740) | 91,472 |
| Designated funds | 399,482 | 11,442 | (2,446) | 2,530 | 411,008 |
| | 488.511 | 149,078 | (134,899) | (210) | 502,480 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| St Dunstan's Bequest | 2,233 | 45,601 | (3,422) | - | 44,412 |
| Lauda | 9,044 | 5,000 | (14,044) | - | - |
| Taste of God | 476 | - | - | - | 476 |
| Baltic Mission | 2,000 | - | (695) | - | 1,305 |
| Choir | 500 | - | (500) | - | - |
| Open Table Liverpool | 1,773 | 3,688 | (2,942) | 210 | 2,729 |
| | 16,026 | 54,289 | (21,603) | 210 | 48,922 |
| Total funds | 504,537 | 203,367 | (156,502) | - | 551,402 |

16 Fund details

Details of the various funds held by the PCC are as follows:

Name of fund Description, nature and purposes of the fund

Unrestricted funds

| | |
|---|---|
| General fund | From 1st January 2019 there is a one General Fund. |
| Designated funds | Included is an investment of £360,000 to provide income. |
| Restricted funds | Funds received for specific purposes. |

**Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke-in-the-City, Liverpool, charity number 1152031, on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, as set out the following pages: Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent Examiner's statement**

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

**Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.
I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ian Wright B.A. F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
15 Stretton Drive
Southport
PR9 7DR

Diocese of Liverpool

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**The Team Parish of St Luke in the City, Liverpool**

St Bride, St Dunstan, St Michael in the City
Parish Office: St Bride's Church, Percy Street, Liverpool L8 7LT
Office@stlukeinthecity.org.uk

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. LUKE-IN-THE-CITY, LI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1152031

# Accounts

The Team Parish of
St Luke in the City
Liverpool

# Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2023

St Bride's
Creative / Progressive / Inclusive
stbridesliverpool.org.uk

St Dunstan's
Dramatic / Sensory / Renewing
stdunstansliverpool.org.uk

St Michael's
Growing Community in the City
stmichaelinthecity.org.uk

## Clergy Report

Welcome to our Parish report which covers the year January to December 2023.

This year has been full of change in our Parish. In January our Team Rector Miranda was seconded to a part time role of Archdeacon of Liverpool and then in August took up the post full-time. We also said farewell to our Curate Louis in June who moved to Lancaster Priory. In September we had the joy of welcoming our Tsedaqah placement student Liam Higgins to the Parish and in November Rev'd Dr Anne Kazich was licensed to the Parish as an Associate Priest. Our PCC members have changed too with some long serving members stepping down, sadly passing away or simply changing roles and as a result new members have stepped in. We were delighted that James Fleming one of our Parish Wardens, has begun Reader Training and that St Brides and Open Table member, Beth Powell is now serving on a Ministry Experience Scheme at St Cuthbert's, Croxteth Park. Lilly Nelson, previously our student worker, will be completing her ordination training at Cranmer Hall, Durham in June and beginning a curacy at St Peter's Church, Formby.

In December 2022 the congregation of St Dunstan's met to discuss ways in which it could grow its numbers. It was agreed that 5 members would attend a church growth course. As a result in March 2023 we ran the Growing Good Lent course which other congregations were invited along to as well. The material, although interesting, was not easily transferable to our context. We continued to see lower numbers (than before the Pandemic) attending worship for our Sunday morning services however we have seen growth within Open Table. We have actively followed General Synod's discussions about prayers of blessing for same sex couples and have a times found the conversations to be hurtful and the results disappointing. However, as a Parish we have adopted a formal resolution to commit to using the Prayers of Love and Faith when they come into effect.

In response to some of challenges and opportunities we face as a Parish we called a Parish Away Day in May. Here we looked at the reality of our circumstances and explored options for the future. Those attending were invited to share their ideas and groups formed these ideas into actions. Coming out of that day was the desire of many to explore a Parish rhythm of prayer. Rose Green then began a prayer evening on Tuesday nights online which is now part of our regular pattern of worship. We started conversations about a small group to lead on pastoral care and although this has progressed getting the team trained and ensuring we comply with GDPR has resulted in the process taking longer than expected.

In the Deanery all Parish clergy were invited into the Engage Phase of Fit for Mission. For ten weeks clergy met to learn about FfM and attended a two day residential in order to make a decision about moving forward. The residential was inconclusive but decided further information and consultation with the laity was needed.

Within the life of our churches we've seen some encouraging developments. St Bride's began the year hosting the Living the Questions course which was a great success, the Taize service this year has developed a committed group of musicians from both our Parish and RC Church St Vincent de Paul. In August a group of folk travelled to Greenbelt festival and were inspired by the alternative worship, music and creativity there. Open Table has re-initiated its Agape meal, has been consulting with a church growth advisor about future developments, they also hosted an insightful retreat day based on the Life of Julian of Norwich and co-ordinated the annual Carol Service with over 150 attending. Fern Arthurs committed to leading the music group at St Bride's and has now become our Director of Music. On Thursday evenings Jackie Corcoran continues the music drop-in which has attracted a regular group of musicians.

St Dunstan's has provided a space of welcome for the folk coming to Micah's community market which works in partnership with Lauda. These Wednesday's are now host to a number of other local organisations such as the NHS Life Rooms, local midwives, NHS immunisation clinics and even Liverpool Philharmonic who have run drop-in music sessions since October. Lauda has continued to serve local Roma families through its advocacy work, teaching English and running two after school clubs at St Hugh's Primary School and Lawrence

Community Primary School as well as a lunchtime reading club at Archbishop Blanch Secondary School. Worship at St Dunstan's moved into the warmer Lady Chapel and the large wooden altar previously in the chancel was moved into the chapel to create an intimate and sacred space set aside for prayer.

St Michael's hosted some memorable joint services in 2023 including a water themed service for Miranda's last service there, harvesting food for Harvest festival, burning prayers and at the Nativity there was dressing-up and questionable acting skills on display! In September the Bible Course ran for 8 weeks which was a great springboard for discussion about the texts that so many of us wrestle with. Faiths4Change continued to breath life into St Michael's garden and collaborated with Black Lodge local brewery to create our own beer.

This year with a smaller team we had to make some decisions about what actitives we would have to limit. We decided that both the Pumpkin Carving Party at St Michael's and St Bride's Christmas tree festival would not run but hope that in the future we can offer special events like this once again in the not so distant future. We did still work with Faiths4 Change to offer our two annual action-packed events; the Summer and Christmas Fair. At St Dunstan's we ensured that we would continue to host the annual Remembering Service which was a poignant time of quiet reflection. In November, after some months of proposing our need for a Rector, the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee agreed to put forward their recommendation to the Diocesan committee. This was approved with the agreement that for one day a week our Rector will also serve as Priest in Change of St Margaret's of Antioch.

Financially, we ended the year in good health. The parish is paying its Parish Share and has committed to increasing our payments over the course of three years in line with our Deanery's financial plan. Our rentals have continued to contribute greatly to our income but with the increased prices of gas and electricity our bills have seen significant rises in 2023 and beyond. We are hugely grateful for all those whose faithful giving to the church ensures that we have a stable base of support with which to carry out our ministry. This enables us to continue making the church spaces available at no charge for the Foodbank, the community market and Roger Smalley's homeless meals project, for some of the community garden activities and for the Lauda project.

Looking ahead to 2024 we continue working towards filling our Rector vacancy, we are currently preparing the Parish Profile and other documents for the role and plan to advertise by May/June. We also eagerly anticipate the arrival of our new Curate Lu Skerratt-Love who will be ordained in June. We hope that as we move into new territory with Fit for Mission and adjust to new leadership we will deepen our roots, strengthen our body and branch out into the world baring good fruits.

**Laura Ferguson**
Team Vicar

## Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Team Parish of St Luke in the City is a registered charity, and its registered number is 1152031. Details of PCC members, who are the charity trustees, have to be provided to the Charity Commission.

The parish includes three churches: St Bride & St Saviour, located on Percy Street; St Dunstan on Earle Road, and St Michael in the City on Upper Pitt Street. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is: St Luke in the City Parish Office, St Bride's Church, Percy Street, Liverpool L8 7LT.

The following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Team Rector** | Miranda Threlfall-Holmes (until August 2023) |
| **Team Vicar** | Laura Ferguson |
| **Curate** | Louis Johnson (until June 2023) |
| **SSM Priest** | Sara Doyle<br>Anne Kazich (November 2023) |
| **Reader** | Christopher Bartley |
| **Reader in Training** | James Fleming |
| **Churchwardens** | Christopher Bartley<br>James Fleming |
| **Deanery Synod representatives** | Sue Say<br>John Denno<br>James Fleming<br>Christopher Bartley |
| **Elected Members** | John Denno<br>Sharon Ginley<br>Rose Green<br>Karen McCaldon<br>Kath Pace<br>Suzie Rotheram<br>Sue Say<br>Helen Stocker<br>Mari-Anne Valkass (resigned August 2023)<br>Emma Watson |
| **Treasurer** | Raymond Bissex |
| **Co-Opted Members** | Warren Hartley (in Autumn 2023) |
| **Officer** | Jackie Corcoran |
| **PCC Secretary** | Suzie Rotheram |
| **Safeguarding Officers** | Rose Green |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Sue Say |
| **Recruitment Lead** | Laura Ferguson |

The licensed clergy and Reader are each ex-officio members of the PCC. The Team Rector is ex-officio Chair of the PCC and this defers to the Team Vicar when in Vacancy.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bankers:** | The Cooperative Bank PLC<br>1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP |
| | Central Board of Finance of the Church of England<br>80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ |
| **Independent Examiner** | Mr. I Wright B.A. F.C.A.<br>15 Stretton Drive, Southport PR9 7DR |
| **Legal Advisors:** | Mr. H. Dellar<br>1, The Sanctuary, Westminster, Liverpool SW1P 3JT<br><br>Hill Dickinson LLP<br>1 St Paul's Square, Liverpool L3 9SJ |
| **Estate Management:** | PKPM Chartered Surveyors<br>Suite 7, Church House, 1 Hanover Street, Liverpool,<br>L1 3DN |
| **Architects: (St Bride's,<br>St Dunstan's and St Michael's)** | Finlayson's Architects, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9SY |

## Structure, Management and Governance

The St Luke in the City PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC business has a sub-committee, the Building Sub- Committee.
The function of the PCC is to enable and support mission, to foster communication and collaboration between the individual churches as appropriate and to provide a framework of accountability to the Diocese, Charity Commission and other legal bodies.

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

## Objectives and Activities

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

Our specific objectives in 2023 were to

1. Achieve a balanced budget and if possible end the year in profit
2. Deepen our links with and mission in our local communities
3. Develop our discipleship and pastoral care in order to rebuild and grow our congregations

Over the course of the year we have made some progress with these objectives, as outlined in the Clergy Report at the start of this document. Our finances have stabilised and we have increased our numbers of hirers across all our sites enabling us to move into the black and thus be in a much better position to pursue our mission. Our Parish links continue to develop, particularly at St Dunstan's where Lauda, our outreach to the Romanian Roma community has lead to a flurry of activity there.

## The Electoral Roll

There are 67 people on the Electoral Roll of the parish:

44 - St Bride's
9 - St Dunstan's
14 - St Michael in the City

## Public Worship

Our Sunday services continue with three weekly service with the exception of the last Sunday of the month being a joint service that rotates across the churches. Open Table meets twice monthly on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of the month with both services available on zoom.

At St Dunstan's we offered Eucharistic services weekly on Sunday at 10am. The midweek communion continued until August 2023 when repeated weeks of low of no attendance resulted in the decision to stop for the time being.

St Bride's Sunday morning 10am service numbers have fluctuated and although the main worship space has enabled the St Bride's tradition of discussion around tables, for the colder months we have moved from the main worship space into the Narthex. These services are Eucharistic twice or three times a month. On alternate months our Reader in Training co-ordinates a thoughtful and reflective Taize service at 6pm. Open Table continues to meet twice monthly with the first Sunday being Agape meal and the second Sunday being a Eucharist service. These services have been well-attended, particularly the 3rd Sunday service which often hosts notable church leaders and theologians.

St Michael's continues to meet at 11.15am with a regular pattern of alternating services of the word with Holy Communion. On the second Sunday each month St Michael's has a Godly Play service which is geared towards interactive worship and play. This service makes use of the new TV and sound system which gives the service a contemporary feel. We have enjoyed teaming up with Faiths for Change for our joint services at St Michael's which always have an eco theme, this year's featured themes have been water and fruits of the earth. Our Nativity Service was held here in 2023 and was a memorable occasion with lots of laughter.

Our midweek worship pattern has reduced as the Team Vicar is occupied with other duties - this is temporary as we aim to appoint new full-time team members. Rose Green our LLM has begun a weekly evening prayer group online on Tuesday evenings which has offered a gentle and reflective space. With more time and energy we would like to revisit our weekly worship pattern and hope to offer more online in 2024.

As for our occasional offices, we have had no weddings this year, 2 baptisms and 15 funerals. In the summer a group of about 12 of us travelled down to Kettering for Greenbelt Festival. We enjoyed four days of great talks, alternative worship, playing outside, hot days and cold nights and lots of late night camp chats.

## Pastoral care and service to our community

St Bride's is home to a number of local charities and organisations including: Refugee Women Connect,

Narcotics Anonymous, Roger Smalley's Homeless Meals Project, the British Red Cross, two community choirs, Jackie Corcoran's community music group and our social justice anchor project, Micah Foodbank. Both the Parish currently offers informal support to individuals and there the early stages of a pastoral care group beginning. Open table offers support one-to-one and met with a consultant throughout 2023 to explore opportunities for growth and the potential to develop it's own care team. There remains potential to offer more support during the Foodbank sessions but this may be revisited when volunteers are more readily available.

St Michael's is home to the Chinese Well-being group, Liverpool Rainbow Choir and Faith Clinic church. Our social justice anchor project Roots in the City continues to offer green space, therapeutic gardening and horticultural training for various groups. The Team Vicar now regularly attends the Tuesday drop-in group for local people. This group has also been attended by our Tsedaqah placement student.

St Dunstan's is home to Kumon language school, Pastor Shelley's church and Garden of Hope as well as the social justice anchor project Lauda. This outreach to the Roma community in the Parish has continued to grow with secondary and primary schools requesting Lauda run projects with them. Lauda now runs an after school club in St Hugh's primary school weekly in term time as well as at Lawrence Primary School - children love 'Lauda Bible Club' so much that there is a waiting list. Kindly volunteers for Lauda has at times been challenging and despite Lawrence Primary school club going well there were not enough volunteers to run the club and it has had to stop for the time being. Wednesday's at St Dunstan's have become a significant community hub with Roma women taking part in a language class, a clothes stall, refreshments and toast available and Micah's new weekly community market. Our work with Lauda has enabled us to strengthen relationships with Toxteth's Kuumba Imani centre and the Granby and Toxteth Development Trust, along with Archbishop Blanch School.

As a Parish we continue to take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and are regularly reviewing our practices.

## Our Church Buildings

With our buildings committee disbanding for a period of time building works have been a challenge to keep on top of at times. We have however appointed Finlayson's Architects and some work has progressed. We are currently waiting on the Diocese to approve our architecture firm so that the Quinquennial Inspections that are due can go ahead.

At St Dunstan's, although the organ sale had been agree this has now been revoked due to unforeseen circumstances. The building has increasing issues with blocked drains which cause leaking throughout. Roofers have made remedial repairs but the drain clearance that is needed requires scaffolding to be installed which places the cost well into the tens of thousands. An option to clear the lower drains is currently being explored and may resolve some of the issues. The upkeep of the building has placed increasing pressure on the small congregation at St Dunstan's and needs careful consideration when planning for the future.

St Bride's continues to need roofing work as well as some external and internal repainting. Both of which we plan to address in the coming year once we re-establish the buildings committee.

After the preliminary investigations were carried out into the drains issue at St Michael's, United Utilities finally visited the site at the end of 2023. They suspect that collapsed drains at the end of the site next to the NCP car park may be reason for the flooding inside the church and the architects requested that we clear all the vegetation around the perimeter of the building. This is now complete and has revealed some large tree roots that may also be contributing to the flooding. In 2024 we hope that work can begin to repair the drains now that the surrounding area is accessible. The PCC approved up to £30,000 to replace the fencing around St Michael's but this process is yet to be carried out. The St Michael's flat is now vacant with the tenant leaving in August. There are some problems with ventilation and persistent mould. Until work can be carried out to remedy this the flat will remain empty.

## Deanery, Diocese and the wider church and mission

This year we received grants from the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund for Lauda and our Tsedaqah placement intern. The team vicar and two PCC members were sucesfully voted onto the Deanery and Mission Pastoral Committee which has enabled our Parish to offer more support to the Deanery.

The Team Vicar attended all of the Fit for Mission engage stage meetings earlier in the year. Over the 10 weeks Deanery clergy explored what Fit for Mission could look like in our context. In June this group went away for a two day residential to decided whether they wanted to take the next steps and commit to Fit for Mission. All clergy agreed that they were not ready to do that and felt that the laity needed to be as informed as the clergy now were before any decisions could be made. A series of information evenings were planned for 2024 and the Diocese created a unique offer to our Deanery. This offer was that Toxteth and Wavertree would be given an additional year to explore what it could be like if we entered FfM and that after that year the Parishes could then make their final vote in March 2025.

We have also been thinking more about our activities and mission within the Parish. In January we begun the Living the Questions monthly course which has had over 20 folk attending and has been a great opportunity to develop relationships and deepen faith. In March a survey was sent to all our newsletter subscribers asking for their opinions on church life. A Vision and Planning away day took place at the end of May. Some new activities came about as a result but maybe of the plans were limited by volunteer numbers and lack of leadership and oversight to see the actions through. We hope with a new Rector in 2024 we will be able to strategically think through which actions are achievable and how they can happen.

### Ecumenical and Inter-faith relationships

We have continued to work with St Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Parish. This year during the week of prayer for Christian Unity Miranda was visiting preacher there and Father Terry Madden preached and led discussion at St. Bride's church. We have continued our involvement with Kuumba Imani who led a faith walk in our local area. St Bride's was one of the host sites and over 50 people attended.

## FINANCE OVERVIEW
## (see full report below)

### The Performance of Investments
The PCC's funds are held in a Current Account with Co-operative Bank and in deposit funds with CCLA Investment Management in the Church of England's Finance Deposit Fund and the Church of England Global Equity Investment and Property funds. Investments saw a net gain of £7,950, the gain on the Global Equity Fund exceeding a further reduction on the Property Fund. The Investment Manager expects the Property Fund to start recovering in 2024. An investment with M&G Investments was transferred to the PCC during the year. This investment was sold at a loss of £3,422 and the proceeds of £41,323 included in debtors at the year end.

### Reserves Policy
The trustees have established the level of operating reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have, which is roughly equal to six months general expenditure, £100,000. Reserves are needed to even out any short term funding gaps between spending and related income. We have also continued to invest the capital released from the sale of St Stephen's for income, holding this as an additional expendable reserve but with the aim of it providing a long term income stream. The PCC are content with the current level of reserves.

### Income from lettings
Lettings income this year was a total of £56,817 which is a slight decreased compared on the £61,191 in 2022.

### Giving to the church
Our second largest source of income is giving by the congregation. Planned giving in 2023 was £22,805 (down from 2022 which was £24,920, with an additional £4699 given as donations, in collections and other. These

gifts allowed us to reclaim £4803 tax from HMRC making the total giving-related income £32,307. In addition we received £17,500 from grants from external bodies.

## Financial Risk

The Standing Committee closely monitored the evolving financial situation. Having finally turned around years of deficit budgets and now finding ourselves in profit. The PCC is committed to sustaining balanced budgets in 2024 and beyond. These years have shown that our income is very dependent on lettings and in 2023 a focus has been diversifying the mix of lettings income that we receive to increase our financial resilience. We will continue to promote the Parish Giving Scheme as it too will be an important part of our managing financial risk. All assets are insured and levels will be reviewed by our insurer Ecclesiastical.

## Employees

The parish employed three part time staff: Jackie Corcoran as parish administrator, Vicky Clarke, cleaner at St Michael's and Megan Fleming cleaner at St Dunstan's and St Brides'. Leah Daly, Lauda leader was employed by Liverpool Parish Church and continues to be supervised and support by the Team Vicar in our Parish. Our payroll is managed by LCVS.

