THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING

England & Wales · Charity number 1158694

Details

Other names	PCC OF ST LUKE WITH BARTHOLOMEW, READING
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2014-09-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Lukes Church Erleigh Road Reading RG1 5LH
Phone	01189666389
Email	office@redlandsparish.org.uk
Website	www.redlandsparish.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all.The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved.Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens and parents and toddlers.

Classification

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

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Geography

- Reading

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£120,378	£107,685	-	-
2023-12-31	£125,110	£114,008	-	-
2022-12-31	£116,053	£171,438	-	-
2021-12-31	£99,583	£253,382	-	-
2020-12-31	£99,821	£115,192	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Paul Tonkyn		2024-04-14
Anthony Vine		2024-04-14
Dr Dianne Nadine Erla Irish Tavares		2024-04-14
Dr SALLY-ANN MCDOWELL		2017-04-30
EVERETTE MARSHALL		2024-04-14
Gillian Mary Lyne		2019-04-14
Gordon Sidney Allister Cox		2024-03-11
HILARY JUNE JAKEMAN		2017-04-30
Janet Ann Davis		2023-05-21
Janet Mary Shield		2023-05-21
LESLIE GREEN		2017-04-30
Lynne Webb		2023-05-21
Ola Cassels White		2023-05-21
Paul Alan Carnell		2019-04-14
Paul Webster		2024-04-14
Rev CHRISTINE FIONA BLACKMAN		2019-04-14

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158694

Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew Reading
Reg. Charity No. 1158694

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 11 May 2025, 11.30am,
In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Agenda
Minutes of 2024 Meeting
Parish Reports including Parish Accounts

Sunday 11 May 2025, 12 Noon, In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

(Anyone on the electoral roll of the church, OR resident in the parish may vote in this meeting)

AGENDA

1. **Election of Churchwardens**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Only those on the electoral roll of the parish may vote in this meeting.
Others may ask questions and join in discussion at the discretion of the Chair

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the 2024 APCM**
3. **Confirmation of Deanery Synod Members**
4. **Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members**
    I. Election of PCC members
    II. Appoint independent examiner if necessary
    III. PCC Secretary
5. **Outline of the Annual Reports:**
    I. Chair of PCC Report
    II. Warden's Report
    III. Electoral Roll Update
    IV. Treasurer's Report
6. **The Year Ahead**
7. **Feedback, Questions and Any Other Business**
    (Items to be considered for AOB to be sent to the Vice Chair via office@redlandsparish.org.uk no later than 8 May 2025)
8. **Closing Prayers**
9. **Dates of PCC meetings –** to be agreed by members of the PCC

Sunday 14 April 2024, 12 Noon, In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Meeting started at 11.54. Gordon Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that in the absence of a Vicar that he was elected by the PCC as Vice Chair to the PCC and was responsible for chairing today's meetings. There are two meetings taking place, the first to elect the Churchwardens for the Parish and the second the main Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

(Anyone on the electoral roll of the church, OR resident in the parish may vote in this meeting)

Election of Churchwardens Janet Davis and Lynne Webb were both re-nominated to stand as Churchwardens. No other nominations were received so both have been re-elected as Churchwardens for the coming year. This is their second year of office. This concludes the first meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Only those on the electoral roll of the parish may vote in this meeting.
Others may ask questions and join in discussion at the discretion of the Chair

Attendees: Ann Abernethy; Steve Allen; Margaret Bentall; Christine Blackman; Bar Blakey; Margaret Carter; Ola Cassels white; Martin Clatworthy; Gordon Cox; Roger Cox; Sheila Cox; Janet Davis; Mary Evans; David Ewers; Peter Ewers; Giselle Franklin; Bridget Green; Leslie Green; Francis Jakeman; Hilary Jakeman; Gary Kenyon; Jane Kenyon; Gillian Lyne; Everette Marshall; Sally-Ann McDowell; Elizabeth Rebbeck; Malcolm Reid; Janet Shield; Melanie Shrubsall; Jenny Sims; John Starr; Libby Stroud; Dianne Tavares; Alan Tonkyn; Shelagh Tonkyn; Ant Vine; Chris Wakelin; Lynne Webb; Paul Webster

Apologies for absence: Kirsten Bayes, Paul Carnell, Jenny Page, Julian Pratt, Sylvia Rayner.