## Risk Assessments

The PCC regularly monitors risk. Risk assessments are undertaken for all new or extraordinary undertakings.

## Compliance with Law and Regulation

Our procedures are reviewed regularly and formally reported to the PCC.

## Safeguarding

Sue Say and Rose Green continued as Safeguarding Officers with Laura Ferguson remaining as Lead Recruiter. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda. The Team Parish of St Luke in the City takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.liverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding.

Looking forward: Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. As a parish we aim to be 'Living Life in Full Colour from the Still Centre of God'.

Our three priorities continue to be:

- Sustainability: developing our financial resilience and developing as Eco-Churches
- Locality: deepening our roots in our local parish communities
- Growth: in numbers in our churches, in spiritual depth, and in service to our communities

In addition, we aim to contribute to the Deanery Priorities which are

- Developing Discipleship
- Strengthening Churches
- Developing Lay Leaders

# ADDITIONAL REPORTS

## OPEN TABLE LIVERPOOL Annual Report

**Warren Hartley, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Facilitator**

Open Table Liverpool (OTL) is a Fresh Expression of Church and a ministry and congregation of St Luke in the City Team Parish led by our Local Missional Leader (LML), Mr Warren Hartley commissioned by the Bishop of Liverpool to this ministry. Open Table is for everyone but especially welcomes and affirms folk who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex & Asexual (LGBTQIA). Open Table gathers at St Bride's on the first and third Sunday of every month. The first Sunday is a bring and share agape meal including a time of informal worship sharing life, faith and food together. The third Sunday of the month is a service of Holy Communion except in December when it hosts the parish Carol Service.

Our Open Table community is a member of the Open Table Network (OTN). OTN is "a growing partnership of communities across England & Wales which genuinely welcome and affirm people who are LGBTQIA + our families, friends & anyone who wants to belong in an accepting, loving community."

2023 has been a great year for OTL as we've continued to grow, sharing life, community and worship together. One of the great joys has been the continued growth of the music group with new members joining all the time it has deeply enriched our worship. Numbers at services are around pre-covid numbers which is deeply encouraging. An average of 33 people attend all services with an average of 14 at Agape service and 55 at communion services.

Key events during 2023 included us celebrating our 15th Birthday. The service was led by the Revd Cate Jacobs, a former member of OTL who was ordained priest the week before our birthday. In July we again joined around 100 folk from churches across Merseyside including and St Luke in the City marching in the Liverpool Pride festival and hosting a community stall. We also again partnered with Liverpool Cathedral to host a post Pride festival service which was attended by 90 people.

Other highlights from the year included our two Quiet Days, firstly the Spirituality of Sexuality led by Fr Richard Sloan and later in the year on Julian of Norwich marking 650 years since her visions. Lectures given by Charlie Bell and Ellen Loudon. We also welcomed OTN Co-Chair Alex Clair Young for Trans Day of Remembrance. The Carol Service with the Liverpool Rainbow Chorus and our music group was a glorious way to round off the year with 190 people attending and raising the roof in song.

We are very grateful to the PCC, the Clergy and the Bishop of Liverpool who support the ecumenical nature of the OTL community consenting to using Canon B35 provision to allow ecumenical partners to preside which this year included provision for Roman Catholic Mass and a URC service. It is a real gift to be able to celebrate in this way.

To mark 15 years we've been undergoing a process of Community Development, reflecting on the past, valuing what is and dreaming about what the future will be. This process is well underway with excellent engagement from the OTL community. We are excited to see the spiritual and numerical growth and depth this process will bring out of the community.


Safe sacred space for
LGBTQIA+
Christians
GOD'S LOVE IS FULLY INCLUSIVE
CHRISTIANS AT PRIDE
#christiansatpride
QUEERLY BELOVED
GOD LOVES PRIDE
TOGETHER
OPEN TABLE
SPIRITUAL FRUITS

LAUDA Report 2023
**Leah Daly, Lauda Co-ordinator**



Lauda Christmas brunch with the Liverpool Philharmonic performing.

**After School Clubs**
In 2023 the Lauda Project continued to flourish. In January we restarted our after school program in St Hugh's Catholic Primary School. The school called it "Lauda Bible Stories Club" and having already known many of these families, the sign up list filled up quite quickly! The club was open to all year 4 to 6 pupils in our first year and is now for year 3-6 with 34 children attending weekly. We have been enjoying a mix of children from different backgrounds, including our Roma families and many others. The club has apparently become the most popular after school club at the school and the feedback from the children has been so encouraging. The atmosphere has transformed from a frenetic feel at St Dunstan's to a now much more relaxed and engaging club, perhaps this is as a result of the behavioural expectations in the school environment. They love coming for the Bible story, craft and games outside and interacting with our amazing volunteers from the Tsedaqah Community (Derby Guerrier, Liverpool Parish Church Parish Assistant, and Albert Osei, Liverpool Cathedral Assistant), from St. Brides (Josh Kearney) and the three L's of Lauda- Laura, Louis and Leah (and now Liam Higgins (St. Bride's Intern) in place of Louis ;) ).

In May of 2023 we started a second Lauda after school Kids Club at another school farther down the road, Lawrence Community Primary School where they asked us to run our club exclusively for their Roma families. We were able to run this club in partnership with volunteers, Lisa Aindow and Joyce Connolly from St. Bridget's Church on Lawrence Road and Kate Doogan from Scripture Union. In June, we had to say good bye to Louis as he moved on to his new church in Lancaster, so Derby kindly stepped in to help us at this club when he was available. We really enjoyed getting to know 24 new children and partnering with yet another amazing primary school and wonderful volunteers. This club ran successfully until the beginning of July when it wrapped up for the school year. Unfortunately our volunteers were not available in September so this club has been on hold until we can recruit more volunteers.

**Community Market**
Micah's community market at St. Dunstan's continued through 2023 every Wednesday, providing a natural gathering point for our Roma families and many others from the surrounding community. NHS LifeRooms continued to support our guests with heath related workshops on breast health, concerns for pregnant mothers, information on child protective services and offering support and signposting. It has been wonderful to partner with Micah Food Bank's Staff Nicher Awan, Aaron Rossiter and Jayne Hennessey, and the volunteers from St. Dunstan's Church, Karen McCaldon and Phil Bishop, and also with Lavinia from Granby Toxteth Development Trust who supports us and the Roma community. Laura Ferguson and Liam Higgins have also offered tremendous support and keep us going. We make a great team together!

In November the NHS Life Rooms partnered with the Liverpool Philharmonic to run the first ever Community Music Course for Mental health and wellbeing in the Lady Chapel at St. Dunstan's during our community market. This was a fantastic success as many people from different backgrounds, including some from the Roma community, were able to participate and collaborate with professional musicians, sharing their favorite

music from their different countries of origin. In December we celebrated Christmas with our Roma Ladies and all the participants of this music course, with a lovely meal and concert.

We also continue to distribute donations of clothing and toys as we receive them at the community market and help people practically where we can. In September we received a large donation toys from the year 9 students at Archbishop Blanch Girls Secondary school across the road. The families were very happy to receive these lovely donations. We held onto to a few things until Christmas when we were able to give all of the children coming to our Lauda Bible Club a wrapped Christmas gift :)

In October we hosted a health event at St. Dunstan's set up by Central Liverpool Primary Care Network, where many different health and social services came to meet with families from around the community. This was great time and opportunity to invite many of the families we know back into the church for these important services and for the kids to enjoy some crafts and face painting.

Granby Toxteth Development Trust will soon start a new English course during our community markets and we really look forward to this and other courses that we can run together.

**Archbishop Blanch Secondary School for Girls**

In October, Leah, Laura and Liam started supporting the growing number of Roma girls at Archbishop Blanch through a lunch time reading group. We meet weekly with about 9 girls and one of their English Teachers to read and discuss the book and life. We have really enjoyed supporting the girls and the school in this way. Leah has also been able to support the school in a special project called "Mother Tongue Other Tongue" where students are encouraged to share a poem or song in their mother tongue or in a language they have been learning at a special event for their parents. It is a way to celebrate and support the students and their families as they share their home cultures and languages. Leah has been working with some of the Roma girls to help them be a part of this wonderful project.

**Other Partnerships**

We are so encouraged by the continued partnerships that sustain the work with do with Lauda. Our founding partner church, Liverpool Parish Church has been guiding us in forming a constitution for Lauda and advising us on other important administrative topics. Rector Crispin Pailing has been a great resource for us through this process. Also Tabitha Rao, their assistant priest supported Lauda, helping us with the after school club until she was appointed Team Vicar in Warrington. We also have been supported by Youth With A Mission volunteers, Michael Chesterman (USA) and Dan Hector (London). With them and our amazing Tsedaqah volunteers, the Lauda Project continues with joy and creativity.



Liam embracing the chaos of the kids craft table at the Community Health afternoon

Laura and Leah continue to lead the work together, planning and preparing for our activities and building and maintaining our partnerships. We are part of a growing network of educators, health and social care workers and schools all seeking to see the quality of life improving for Roma in Liverpool. Dr. Dan Allen of Liverpool Hope University has initiated a research project called Shukar Glasso (Beautiful Voice) with Lauda Project and other community groups and we look forward to being a part of this.

The Lauda Project continues to be presented with more and more opportunities for serving the Roma community in Liverpool. We pray for continued funding and volunteer support that make our work possible and we are so grateful to the Team Parish of St. Luke in the City for ultimately carrying this wonderful project!

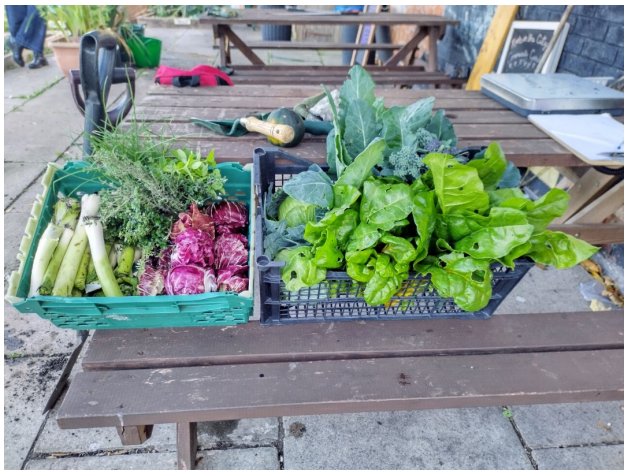
ROOTS IN THE CITY Report
**Annie Merry, Director of Faiths4Change**



In the first week of the school spring term, we welcomed Year 5 students and their teachers from Holy Family School in nearby Toxteth. Year 5 began the term focusing on the practical application of Catholic social teaching / values. Their focus included what kinds of jobs people did, how their work supported the most vulnerable in communities and they came to the Roots Garden to learn about our work and purpose.

They learnt how to plant onion sets and garlic and planted of all of ours to support our growing for the foodbank. By April 2023 – the garlic and onions were growing really well (photo right). We were harvesting a range of organic vegetables and herbs in February: leeks, radicchio, chard (slightly nibbed by the 'Very Hungry Caterpillar', spinach, cabbage & purple sprouting broccoli along with the first chives, thyme and sage (above).

In March 2023 (below) and still we harvested purple sprouting broccoli – the best year ever for this delicious over winter / spring brassica, along with substantial bunches of chives, chard, perpetual spinach, mizuna, mustard, claytonia and salad leaves. Our best March harvests since we began growing for the foodbank.





In June - July our beautiful garden began to be trashed in different ways from bean sticks ripped out, thrown and broken to plant food emptied, green house panes broken and many trays of seedlings in our greenhouse and polytunnel thrown to the floor. We've been in this community for nearly 6 years and bar the odd incursion and hoardings removed (which was a bonus), the garden has never been broken in any way before. We managed to rescue 30 lettuce plants and 24 bean plants, the rest had to be swept up and composted.

Learning from nature in the garden – we are undeterred although we've been upset, angry, puzzled and cautious about coming into the garden. Volunteers continued to show up and share their feelings about the vandalism "This is our sanctuary, we've created this space together – we will not give up"; "What if they keep coming back, how will we cope". We put up a sign in the greenhouse asking them not to trash the garden as we're growing for the food bank. Neighbours we didn't know popped in to see if we are ok and share their concerns as well as their knowledge. We've gained a new supportive friend in Russ Wills, our Community Police Officer. The police put out a flyer to all houses, telling them what was happening and asking people to get in touch with us if they didn't want to talk to the police.



In July - August those vandalising our garden over 4 weeks, had temporarily moved into the community, and were moved out. One month on and the garden has returned to the peaceful sanctuary and amazing growing space we love to be. We've gained a new regular volunteer and a new greenhouse is on route courtesy of the policeman's uncle. Our French beans now have bean sticks again and are thriving. We're anticipating a delivery of manure from the police stables.

The blackbird families, butterflies, bees, and grasshoppers continue to flourish in their garden home as do we temporary dwellers.

We've begun harvesting and freezing the fruits of the hedgerow that we planted 5 years ago – blackberries, haws, and rosehips. We'll be making jam with the Tuesday group in the autumn. The comfrey in the photo above has now been harvested and is brewing in water for our home-made plant food.

Last week we donated a big pot of garlic bulbs w/ a couple of the remaining onions in the harvest, along with lettuces, spinach, squash, a big pot of our first tomatoes of the summer, sage, mint and chives (below).



SAS funding provides a regular investment in our work, it continues to provide match funding for related food projects and inspired partnership opportunities, all are needed now more than ever. The grant pays for us to grow food for the parish Foodbank, which is so busy they have reduced the supplies in each food parcel given out. We've doubled the amount of fresh vegetables and herbs grown this year from ¼ tonne in 2021 to almost ½ tonne in 2022. Our vegetables and herbs are top quality, locally grown, food at its best - harvested in the morning, taken home in the afternoon.

Wellbeing for one. Our long-term volunteer – Caps – applied for asylum 7 years ago and has been volunteering with us since. The grant pays volunteer expenses - Caps has been living in Kirkby for over a year now. He has found a warm welcome and been developing his woodwork skills in our newest community garden in Stoneycroft – The Secret Garden. Caps comes most Wednesdays and has been instrumental in working with 3 other men to build an amazing shelter and eco loo on site under the guidance of our Creative Skills Coordinator, Emma. We continue to support Caps, our friend and volunteer, in his journey through the asylum process.

MICAH COMMUNITY MARKET at St Dunstan's Report

**Karen McCaldon, Community Marker Leader & Warden at St Dunstan's**



The Community Market is a branch of the Micah charity. Which is run in St Dunstans church every Wednesday 10.-11.30am. Visitors pay £1.50 and select up to 15 items to take home. We also provide tea/coffee and toast and a place to meet others and talk. Sometimes there is a sec- and hand clothes rack. Guests, mainly women from the local Roma community make up over half of the clientele. There is an opportunity for them to join an English language programme and consult with a NHS health worker. About 30-40 people each week access the service. There is a lovely atmosphere. We now run this service ourselves on behalf of Micah and are always looking for volunteers to help us. The project has been running for almost 2 years now and has been a great success in supporting the local community.

TAIZE SERVICE Report

**James Fleming, Reader in Training & Taize Service Planner**

Throughout 2023 we have continued to offer monthly Taizé-style musical contemplative worship evening prayer services in partnership with our friends at St. Vincent de Paul's RC church in Chinatown. People do seem to still value the opportunity to come to a calm, tranquil space to pray, meditate and contemplate; and to experience the Lord's love and the Spirit's presence through the beauty of music.

We have offered services on a variety of themes, including new beginnings, Lent season, and Remembrance. We have also developed Taizé musical liturgies for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.
Although congregation figures dipped during the winter period, we have continued to pray for growth and have explored advertising opportunities with social media, Open Table and Emmanuel Theological College. This has led to a larger number of people and new people attending, with one family visiting us from Barrow-in-Furness! We have received some lovely feedback about these beautiful services, which have been described as sensitive, gentle, spiritual and friendly, while engaging people and encouraging communal worship.

SOUL FRIENDS

**Sara Doyle, Soul Friends Group Leader & Associate Priest**

There are now 2 SF groups at present - in Sara Doyles group there are 7 members who meet once a month at Kimos - this is a safe space to share and be together. Soul Friends is something that the Parish hopes to expand in the coming years. At the moment it is still discerning what shape these group will look like going into the future.

ST BRIDE'S COMMUNITY MUSIC Report
**Jackie Corcoran ARCT, St Bride's Community Music Co-Ordinator**

St Bride's Community Music runs on Thursday evenings.We are an inclusive group, welcoming folk who are returning to music practice and performance and music folk who are experienced. We are intergenerational and we have a friendly vibe going on. We continue to explore different genres of music, but lately have been exploring jazz more intently and our members really enjoy improvisation. We enjoyed our 'field trips' to the jazz workshops put on at Granby Winter Garden. We also take time during sessions to perform solo music that we are working on.

In December we hosted a festive party for our hire groups and enjoyed an evening of music with them. Amy Crane presented her piece 'Acceptance' and it is has been a pleasure adding this to our repertoire. We hope to repeat the joy this year. The new drum set is being well used at our sessions as is the piano!
If you are interested in joining in with our group, just show up at St Bride's Church on a Thursday evening a bit past 7.30pm.

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK (PCN) Report
**Lynn McAllister**

PCN continues to meet on a monthly basis at St Brides on the last Wednesday of each month (except for August & December). The meetings last for 1 1/2 hours & begins at 12.15 pm. Around 8-10 people attend each month, some from St Brides & some from other churches/denominations. This year we finished reading 'Do I stay Christian?' by Brian McLaren & then went on to read & discuss 'Honest to God' by John Stott. Some of our group remembered the stir it caused when first published! Our current book The Upside Down Bible is quite different, in that the author writes about the responses to Jesus' parables, of those reading them for the first time. He focuses on the parables that are about money, sex & violence. It is quite eye-opening. Anybody is welcome to come to our meetings & if you are interested in coming along or would like more information I can be contacted at lynnmc@uwclub.net

TSEDAQAH INTERN Report
**Liam Higgins**

In September 2023 I joined St Luke in the City as a member of Tsedaqah House. I am From Richmond, Virginia in the USA. Attending Sunday morning services at all three churches, I enjoy helping and playing with the children and leading arts and crafts sessions supplementing the readings. I am always sure to be a second pair of hands to help and someone to listen when people need to talk.
I help out with the Roots in the City garden club, aiding leadership in the garden or craft projects as well as preparing the meal after our sessions. I volunteer with the Community Market at St. Dunstan's, often walking visitors through the process and explaining food different options. I volunteer with Lauda as well, helping at our new Reading Group with some of the Roma girls at Archbishop Blanch as well as with the afterschool program with the primary school students, usually leading the craft project for the week. At the Micah Food Bank I pack and distribute parcels of food to visitors.



I have a passion for history, so I prepared and led a five week Lent Course on Zoom about the 400 years between the Old and New Testament and how that knowledge recontextualizes the life and lessons of Jesus. We discussed the effect of empire and politics during Jesus' day and how that informed Jesus' teachings and values and also the cultural response those teachings brought.I look forward to leading more projects as I continue my work for the rest of my time in the parish.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

| | | General | Restricted Funds | Total 2023 | Total 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME from:** | | | | | |
| Donations | 2 | 41,950 | 7,857 | 49,807 | 66,175 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 1,481 | 419 | 1,900 | 1,136 |
| Fundraising activities | 4 | 56,405 | 412 | 56,817 | 61,211 |
| Investments | 5 | 36,120 | 866 | 36,986 | 27,682 |
| Other | 6 | - | 44,735 | 44,735 | 470 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | | 135,956 | 54,289 | 190,245 | 156,674 |
| **EXPENDITURE on:** | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 131,999 | 18,181 | 150,180 | 133,784 |
| Other | 8 | 1,150 | - | 1,150 | 1,150 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDENDITURE** | | 133,149 | 18,181 | 151,330 | 134,934 |
| Net income before gains and losses on investments | | 2,807 | 36,108 | 38,915 | 21,740 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | | 11,372 | (3,422) | 7,950 | (59,126) |
| **Net (expenditure)/income** | | 14,179 | 32,686 | 46,865 | (37,386) |
| Transfers between funds | | (210) | 210 | - | - |
| **NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS** | | 13,969 | 32,896 | 46,865 | (37,386) |
| Total funds brought forward | | 488,511 | 16,026 | 504,537 | 541,923 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 502,480 | 48,922 | 551,402 | 504,537 |

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

| | Note | Total 2023 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FIXED ASSETS** | | | |
| Tangible assets | 10 | 11,282 | 2,550 |
| Investments | 11 | 416,869 | 405,497 |
| | | 428,151 | 408,047 |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 46,606 | 558 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 13 | 83,935 | 104,272 |
| | | 130,541 | 104,830 |
| **CREDITORS**: amounts falling due within one year | 14 | 7,290 | 8,340 |
| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** | | 123,251 | 96,490 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | 551,402 | 504,537 |
| **FUNDS OF THE CHARITY** | 15 | | |
| General | | 91,472 | 89,029 |
| Designated | | 411,008 | 399,482 |
| Restricted | | 48,922 | 16,026 |
| | | 551,402 | 504,537 |

Approved by the Parochial church Council on 18 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Laura Ferguson

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

## *1. Accounting policies*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

**Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the trustees are also unrestricted.
Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal.
Transfers of funds are made to recognise the release of restricted funds or to meet expenditure not covered by restricted income.
The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is held responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**Income**

*Donations, legacies and other voluntary income*
Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is received by or on behalf of the charity. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the repayment is received. Funds raised by seasonal fairs, fundraising events and similar events are accounted for gross.