1. **Minutes of the 2023 APCM**

   Amendment – Ola Cassels White to be added to PCC members.
   Minutes accepted. Proposed by Sally-Ann McDowell. Seconded by Gillian Lyne. All in favour.

2. **Confirmation/Elections of Deanery Synod Members**

   Hilary Jakeman will be continuing to represent the parish at Deanery Synod. Hilary noted that she is chatting with Everette Marshall to encourage Everette to join her at meetings.

3. **Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members**

IV. Election of PCC members –

We are permitted 12 elected members. Last year this was nine but our Electoral Roll numbers have increased to 105 this year, thank you to those who have joined.
Elected membership does not include Clergy, Deanery Synod Reps or Churchwardens.
Kirsten Bayes in stepping down after a number of years and we would like to extend our thanks to Kirsten for her dedication and commitment as both a Churchwarden and PCC Member.
This year we have seven vacancies.
Two current members are re-standing – Paul Carnell and Gillian Lyne
Five new nominations have been received - Alan Tonkyn, Everette Marshall, Dianne Tavares, Anthony Vine and Paul Webster.
As the number of nominees equals the number of vacancies all are automatically elected to the PCC. Many thanks to all current members for you continuing service and we look forward to welcoming new (and returning) members to the PCC.

V. Appoint independent examiner if necessary – Sally-Ann Mcdowell (Treasurer) advised the need for a formal appointment of an independent examiner to inspect the accounts. For the last two years this has been Jo Macalister and if approved is happy to continue for the coming year. Proposed by Libby Stroud. Seconded by Leslie Green. All in favour.

VI. PCC Secretary – Sarah is happy to continue as PCC Secretary. No other nominations have been received. Proposed Sheila Cox. Seconded Janet Shield. All in favour

4. **Outline of the Annual Reports:**

V. Chair of PCC Report given by Ross and given under his Vicars report. Gordon elected in March and will bring up to date since Ross. Inducted as Vice Chair at the March meeting and the main item was safeguarding. The PCC discussed and approved the safeguarding action plan. Many thanks to Gillian for her work on this. The Churchwardens updated the PCC on the interregnum process. Thanks for Chrstine and the Churchwardens for their dedication to the parish.

VI. Warden's Report – all in annual report

VII. Electoral Roll Update – Gillian Lyne – 19 new people were added total to 105

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Produce two reports lay persons plus formal accounts which are inspected and uploaded to charities' commission. Last year came out making money because we only paid half our parish share and we got a legacy. March last year agreed to pay half Parish Share due to Read becoming insolvent. Read paid to end of May paid 3.5k to solicitors to deal with insolvency half a year had no rent so had half parish share. Plan is now that we will try to increase by 10% each year. St Bart's does have tenants on a temp rental agreement. Metting soon for Licence. Had two months payment from Aurora but still need to increase efforts to raise money. Energy cost went down this year. St Bart's massive gas standing charge. Our three buildings cost on average £1000 to maintain gas electric water and insurance. Because St Bs has been made good we are back to church insurance of £2.5-3k empty £22k per year Read £9k a year. Please attend the occasional services which will be held at St Bart's as it will keep low level. Francis understand we are paying utility bills to keep as a church? SAM may well be the case. Read reimbursed. At the moment we are paying and getting rent. Will licence have utility costs? LG meeting with Darren Oliver to talk about Licence. May have to go for one year licence which may require us to cover some of the cost but have an agreement with Aurora to look at this and Nancy happy to talk to us about it. SAM don't think utility bills will be as high as when Read were there £2k last January just for gas approx. £500 per month. No other questions. Will need wardens and Gordon to sign the accounts so they are formalised. Vote of thanks for the amount of thanks Sally-Ann does for the church.