The charity received substantial amounts of voluntary help from its supporters, but no attempt is made to place a financial value on these services and they have not been included.

*Rental income*
Rental income from the letting of the charity's premises is recognised when the rental is due.

*Income from investments*
Dividends and interest are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

**Expenditure**
Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

**Tangible assets**
Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the churches inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2010 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years.

**Investments**
Investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end.

*Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

**Debtors**
Amounts owed to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, loans or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

**Cash at bank and in hand**
Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2023 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Donations | | | | |
| | Gift aid donations | 18,922 | 1,570 | 20,492 | 23,770 |
| | Income tax recovered | 4,464 | 339 | 4,803 | 6,966 |
| | Other planned giving | 2,313 | - | 2,313 | 1,150 |
| | Collections | 2,026 | 691 | 2,717 | 1,230 |
| | Donations | 1,608 | 257 | 1,865 | 5,074 |
| | Grants | 12,500 | 5,000 | 17,500 | 25,750 |
| | Other | 117 | - | 117 | 2,235 |
| | | 41,950 | 7,857 | 49,807 | 66,175 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2023 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Fees | 1,481 | - | 1,481 | 1,116 |
| | Events | - | 419 | 419 | 20 |
| | | 1,481 | 419 | 1,900 | 1,136 |
| 4 | Fund raising | | | | |
| | Rent from lettings | 56,284 | - | 56,284 | 61,191 |
| | Other | 121 | 412 | 533 | 20 |
| | | 56,405 | 412 | 56,817 | 61,211 |
| 5 | Investments | | | | |
| | Dividends | 16,531 | 866 | 17,397 | 16,485 |
| | Interest | 1,922 | - | 1,922 | 709 |
| | Rent from land | 17,667 | - | 17,667 | 10,488 |
| | | 36,120 | 866 | 36,986 | 27,682 |
| 6 | Other | | | | |
| | St Dunstan's Bequest | - | 44,735 | 44,735 | - |
| | Insurance claim | - | - | - | 470 |
| | | - | 44,735 | 44,735 | 470 |
| 7 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Missionary and charitable giving | 1,031 | 14,044 | 15,075 | 12,000 |
| | Ministry | | | | |
| | Diocesan parish share | 40,923 | | 40,923 | 39,493 |
| | Salaries | 18,193 | | 18,193 | 11,190 |
| | Clergy housing costs | 5,014 | | 5,014 | 6,840 |
| | Clergy expenses | 1,798 | | 1,798 | 2,975 |
| | Other expenses | 210 | | 210 | 1,139 |
| | Church costs | | | | |
| | Council tax and water | 733 | | 733 | 520 |
| | Insurance | 11,595 | | 11,595 | 10,608 |
| | Heat and light | 21,862 | | 21,862 | 19,912 |
| | Maintenance | 9,428 | | 9,428 | 10,581 |
| | Churchyard | 1,805 | | 1,805 | 2,178 |
| | Security | 1,248 | | 1,248 | 1,248 |
| | Cleaning | 6,301 | | 6,301 | 6,149 |
| | Carried forward | 120,141 | 14,044 | 134,185 | 124,833 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

| | | General Fund | Restricted Funds | Total 2023 | Total 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 7 | Note continued | | | | |
| | Brought forward | 120,141 | 14,044 | 134,185 | 124,833 |
| | Music | 717 | 200 | 917 | 865 |
| | Upkeep of services | 297 | 700 | 997 | 1,032 |
| | Events | 193 | 818 | 1,011 | 1,082 |
| | Training and education | 205 | 100 | 305 | 535 |
| | Telephone and website | 3,647 | 144 | 3,791 | 3,401 |
| | Publicity | 629 | | 629 | - |
| | Depreciation | 3,019 | 695 | 3,714 | 231 |
| | Administration | 3,151 | 1,480 | 4,631 | 1,805 |
| | | 131,999 | 18,181 | 150,180 | 133,784 |

| 8 | Other | General Fund | Restricted Funds | Total 2023 | Total 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | Legal and professional fees | 1,150 | - | 1,150 | 1,150 |

Included in the above expenditure are the following payments

| | Total 2023 | Total 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Independent examiner's fees | 150 | 150 |
| Other fees paid to the independent examiner | - | - |
| | 150 | 150 |

9 Paid employees

| Staff costs | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries | 18,193 | 11,190 |
| Employer's national insurance | - | - |
| | 18,193 | 11,190 |

The average number of employees employed by the PCC during the year was 3 for 2023 and 2 for 2022.

The trustees received no remuneration during the year however expenses were reimbursed for services other than as trustees.
There is no trustee indemnity insurance.

10 Tangible assets

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Cost at 1st January 2023 | 20,419 | 17,638 |
| Additions at cost | 12,446 | 2,781 |
| Cost at 31st December 2023 | 32,865 | 20,419 |
| | | |
| Depreciation at 1st January 2023 | 17,869 | 17,638 |
| Charge for the year | 3,714 | 231 |
| Depreciation at 31st December 2023 | 21,583 | 17,869 |
| | | |
| Net book value | 11,282 | 2,550 |

11 Investments

The investments held at the year-end are either investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or investments in authorised investment trusts.

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Market value at 1st January 2023 | 405,497 | 464,623 |
| Addition | 44,735 | - |
| (Disposal) | (41,313) | - |
| Gain/(loss) on revaluation | 7,950 | (59,126) |
| Market value at 31st December 2023 | 416,869 | 405,497 |
| | | |
| Historical cost | 393,000 | 393,000 |

12 Debtors

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 793 | 558 |
| Other debtors | 45,813 | - |
| | 46,606 | 558 |

13 Cash at bank and in hand

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Short term deposits | 62,904 | 59,382 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 21,031 | 44,890 |
| | 83,935 | 104,272 |

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Accruals and deferred income | 7,290 | 8,340 |

15 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

| | At 1st January 2023 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General fund | 89,029 | 137,636 | (132,453) | (2,740) | 91,472 |
| Designated funds | 399,482 | 11,442 | (2,446) | 2,530 | 411,008 |
| | 488,511 | 149,078 | (134,899) | (210) | 502,480 |

| | At 1st January 2023 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Restricted funds | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Open Table Network | - | | | | - |
| St Dunstan's Bequest | 2,233 | 45,601 | (3,422) | | 44,412 |
| Lauda | 9,044 | 5,000 | (14,044) | | - |
| Taste of God | 476 | - | - | | 476 |
| Baltic Mission | 2,000 | - | (695) | | 1,305 |
| Choir | 500 | - | (500) | | - |
| Open Table Liverpool | 1,773 | 3,688 | (2,942) | 210 | 2,729 |
| | 16,026 | 54,289 | (21,603) | 210 | 48,922 |
| Total funds | 504,537 | 203,367 | (156,502) | - | 551,402 |

15 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

| | At 1st January 2022 £ | Income (inc. gains) £ | Expenditure (inc. losses) £ | Transfer of funds £ | At 31st December 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| St Luke in the City | | | | | |
| General | 84,898 | 139,148 | (125,017) | (10,000) | 89,029 |
| Designated funds | 448,736 | 500 | (59,754) | 10,000 | 399,482 |
| | 533,634 | 139,648 | (184,771) | - | 488,511 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Open Table Network | 15 | 269 | (284) | - | - |
| St Dunstan's Bequest | - | 2,233 | - | - | 2,233 |
| Lauda | 5,144 | 9,000 | (5,100) | - | 9,044 |
| Tsedaqah | - | 2,000 | (2,000) | - | - |
| Taste of God | 476 | - | - | - | 476 |
| Baltic Mission | - | 2,000 | - | - | 2,000 |
| Choir | 1,000 | - | (500) | - | 500 |
| Open Table Liverpool | 1,654 | 1,524 | (1,405) | - | 1,773 |
| | 8,289 | 17,026 | (9,289) | - | 16,026 |
| Total funds | 541,923 | 156,674 | (194,060) | - | 504,537 |

16 Fund details

Details of the various funds held by the PCC are as follows:

| Name of fund | Description, nature and purposes of the fund |
|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | |
| General fund | From 1st January 2019 there is a one General Fund. |
| Designated funds | Included is an investment of £360,000 to provide income. |
| Restricted funds | Funds received for specific purposes. |

**Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke-in-the-City, Liverpool, charity number 1152031, on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023, as set out the following pages: Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent Examiner's statement**

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

**Independent Examiner's statement**

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

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act

or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Ian Wright B.A. F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
15 Stretton Drive
Southport
PR9 7DR

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. LUKE-IN-THE-CITY, LI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1152031

# Accounts

The Team Parish of
St Luke in the City
Liverpool

# Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

***For the year ended 31st December 2022***

St Bride's
Creative / Progressive / Inclusive
stbridesliverpool.org.uk

St Dunstan's
Dramatic / Sensory / Renewing
stdunstansliverpool.org.uk

St Michael's
Growing Community in the City
stmichaelinthecity.org.uk

## Clergy Report

Welcome to our Parish report which covers the year January to December 2022.

This year saw us readjusting to routine after years of pandemic disruption and change. Further, we maintained worship and Parish life while our Rector took a well-earned sabbatical in the summer (separate report included below).

We enjoyed a full programme of worship and activities this year with our Lenten period beginning with a Glitter Ash service followed by two courses; Open Table read Jared Robinson-Brown's book together and the Parish offered a creative, online, original lent course devised by our own team and based on the prayer of St Francis of Assisi. Palm Sunday was a memorable joint service where we joined forces with our Roman Catholic friends at St Vincent de Paul and paraded from there to St Michael's singing and waving palms together. Holy week saw some challenging and thought provoking worship with a meal, foot washing and moving vigil in the garden of St Michael's. Good Friday saw the return of our previous curate Gill Reeve who performed a dramatic reenactment of the crucifixion with music and props.

In the summer we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee at St Michael's working with Faiths4Change we opened up the church, gardens and hall to offer the public refreshments market stalls, home grown tea and craft activities for children. We marked Open Table's 14th birthday with a joyous service followed by cake! In July a number of church members attended the Pride March and then Open Table joined forces with Liverpool Cathedral for a special service. In August a group of us travelled down South to Greenbelt festival and were inspired by the alternative worship there. Later in the year as a Parish we offered funeral families and all those who mourn a Service of Remembering. This was once again a moving and peaceful service hosted at St Dunstan's and drew well over 50 people who were invited to light candles for loved ones and add their prayers to a tree. This year we also offered refreshments which led to important pastoral conversations making us wonder about the possibility of a grief course to run next year.

Our Advent celebrations this year began early with a carol service on Saturday 27th November from the Amos Trust, who work for peace in Palestine. We were delighted that they brought guest poets and musicians from Palestine to speak with us as a stop on their national tour. This was followed immediately by the launch of our Christmas Tree Festival at St Bride's  on the 28th. Our opening event was a roaring success with both the grounds and church teaming with people. We featured two community choirs, a prize giving, mulled wine and mince pies as well as three large nativity boards which you could pop your head through…
At St Michael's we along with Faiths4Change held a Christmas fair - where many turned their hands to wreath-making. We were overjoyed that Open Table's carol service returned to St Bride's once more with Liverpool Rainbow choir and over 150 in attendance. Overall we have experienced lower than usual numbers at services this year as we continue to build back up after the disruptions that Covid made to so many peoples lives. Some long established members of our congregations have experienced dwindling health or have moved out of the area over this time, but by the same token we have welcomed many new people to our communities, so that by the end of the year it felt that we were well on the way to recovery.

Financially, we ended the year in good health. Our five year plan to balance the budget has borne fruit, and we are now in the black as a parish meaning that we were not only able to pay our Parish Share but we were able to make a one off goodwill contribution to help other churches in the Deanery which were struggling to do so. Our rentals have built again this year but with the cost of living – and especially heating - rising we, like many organisations, had to increase our fees. We have also agreed a new fee structure to ensure equality and transparency when it comes to hiring our spaces. We hope to continue developing this in the coming year with plans for our websites to contain information and booking forms to speed up and simplify hiring our spaces.  We are hugely grateful for all those of you whose faithful giving to the church ensures that we have a stable base of support with which to carry out our ministry. This enables us to continue making the church spaces available at no

charge for the Foodbank and homeless meals project, for some of the community garden activities and for the Lauda project.

This year has been challenging, particularly in terms of our leadership. Although its beyond the date span of this report, we must mention the sad death in February 2023 of Alan Fitzgerald, Warden of over 35 years at St Dunstan's. We continue to pray for and support Jackie Fitzgerald and her family in this sad time. We have also seen some leaders moving on to new spheres of ministry; Lilly Nelson our Student Chaplain went to train for ordination in Durham and Steven Shakespeare has been called to serve at Liverpool Parish Church - we are very grateful to them for all they have contributed to our Parish over the years. Miranda took a Sabbatical in summer 2022 and in early 2023 she has been seconded as Archdeacon of Liverpool for three days a week until August. In February Charlotte our Tsedaqah intern returned to the USA after 12 months with us and Louis our Curate will sadly be leaving us for Lancaster Diocese in May 2023. We have also seen some exciting new developments in lay leadership with one church member attending the Directions course and considering becoming a Lay Reader. Further to this we have a new member standing for the PCC and assistant Warden at St Dunstan's.

The challenge for the coming year is for us to rebuild a deeper sense of community in our churches through pastoral care and discipleship. We look forward to our vision and planning day in May where we will take stock of the last few years, dream together and plan for the future. We pray that we may more fully embody our vision to be people "living life in full colour from the still centre of God."

*Miranda Threlfall-Holmes*
*Laura Ferguson*
*Team Clergy*

## Reference and Administrative Information

The Parochial Church Council of the Team Parish of St Luke in the City is a registered charity, and its registered number is 1152031. Details of PCC members, who are the charity trustees, have to be provided to the Charity Commission.

The parish includes three churches: St Bride & St Saviour, located on Percy Street; St Dunstan on Earle Road, and St Michael in the City on Upper Pitt Street. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:

St Luke in the City Parish Office, St Bride's Church, Percy Street, Liverpool L8 7LT.

The following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Team Rector** | Rev. Dr. Miranda Threlfall-Holmes | |
| | | |
| **Team Vicar** | Rev. Laura Ferguson | |
| | | |
| **Curate** | Rev. Louis Johnson | |
| | | |
| **SSM Priest** | Rev. Sara Doyle | |
| | | |
| **Reader** | Dr. Chris Bartley | |
| | | |
| **Churchwardens** | Chris Bartley (as above)<br>James Fleming | |
| | | |
| **Deanery Synod representatives** | Kieran Bohan (stepped down in April 2022) | |
| | Alan Fitzgerald | |
| | Chris Bartley | |
| | | |
| **Elected members** | Gwyneth Evans | |
| | Rose Green | |
| | Sharon Ginley | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Lilly Nelson | |
| | Karen McCaldon | |
| | Kath Pace | |
| | Sue Say | |
| | Helen Stocker | |
| | Emma Watson | |
| | | |
| **Treasurer** | Raymond Bissex | |
| | | |
| **Electoral Roll Officer** | Jackie Corcoran | |
| | | |
| **PCC Secretary** | Rose Green | |
| | | |
| **Safeguarding Officers** | Rose Green | |
| | Sue Say | |
| **Recruitment Lead** | Laura Ferguson | |

The licensed clergy and Reader are each ex-officio members of the PCC. The Team Rector is ex-officio Chair of the PCC.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bankers:** | The Cooperative Bank PLC<br>1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP |
| | Central Board of Finance of the Church of England<br>80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ |
| **Independent Examiner** | Mr. I Wright B.A. F.C.A.<br>15 Stretton Drive, Southport PR9 7DR |
| **Legal Advisors:** | Mr. H. Dellar<br>1, The Sanctuary, Westminster, Liverpool SW1P 3JT |
| | Hill Dickinson LLP<br>1 St Paul's Square, Liverpool L3 9SJ |
| **Estate Management:** | PKPM Chartered Surveyors<br>Suite 7, Church House, 1 Hanover Street, Liverpool,<br>L1 3DN |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Architects: (St Bride's, St Dunstan's and St Michael's)** | Currently in process of appointing Finlayson's Architects |

## Structure, Management and Governance

The St Luke in the City PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC business has a sub-committee, the Building Sub- Committee.
The function of the PCC is to enable and support mission, to foster communication and collaboration between the individual churches as appropriate and to provide a framework of accountability to the Diocese, Charity Commission and other legal bodies.

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

## Objectives and Activities

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

Our specific objectives in 2022 were to

1. Achieve a balanced budget and if possible end the year in profit
2. Deepen our links with and mission in our local communities
3. Develop our discipleship and pastoral care in order to rebuild and grow our congregations

Over the course of the year we have made some progress with these objectives, as outlined in the Clergy Report at the start of this document. Our finances have stabilised and we have increased our numbers of hirers across all our sites enabling us to move into the black and thus be in a much better position to pursue our mission. Our Parish links continue to develop, particularly at St Dunstan's where Lauda, our outreach to the Romanian Roma community has lead to a flurry of activity there. We have begun a monthly discipleship course that has been very well-attended.

## The Electoral Roll

There are 92 people on the Electoral Roll of the parish:

54 - St Bride's
16 - St Dunstan's
22 - St Michael in the City

## Public Worship

We have mostly returned to our pre-pandemic pattern for Sunday services with the exception of Open Table continuing with one monthly online service and one in person service.

At St Dunstan's we offered Eucharistic services on Sunday at 10am but also a new midweek service at midday.

St Bride's Sunday morning 10am service numbers have fluctuated and although the main worship space has enabled the St Bride's tradition of discussion around tables, for the colder months we have moved from the main worship space into the Narthex. Open Table continues to meet once a month on zoom only and then in person

for the 3rd Sunday at 6.30pm. The in person services have been well attended and there have been a number of highlights including Open Table's 14th Birthday and a Baptism in February.

St Michael's continues to meet at 11.15am with a regular pattern of alternating services of the word with Holy Communion. On the second Sunday each month St Michael's has a Godly Play service which is geared towards interactive worship and play. This service makes use of the new TV and sound system which gives the service a contemporary feel. It has attracted new families and in the coming year we plan to grow a leadership team for this service. We have enjoyed teaming up with Faiths for Change for our joint services at St Michael's which always have an eco theme. Our Easter watch was held in the garden and two services have included prayer stations and planting sessions in the garden too.

Our mid week worship pattern has varied due to low attendance and other factors. Daily morning prayer online at 9.15 Monday-Friday ceased in November 2022 but returned for two mornings (Tuesday and Thursday) in February 2023 due to demand. In person Morning Prayer at St Bride's continued until Lent 2023 where increasingly low attendance and lack of lay leadership, coupled with a move to online midweek prayer and the increased activity at St Dunstan's on Wednesdays has led to a pause and reassessment period.