5. The Year Ahead – Lynne Webb (Churchwarden)

Looking forward to the year ahead, the main thing on many people's minds will be the appointment of a new vicar. While this is obviously incredibly important, much of this process is out of our hands and depends upon the diocese making decisions. Therefore, perhaps we should be thinking about the things within the parish that we do have control over and that will stand us in good stead for the future.

In the year ahead, we have many social events planned, for example a parish day as we couldn't have a weekend this year, a summer fete with cream tea barbecue, Hymns and Pimms and many other social events that have become an important part of our parish life.

We mustn't forget, though, that our main purpose is to be a lively and welcoming worshipping community. We will be continuing with our pattern of Messy Mass and we are going to try to increase the variety of music in our Sunday worship with a hymn practice and cake afternoon coming up on the 28th of April.

The deanery is keen for us to think about the way we welcome children into our worship and we must also try to continue the good work. Ross started welcoming students to our church.

We are very blessed to have a great diversity of people attending our church, with many different countries represented amongst our number . It would be wonderful if we could see this reflected in the people who support our Sunday, worship, and also on the PCC.
We cannot ignore the fact that our finances could be in a better place so that, for example, this time next year, we can be looking forward to a parish weekend, and there is reason for some optimism, although we cannot be complacent.
I am excited by the prospect of the coming year, although this was not what any of us would have expected or wanted this time last year. This is a wonderful church and I know that all of you are keen to see us go from strength to strength.
As wardens, Janet and I are very fortunate to have Sarah, who is immensely experienced and kind, and a huge help in negotiating everything that needs to be done during an interregnum.
We are also lucky to have Christine to lead our worship at this time, and we ask you to keep her in your prayers.

6. **Feedback, Questions and Any Other Business**
   No items of AOB provided
   Questions?
   - Libby – new people in St Bart's come from New Town which is St John's and St Stephen's parish. Do we need to work with St John's? CB the relationship with Aurora and St John and St Stephen's is merely one of space and most of new town happens to be in their parish but it is not a church organisation so we do not need to liaise with St John and St Stephen. Libby – why the name of St Luke's hall is being used again when St Bart's is being used again. Parish hall which it has been for a few years now how did that arise. CB if we call it the parish hall and it is advertised as being in the parish hall how do they know which parish those in the parish know this as St Luke's Church and St Luke's Hall it is much more specific and look on google maps it is on there it was a practical decision to make sure people could find it.
   - Sheila Cox – thanks to Jane for building up the renting of St Luke's hall.
   - John Starr what is happening about the dumped car? CB We have done everything we can and waiting on the people responsible to move it, they know they need to and we are waiting for them to sort it.
   - CB - Easter Sunday (Bishop Olivia) – was so proud to be a part of this church to look out on your and other faces glancing round thinking and thanking God for you and all you give to your communities and families and future I was just full. This is a great church, and we mustn't be downhearted as we have a great future. Will end with prayer and the grace. If you feel comfortable, look around and thank God for our family and all they mean to Him and to you.

7. **Closing Prayers –** Christine prayed for us all and we said the Grace together.

8. **Dates of PCC meetings –** to be agreed by members of the PCC

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 11, 2025

Administrative information

St Luke's and St Bartholomew's are two churches joined into one parish, situated in Reading, Berkshire. They are part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is ***The Parish Office, St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LU.***

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity which is registered with the Charity Commission.