As for our occasional offices, we have had two weddings this year, 11 baptisms and 12 funerals. We also expedited some unexpected events including the death of Queen Elizabeth. We opened our churches for prayer and offered opportunity for the public to write in the books of condolence. In the summer a group of about 20 of us travelled down to Kettering for Greenbelt Festival. We enjoyed four days of great talks, alternative worship, playing outside, hot days and cold nights and lots of late night camp chats.

## Pastoral care and service to our community

St Bride's is home to a number of local charities and organisations including: Refugee Women Connect, Narcotics Anonymous, Roger Smalley's Homeless Meals Project, the British Red Cross, two community choirs, Jackie Corcoran's community music group and our social justice anchor project, Micah Foodbank.

At St Michael's we are home to the Chinese Well-being group, Liverpool Rainbow Choir and Faith Clinic church. Our social justice anchor project Roots in the City continues to offer green space, therapeutic gardening and horticultural training for all. Further, Faiths4 Change are assisting St Michael's in our Eco Silver award which we hope to achieve in 2023. See the full report below.

St Dunstan's is home to Kumon language school, Pastor Shelley's church and Garden of Hope as well as the social justice anchor project Lauda. This outreach to the Roma community in the Parish has continued to grow with secondary and primary schools requesting Lauda run projects with them. We now run the after school club in St Hugh's primary school weekly in term time - children love 'Lauda Bible Club' so much there is a waiting list. Wednesday's at St Dunstan's have become a community hub with the Roma women taking part in a language class and a clothes stall and communion service all in tandem with Micah's new weekly Food Pantry there. Volunteers kindly offer tea and toast and local folk stop in for a chat.

Our work with Lauda has enabled us to strengthen relationships with Toxteth's Kuumba Imani centre and the Granby and Toxteth Development Trust who invited us to have a stall at the Celebrate L8 event along with St Fransis of Assisi school and also with support in our Roma schools work in St Hugh's primary school.

Pastoral care conversations are beginning to emerge as a result of the regular Safeguarding reps and clergy meetings. Although there is progress to be made here plans to create a trained, safely recruited pastoral care team have been drawn up with a view to the team beginning in summer 2023.

## Our Church Buildings

The new building committee had made significant progress on building works identified by the Quinquennial Reports and routine maintenance but there continue to be challenges. With members moving on and our Church resigning progress has slowed.

At St Dunstan's, the organ sale was agreed, and a faculty application submitted seeking permission for this to go ahead. This was agreed but there has been a hold up with buyer and we continue to wait. We have been blessed by a new member of St Dunstan's who has helped considerably with the overall appearance of the church, repairing broken items and cleaning unreachable areas as well as sending a drone into the roof space to investigate internal issues. St. Dunstan's is now due a quinquennial report and this will be completed imminently.

St Bride's continues to need roofing work as well as some external and internal repainting. Both of which we plan to address in the coming year once we re-establish the buildings committee and confirm the appointment of new architects. Trees in the grounds have cause problems with neighbouring residential buildings and Jackie finally found a  contractor willing to do the work, they began in early in 2023 and the work continues.

Two new cleaners have been recruited at St Bride's and St. Dunstan's and this is having a significant positive impact on church members as well as hirers.

Although preliminary investigations were carried out into the drains issue at St Michael's, progress has been slowed by United Utilities responding to us. The PCC approved up to £30,000 to replace the fencing around St Michael's but this process has also slowed due to contractors being too busy to come out and quote for us. The car park next to the church is now rented to NCP with a flexible rolling contract. The St Michael's flat continues to be rented privately.

## Deanery, Diocese and the wider church and mission

This year we received grants from the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund for Lauda and a new audio visual system at St Bride's. Miranda Threlfall-Holmes and Phil Bishop continue as Trustees of Micah Liverpool. Miranda is also a trustee of Mission in the Economy and represents the diocese on the Council of  Governors of the Women's Hospital, where curate Louis Johnson and reader Chris Bartley are on the chaplaincy on call team.

In 2021 our Parish hosted the Living in Love and Faith course which was also attended by some members of other churches in the Deanery. The feedback from that course fed into conversations at February 2023's General Synod discussion around the blessing prayers of same-sex relationships published by the House of Bishops. Our rector Miranda Threlfall-Holmes is a member of General Synod and was able to speak in those debates.

Much of this year's clergy Chapter meetings have been focussed on Fit for Mission. In March 2023 at a Chapter away day it was decided that we would move forward with the initial exploratory conversations to be the next cohort to enter Fit for Mission as a Deanery with a view to saving time and energy by pooling some of our governance and administrative activities across a much wider team, and this will continue to be a focus of discussion throughout 2023-4.

We have also been thinking more about our activities and mission within the Parish. In January we begun Living the Questions monthly course which has had over 20 folk attending and has been a great opportunity to develop relationships and deepen faith. In March a survey was sent to all our newsletter subscribers asking for their opinions on church life. The results of which will feed into a scheduled Vision and Planning away day at the end of May. We hope that this will inform our activities as churches and enable us to grow in number, offer more consistency with our mission activities and develop discipleship.

### Ecumenical and Inter-faith relationships

We have continued to work closely with St Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Parish. This year during the week of prayer for Christian Unity Miranda was visiting preacher there and Father Terry Madden preached and led discussion at St. Bride's church. We have also become involved with a local community organisation called Kuumba Imani who have invited local faith groups to host a meal a few times a year and share in Scriptural Reasoning. More than 5 members of our congregation have been involved in these gatherings and we were delighted to host one at St. Michael's in November.

## FINANCE OVERVIEW

***(see full report below)***

### The Performance of Investments

The PCC's funds are held in Current and Deposit Accounts with Co-operative Bank and in deposit funds with the Church of England's Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund and the Church of England investment and property funds. Investments saw a net loss of £56, 576 this year but as we are not planning to sell them this currently does not affect Parish life and may well change again next year.

### Reserves Policy

The trustees have established the level of operating reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have, which is roughly equal to six months general expenditure, £100,000. Reserves are needed to even out any short term funding gaps between spending and related income. We have also continued to invest the capital released from the sale of St Stephen's for income, holding this as an additional expendable reserve but with the aim of it providing a long term income stream. The PCC are content with the current level of reserves.

### Income from lettings

Lettings income this year was a total of £61,191 which is a healthy increased compared on the £45,143 in 2021.

### Giving to the church

Our second largest source of income is giving by the congregation. Planned giving in 2022 was £24,920 (down slightly from 2021 which was £25,667), with an additional £8529 given as donations, in collections and other. These gifts allowed us to reclaim £6966 tax from HMRC making the total giving-related income £40,425. In addition we received £25,750 from grants from external bodies.

### Financial Risk

The Standing Committee closely monitored the evolving financial situation. Having finally turned around years of deficit budgets and now finding ourselves in profit. The PCC is committed to sustaining balanced budgets in 2023 and beyond. These years have shown that our income is very dependent on lettings and in 2022 a focus has been diversifying the mix of lettings income that we receive to increase our financial resilience. We will continue to promote the Parish Giving Scheme as it too will be an important part of our managing financial risk. All assets are insured and levels will be reviewed by our insurer Ecclesiastical.

### Employees

The parish employed three part time staff: Jackie Corcoran as parish administrator, Vicky Clarke, cleaner at St Michael's and Lilly Nelson (whose contract ended in May 2022) as Student Chaplain. Leah Daly was employed by Liverpool Parish Church in 2021 to run Lauda our ecumenical project to connect with Roma people and continues to be supervised and support by our Parish. In 2023 we will increase the number of cleaners employed and appoint one for St Bride's and for St Dunstan's. Our payroll is managed by LCVS.

## Risk Assessments

The PCC regularly monitors risk. Risk assessments are undertaken for all new or extraordinary undertakings.

## Compliance with Law and Regulation

Our procedures are reviewed regularly and formally reported to the PCC.

## Safeguarding

Sue Say and Rose Green continue as Safeguarding Officers with Laura Ferguson remaining as Lead Recruiter. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda. The Team Parish of St Luke in the City takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.liverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding

Looking forward: Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. As a parish we aim to be 'Living Life in Full Colour from the Still Centre of God'.

Our three priorities continue to be:

- Sustainability: developing our financial resilience and developing as Eco-Churches
- Locality: deepening our roots in our local parish communities
- Growth: in numbers in our churches, in spiritual depth, and in service to our communities

In addition, we aim to contribute to the Deanery Priorities which are

- Developing Discipleship
- Strengthening Churches
- Developing Lay Leaders

## ADDITIONAL REPORTS

LAUDA Report

***Leah Daly, Lauda Co-ordinator***

2022 was a fantastic year for the Lauda Project! After just kicking things off in October of 2021, by January 2022 we were well connected with many Roma families. Our kids club on Thursdays became a well established and very popular weekly event with as many as 40 children with their mum's in attendance. We started a weekly literacy class for some of the mums teaching them English as well as reading and writing in Romanian as many of the mums never had the opportunity to attend school growing up. Micah Liverpool started their community market at St. Dunstan's Parish Church to run alongside our literacy group and from there a real community hub came to life. Alexandra Bahor, a Roma lady herself and Roma inclusion advocate, partnered with us to host a celebration of International Roma Day in April and through that event we connected with and started meeting regularly with other schools and organizations looking to partner together to support the Roma community in the Toxteth/Wavertree area.

In May, 6th Form students from Arch Bishop Blanche came on placement with us, supporting our Lauda Kids Club and learning about different relevant subjects for working within the community such as food poverty, life as an immigrant, etc. We continued on through to the end of the school year with these activities and celebrated Roma culture and The Lauda Project by participating in a community event called Celebrate L8. We ended the school year with a huge Lauda Kids Club celebration with party food and sharing certificates and little medals for each child who participated in our program.

After a short break for the summer holidays we started up our activities at St. Dunstan's while looking to the future and how to develop further. We started doing home visits, taking time to meet the families in their homes, helping with practical needs and getting to know them better in their own environment. Through continued networking and partnerships, we were able to able to start offering clothes and household items to families coming to the Wednesday community hub. We were also joined on Wednesdays by Mersey Care Life Rooms staff and Granby Toxteth Development Trust staff who have continued to work with us to support the community coming every week. In late autumn, Leah, our Lauda Project coordinator started volunteering with one-to-one reading support at St. Hugh's Primary School where 75% of the children in attendance come from Roma families. Before Christmas we partnered with St. Bartholomew's Roby church in Huyton to gather winter clothes for the families and were able to deliver Christmas bags packed with warm clothes to the families we have gotten to know over the year. And finally we celebrated Christmas together with 60 children and their mums with a lovely party celebrating Jesus's birth, singing songs, doing crafts and eating lovely snacks! Such a wonderful year for Lauda!



ROOTS IN THE CITY Report

***Kath Pace, Growing Support & Communication Worker of Faiths4Change***

The Roots in the City garden at St Michael's continues to go from strength to strength. We've continued to support the Micah Liverpool food bank at St Brides. Micah pay a small regular amount towards our costs of year-round growing of organic vegetables, fruit and herbs for the foodbank which is mainly used by people seeking asylum and refuge. Faiths4Change fundraises to pay for the full costs of the food growing for the foodbank and has been supported regularly by SAS via Churches Together in the Merseyside Region and several project funds from charitable trusts for wages, volunteer expenses, infrastructure, soil & seeds. In 2022, we donated a total of 323kg of fresh vegetables, fruit and herbs (along with a few posies of flowers) to the Micah Foodbank.

We're running five groups at the garden at the moment; a Grow Well Together group funded by the Green Recovery Fund that supports participants to improve their wellbeing through gardening; a young people's group funded by Linda McCartney Foods, which gives participants aged 18-30 who do not have access to growing space of their own a chance to grow food and take it home; and three City & Guilds Horticulture courses provided by Myerscough.

In the spring of 2022 we received funding from the Innovation In Communities fund to develop an area of the garden and provide workshops inviting the local community to help build benches and planters. We planted edible herbs in the planters that can be harvested to make tea. The project finished with a summer tea party in June for the Platinum Jubilee that raised just over £120 in donations for F4C (funded projects paid for staff time).

In the winter of 2023 Faiths4Change received some funding to feed people and contribute towards heating bills at St Michael's. This has allowed us to provide hot drinks and a cooked meal to anyone who visits on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We ended the year with a Christmas Fayre, featuring handmade eco gifts, wreath making, a coat swap, hot soup and delicious home-made cakes, along with carol singing from Liverpool Rainbow Chorus. We had some great feedback on the event, with people who said they were not creative at all really enjoying making their own wreaths. The event raised just over £200 for F4C (one member of staff volunteered their time and funded projects paid for the rest)

The congregation at St Michaels and the Faiths4Change team have been working hard on our Eco Church credentials this year. We've committed to only buying eco cleaning products and recycled loo roll/paper towels and we've been working on encouraging the groups that hire the church to recycle their waste. We hosted an open day in September 2022 as part of Great Big Green Week and invited other churches to come along and see what we've been doing as an Eco Church. St Michael's is currently a Bronze Eco Church but we're looking to achieve Silver by the end of 2023. St Bride's has also joined the programme in January 2023 but have not achieved an award yet, we're aiming to achieve our Bronze award by the end of 2023.

| |
|---|
| 180 people supported through funded projects |
| 2 events attended by a total of 90 people |
| 44 Myerscough students |
| 29 people fed weekly |
| 646 food bank users received 500g of fresh vegetables and herbs |
| 20 winter coats donated or swapped through the coat swap |



MICAH COMMUNITY MARKET at St Dunstan's Report

***Phil Bishop, Micah Volunteer***



The CM is a branch of the Micah charity. Visitors pay £1.50 and select 15 items to take home. We also provide tea/coffee and toast and a place to meet others and talk. Sometimes there is a second hand clothes rack. Guests, mainly women from the local Roma community make up over half of the clientele. There is an opportunity for them to join an English language programme and consult with a NHS health worker. About 30 people each week access the service. There is a lovely atmosphere and the morning ends with a Eucharist in the Lady Chapel. The project has been running for about a year and has been a considerable success in supporting the local community.

TAIZE SERVICE Report

***James Fleming, Taize Service Planner***

Taizé-style musical contemplative worship has been a feature of worship at St. Bride's for some years, and I was delighted to be asked to look at restarting it in 2022. We now meet for a community shared meal and evening prayer service on the fourth Sunday of the month at 6.00 p.m. As an ecumenical initiative we partner with our friends at St. Vincent de Paul's RC church in Chinatown to offer monthly services alternating between St. Bride's and St. Vincent's.

It has been a great joy to explore and learn more beautiful Taizé songs to add to the repertoire and to offer prayer through music and singing. It has also been a great joy to work with the community music group in preparing and delivering the Taizé services. We have held services covering a wide number of themes and occasions, including praying for peace, praying for healing, thinking about the care of creation and environmental issues, along with special services for Advent, Lent and Good Friday. The most exciting aspect, though, has been the opportunity to welcome new people into our churches who may not attend our morning services. We have had people coming from as far afield as Widnes, plus a couple from London who were in Liverpool for the weekend. There does seem to be a great love for Taizé-style worship.



Our first Taizé service in May 2022 welcomed 10 people; now we tend to welcome in excess of 20 or even 25 people to our services. In our busy world, people do seem to value the opportunity to come to a calm, tranquil space to pray, meditate and contemplate; and to experience the Lord's love and the Spirit's presence through the beauty of music.

ST BRIDE'S COMMUNITY MUSIC Report

***Jackie Corcoran ARCT, St Bride's Community Music Co-Ordinator***

St Bride's Community Music runs on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm.
We are an inclusive group, welcoming folk who are returning to music practice and performance and music folk who are experienced. In 2022, musicians from our community music group who are also part of Team Parish of St Luke in the City are listed below. We all sing too!

Jackie Corcoran - Piano, Guitar, Treble Recorder and Tenor Recorder
Amy Crane - Soprano Sax, Tenor Sax, Clarinet, Piano and Percussion
James Fleming - Vocals, occasional, schedule permitting
Sophie Gunter - Piano, Violin, Soprano Recorder
Chris Lennie - Piano, Tenor and Bass Recorder
Vincent Needham - Violin and Piano
Beth Powell - Electric Guitar and Bass Guitar
.
We are intergenerational and we have a friendly vibe going on. We explore different genres of music, classical, jazz, folk and pop, hymns too! ... wherever the musical path takes us and we invite you to bring along the music that you are interested in or just come along and join in. We are beginning to build a repertoire of music that we perform as an ensemble. Our music carries out onto the portico where Roger's Meals Program shares out the Thursday evening hot meal and we hear back that they are happy to be entertained by us.

We enjoy joining in with the monthly Taize services and joining in with musicians from St Vincent's and the wider community. We usually practice our Taize music on the Thursday Evening before the Sunday Taize service. We take time during sessions to perform solo music that we are working on. We have experienced piano accompanists in our group who are happy to accompany singers or solo instruments at our sessions. Some in our group also write music so it is a chance for them to hear their work performed by musicians at the sessions.

If you are interested in joining in with our group, just show up at St Bride's Church on a Thursday evening. It is a good night out.

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK (PCN) Report

***Lynn McAllister***

This group meets on a monthly basis at St Brides, usually the last Wednesday of each month (except for August & December). The meetings last for 1 1/2 hours & begin at 12.15 pm. Over this year, taking a few chapters at a time, we have read & discussed 'Stories we tell ourselves' by Richard Holloway & 'Do I stay Christian?' by Brian McLaren. Around 10 people attend each month, some from St Brides & some from other churches/denominations. We try & vary the books & authors we read, & look for ones which we think will challenge & stimulate our thinking about our faith & practice. Anybody is welcome to come along & if you are interested in coming along or would like more information I can be contacted at lynnmc@uwclub.net

SABEEL-KAIROS Report

***Lynn McAllister***

For those who might not be familiar with Sabeel-Kairos, their mission statement is as follows:

1. We are a campaigning Christian charity who work for human rights, justice and equality for Palestinians in partnership/solidarity with the Christian community in the Holy Land.
2. We support, advocate and promote the work of Sabeel Jerusalem and Kairos Palestine, bringing Palestinian voices to the UK Churches to inform, challenge, develop understanding and bring about changes to minds and attitudes.
3. We are a campaigning and theological resource for the UK Churches and the Christian community worldwide.

In support of the above St Brides held an Advent Service in conjunction with Amos Trust. We heard about the experience of Palestinians both through video & in person from young people who live in Gaza. Thanks to Jackie, James & Vincent for their musical contributions & the scratch choir that was put together on the night. The evening was much enjoyed by everyone who attended.

On behalf of Sabeel-Kairos, I also asked for the following motion, which has been passed by Carlisle diocese, to be endorsed:

The Carlisle Diocesan Synod invites the General Synod to debate a motion in the following form:

1. Endorses the “Cry for Hope” expressed by Palestinian Christians and the ‘Global Kairos for Justice’ coalition
2. Requests that the Faith and Order Commission produce a report which analyses and refutes any theological justifications, for example, those promoted by some Christian Zionists, for the oppression of Palestinians
3. Instructs the Ethical Investment Advisory Group to provide guidance to the National Investing Bodies (NIBs) and Dioceses that will enable them to screen their investments and profit from the occupation.“

St Lukes in the City's PCC endorsed this unanimously & it was then passed to deanery synod, at which I gave a presentation. There was some strong resistance to endorsing the motion & the vote on the endorsement was postponed.

TSEDAQAH INTERN Report

***Rev'd Laura Ferguson***

In 2022 Charlotte Steffensen joined our team as an intern from Tsedaqah House. She originally heralded from the USA and arrived on Palm Sunday. She soon become a member of the family (not least because she and Rev'd Laura looked quite similar)! Charlotte attended worship across our three churches and contributed to the worship there. She led services, preached on various topics including her area of particular interest, disability and become a dedicated leader at St Michael's monthly Godly Play service. Charlotte was open and willing to serve as either adult discussion leader or children's craft table leader both of which she accomplished well.

Charlotte volunteered with Micah's Community Market at St Dunstan's; packing food bags and getting to know the regulars clients. She had a good rapport with clients and volunteers alike. Further to this Charlotte was a member our Lauda working with Roma women teaching basic English language and sharing British life skills. Lauda also offered Charlotte the opportunity to share her experience working in US children's summer camps with us. At Lauda after school club Charlotte led creative and exciting games and activities with Roma primary school children. Charlotte contributed significantly to the shape of the after school club sessions and we continue to deliver the sessions in the format Charlotte suggested.

Charlotte also shared her love of hospitality, in particular cooking with us, most memorably baking delicious breads for our Maundy Thursday service and American treats for our Pumpkin Carving Party. During the summer Charlotte came with the Parish to Greenbelt Festival and mucked in with camp life - sharing equipment, entertaining children, sharing food and generally helping fellow campers. At Christmas Charlotte was involved in the annual Christmas Tree Festival by delivering flyers door to door and by decorating a tree on behalf of Tsedaqah House. Charlotte has also been a member of our students/20's-30's group attending meet-ups, getting involved in the planning and sharing in the theological conversations. We have enjoyed getting to know Charlotte over the last year and she will be missed by many.

SABBATICAL Report

***Rev'd Miranda Threlfall-Holmes***

I'd like to thank you all for supporting me in the amazing opportunity I had this year to have a sabbatical, including a life-changing study pilgrimage to Jerusalem in September. I'd never had the chance to go before, and I'm left with so many memories, questions and things to ponder. One of the reasons I particularly wanted to go was to understand more deeply our connection at St Bride's with the Sabeel Kairos movement for peace in the Holy Land, and it was amazing to welcome the Amos trust for their carol service at the beginning of Advent having experienced something of the places and situations that they were sharing with us. Going through the separation wall to visit Bethlehem – with no passport problems at all, since we were a western tour group on our air-conditioned bus – and then having lunch with a group of third and fourth generation refugees at Aida refugee camp and hearing their stories of exclusion made for an extremely uncomfortable contrast, and the trip was full of moments like that.

I'd been unsure how satisfying I would find the religious sites, as I was full of questions about authenticity, historicity, and so on. But our pilgrimage leader was so helpful in putting all those 'did this really happen, and if so did it really happen here, and does it matter' questions to one side. Instead, he encouraged us to focus on the fact that these sites – or places nearby – had been focuses of Christian pilgrimage for many centuries, and to reflect on the pilgrimage experience itself and what it represented for us. With that focus, I was then particularly forcefully struck by the sites that we visited that were almost certainly the exact places named in the Bible, because they were places marked by the presence of water – either a spring, or well – and so couldn't easily be moved or forgotten. Jacob's Well, which we visited after worshipping with a small Anglican congregation on the West Bank, and the Pools of Bethsaida, were too places that will particularly stay with me. And of course, we



visited the Sea of Galilee, where I got the the chance to celebrate communion for our pilgrimage group – and on another occasion, we visited – and floated in – the Dead Sea (no pics of that, I'm afraid, but what a weird sensation!).

Over the past four years I've undertaken the 30 day Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, which encourage you to imagine yourself into many of the Biblical stories and places and imagine meeting Jesus and many of the other characters in the stories, and I found myself returning again and again to some of those prayer experiences as I visited the places I'd imagined. It was a time of very deep refreshment and 're-sourcing', at a time when I was finding myself quite burnt out after all the stress of the pandemic, and I'm so very grateful to have had that time and opportunity.



It was lovely to be welcomed back in October at our joint service by so many of you, and to share with you in small groups something of what I've learned and experienced. And from the the sublime to the ridiculous ….we're encouraged, on sabbatical, to do something creative as well as something 'serious'. So the other main project I had was to write the first draft of a novel, with the help of an online novel writing course. It's a crime novel set in a retreat house. The retreat is being filmed for a reality TV show, when all of sudden the archdeacon is found murdered… there's a long way to go with it yet, but it was a great experience to at least get a first draft completed. And I learned a lot about myself in doing so.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the parish in my absence, especially to our wardens and ministry team.

## END OF CURACY REPORT

***Revd Dr Louis James Johnson***

How time flies…it's hard to believe that I'm now entering the last few weeks of my curacy with the Team Parish of St Luke in the City – in fact, three years in, it kind of feels like I'm just getting going – one of the many things I've learned during my time with you is that parish ministry is a long game, requiring commitment and a willingness to journey together from everyone involved, through good times and bad, whether relaxing in the comfort zone, or moving forward into uncertainty – the key thing is relationship, with God, and with one another – and it is developing and deepening these two key, and integrally-linked relationships that is the constant in our otherwise transient world – and whilst I think that parish ministry calls for long-term commitment to people and place, curacy is, necessarily, a transient and temporary part of parish ministry, and like those before me, and those who will follow, it is time for us all to move on – like all ministry, and, ultimately, like life, curacy is seasonal – and 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven' (Ecclesiastes 3.1)

Of course, my curacy began in a season of acute uncertainty in June 2020, roughly six months into the covid-19 pandemic here in the UK, and during the first lockdown. In fact, all of the 2020 cohort of curates began our ministries as licensed lay workers as the planned Petertide ordinations couldn't be held – and so our licensing service with the then Bishop of Liverpool was held on zoom, as was the pre-ordination retreat before our rearranged small-scale, but beautiful and intimate deaconing services at Michaelmas in September 2020. And people in those early days, usually other clergy, would often say to me "it must be such a strange way to do a curacy" – but, as I would always reply "well, I've never done one before, so I don't have anything to compare it to!" And as the Bishop of Warrington said to us, we were called by God to serve in a time such as this, so that was what we had to do – and I think there is real wisdom and truth in that. And, to be honest, I cannot imagine it being any other way, and, in a funny way, nor would I want it to be – because I have loved my experience during curacy, from getting to know the community on zoom, and leading morning prayer on facebook, to experiences of doing streamed worship that could be both profound and hilarious – to being blessed to have a freedom of movement and action that was not available to so many, enabling social and emotional contact with people at a time of separation and isolation, such as being part of the Micah Liverpool foodbank team on Thursdays, and undertaking funeral ministry – this, and the slow one-step-forward-and-two-steps-back movement into the new reality of a world learning to cope with the pandemic and its effects meant that I was able to gain experience and steadily form relationships.

And, as things moved on, I entered what feels like a time of real flourishing, experiencing all the stuff of curacy training – preaching, teaching, baptizing, helping curate and lead worship is loads of different styles and contexts, and, once priested at Petertide in June 2021, celebrating the Eucharist, taking weddings, undertaking different chaplaincy ministries, helping set up our thriving *Lauda* project, working with the Romanian Roma community, being involved in helping the parish join the Community of the Cross of Nails, and in Micah Liverpool restarting their community market programme, sharing in worship with Open Table, working and collaborating with partners from across the deanery and diocese, from different Christian denominations, and from secular and multi-faith community organisations, and just generally getting to know people better, and finding out more about myself in the process – and through all this, being part of the most amazing, supportive, wise, friendly, loving team of colleagues I could have ever wished for – and I'm not going to name names here because, in truth, it would be a long roll-call, and I've been told to keep this report to one page – but I want to thank you all, as I'm incredibly grateful, more grateful than I can say.

This has been a truly fantastic training parish, enabling me to experience and learn so much, and I hope and pray that others that will follow and share in this formative experience – because I feel that through it, I have been empowered and equipped to take the next steps in ministry, to embark on the next chapter and move into whatever it is that God has in store – but, as I have said to many people already, my experience here has been so wonderful that it is a wrench to let go, and it feels painful to leave – and as with the beginning of my curacy, there is a sense of uncertainty in this, as there is uncertainty for all of us, as individuals, and as a parish, deanery, and diocesan community – but please know that you will always be in my thoughts and prayers – and I ask that you keep me and Christine in yours – and although this season is ending for all of us, and we will be parted for a little while, a new season is beginning – and our stories will be forever entwined, we will always part of each other – because we have shared in life together – and because we share in love together – the love of God that unites us and all creation for eternity.



Above: *Here's one of our favourite pictures of Louis – wielding a sledgehammer when we were putting up trees for our 1st Christmas Tree Festival*

Below: *Louis leading morning prayer from St Bride's shortly before his regular stint at the Foodbank.*

*Here are Louis and Kieran showing off our new CCN cross!*





Above: *Louis sporting a rainbow hat at Pride 2022 and* below: *Louis, aka 'Father Louise' entertaining kids at Lauda aka Crocodile!*








*Louis preaching at our Maundy Thursday meal*



*Louis wearing his ordination cloak!*



*Louis and the clergy team...*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

| | | General | Restricted Funds | Total 2022 | Total 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME from:** | | | | | |
| Donations | 2 | 49,169 | 17,006 | 66,175 | 75,696 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 1,136 | - | 1,136 | 3,617 |
| Fundraising activities | 4 | 61,191 | 20 | 61,211 | 46,158 |
| Investments | 5 | 27,682 | - | 27,682 | 16,218 |
| Other | 6 | 470 | - | 470 | - |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | | 139,648 | 17,026 | 156,674 | 141,689 |
| **EXPENDITURE on:** | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 124,495 | 9,289 | 133,784 | 146,786 |
| Other | 8 | 1,150 | - | 1,150 | 1,685 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDENDITURE** | | 125,645 | 9,289 | 134,934 | 148,471 |
| Net income before gains and losses on investments | | 14,003 | 7,737 | 21,740 | (6,782) |
| Net (losses)/ gains on investments | | (59,126) | - | (59,126) | 60,900 |
| **Net (expenditure)/income** | | (45,123) | 7,737 | (37,386) | 54,118 |
| Transfers between funds | | - | - | - | - |
| **NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS** | | (45,123) | 7,737 | (37,386) | 54,118 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 533,634 | 8,289 | 541,923 | 487,805 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 488,511 | 16,026 | 504,537 | 541,923 |

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

| | Note | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FIXED ASSETS** | | | |
| Tangible assets | 10 | 2,550 | - |
| Investments | 11 | 405,497 | 464,623 |
| | | 408,047 | 464,623 |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 558 | 658 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 13 | 104,272 | 85,337 |
| | | 104,830 | 85,995 |
| **CREDITORS**: amounts falling due within one year | 14 | 8,340 | 8,695 |
| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** | | 96,490 | 77,300 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | 504,537 | 541,923 |
| **FUNDS OF THE CHARITY** | 15 | | |
| Unrestricted | | 89,029 | 84,898 |
| Designated | | 399,482 | 448,736 |
| Restricted | | 16,026 | 8,289 |
| | | 504,537 | 541,923 |

Approved by the Parochial church Council on 3 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes

## *1. Accounting policies*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

**Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the trustees are also unrestricted.
Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal.
Transfers of funds are made to recognise the release of restricted funds or to meet expenditure not covered by restricted income.
The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is held responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**Income**

*Donations, legacies and other voluntary income*
Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is received by or on behalf of the charity. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the repayment is received. Funds raised by seasonal fairs, fundraising events and similar events are accounted for gross.

The charity received substantial amounts of voluntary help from its supporters, but no attempt is made to place a financial value on these services and they have not been included.

*Rental income*
Rental income from the letting of the charity's premises is recognised when the rental is due.

*Income from investments*
Dividends and interest are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

**Expenditure**
Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

**Tangible assets**
Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the churches inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2010 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years.

**Investments**
Investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end.

*Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

**Debtors**
Amounts owed to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, loans or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

**Cash at bank and in hand**
Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Donations | | | | |
| | Gift aid donations | 23,450 | 320 | 23,770 | 24,417 |
| | Income tax recovered | 6,635 | 331 | 6,966 | 6,389 |
| | Other planned giving | 1,150 | - | 1,150 | 1,250 |
| | Collections | 1,108 | 122 | 1,230 | 2,983 |
| | Donations | 5,074 | - | 5,074 | 3,717 |
| | Grants | 11,750 | 14,000 | 25,750 | 36,940 |
| | Other | 2 | 2,233 | 2,235 | - |
| | | 49,169 | 17,006 | 66,175 | 75,696 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Fees | 1,116 | - | 1,116 | 2,800 |
| | Events | 20 | - | 20 | 817 |
| | | 1,136 | - | 1,136 | 3,617 |
| 4 | Fund raising | | | | |
| | Rent from lettings | 61,191 | - | 61,191 | 45,143 |
| | Other | - | 20 | 20 | 1,015 |
| | | 61,191 | 20 | 61,211 | 46,158 |
| 5 | Investments | | | | |
| | Dividends | 16,485 | - | 16,485 | 16,194 |
| | Interest | 709 | - | 709 | 24 |
| | Rent from land | 10,488 | - | 10,488 | - |
| | | 27,682 | - | 27,682 | 16,218 |
| 6 | Other | | | | |
| | Insurance claim | 470 | - | 470 | - |
| 7 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Missionary and charitable giving | 5,000 | 7,000 | 12,000 | 8,212 |
| | Ministry | | | | |
| | Diocesan parish share | 39,493 | | 39,493 | 34,026 |
| | Salaries | 11,190 | | 11,190 | 13,891 |
| | Clergy housing costs | 6,840 | | 6,840 | 5,276 |
| | Clergy expenses | 2,975 | | 2,975 | 3,678 |
| | Other expenses | 660 | 479 | 1,139 | 61 |
| | Church costs | | | | |
| | Council tax and water | 520 | | 520 | 550 |
| | Insurance | 10,608 | | 10,608 | 9,966 |
| | Heat and light | 19,912 | | 19,912 | 9,477 |
| | Maintenance | 10,581 | | 10,581 | 7,699 |
| | Survey costs, St Michael | - | | - | 7,908 |
| | Churchyard | 2,178 | | 2,178 | 4,484 |
| | Security | 1,248 | | 1,248 | 1,248 |
| | Cleaning | 6,149 | | 6,149 | 3,086 |
| | Music | 300 | 565 | 865 | 489 |
| | Carried forward | 117,654 | 8,044 | 125,698 | 110,051 |

| | | General Fund | Restricted Funds | Total 2022 | Total 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 7 | Note continued | | | | |
| | Brought forward | 117,654 | 8,044 | 125,698 | 110,051 |
| | Upkeep of services | 1,032 | | 1,032 | 1,441 |
| | Open Table | - | 269 | 269 | 28,576 |
| | Events | 813 | | 813 | 1,154 |
| | Training and education | 535 | | 535 | 100 |
| | Telephone and website | 3,257 | 144 | 3,401 | 2,089 |
| | Publicity | - | | - | 200 |
| | Depreciation | 231 | | 231 | - |
| | Administration | 973 | 832 | 1,805 | 2,775 |
| | | 124,495 | 9,289 | 133,784 | 146,786 |

| 8 | Other | General Fund | Restricted Funds | Total 2022 | Total 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | Legal and professional fees | 1,150 | - | 1,150 | 1,685 |

Included in the above expenditure are the following payments

| | Total 2022 | Total 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Independent examiner's fees | 150 | 150 |
| Other fees paid to the independent examiner | - | - |
| | 150 | 150 |

9 Paid employees

| Staff costs | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries | 11,190 | 13,891 |
| Employer's national insurance | - | - |
| | 11,190 | 13,891 |

The average number of employees employed by the PCC during the year was 2 for 2022 and 3 for 2021.

The trustees received no remuneration during the year, however expenses were reimbursed for services other than as trustees.
There is no trustee indemnity insurance.

10 Tangible assets

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Cost at 1st January 2022 | 17,638 | 17,638 |
| Additions at cost | 2,781 | - |
| Cost at 31st December 2022 | 20,419 | 17,638 |
| | | |
| Depreciation at 1st January 2022 | 17,638 | 17,638 |
| Charge for the year | 231 | - |
| Depreciation at 31st December 2022 | 17,869 | 17,638 |
| | | |
| Net book value | 2,550 | - |

11 Investments

The investments held at the year-end are either investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or investments in authorised investment trusts.

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Market value at 1st January 2022 | 464,623 | 403,723 |
| (Loss)/gain/ on revaluation | (59,126) | 60,900 |
| Market value at 31st December 2022 | 405,497 | 464,623 |
| | | |
| Historical cost | 393,000 | 393,000 |

12 Debtors

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 558 | 658 |

13 Cash at bank and in hand

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Short term deposits | 59,382 | 47,073 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 44,890 | 38,264 |
| | 104,272 | 85,337 |

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Accruals and deferred income | 8,340 | 8,695 |

15 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

| | At 1st January 2022 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General fund | 84,898 | 139,148 | (125,017) | (10,000) | 89,029 |
| Designated funds | 448,736 | 500 | (59,754) | 10,000 | 399,482 |
| | 533,634 | 139,648 | (184,771) | - | 488,511 |

| | At 1st January 2022 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Restricted funds | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Open Table Network | 15 | 269 | (284) | | - |
| St Dunstan's Bequest | - | 2,233 | - | | 2,233 |
| Lauda | 5,144 | 9,000 | (5,100) | | 9,044 |
| Tsedaqah | | 2,000 | (2,000) | | - |
| Taste of God | 476 | - | - | | 476 |
| Baltic Mission | - | 2,000 | - | | 2,000 |
| Choir | 1,000 | - | (500) | | 500 |
| Open Table Liverpool | 1,654 | 1,524 | (1,405) | | 1,773 |
| | 8,289 | 17,026 | (9,289) | | 16,026 |
| Total funds | 541,923 | 156,674 | (194,060) | - | 504,537 |

15 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

| | At 1st January 2021 £ | Income (inc. gains) £ | Expenditure (inc. losses) £ | Transfer of funds £ | At 31st December 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| St Luke in the City | | | | | |
| General | 76,192 | 117,525 | (116,660) | 7,841 | 84,898 |
| Designated funds | 388,035 | 65,900 | (423) | (4,776) | 448,736 |
| | 464,227 | 183,425 | (117,083) | (3,065) | 533,634 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Open Table Network | 13,326 | 14,181 | (27,492) | - | 15 |
| Restoration | 791 | - | - | (791) | - |
| Notice Boards | 4,800 | - | (2,616) | (2,184) | - |
| That Music Thing | 2,190 | - | - | (2,190) | - |
| Lauda | - | 3,000 | (46) | 2,190 | 5,144 |
| Taste of God | 476 | - | - | - | 476 |
| Rushworths | 150 | - | (150) | - | - |
| Choir | 1,090 | - | - | (90) | 1,000 |
| Open Table Liverpool | 755 | 1,983 | (1,084) | | 1,654 |
| | 23,578 | 19,164 | (31,388) | 3,065 | 8,289 |
| Total funds | 487,805 | 202,589 | (148,471) | - | 541,923 |

16 Fund details

Details of the various funds held by the PCC are as follows:

| Name of fund | Description, nature and purposes of the fund |
|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | |
| General fund | From 1st January 2019 there is a one General Fund. |
| Designated funds | Included is an investment of £360,000 to provide income. |
| Restricted funds | Funds received for specific purposes. |

**Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke-in-the-City, Liverpool, charity number 1152031, on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022, as set out the following pages: Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent Examiner's statement**

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

**Independent Examiner's statement**

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

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act

or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Ian Wright B.A. F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
15 Stretton Drive
Southport
PR9 7DR

3rd April 2023

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. LUKE-IN-THE-CITY, LI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1152031

# Accounts

The Team Parish of
St Luke in the City
Liverpool

# Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

***For the year ended 31st December 2021***

St Bride's
Creative / Progressive / Inclusive
stbridesliverpool.org.uk

St Dunstan's
Dramatic / Sensory / Renewing
stdunstansliverpool.org.uk

St Michael's
Growing Community in the City
stmichaelinthecity.org.uk

## Clergy Report

Welcome to our Parish report which covers the year 2021; a year that began in lockdown and ended with the government almost completely removing Pandemic restrictions.

This year has seen us managing our way through those two extremes and balancing the safety of our congregations with our desire to gather in person, and reach out to our local communities. There have been long periods of waiting and for some the sense that restrictions have lifted too quickly putting those most vulnerable at risk. As a PCC we aimed to maintain good links with those unable to come out and to also provide safe spaces as we cautiously took steps to reopen. For Lent we sent to everyone on our mailing list a Lenten Advent Calendar which encouraged all to create a worship space at home. We aimed to ensure that we kept as many communication avenues open as possible and so continued with online worship throughout the year as well as three online course; an art Lent Course, an Open Table lenten book course and the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith course.