Members of the PCC from the last APCM (14 April 2024) until the date this report was approved are:

The Rev'd Christine Blackman, Associate Priest
Lynne Webb, Church Warden
Janet Davis, Church Warden

Deanery Synod representatives
Hilary Jakeman

Other elected members:
Gordon Cox, Vice Chair
Leslie Green, Buildings Group lead
Sally-Ann McDowell, Treasurer and Finance Group lead
Gillian Lyne, Safeguarding Officer and Electoral Roll Officer
Paul Carnell
Ola Cassels White
Everette Marshall (Deanery Synod Representative)
Janet Shield
Dianne Tavares
Alan Tonkyn
Anthony Vine
Paul Webster

Co-opted members:
Sarah Collins (Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary)
Jane Kenyon (Hall Manager)

The PCC has met on 6 occasions since the last APCM.

Structure, governance and management
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election on the PCC.

Objectives and activities
St Luke with St Bartholomew's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Churches of St Luke's, Erleigh Road, Reading; St Bartholomew's, London Road, Reading; and the Parish Hall, Erleigh Road, Reading.

Church attendance
The number on the Electoral Roll 11 May 2025 is 101. We continued to provide zoom links for services which were appreciated by people who were unwell or out of Reading. The average weekly in attendance in October was 65 (of which 6 were under the age of 16) at St Luke's. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day a total of 126 people attended our services with others joining via Zoom.

As there is no regular worship at St Bartholomew's, the October average was ***0***. Three special services were held St Bartholomew's in 2024 including a St Bartholomew's Day celebration (21 adults) and a family event in December (12 adults).

Vacancy
The parish has been in vacancy since March 2024 with a restriction on appointment implemented on 31 July 2024. This is due to end on 31 July 2025 at which point the PCC hopes to proceed with an appointment.

Review of the year

Churchwarden's Report 2025

As you all know, in July we began a year of restriction to enable us to try and increase the proportion of our parish share we can afford to pay to enable us to appoint a full-time vicar.

Joshua Townson, Givings Advisor, met with a small group from the PCC and this resulted in the formation of a Gratitude and Generosity group who organised a special week for the congregation in February. The week began with a Eucharist in the hall where the sermon slot was led by Rhodri Bowen, Parish Development Officer, and people were given the chance to express their views. The week ended with a very well attended and enjoyable International Meal to which members of the community were invited with the hope that they may support our church in the future.

We have participated in the diocese's focus on Children and Young People. Various members of PCC attended courses, and Katherine Aboud came to speak with those of us involved with children.

Our Christmas Fair raised more than previous years. Advertising on social media and a door distribution of leaflets also made the community aware of our Christmas services.

There has not been a Parish weekend this year but a Parish Day enabled more of our Congregation to attend a service, shared lunch and activities and the usual weekend away has been booked for September 2025 with a requested second Parish Day in June.

Our monthly Coffee Mornings have raised funds for the church and various charities and we have continued to support Bridget and Leslie with their work for Armani. Our Christmas Collections went to Support Bed for a Night and our Advent Calendar, focused on a different local charity each week.

Social events this year have included a Games Evening, Summer BBQ, Harvest Soup and Puds, Hymns and Pimm's, utilising our Community Garden whenever possible.

Aurora Group are becoming more established in St Bartholomew and after an extremely long wait we have finally received a license that should enable them to expand further. Thank you to Sarah and Leslie for chasing this up through out the two years.

We could not achieve everything that we do without our willing congregation and Clergy. We conclude this report with our gratitude and thanks to:-

Christine, our Rock, who has stood in as Associate Priest in the absence of a Vicar. She works over thirty hours a week with no salary yet is always willing to do that little bit more (even on holiday).

Francis, who supports Christine in Worship, chaired the Gratitude and Generosity Group, runs Lent Groups and Tuesday prayers and is an active member of the Toddler Team.

Ben, our Server, who does a wonderful job looking after the clergy and ensuring important notices and Banns of Marriage readings are not missed.

Sarah, Administrator, who works tirelessly in our Office helping with the day to day running of the Church, supporting Christine and many others and minuting PCC meetings. Her knowledge is invaluable.