Both St Michael's and St Dunstan's reopened on Easter Day with St Bride's beginning a programme of roughly monthly open air services starting with an atmospheric Holy Saturday pilgrimage around the grounds with the lighting of the Easter fire. St Bride's reopened in September along with Open Table starting its monthly in person, evening gatherings. Also at St Brides, Lilly Nelson began an in person student bible study group which meets weekly at St Bride's during term time. Reopenings did see a natural end to St Michael's telephone service with the return of congregation members in person to Sunday worship. In September Taste of God returned in person (and remained online too). It became a focus for the lunch time Faiths4Change gardening group. Although St Dunstan's gathered from Easter the style of worship gradually relaxed as the year moved on with the return of movement and singing in the Autumn. September also saw the launch of Lauda, a project designed to engage with the Romany community in the Edge Hill area. It began with a children's after school club on Thursdays at St Dunstan's and has already seen significant growth. St Bride's indoor Sunday reopening resulted in a shift from gathering on zoom to streaming the service live on Facebook which has continued although numbers online are in decline as people begin to return to the building. Morning Prayer on facebook live also continued throughout the year and gave our Parish a steady rhythm of worship in this ever-changing year. It was decided in September that on the last Sunday of the month we would hold a joint service. This would be hosted by one of the three churches and rotate each month. These services have been some of the most memorable and moving in recent months. All three congregations have seen significant changes since 2020 and much of our regathering has been about taking stock of the fact that some members have moved on, some have passed away and also that some new members have joined us.

One of the joys of the Pandemic has been how all three churches have come together as a Parish. In 2021 as a Parish we offered the city a Service of Remembrance for the May Blitz at the Bombed Out church. Here we rededicated the site as a place to remember the civilian casualties of WWII and became members of the Community of the Cross of Nails. The service was highly memorable not only for its notable attendees (the Mayor, an MP, chief or police & fire service and Dean of Coventry Cathedral) but for the torrential rain that showered upon us! Shortly after this we joined together to celebrate 5 Confirmations on the steps of St Bride's with Bishop Beverly presiding. Later that year as a Parish we offered funeral families and all those who mourn a Service of Remembering. This moving and peaceful service was hosted by St Dunstan's and will be repeat annually. The year closed with another Parish Christmas Tree Festival hosted by St Bride's. Unlike last year we were blighted by atrocious weather with many trees being blown over. Despite this the opening celebration which featured two community choirs and prize giving went well and provided some much needed joy and mulled wine.

With the increase of building use and constant need for repairs or new work to be done at our sites the PCC took the decision in March to set up a Buildings Sub-committee. The creation of this team has not only resulted in outstanding work being completed but it has also created systems, timelines and a budget to work with. This has freed up time for clergy and the administrator and provides the Parish with a way to process jobs strategically rather than in a reactionary way. Further, it ensures our sites meet safety standards and continue to be pleasant environments to gather at.

St Bride's has continue to be a social justice hub, with Micah foodbank continuing to run throughout the pandemic. Towards the end of the year we saw the return of others groups; Refugee Women Connect, the British Red Cross, ichoir and the Socialist Singers. At St Michael's Faiths4Change began group activities in September with its partnership with Myerscough college meeting weekly again. A new group, Chinese Wellbeing began to meet weekly in St Michael's hall to support older people from the local Chinese community.

Financially, we are continuing to be in good health. Buildings rentals have continued to build back up after the pandemic and we are grateful to our administrator Jackie Corcoran for the work she does here. We were also very grateful that the Diocese of Liverpool successfully bid for support from the national Church Commissioners charity, and this has subsidised our Parish Share last year and this year. We are also hugely grateful that people's generosity through planned giving continued, and this year has really demonstrated the stability that moving to most giving being done through direct debit or the Parish Giving Scheme can bring. With the shift to online services, we also developed an online giving platform which has enabled those who have joined us online to give easily and securely.

Overall this year has been a challenging one. The resilience and strength of this community has been inspiring and it is particularly heartening that despite the challenges of meeting as congregations this year has seen the culmination of our dream of a contextually appropriate social justice project at the heart of each of our three church sites. The challenge for the coming year is for us to rebuild a deeper sense of community in our churches given the fragmentation that we have experienced over the past two years. We pray that we may more fully embody our vision to be people "living life in full colour from the still centre of God."

**Miranda Threlfall-Holmes**
**Laura Ferguson**
**Team Clergy**

**Reference and Administrative Information**
The Parochial Church Council of the Team Parish of St Luke in the City is an excepted charity not requiring registration with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The parish includes three churches: St Bride & St Saviour, located on Percy Street; St Dunstan on Earle Road, and St Michael in the City on Upper Pitt Street. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:

St Luke in the City Parish Office, St Bride's Church, Percy Street, Liverpool L8 7LT.

The following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Team Rector | Rev. Dr. Miranda Threlfall-Holmes | |
| | | |
| Team Vicar | Rev. Laura Ferguson | |
| | | |
| Curate | Rev. Louis Johnson | |
| | | |
| SSM Priest | Rev. Sara Doyle | |
| | | |
| Reader | Dr. Chris Bartley | |
| | | |
| Churchwardens | Chris Bartley (as above)<br>James Fleming | |
| | | |
| Deanery Synod representatives | Kieran Bohan | |
| | Alan Fitzgerald | |
| | Chris Bartley | |
| | | |
| Elected members | Rose Green | |
| | David Bradley | |
| | Sharon Ginley | |
| | Helen Stocker | |
| | Lilly Nelson | |
| | Karen McCaldon | |
| | Sue Say | |
| | Emma Watson | |
| | Gwyneth Evans | |
| Treasurer | Raymond Bissex | |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Electoral Roll Officer | Jackie Corcoran | |
| | | |
| PCC Secretary | Rose Green | |
| | | |
| Safeguarding Officers | Rose Green | |
| | Sue Say | |
| Recruitment Lead | Laura Ferguson | |

The licensed clergy and Reader are each ex-officio members of the PCC. The Team Rector is ex-officio Chair of the PCC.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bankers: | The Cooperative Bank PLC<br>1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP |
| | Central Board of Finance of the Church of England<br>80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ |
| Independent Examiner | Mr. I Wright B.A. F.C.A.<br>15 Stretton Drive, Southport PR9 7DR |
| Legal Advisors: | Mr. H. Dellar<br>1, The Sanctuary, Westminster, Liverpool SW1P 3JT |
| | Hill Dickinson LLP<br>1 St Paul's Square, Liverpool L3 9SJ |
| Estate Management: | PKPM Chartered Surveyors<br>Suite 7, Church House, 1 Hanover Street, Liverpool,<br>L1 3DN |
| Architects: (St Bride's, St Dunstan's and St Michael's) | Maggie Mullen, 59A Roscoe St, Liverpool L1 9DW |

**Structure, Management and Governance**
The St Luke in the City PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC business has a sub-committee, the Building's Sub- Committee.
The function of the PCC is to enable and support mission, to foster communication and collaboration between the individual churches as appropriate and to provide a framework of accountability to the Diocese, Charity Commission and other legal bodies.

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

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

Our primary objective in 2021 was to manage and mitigate the effects of the pandemic such that our statutory mission was impacted as little as possible. Our specific objectives in 2020 were therefore rolled over to 2021:

1. Achieve a balanced budget by the end of this year
2. Deepen our links with and mission in our local communities
3. Develop links with local schools

As restrictions have lifted, particularly towards the end of 2021 we have been able to make significant progress with these objectives, as outlined in the Clergy Report at the start of this document. Our finances have stabilised and we have increased our numbers of hirers across all our sites enabling us to move into the black and thus be in a much better position to pursue our mission. Our Parish links continue to develop, particularly at St Dunstan's where Lauda, our outreach to the Romanian Roma community has lead to a flurry of activity there. Our schools work remains steady with Pleasant Street having regular RE sessions throughout the year and with the Studio School and Life Sciences contributing to the Christmas tree festival, along with Windsor Primary and LIPA Primary.

**The Electoral Roll**
(last checked this on 5th May 2022)

There are 101 people on the Electoral Roll of the parish:

59 - St Bride's
18 - St Dunstan's
24 - St Michael in the City

**Public Worship**
We have gradually developed regular in person services however some of these differ from pre-pandemic patterns.

Daily morning prayer continued to live streamed at 9.15 Monday-Friday with between 10-15 regular commenters and between 50-100 views. In September with the reopening of St Bride's, the decision was taken to stream that in person service for those who were unable to return to in person worship. Views for the facebook streamed Sunday services were at the start of the year around 200 and from September onwards were nearer to 100-150. Sunday worship continues to be uploaded to YouTube but no longer morning prayer.

As for our occasional offices, we have had one wedding this year, 11 baptisms and 24 funerals which is the highest number of funerals we have had in nine years. This may be because of the public's reaction to the funeral restrictions imposed during the pandemic.

**Pastoral care and service to our community**
By the end of 2021 many of our community support groups started meeting back in the buildings. Refugee Women Connect, Narcotics Anonymous, Roger Smalley's Homeless Meals Project, the British Red Cross, two community choirs and Jackie's music group have returned at St Bride's. At St Michael's we have seen new groups making use of the site including Chinese Wellbeing which aims to provide social care and support for older Chinese people. Our partnership with Faiths4Change Roots in the City garden project has expanded its reach with a Tuesday group for local people and a Thursday evening gardening session for young people. Our Lauda project and Micah Foodbank reports are below.

We have had to limit socialising after services which has inevitably impacted our welcoming ethos. As restrictions lift pastoral care is something that we aim to prioritise in the coming year.

**Our Church Buildings**
The new building committee has made significant progress on building works identified by the Quinquennial Reports and routine maintenance but there continue to be challenges.

At St Dunstan's, the organ sale was agreed, and a faculty application submitted seeking permission for this to go ahead. This was agreed but there has been a hold up with buyer and we continue to wait.

St Bride's continues to need roofing work, and we await fresh energy to re-open funding bids in the future. Trees in the grounds have cause problems with neighbouring residential buildings and work continues to cut

back or remove them. As in the case nationally we have experienced significant delays in getting contractors to come out to do the work.

Preliminary investigations were carried out into the drains issue at St Michael's, but progress has been slowed by United Utilities responding to us. The PCC approved up to £30,000 to replace the fencing around St Michael's but this process has also slowed due to contractors being too busy to come out and quote for us. The car park next to the church is now vacant with the rental contract coming to an end. Discussions to hire the space to another renter are in progress.

**Deanery, Diocese and the wider church and mission**

Our Parish hosted the Living in Love and Faith course which was also attended by some members of other churches in the Deanery.

This year we received grants from the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund towards Open Table, for Lauda and for a Tsedaqah intern (Liverpool Diocese ministry experience scheme in partnership with the Diocese of Virginia). We also received diocesan funding for our University Chaplaincy Assistant, Lilly Nelson, as part of the Strategic Development Fund project in collaboration with St James in the City.

Miranda Threlfall-Holmes serves on the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee and on Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council, and is a Council Member of Modern Church. Kieran Bohan is Network Co-ordinator for the Open Table Network which received charitable status in 2021. Miranda Threlfall-Holmes and Phil Bishop continue as Trustees of Micah Liverpool. Miranda is also a trustee of Mission in the Economy and this year became the Diocesan Representation on the Council of the Women's Hospital.

## FINANCE

**The Performance of Investments**

The PCC's funds are held in Current and Deposit Accounts with Co-operative Bank and in deposit funds with the Church of England's Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund and the Church of England investment and property funds. Investments saw a net gain of £60,900 this year and generated income of £16,218.

**Reserves Policy**

The trustees have established the level of operating reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have, which is roughly equal to six months general expenditure, £100,000. Reserves are needed to even out any short term funding gaps between spending and related income – something that has been very clear this year, when income streams have been so disrupted. We have also continued to invest the capital realized from the sale of St Stephen's for income, holding this as an additional expendable reserve but with the aim of it providing a long term income stream. The PCC are content with the current level of reserves.

**Income from lettings**

Lettings of the church premises were still down this year due to pandemic closures, but by the end of the year had recovered. Lettings income this year was a total of **£ 45,143** (compared with £34, 135 in 2020).

**Giving to the church**

Our second largest source of income is giving by the congregation. Planned giving in 2021 was £25,667 (down slightly from 2020 which was £27,012), with an additional £6700 given as donations and in collections. These gifts allowed us to reclaim £6389 tax from HMRC making the total giving-related income **£38,756**. In addition we received **£36,940** from grants from external bodies.

**Financial Risk**

The PCC had hoped in 2021 to agree budgets for our different streams of activity and expenditure, and to receive quarterly management accounts comparing actual performance with agreed budgets. However, due to the ongoing uncertainty of this pandemic year this aim was only partially achieved with the planned

budget for the Buildings Sub-Committee. Instead the Standing Committee closely monitored the evolving financial situation. Having finally turned around years of deficit budgets, the PCC is committed to sustaining balanced budgets in 2022 and beyond.

These years have shown that our income is very dependent on lettings and in 2021 a focus has been diversifying the mix of lettings income that we receive to increase our financial resilience. We continue to see the benefit of the investment for income of the sale of St Stephens, and the increase in the number of people giving through the Parish Giving Scheme. Further promoting the PGS will be an important part of continuing to manage financial risk.

All assets are insured and levels have been recently reviewed by our insurer Ecclesiastical.

**Employees**
The parish employed three part time staff: Jackie Corcoran as parish administrator taking on some cleaning, Vicky Clarke as cleaners at St Michael's, Lilly Nelson (term time only) as University Chaplaincy Assistant. In October Leah Daly was employed by Liverpool Parish Church to run Lauda our ecumenical project to connect with Roma people under the supervision and oversight of our Parish.

Wages were reviewed in May where the PCC agreed that St Luke in the City should use the UK Living Wage rate as our minimum wage. Our payroll is managed by LCVS.

**Risk Assessments**
The PCC regularly monitors risk. Risk assessments are undertaken for all new or extraordinary undertakings. Covid-19 risk assessments were carried out as Church of England guidance and national legislation was updated.

**Compliance with Law and Regulation**
Our procedures are reviewed regularly and formally reported to the PCC.

**Safeguarding**
The policy for Safeguarding was substantially updated in 2019 following new national advice, and is reviewed by the PCC annually. Towards the end of 2021 Laura Ferguson became Lead Recruiter and Sue Say was appointed as the second Safeguarding Officer. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda. The Team Parish of St Luke in the City takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.liverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding

**Looking forward: Objectives and Activities**
The general functions of the PCC are stated within section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.
As a parish we aim to be 'Living Life in Full Colour from the Still Centre of God'.
Our three priorities continue to be:

- Sustainability: developing our financial resilience and developing as Eco-Churches
- Locality: deepening our roots in our local parish communities
- Growth: in numbers in our churches, in spiritual depth, and in service to our communities

In addition, we aim to contribute to the Deanery Priorities which are

- Developing Discipleship
- Strengthening Churches
- Developing Lay Leaders

**Miranda Threlfall-Holmes**
**Laura Ferguson**
**Team Clergy**

## ADDITIONAL REPORTS

### MICAH LIVERPOOL

As a parish, our relationship with Micah Liverpool continues to go from strength to strength. Micah runs an emergency food-aid pantry, or foodbank, from St Bride's on Thursdays and, despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, and thanks in no small part to the ongoing generosity and support of so many individuals and organisations, Micah Liverpool has been able to continue to provide immediate help and support to anyone who comes looking for it, and we have been able to offer our building, community, and volunteer resources to take part in this work of hospitality and welcome. As well as welcoming guests new and old, welcoming new volunteers, and welcoming back a number of long term volunteers, Micah Liverpool has also welcomed a new member of the leadership team in Nicher Awan. Nicher was, herself, once supported by emergency food-aid upon arriving in the city, and was also subsequently a Micah volunteer – and she is now the new Food-Aid Coordinator for Micah Liverpool. Nicher has been pivotal in a new development in our relationship with Micah Liverpool: a Community Market from St Dunstan's on Wednesday mornings.

The Micah Community Market operates on a different model to the foodbank as people are invited to pay £1.50 to buy 15 items of shopping, then to stay for tea, coffee, food and some social time – as such, it is aimed at people whose need is slightly different than emergency food-aid, and who are also looking to engage with others, to connect with community – and having the Community Market up-and-running allows Micah Liverpool to refer people there whose circumstances have changed/ improved enough that they don't require emergency food-aid, providing a much-needed link in the support chain that will also help to ensure that Micah can provide a sustainable model going forward to help enable this support to continue for years to come. It is fantastic that, once again, thanks to the support of the Rector, our team, the PCC, and the wider church community, we can participate in this work through offering the resources we have (such as a huge, well-placed building, volunteers, and prayerful support) and be a part of this ministry as it develops further in the future.

*Louis Johnson*

### TASTE OF GOD

After three years, and several ups and downs, 'A Taste of God' is closing down as a group. The group was originally envisaged as a lay-led, discussion-based group located at the 'other end' of the parish of St Luke-in-the-City and was expected to grow using a tried-and-tested formula. What was not expected was a pandemic that would move the group on-line, opening it up to a completely new audience.

It has lived up to its aim of providing opportunities for people to encounter God and has enabled at least three lives to be completely transformed, as well as personal development for myself. Challenges around venues and technology have been weathered successfully, on the whole, and the pandemic provided more opportunities than threats.

However, attendance at individual sessions has never managed double figures and the proportion of clergy to lay leadership has tipped in favour of the former. New bonds that were beginning to form with the Roots in the City garden group were broken by the pre-Christmas lockdown and there seems more value in letting that group develop its own worship offering.

The final session will be held on the Tuesday after Easter 2022, as a time of celebration of, and reflection on, a very interesting and important three years.

*Rose Green*

**LAUDA**

In the time since the last report our work with the Romanian Roma community that lives near St Dunstan's has been developing and gathering a real sense of momentum. We began simply with a sense that God was calling us, as individuals and as a church community, to engage with our Roma friends, but this has quickly grown and taken on a life of its own, in large part due to support and engagement from our deanery, the wider diocese, the national C of E and Churches Network for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, ecumenical partners, local community organisations, and individual volunteers. The major turning point in the story so far was our connection with Leah Daly – Leah has the language skills, knowledge, experience but, most importantly, a heart for working with the Roma community, and she has been a genuine godsend – having secured some funding, we were able to employ Leah part-time to lead our work.

We named our project 'Lauda', which means 'praise' in Romanian, but which sounds like the word 'louder' in English, and is a good description of our after-school club that runs at St Dunstan's on Thursday afternoons – the engagement with this from the community has been phenomenal, with anything from between thirty and fifty children attending every week from when we began running it in early November 2021 – although the format has shifted and adapted, we always share a Bible story, a short lesson, food, drink, games, crafts, singing and prayer with the children – and with their mums, who also attend. A huge thanks must go to Revd Laura for her commitment to this work, and her approach to safeguarding and risk-assessment – and, thanks to Leah, our relationships with the different families has really blossomed, so much so that we now run a second Lauda session to practice some basic literacy in Romanian and English on Wednesday mornings, alongside the new Micah Community Market. We are hugely grateful to all of the people and organisations mentioned above, to the Rector, our PCC and you, our church community, for being so supportive and encouraging in helping enable this to happen – and, having recently secured more funding from the Joshua Centre, as well as from our deanery, we're excited to see where this journey will take us all next.

*Louis Johnson*

## SAFEGUARDING

There have been no new safeguarding issues this year.
We have established a safeguarding team Laura, Rose and Sue who have met regularly to discuss, explore and introduce new safeguarding systems. The team are committed to embedding good safeguarding practise into all elements of church life. Our aim is to support the Team Parish of St Luke in the City in providing a caring, safe and welcoming space for all. We are continuing to ensure safer recruitment is adhered to and are participating in all required and available training.

All PCC members must have a DBS with us, so could any members who have not acquired a DBS with us in the last year, please let one of the team know, thank you.

*Say Say*

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

| | | General | Restricted Funds | Total 2021 | Total 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME from:** | | | | | |
| Donations | 2 | 56,857 | 18,839 | 75,696 | 88,952 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 3,467 | 150 | 3,617 | 2,018 |
| Fundraising activities | 4 | 45,983 | 175 | 46,158 | 35,054 |
| Investments | 5 | 16,218 | - | 16,218 | 16,442 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | | 122,525 | 19,164 | 141,689 | 142,466 |
| **EXPENDITURE on:** | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 115,398 | 31,388 | 146,786 | 116,430 |
| Other | 8 | 1,685 | | 1,685 | 1,985 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDENDITURE** | | 117,083 | 31,388 | 148,471 | 118,415 |
| Net income before gains and losses on investments | | 5,442 | (12,224) | (6,782) | 24,051 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | | 60,900 | - | 60,900 | 15,499 |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | 66,342 | (12,224) | 54,118 | 39,550 |
| Transfers between funds | | 3,065 | (3,065) | - | - |
| **NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS** | | 69,407 | (15,289) | 54,118 | 39,550 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 464,227 | 23,578 | 487,805 | 448,255 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 533,634 | 8,289 | 541,923 | 487,805 |

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

| | Note | Total 2021 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FIXED ASSETS** | | | |
| Tangible assets | 9 | - | - |
| Investments | 10 | 464,623 | 403,723 |
| | | 464,623 | 403,723 |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | |
| Debtors | 11 | 658 | 159 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 12 | 85,337 | 90,393 |
| | | 85,995 | 90,552 |
| **CREDITORS**: amounts falling due within one year | 13 | 8,695 | 6,470 |
| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** | | 77,300 | 84,082 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | 541,923 | 487,805 |
| **FUNDS OF THE CHARITY** | 14 | | |
| Unrestricted | | 84,898 | 76,192 |
| Designated | | 448,736 | 388,035 |
| Restricted | | 8,289 | 23,578 |
| | | 541,923 | 487,805 |

Approved by the Parochial church Council on 29 May 2022 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

## *1. Accounting policies*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

**Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the trustees are also unrestricted.
Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal.
Transfers of funds are made to recognise the release of restricted funds or to meet expenditure not covered by restricted income.
The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is held responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**Income**

*Donations, legacies and other voluntary income*
Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is received by or on behalf of the charity. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the repayment is received. Funds raised by seasonal fairs, fundraising events and similar events are accounted for gross.

The charity received substantial amounts of voluntary help from its supporters, but no attempt is made to place a financial value on these services and they have not been included.

*Rental income*
Rental income from the letting of the charity's premises is recognised when the rental is due.

*Income from investments*
Dividends and interest are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

**Expenditure**
Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

**Tangible assets**
Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the churches inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2010 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years.

**Investments**
Investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end.

*Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

**Debtors**
Amounts owed to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, loans or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

**Cash at bank and in hand**
Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2021 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Donations | | | | |
| | Gift aid donations | 22,940 | 1,477 | 24,417 | 26,102 |
| | Income tax recovered | 4,730 | 1,659 | 6,389 | 6,956 |
| | Other planned giving | 1,250 | - | 1,250 | 910 |
| | Collections | 2,716 | 267 | 2,983 | 1,456 |
| | Donations | 3,418 | 299 | 3,717 | 9,791 |
| | Grants | 21,803 | 15,137 | 36,940 | 43,737 |
| | | 56,857 | 18,839 | 75,696 | 88,952 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2021 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Fees | 2,800 | - | 2,800 | 1,851 |
| | Events | 667 | 150 | 817 | 167 |
| | | 3,467 | 150 | 3,617 | 2,018 |
| 4 | Fund raising | | | | |
| | Rent receivable | 45,143 | - | 45,143 | 34,175 |
| | Other | 840 | 175 | 1,015 | 879 |
| | | 45,983 | 175 | 46,158 | 35,054 |
| 5 | Investments | | | | |
| | Interest | 24 | - | 24 | 104 |
| | Dividends | 16,194 | - | 16,194 | 16,338 |
| | | 16,218 | - | 16,218 | 16,442 |
| 6 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Missionary and charitable giving | 8,212 | | 8,212 | 3,400 |
| | Ministry | | | | |
| | Diocesan parish share | 34,026 | | 34,026 | 40,506 |
| | Stipend and salaries | 13,891 | | 13,891 | 18,598 |
| | Clergy housing costs | 5,276 | | 5,276 | 3,393 |
| | Clergy expenses | 3,678 | | 3,678 | 2,876 |
| | Other expenses | 15 | 46 | 61 | 84 |
| | Church costs | | | | |
| | Council tax and water | 550 | | 550 | 422 |
| | Insurance | 9,966 | | 9,966 | 10,224 |
| | Heat and light | 9,477 | | 9,477 | 8,377 |
| | Maintenance | 7,699 | | 7,699 | 3,780 |
| | Survey costs, St Michael | 7,908 | | 7,908 | - |
| | Churchyard | 1,868 | 2,616 | 4,484 | 1,576 |
| | Security | 1,248 | | 1,248 | 1,248 |
| | Cleaning | 3,086 | | 3,086 | 2,877 |
| | Music | 339 | 150 | 489 | 145 |
| | Upkeep of services | 1,441 | | 1,441 | 288 |
| | Open Table | | 28,576 | 28,576 | 14,032 |
| | Events | 1,554 | | 1,554 | 699 |
| | Training | 100 | | 100 | 100 |
| | Carried forward | 110,334 | 31,388 | 141,722 | 112,625 |

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2021 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Note continued | | | | |
| | Brought forward | 110,334 | 31,388 | 141,722 | 112,625 |
| | Telephone and website | 2,089 | | 2,089 | 2,183 |
| | Publicity | 200 | | 200 | 318 |
| | Depreciation | - | | - | 169 |
| | Administration | 2,775 | | 2,775 | 1,135 |
| | | 115,398 | 31,388 | 146,786 | 116,430 |

| 7 | Other | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2021 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Legal and professional fees | 1,685 | | 1,685 | 1,985 |

Included in the above expenditure are the following payments

| | Total 2021 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Independent examiner's fees | 150 | 150 |
| Other fees paid to the independent examiner | - | - |
| | 150 | 150 |

8 Paid employees

| Staff costs | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Salaries and wages | 13,891 | 18,598 |
| Employer's national insurance | - | - |
| | 13,891 | 18,598 |

The average number of employees employed by the PCC during the year was 3 for 2021 and 4 for 2020.

The trustees received no remuneration during the year, however expenses were reimbursed for services other than as trustees.
There is no trustee indemnity insurance.

9 Tangible assets

| | 2021 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Cost at 1st January 2021 | 17,638 | 17,638 |
| Additions at cost | - | - |
| Cost at 31st December 2021 | 17,638 | 17,638 |
| | | |
| Depreciation at 1st January 2021 | 17,638 | 17,469 |
| Charge for the year | - | 169 |
| Depreciation at 31st December 2021 | 17,638 | 17,638 |
| | | |
| Net book value | - | - |

10 Investments

The investments held at the year-end are either investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or investments in authorised investment trusts.

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Market value at 1st January 2021 | 403,723 | 388,224 |
| Additions | | |
| CBF Global Equity Fund Income Shares | - | |
| CBF Church of England Property Fund | - | |
| Gain/(loss) on revaluation | 60,900 | 15,499 |
| Market value at 31st December 2021 | 464,623 | 403,723 |
| | | |
| Historical cost | 393,000 | 393,000 |

11 Debtors

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 658 | 159 |

12 Cash at bank and in hand

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Short term deposits | 47,073 | 46,488 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 38,264 | 43,905 |
| | 85,337 | 90,393 |

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Accruals and deferred income | 8,695 | 6,470 |

14 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

| | At 1st January 2021 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General fund | 76,192 | 117,525 | (116,660) | 7,841 | 84,898 |
| Designated funds | 388,035 | 65,900 | (423) | (4,776) | 448,736 |
| | 464,227 | 183,425 | (117,083) | 3,065 | 533,634 |

| | At 1st January 2021 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Restricted funds | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Open Table Network | 13,326 | 14,181 | (27,492) | | 15 |
| Restoration | 791 | | - | (791) | - |
| Notice Boards | 4,800 | | (2,616) | (2,184) | - |
| That Music Thing | 2,190 | -- | | (2,190) | - |
| Lauda | | 3,000 | (46) | 2,190 | 5,144 |
| Taste of God | 476 | - | - | | 476 |
| Rushworths | 150 | - | (150) | - | - |
| Choir | 1,090 | - | - | (90) | 1,000 |
| Open Table Liverpool | 755 | 1,983 | (1,084) | - | 1,654 |
| | 23,578 | 19,164 | (31,388) | (3,065) | 8,289 |
| Total funds | 487,805 | 202,589 | (148,471) | - | 541,923 |

15 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

| | At 1st January 2020 £ | Income (inc. gains) £ | Expenditure (inc. losses) £ | Transfer of funds £ | At 31st December 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| St Luke in the City | | | | | |
| General | 83,065 | 86,898 | (96,533) | 2,762 | 76,192 |
| Designated funds | 358,236 | 29,999 | (200) | - | 388,035 |
| | 441,301 | 116,897 | (96,733) | 2,762 | 464,227 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Open Table Network | 464 | 27,288 | (14,426) | - | 13,326 |
| University Chaplaincy | 580 | 6,120 | (3,930) | (2,770) | - |
| Restoration | 787 | 4 | - | - | 791 |
| Notice Boards | | 4,800 | - | - | 4,800 |
| That Music Thing | 3,140 | - | (950) | | 2,190 |
| Taste of God | 645 | - | (169) | | 476 |
| Rushworths | 150 | - | - | | 150 |
| Choir | 1,100 | 1,640 | (1,650) | | 1,090 |
| Open Table Liverpool | 88 | 1,216 | (557) | 8 | 755 |
| | 6,954 | 41,068 | (21,682) | (2,762) | 23,578 |
| Total funds | 448,255 | 157,965 | (118,415) | - | 487,805 |

16 Fund details

Details of the various funds held by the PCC are as follows:

| Name of fund | Description, nature and purposes of the fund |
|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | |
| General fund | From 1st January 2019 there is a one General Fund. |
| Designated funds | Included is an investment of £350,000 to provide income |
| Restricted funds | Funds received for specific purposes. |

# Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke-in-the-City, Liverpool, charity number 1152031, on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021, as set out the following pages: Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent Examiner's statement**

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

**Independent Examiner's statement**

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

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

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

Ian Wright B.A. F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
Southport

11 May 2022

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. LUKE-IN-THE-CITY, LI**

England & Wales - Charity number 1152031

# Accounts

The Team Parish of
St Luke In The City
Liverpool

# *Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council*

***For the year ended 31st December 2020***

Diocese of Liverpool

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**The Team Parish of St Luke in the City, Liverpool**
St Bride, St Dunstan, St Michael in the City
Parish Office: St Bride's Church, Percy Street, Liverpool L8 7LT
Office@stlukeinthecity.org.uk

**Vicar's Report**

Welcome to our Parish report covering this highly unusual year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 annual meeting was delayed until October, but this report covers the whole of the calendar year 2020.

The pandemic has of course been the predominant theme and driver of events this year. Church services in all our buildings stopped in late March 2020, and we had to rapidly re-invent ways of being church and worshipping together for this new situation that we found ourselves in. From 17th March we have been holding morning prayer online, live-streamed on Facebook, and this has developed into a committed congregation in its own right. Sunday services were also moved to online for most of the year, with only a few services in the autumn and some services in Christmas week taking places in our churches. Five mailings with prayer resources have gone to our entire address list over the year, and from June a weekly telephone service was set up for those who were unable to access online services, particularly aimed at enabling the elderly St Michael's congregation to access worship. Open Table and A Taste of God quickly moved to meeting on Zoom, whilst sadly That Music Thing has had to be suspended altogether.

The PCC took the decision in June that we would work together as a parish, focusing our three church buildings on different areas of ministry as and when we were able to re-open. St Dunstan's, with the benefit of its large space, became our first church to re-open, initially for funerals only. Local funeral directors, and the diocesan Good Funeral Company, have been pleased to be able to offer families the option of a church space for their funeral that enables safe social distancing. St Michael's, easy to heat and ventilate, was designated for Sunday services and was able to hold some in person services in the autumn before rising local infection rates caused us to close that down again. St Bride's has been our designated social justice hub, and whilst it has remained closed for services due to the limitations of the building, it has remained open for the Micah foodbank throughout the pandemic. Our buildings administrator Jackie Corcoran, and churchwarden James Fleming who has taken the lead on Health & Safety, worked swiftly with Micah so that the foodbank never had to stop, and I want to pay tribute here to their hard work and dedication. The pandemic has meant a doubling of demand for the foodbank, with over 320 people being fed from St Bride's in a typical week this year. The community garden run by Faiths4Change at St Michael's also had to close its gates to the public, but the staff team have kept the development of the garden going over lockdown, and for some of the year the education courses run in partnership with Myerscough college were able to resume.

Financially, we were very concerned at the beginning of the pandemic, as buildings rentals ceased and collections and fundraising activities had to stop. We were relieved that the government furlough scheme enabled us to support our various staff through the enforced closure period, and we took the decision to top this up so that our staff weren't financially disadvantaged. We were also very grateful that the Diocese of Liverpool successfully bid for support from the national Church Commissioners charity, and this has subsidised our Parish Share this year and next year. Fortunately, the efforts that we have made over the past few years to diversify our income streams have paid off this year, as some rentals (the old churchyard at St Michael's currently used by local builders as a site office; the flat at St Michael's; car parking for James' Place staff at St

Bride's, and the studio at St Bride's) continued, and our investment of the proceeds of the St Stephen's sale continued to provide income. We are also hugely grateful that people's generosity through planned giving continued, and this year has really demonstrated the stability that moving to most giving being done through direct debit or the Parish Giving Scheme can bring. With the shift to online services, we also developed an online giving platform which has enabled those who have joined us online to give easily and securely. To our great astonishment, all of our combined efforts have meant that we end the year in a better position than we started it, and I want to pay especial thanks to our treasurer, Ray Bissex, who has been a rock and whose generosity of time and spirit have been a huge support and gift to us in achieving this result.

There were several changes in our staff team this year. In January, Lilly Nelson was appointed as our new Student Chaplaincy Assistant. In February, we appointed Revd Laura Ferguson to the post of Team Vicar. Laura was just about to begin her maternity leave at that point, and so she started her ministry with us in September. It was a challenge to arrange an online licensing service, but a great delight to welcome her to the parish in such a memorable and unusual way. In March we said a sad farewell to our associate priest Jonathan Clatworthy, as he and Marguerite moved to be nearer family. It was a strange experience, as it was our last service before lockdown and we had to be distanced, with no physical contact and no refreshments. In May, Cate Jacobs, our ordinand in training, moved her parish placement from here to another church in the diocese to give her a wider experience. In June, our curate Louis Johnson was appointed, licensed initially as a Parish Assistant as the cathedral was unable to open at that point for ordination services. Louis was ordained deacon in September at a small and socially distanced ordination service which was surprisingly moving. Long serving Church Warden Dave Bradley also stepped down, with our grateful thanks for all his service, in October. We look forward to being able to have some proper celebrations with and of all these people as circumstances allow.

In the summer, we had to face the prospect of our usual Remembrance, All Souls and Christmas services not being possible. This made us think creatively about the outdoor space at our disposal. Laura co-ordinated a Remembrance Cairn, and we came up with the idea of the Christmas tree festival held outside in the grounds of St Bride's. We invited local charities, organisations and businesses to sponsor a tree, and were delighted to end up with 28 trees decorated by local schools, restaurants, theatres, charities, choirs and our own church groups. The festival was featured in the Liverpool Echo and for the whole of December the grounds were visited throughout the day by local residents, walkers and visitors. We were delighted that even in this strange year we had been able to pursue our aim to become a church more connected with our local community, residents and businesses alike.

Overall this year has been a totally unique and often very difficult experience for all of us. I have been so impressed with how positive and committed this whole church community has been, in the face of so many challenges. You have all gone to so much effort to maintain contact with each other, with those most in need, and with God, in so many different ways – some that have suited you well, some that have been very far from what you would have wanted. I feel that what God wants me to say to you all this year is: Well done, good and faithful servants.

**Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Team Rector**

**Reference and Administrative Information**

The Parochial Church Council of the Team Parish of St Luke in the City is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under reference 1152031.

The parish includes three churches: St Bride & St Saviour, located on Percy Street; St Dunstan on Earle Road, and St Michael in the City on Upper Pitt Street. The parish is part of the Diocese of Liverpool and its official correspondence address is:

St Luke in the City Parish Office, St Bride's Church, Percy Street, Liverpool L8 7LT.

For the period 1 January 2020, the following people served as members of the Parochial Church Council. The annual meeting was held on 11th October 2020 and some members changed then:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Team Rector | Rev. Dr. Miranda Threlfall-Holmes | |
| Team Vicar | Rev. Laura Ferguson (from 13 Sept) | |
| Curate | Rev. Louis Johnson (from 27 Sept) | |
| SSM Priest | Rev. Sara Doyle | |
| Reader | Dr. Chris Bartley | |
| Churchwardens | Chris Bartley (as above) | Dave Bradley (to 11 Oct)<br>James Fleming (fr 11 Oct) |
| Deanery Synod representatives | Kieran Bohan<br>Alan Fitzgerald | Helen Parker-Jervis<br>Gary Sawyer (to 11 Oct)<br>Christ Bartley (fr 11 Oct) |
| Elected members | Rose Green<br>Sharon Ginley<br>Hannah Dawson<br>Karen McCaldon<br>Gwyneth Evans<br>Sue Say (fr 11 Oct) | Katie Adams (to 11 Oct)<br>Jackie Fitzgerald (to 11 Oct)<br>Pam Bishop (to 11 Oct)<br>Emma Watson (fr 11 Oct)<br>Lilly Nelson (fr 11 Oct) |
| Treasurer | Raymond Bissex | |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Jackie Corcoran | |
| PCC Secretary | Rose Green | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Safeguarding Officers | | Rose Green<br>Kieran Bohan |

The licensed clergy and Reader are each ex-officio members of the PCC. The Team Rector is ex-officio Chair of the PCC.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bankers: | | Co-Operative Bank p.l.c.<br>P.O.Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT |
| | | HSBC plc<br>99-101 Lord St Liverpool L2 6PG |
| | | Central Board of Finance of the Church of England<br>80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ |
| Independent Examiner | | Mr. I Wright B.A. F.C.A.<br>15 Stretton Drive, Southport PR9 7DR |
| Legal Advisors: | | Mr. H. Dellar<br>1, The Sanctuary, Westminster, Liverpool SW1P 3JT |
| | | Hill Dickinson LLP<br>1 St Paul's Square, Liverpool L3 9SJ |
| Estate Management: | | PKPM Chartered Surveyors<br>Suite 7, Church House, 1 Hanover Street, Liverpool, L1 3DN |
| Architects: | (St Bride's) | Mark Pearce, Kepczyk Pearce Sanderson, 75 Wilmslow Rd, Handforth, Wilmslow SK9 3EN |
| | (St Michael's) | Stephen Glenwright, Donald Insall Associates, Bridgegate House, 5 Bridge Place, Chester CH1 1SA |
| | (St Dunstan's) | Finlason Partnership Ltd<br>1 Cambridge Road, Hale, Altrincham WA15 9SY |

**Structure, Management and Governance**

The St Luke in the City PCC is a body corporate and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC business has three sub-committees, known as District Church Councils (DCCs). The DCCs of St Michael in the City, St Bride with St Saviour, and St Dunstan each manage local issues of finance, ministry, fabric and mission issues relating to each church and the area which that Church serves within the Team Ministry. They report back decisions made to the PCC. This year the DCCs have not been meeting during the pandemic.

The function of the PCC is to enable and support mission, to foster communication and collaboration between the individual churches as appropriate and to provide a

framework of accountability to the Diocese, Charity Commission and other legal bodies.

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

**Objectives and Activities**

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

Our specific objectives in 2020 were to:

1. Achieve a balanced budget by the end of this year
2. Deepen our links with and mission in our local communities
3. Develop links with local schools

Given the constraints that we have been operating under this year, we are delighted with progress towards these objectives, as outlined in the Rector's Report at the start of this report. Schools work has of course been most limited, but we were able to continue and develop new connections through the Christmas Tree Festival, and developing schools links is a key part of the our new Team Vicar's role description for the future.

**The Electoral Roll**

There are 93 people on the Electoral Roll of the parish: 58 at St Bride with St Saviour, 17 at St Dunstan and 18 at St Michael.

**Public Worship**

This has been very different this year, with our usual pattern disrupted by the pandemic.

Over this year, a new pattern has developed of daily morning prayer live streamed at 9.15 Monday-Friday, and a Sunday service live streamed at 10am. We created a new Facebook page for the whole Team Parish early in lockdown, in spring 2020, and these services have been for the whole parish rather than for individual church congregations. Typically around 12 (varying from 10 to 20) have attended morning prayer live each day, and around 35-40 attend Sunday worship live. However, one of the big differences with online services is that they have a considerable afterlife, and many people watch them later in the day or week. Services have been uploaded to YouTube and featured on the St Bride's website each day for most of 2020. It is impossible to tell from Facebook/YouTube viewing figures how many individual people have engaged with these services, but the St Luke in the City Facebook Page has 385 followers and service videos typically receive 100-200 'engagements' and 'views' over the week after they are uploaded.