Jane, Hall Manager, for increasing our hall bookings, making an excellent job of preparing and sanding the hall floor (saving us from using up a large chunk of our funds) and for being available to prepare the church for special services and help with Sunday Club

Sally Ann, Treasurer, for keeping an accurate and firm account of our finances, particularly this year.

Carlos, the choir and the band for providing a wonderful variety of music for our services.

Our Toddler and Sunday Club leaders for nurturing and welcoming our future generation.

Gillian, our Safeguarding Officer for overseeing everything and making sure our training is up to date.

Ola, for organising the Readings Rota and Bridget for the Coffee Rota.

Steve, for his work with sound and lights. That Christmas Star was amazing

Mary, for her endless supply of scones and her beautiful flower arranging.

Those on the Welcomer, Chalice, Coffee and Reading Rotas and for those who clean our church behind the scenes.

Gordon, our PCC Chairman and all those on the PCC for monitoring us carefully and making difficult decisions when required

Our Building's Committee and in particular Roger Cox who stepped down from physical work at the end of last year. We're sure he will be there to offer advice when we need his knowledge in the future.

You, the Congregation, for all the jobs you do behind the scenes, for supporting us financially and making us the Church we are. As Churchwardens we know that we only have to ask, and it will happen.

Janet and Lynne

PCC ANNUAL REPORT 2025. GORDON COX VICE-CHAIR.

In this report I want to outline briefly the continuing work of the PCC and about our future as a vibrant congregation.

It was just over a year ago that we welcomed the Bishop of Reading to celebrate Easter Day with us. We had recently entered the Interregnum, that period between the departure of the outgoing vicar and the arrival of a successor. Two months later we received a visit by four deanery and diocesan representatives led by Archdeacon Liz Jackson. They explained to us 'We are aware there are financial challenges, and we want to explore options around resourcing the benefice in the short to medium terms'.

On 2 July 2024 the PCC voted in favour of a 'legal 'restriction'' to be put in place during which time a plan for financial stability will be determined to enable a future appointment to be made. This 'restriction' will end on July 31, 2025.

There has been considerable discussion concerning the Aurora Community Project in St Bartholomew's. We are still waiting for a signed licence from the Diocese in order for Aurora to function fully. The archdeacon apologised at our February meeting this year on behalf of the Registrar.

All these developments lie side by side with day-to-day issues. We received the good news that our Parish Weekend in Bournemouth will go ahead in September, and that we were delighted with our relatively new organist Carlos Li. Less welcome was the news that our Parish Hall floor needed urgent attention. We were so fortunate that Jane Kenyon stepped in, carried out the work herself, and now we can be proud of our beautifully polished floor. Mention should also be made of our monthly Saturday coffee mornings and our beautiful community garden, both of which attract a number of people from the community.

The PCC continues to consider important issues regarding church life, most notably on Children and Young People's Ministry. The ensuing discussion on this occasion was led by Hilary Jakeman and Lynne Webb. They focussed on our work with the Toddlers, and the Sunday Club and on hopes for the future.

We continued in dialogue with our diocesan and deanery visitors, and the archdeacon on 19 February 2025 stated 'I feel really reassured and excited about the possibilities'. That feeling of optimism was present in the Eucharist held in the Church Hall, organised by the Gratitude and Generosity Group, and led by Rhodri Bowen (Parish Development Officer) on 23 February. The chance to worship in a different environment, and to talk to each other informally about our faith and the future was inspirational. A week later we celebrated with an International Meal, attended by our multi-cultural congregation and friends, celebrating their own traditions, and sharing them with each other. We have much to thank God for.

My particular thanks to Sarah, for all she does for the PCC, to the Church Wardens and Christine for their support.

April 6, 2025.

Gordon Cox

Annual report from PCC Buildings Committee – March 2025

This year we have sadly accepted Roger Cox's resignation from the committee due to health reasons. Paul Webster's commitments have also prevented him from taking on more of Roger's regular tasks. Jane Kenyon as Hall Manager has managed to keep an eye on all three buildings but we do urgently need someone to take on the role vacated by Roger.

I am pleased to report that despite financial constraints the church has:

1. Completed the outstanding work associated with the installation of the new boilers in 2023 at St Bart's, (including the lagging of pipework and removal of unwanted materials)
2. Repair and replacement of a number of pumps on the heating systems at all three buildings
3. Upgrading of the control switch of the Hall heating system.
4. Upgrading the sound system in St Luke's
5. Completed all our statutory, annual and five yearly inspections including the Quinquennial Inspections of both churches. High level inspections were achieved using a drone.
6. Re-sited the Building manuals for all three building to the Office

We have successfully applied for and received Faculties for:

1. A licence to allow Aurora CIC to use St Bart's
2. The retention of the sound proofing of the Rood Screen at St Bart's for a further five years.
3. Repainting of the internal walls at St Bart's (work planned by Aurora)

I would like to thank Aurora for their assistance in levelling the parking area at St Bart's, tidying and clearly the ivy from the base of the external walls of St Bart's. Currently the Upper Porch room is being used to house the local radio station and the Nave provides the venue for a number of Martial Arts classes.

Ongoing and uncompleted works include:

1. Relocation of storage in the Hall.
2. Provision of an accessible toilet directly to garden users. (Budget price £6,500)
3. Post repairs to the community garden boundary
4. Water ingress in the Turner Room (awaiting gutter repair)

For much of the year Roger Cox has project managed and in many cases, undertaking the tasks involved in maintaining and refurbishing our three properties. We again owe him a huge thank you.

The Buildings Committee would also like to thank Sarah and Jane for the day to day management of the Hall and the Church.

May I conclude this report by thanking all members of the congregation who have assisted the Buildings Committee in maintaining the fabric of our buildings.

Leslie Green,
Chair of the Buildings Committee
March 2025

Finance

Treasurer's Report

This report is based on the final accounts produced by the treasurer directly using the accounting software.

At the summary level, in 2024 our income was greater than our expenditure.

INCOME

Total Income was about £120,000 (compared to £125,000 in 2023 and £116,000 in 2022).

Income from donors, collections and gift aid

In 2024, we received about £41,000 via the bank (compared with £39,700 in 2023 and £43,600 in 2022). The gift aid recovered from giving and one off donations (for tax year 2023-2024) was just under £16,300 (in 2023 this was about £11,000). There were additional donations via the contactless device and the hole in the wall plus other generous donations amounting to about £10,000.

Income from buildings rent (hall and churches):

In 2024, income from building rent was about £37,100 (compared with £37,500 in 2023 and £34,350 in 2022). Hall income in 2024 was £18,900 compared to £15,500 in 2023 which is improving. We do pay a hall manager, however the hall manager also looks after St Bartholomew's as well as general buildings oversight. During 2024, we had an informal agreement with a new tenant in St Bartholomew's but due to a delay in the diocese finalising a licence agreement we have not been able to obtain as much rent as we would have liked nor have we been able to charge for utilities. By the time of the APCM in 2025, I am hopeful this will have been resolved as in February, we were only awaiting DAC approval and the bishop of Oxford's signature on the agreement. I therefore expect us to be in a better financial situation in 2025.

Other income:

Coffee mornings occurred regularly in 2024 and about £3,200 was raised for various charities at these events, about half of which went to the church. As agreement in the Autumn was made that the coffee morning would pay standard rent for three hours with the remainder of the funds going to a charity. Only one fair was held in 2024 and we raised about £1,500. There was about £430 for weddings and funerals. Our investments and interest on those investments made £10,300 in 2024. In 2023, this figure was £7,800.

EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure was about £107,800 (compared to £114,000 in 2023 and £161,300 in 2022). This amount was slightly more than 2023 if we exclude the legacy we received in 2023 but was only possible due to us being in recovery (ie we are on a reduced parish share. We were paying 50% in 2023 so in 2024 we were paying 62.5%).