The St Bride's FISH group for children and young people decided in the summer that they would like to meet monthly on Zoom, on a Sunday afternoon.

Occasional offices have also been affected. We have had no weddings this year, and only one baptism. We have held 9 funerals over the year – fewer than expected given the pandemic, but the pressures on funeral directors have meant that many more funerals have been taking place directly at the crematorium. We anticipate a demand for memorial services in future years when the limits on numbers at public events are lifted.

**Pastoral care and service to our community**

As noted in the Rector's Report, the foodbank, operated by our partner charity Micah Liverpool, has continued to run throughout the pandemic period and has served double the number of people this year. A typical 'busy' week in previous years might see 160 people fed from St Bride's; now 320 a week is usual, and the busiest weeks have seen over 350 food parcels given out. This increase in demand has been driven by a variety of factors, which we hope to see change, but it is notable that local residents are increasingly aware that Micah foodbank is available to support them. Other foodbanks and food pantries are increasingly being opened in the local area to meet the increased demand, and several congregation members are involved in delivering these.

Other services that usually run from or are facilitated through our churches have been paused due to the infection risk, but Red Cross, Asylum Link and Refugee Women Connect continue to offer some services via telephone or online, and Micah volunteers – as well as members of the staff team in the parish – are able to refer people to these services as appropriate.

We were hugely grateful to our churchwardens for gathering together names and contact details in the last weeks before lockdown, and the extensive existing St Bride's e-news list has been repurposed to keep everyone who wishes in touch with the parish. Pastoral care has continued to be offered by telephone and – when possible – by offering doorstep or outdoor visits.

Bereavement and death have been major themes of the year for so many, and it has been a privilege to be able to offer St Dunstan's both for Church of England funerals and for Good Funeral Company celebrant funerals taken by Rev. Juliet Stephenson. In addition, Jackie O'Carroll from St Bride's was trained as a Death Doula in previous years, partially funded by a Deanery grant, and she has been able to develop this ministry in this year in a variety of creative ways.

Our student chaplain, Lilly Nelson, has also begun to develop online Grief Cafes, as well as making contact to offer friendship, support and a listening ear with residents in several of the student accommodation blocks in the parish.

**Our Church Buildings**

Our church buildings remain a challenge to us, and the lockdowns of 2020 meant that progress was slow on several ongoing issues.

At St Dunstan's, the organ sale was agreed, and a faculty application submitted seeking permission for this to go ahead. The Quinquennial Inspection is now seriously overdue but was delayed again

due to architects working only from home. Some emergency roof repairs were carried out due to leaks in severe winter weather.

St Bride's continues to need roofing work, and we await fresh energy to re-open funding bids in the future. It was frustrating that we have not been able to progress the heating plans due to company reps not being able to make site visits. Plans to increase the number of toilets began, and the boiler in the narthex area was replaced.

Preliminary investigations were carried out into the drains issue at St Michael's, but again difficulties in carrying out site visits have meant progress has been slow. This will need to be addressed in 2021. The St Michael's Quinquennial Inspection was completed in early 2020.

**Deanery, Diocese and the wider church and mission**

Deanery Synod met online towards the end of the year, and we were delighted to hear that the diocesan efforts to gain funding support for parishes had borne fruit. Parish Share grants have been allocated, and Parish Share will be frozen for next year, with the prospect of additional support.

The diocesan strategy remains to ask God for a bigger church, making a bigger difference: more people knowing Jesus, more justice in the world. The Bishop of Liverpool launched his call to a Rule of Life: we are called to the inner journey, to Pray, Read and Learn, and to the outer journey, to Tell, Serve and Give. We are beginning to incorporate this into our parish plans, and in particular have been pleased this year to have developed a corporate rhythm of daily prayer online which focuses on the Pray, Read, Learn aspects.

This year we received grants from the Deanery Mission and Growth Fund towards Open Table, the development of the St Michael's site in partnership with Faiths4Change, and towards Choir/Pop Up Café development. The latter sadly ended up being impractical given the pandemic constraints, though fortunately we were able to allocate the grant towards the Christmas Tree Festival costs instead. We also received diocesan funding for our University Chaplaincy Assistant, Lilly Nelson, as part of the Strategic Development Fund project in collaboration with St James in the City.

Miranda Threlfall-Holmes serves on the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee and on Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council, and is a Council Member of Modern Church. Kieran Bohan is Network Co-ordinator for the Open Table Network: over 2020, his main focus has been working towards establishing the Open Table Network as an independent charity, with registration approval expected in early 2021. Miranda Threlfall-Holmes and Phil Bishop are Trustees of Micah Liverpool.

St Michael in the City was awarded the Bronze Eco-Church Award, and we are working with Faiths4Change towards Eco-Church status for our other churches.

The trustees have followed the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

**Finance**

## The Performance of Investments

The PCC's funds are held in current accounts with the Co-operative Bank and HSBC, in deposit accounts with the Church of England's Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund and the CBF Global Equity and CBF Church of England Property funds. The investments saw a net gain of £15,499 this year, which the PCC considered satisfactory given the prevailing economic conditions during the year.

## Reserves Policy

The trustees have established the level of operating reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have, which is roughly equal to six months general expenditure, £100,000. Reserves are needed to even out any short term funding gaps between spending and related income – something that has been very clear this year, when income streams have been so disrupted. We have also continued to invest the capital realized from the sale of St Stephen's for income, holding this as an additional expendable reserve but with the aim of it providing a long term income stream. The PCC are content with the current level of reserves.

## Income from lettings

Lettings of the church premises were down this year due to pandemic closures, but some individual lets were able to continue, and the pandemic meant that Legacie contractors extended their lease of the old churchyard at St Michael's, providing an unexpected boost to this income. Lettings income this year was a total of **£34,095** (compared with £41, 752 in 2019).

## Giving to the church

Our second largest source of income was giving by the congregation. Planned giving in 2020 was £20,740 (up from £18, 252 in 2019), with an additional £6,359 given as donations and in collections. These gifts allowed us to reclaim £6,292 tax from HMRC making the total giving-related income **£33,391**. In addition we received £14,647 from grants from external bodies.

## Financial Risk

The PCC aims in 2021 to agree budgets for our different streams of activity and expenditure, and to receive quarterly management accounts comparing actual performance with agreed budgets. Having finally turned around years of deficit budgets, the PCC is committed to sustaining balanced budgets in 2021 and beyond.

This year has shown that our income is very dependent on lettings. However, the diversification of our income streams gave us considerable resilience in the face of the pandemic. Notably the investment for income of the sale of St Stephens, and the increase in the number of people giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, were crucial in giving us a sustainable income through this year. Further promoting the PGS will be an important part of continuing to manage financial risk.

All assets are insured and levels are reviewed annually and approved by the PCC.

**Employees**

The parish employed six part time staff: Jackie Corcoran as parish administrator and occasional organist/Director of Music (the latter post being a fixed term contract funded by a Deanery Mission and Growth Fund grant, ending in November 2020); Vicky Clarke, Gordon Kehoe and Daniel Fleming (to end March 2020) as cleaners/caretakers at St Michael's, St Dunstan's and St Brides' respectively; Lilly Nelson (term time only) as University Chaplaincy Assistant (funded by a grant from the Strategic Development Fund) and Hannah Dawson as leader of That Music Thing (funded by a grant from the Joshua Centre, to end March 2020).

The majority of these posts were furloughed or part furloughed for much of the year as many activities ceased. The PCC took the decision to top up the government 80% furlough grant so that our employees did not suffer financial hardship, noting that the sums involved would not damage the charity and that our long term relationships of trust with our staff are one of our most important assets.

**Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are undertaken for all new or extraordinary undertakings, and the PCC monitors risk.
Covid-19 risk assessments were carried out following Church of England guidance in spring 2020, by a small group headed by James Fleming, and reviewed periodically when buildings opened and/or guidance changed. All other users of the buildings are being asked to submit their own Covid risk assessments for us to approve before any rentals can take place.

**Compliance with Law and Regulation**

Our procedures are reviewed regularly and formally reported to the PCC.

**Safeguarding**

The policy for Safeguarding was substantially updated in 2019 following new national advice, and is reviewed by the PCC annually. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda. The Team Parish of St Luke in the City takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues on a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at www.liverpool.anglican.org/safeguarding

**Looking forward: Objectives and Activities**

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

Our vision was renewed last year, and this vision continues to guide us. As a parish we aim to be

'Living Life in Full Colour from the Still Centre of God'.

Our three priorities in 2021 are rolled over from 2020:

- Sustainability: developing our financial resilience and developing as Eco-Churches
- Locality: deepening our roots in our local parish communities
- Growth: in numbers in our churches, in spiritual depth, and in service to our communities

In addition, we aim to contribute to the Deanery Priorities which are

- Developing Discipleship
- Strengthening Churches
- Developing Lay Leaders

**Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke-in-the-City, Liverpool, charity number 1152031, on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020, as set out the following pages: Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent Examiner's statement**

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

**Independent Examiner's statement**

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

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act

or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Ian Wright B.A. F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
Southport

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

| | | General | Restricted Funds | Total 2020 | Total 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME from:** | | | | | |
| Donations | 2 | 48,038 | 40,914 | 88,952 | 53,429 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 1,897 | 121 | 2,018 | 18,227 |
| Fundraising activities | 4 | 35,025 | 29 | 35,054 | 42,646 |
| Investments | 5 | 16,438 | 4 | 16,442 | 6,106 |
| Other | 6 | - | - | - | 380,693 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | | 101,398 | 41,068 | 142,466 | 501,101 |
| **EXPENDITURE on:** | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 95,048 | 21,382 | 116,430 | 128,956 |
| Refurbishment | 8 | - | - | - | 1,842 |
| Other | 9 | 1,685 | 300 | 1,985 | 2,455 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDENDITURE** | | 96,733 | 21,682 | 118,415 | 133,253 |
| Net income before gains and losses on investments | | 4,665 | 19,386 | 24,051 | 367,848 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | | 15,499 | - | 15,499 | (5,611) |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | 20,164 | 19,386 | 39,550 | 362,237 |
| Transfers between funds | | 2,762 | (2,762) | - | - |
| **NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS** | | 22,926 | 16,624 | 39,550 | 362,237 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 441,301 | 6,954 | 448,255 | 86,018 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 464,227 | 23,578 | 487,805 | 448,255 |

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

| | Note | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FIXED ASSETS** | | | |
| Tangible assets | 11 | - | 169 |
| Investments | 12 | 403,723 | 388,224 |
| | | 403,723 | 388,393 |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | |
| Debtors | 13 | 159 | 1,401 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 14 | 90,393 | 65,760 |
| | | 90,552 | 67,161 |
| **CREDITORS**: amounts falling due within one year | 15 | 6,470 | 7,299 |
| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** | | 84,082 | 59,862 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | 487,805 | 448,255 |
| **FUNDS OF THE CHARITY** | 16 | | |
| Unrestricted | | 76,192 | 83,065 |
| Designated | | 388,035 | 358,236 |
| Restricted | | 23,578 | 6,954 |
| | | 487,805 | 448,255 |

Approved by the Parochial church Council on 2021 and signed on its behalf by

Rev Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes

## *1. Accounting policies*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

**Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application for the general purposes of the charity. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the trustees are also unrestricted.
Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal.
Transfers of funds are made to recognise the release of restricted funds or to meet expenditure not covered by restricted income.
The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is held responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**Income**

*Donations, legacies and other voluntary income*
Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is received by or on behalf of the charity. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the repayment is received. Funds raised by seasonal fairs, fundraising events and similar events are accounted for gross.

The charity received substantial amounts of voluntary help from its supporters, but no attempt is made to place a financial value on these services and they have not been included.

*Rental income*
Rental income from the letting of the charity's premises is recognised when the rental is due.

*Income from investments*
Dividends and interest are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

**Expenditure**
Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

**Tangible assets**
Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the churches inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2010 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years.

**Investments**
Investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at market value at the year end.

*Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

**Debtors**
Amounts owed to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, loans or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

**Cash at bank and in hand**
Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Donations | | | | |
| | Gift aid donations | 19,870 | 6,232 | 26,102 | 18,386 |
| | Income tax recovered | 6,292 | 664 | 6,956 | 10,825 |
| | Other planned giving | 870 | 40 | 910 | 711 |
| | Collections | 1,315 | 141 | 1,456 | 5,907 |
| | Donations | 5,044 | 4,747 | 9,791 | 3,581 |
| | Grants | 14,647 | 29,090 | 43,737 | 14,019 |
| | | 48,038 | 40,914 | 88,952 | 53,429 |

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Fees | 1,851 | - | 1,851 | 4,216 |
| | Pilgrimage | - | - | - | 3,707 |
| | Events | 46 | 121 | 167 | 10,304 |
| | | 1,897 | 121 | 2,018 | 18,227 |
| 4 | Fund raising | | | | |
| | Rent receivable | 34,175 | - | 34,175 | 41,752 |
| | Other | 850 | 29 | 879 | 894 |
| | | 35,025 | 29 | 35,054 | 42,646 |
| 5 | Investments | | | | |
| | Interest | 100 | 4 | 104 | 225 |
| | Dividends | 16,338 | - | 16,338 | 5,881 |
| | | 16,438 | 4 | 16,442 | 6,106 |
| 6 | Other | | | | |
| | Insurance claim | - | - | - | 3,232 |
| | Sale of property | - | - | - | 377,461 |
| | | - | - | - | 380,693 |
| 7 | Charitable activities | | | | |
| | Missionary and charitable giving | 3,300 | 100 | 3,400 | 1,532 |
| | Ministry | | | | |
| | Diocesan parish share | 40,506 | | 40,506 | 38,579 |
| | Stipend and salaries | 12,198 | 6,400 | 18,598 | 19,795 |
| | Clergy housing costs | 3,393 | | 3,393 | 4,290 |
| | Clergy expenses | 2,876 | | 2,876 | 6,349 |
| | Other expenses | 84 | | 84 | 822 |
| | Pilgrimage and retreat | - | | - | 4,700 |
| | Church costs | | | | |
| | Council tax and water | 422 | | 422 | 1,809 |
| | Insurance | 10,224 | | 10,224 | 10,343 |
| | Heat and light | 8,377 | | 8,377 | 12,920 |
| | Maintenance | 3,780 | | 3,780 | 5,443 |
| | Churchyard | 1,576 | | 1,576 | - |
| | Security | 1,248 | | 1,248 | 1,248 |
| | Cleaning | 2,877 | | 2,877 | 3,152 |
| | Carried forward | 90,861 | 6,500 | 97,361 | 110,982 |

| | | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Note continued | | | | |
| | Brought forward | 90,861 | 6,500 | 97,361 | 110,982 |
| | Music | 145 | | 145 | 1,463 |
| | Costs of services | 288 | | 288 | 1,684 |
| | Open Table | - | 14,032 | 14,032 | 6,275 |
| | Youth work | - | | - | 200 |
| | Events | 617 | 82 | 699 | 3,952 |
| | Training | 100 | | 100 | 445 |
| | Telephone | 2,007 | 176 | 2,183 | 989 |
| | Sundries | - | - | - | 139 |
| | Publicity | 196 | 122 | 318 | 799 |
| | Depreciation | 169 | | 169 | 254 |
| | Administration | 665 | 470 | 1,135 | 1,774 |
| | | 95,048 | 21,382 | 116,430 | 128,956 |

| 8 | Refurbishment | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Refurbishment | - | - | - | 1,842 |

No refurbishment work was undertaken during the year

| 9 | Other | General Fund £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Legal and professional fees | 1,685 | 300 | 1,985 | 2,455 |

Included in the above expenditure are the following payments

| | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Independent examiner's fees | 150 | 150 |
| Other fees paid to the independent examiner | - | - |
| | 150 | 150 |

10 Paid employees

| Staff costs | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries and wages | 18,598 | 20,575 |
| Employer's national insurance | - | - |
| | 18,598 | 20,575 |

The average number of employees employed by the PCC during the year was 4 for 2020 and 5 for 2019.

The trustees received no remuneration during the year, however expenses were reimbursed for services other than as trustees.
There is no trustee indemnity insurance.

11 Tangible assets

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Cost at 1st January 2020 | 17,638 | 17,638 |
| Additions at cost | - | - |
| Cost at 31st December 2020 | 17,638 | 17,638 |
| | | |
| Depreciation at 1st January 2020 | 17,469 | 17,215 |
| Charge for the year | 169 | 254 |
| Depreciation at 31st December 2020 | 17,638 | 17,469 |
| | | |
| Net book value | - | 169 |

12 Investments

The investments held at the year-end are either investments listed on a recognised Stock Exchange or investments in authorised investment trusts.

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Market value at 1st January 2020 | 388,224 | 33,835 |
| Additions | | |
| CBF Global Equity Fund Income Shares | - | 144,000 |
| CBF Church of England Property Fund | - | 216,000 |
| Gain/(loss) on revaluation | 15,499 | (5,611) |
| Market value at 31st December 2020 | 403,723 | 388,224 |
| | | |
| Historical cost | 393,000 | 393,000 |

13 Debtors

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 159 | 1,401 |

14 Cash at bank and in hand

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Short term deposits | 46,488 | 22,779 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 43,905 | 42,981 |
| | 90,393 | 65,760 |

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Accruals and deferred income | 6,470 | 7,299 |

16 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

| | At 1st January 2020 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General fund | 83,065 | 86,898 | (96,533) | 2,762 | 76,192 |
| Designated funds | 358,236 | 29,999 | (200) | - | 388,035 |
| | 441,301 | 116,897 | (96,733) | 2,762 | 464,227 |

| | At 1st January 2020 | Income (inc. gains) | Expenditure (inc. losses) | Transfer of funds | At 31st December 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Restricted funds | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Open Table Network | 464 | 27,288 | (14,426) | | 13,326 |
| University Chaplaincy | 580 | 6,120 | (3,930) | (2,770) | - |
| Restoration | 787 | 4 | - | | 791 |
| Notice Boards | - | 4,800 | - | | 4,800 |
| That Music Thing | 3,140 | - | (950) | | 2,190 |
| Taste of God | 645 | - | (169) | | 476 |
| Rushworths | 150 | - | - | | 150 |
| Choir | 1,100 | 1,640 | (1,650) | | 1,090 |
| Open Table Liverpool | 88 | 1,216 | (557) | 8 | 755 |
| | 6,954 | 41,068 | (21,682) | (2,762) | 23,578 |
| Total funds | 448,255 | 157,965 | (118,415) | - | 487,805 |

17 Charity funds

Details of funds and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

| | At 1st January 2019 £ | Income (inc. gains) £ | Expenditure (inc. losses) £ | Transfer of funds £ | At 31st December 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| St Luke in the City | | | | | |
| General | 77,068 | 129,799 | (118,024) | (5,778) | 83,065 |
| Designated funds | 486 | 357,750 | - | - | 358,236 |
| | 77,554 | 487,549 | (118,024) | (5,778) | 441,301 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Open Table Network | 1,945 | 4,200 | (5,681) | - | 464 |
| University Chaplaincy | 4,695 | - | (4,115) | - | 580 |
| Restoration | 609 | 178 | - | - | 787 |
| Pilgrimage | 1,215 | 3,707 | (4,700) | (222) | - |
| That Music Thing | - | - | (2,860) | 6,000 | 3,140 |
| Taste of God | - | 1,900 | (1,255) | | 645 |
| Rushworths | - | 590 | (440) | | 150 |
| Choir | - | 1,250 | (150) | | 1,100 |
| Open Table Liverpool | - | 1,727 | (1,639) | | 88 |
| | 8,464 | 13,552 | (20,840) | 5,778 | 6,954 |
| Total funds | 86,018 | 501,101 | (138,864) | - | 448,255 |

18 Fund details

Details of the various funds held by the PCC are as follows:

| Name of fund | Description, nature and purposes of the fund |
|---|---|
| Unrestricted funds | |
| General fund | From 1st January 2019 there is a one General Fund. |
| Designated funds | Included is an investment of £360,000 to provide income |
| Restricted funds | Funds received for specific purposes. |