Utilities and insurance (excluding water)

Insurance in the two churches (and hall) reduced to us no longer paying landlord insurance in St Bartholomew's to £10,600 from £15,900 in 2023.

Electricity in the two churches was about £3,500 which is about £890 less than the previous year. This is due to lower utility prices as usage was about the same.

Gas in the two churches was about £8,350 which is about £1,000 more than 2023. Once we are able to charge our tenants in St Bartholomew's for use we should be in a better financial position.

Hall gas was about £4,200 so considerably lower than in 2023 (£7,000), and this was due to lower gas prices. In 2023, electricity was about £1,500 compared to about £2,000 in 2023.

Charitable giving:

Our plan continues to be to donate to some local charities regularly and then do one off fundraising for others throughout the year. From our coffee mornings and other charitable events, we managed to give about £6,000 to charities which is higher than 2023 (£4,900) and 2022 (£4,600).

Parish Share:

Our Parish share was £26,500 in 2024 compared to £26,700 in 2023. Even though we were paying a larger percentage in 2024, we did not receive the rebate from 2023 as we were not able to pay our full share portion. As we were able to pay the full portion of what we anticipated in 2024 we will be eligible for a rebate in 2025.

Parish Administrator and Hall Manager:

As we now pay both a parish administrator and a hall manager the combined salaries (including pension, tax and national insurance where appropriate) were just under £20,000 compared to £15,900 in 2023 (note we increased the salaries in April 2023 to be more competitive). As we are without an incumbent the parish administrator is vital to keep the parish going and the hall manager is doing a sterling job in obtaining new lettings for the hall. We have a few highly profitable tenants which is excellent and we are expecting the licence to be fully executed for St Bartholomew's so we expect to be in a better financial position.

BALANCE OF FUNDS

Our usable funds have increased from last year to £55,400. These were £43,200 in 2023, £33,866 in 2022 and £86,700 in 2021.

We do also have some "untouchable" funds, which were valued at £296,221 on 31 Dec 2024 compared to £289,500 on 31 Dec 2023. These are the Lawrence Bequest, the Curacy fund, the Schoolrooms fund, and the Cockburn Bequest.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy was not discussed in 2023, however our accounts show that we still meet the reserves policy as set in 2011.

The reserves policy is still to maintain reserves of at least £5,000 per building for emergency maintenance to the buildings. The maximum amount to be held in reserves was agreed to be £100,000, although we could potentially hold more if the PCC determined there was a valid reason for doing so.

All reserves are held as funds invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England for the time being.

Finance Committee

The finance committee has not met in 2024 as the plan was to do so once the licence was finalised and at the time of writing this, we are still awaiting the fully executed licence. However it is likely that the committee will have met before the APCM to ensure the finances are reviewed. If anyone has an interest in joining, please do let me know.

Sally-Ann McDowell
Treasurer

Safeguarding report 2025

> *Mark 12:30-31 (ESV) "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

Safeguarding has been much in the news recently but for all the wrong reasons. In consequence there has been much debate around the issues. It is important to emphasise that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in the congregation and not just those who have specific roles with children, vulnerable adults or are members of the PCC.

We need to strive to create and maintain a safe environment for everyone and a culture where everyone is aware and alert to behaviours and attitudes that are contrary to the two great commandments above. Central to this is acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure that the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an essential part of who we are as Christians.

'We also need to understand safeguarding as a theological essential, rooted in the nature and love of God and demonstrated in behaviour, attitudes and language that give equal value to everyone.'[1]

Here at St Luke with St Bartholomew many have recently redone their safeguarding training and DBS checks as is required every three years. A few new people have also been DBS checked and have undertaken some training. I have appreciated those who have commented positively on this training and have recognised its value.

I would encourage anyone who would like to do a safeguarding training module to ask me for the details. This training is not just for those who have a particular role in church.

I sincerely hope, however, that we can move away from box ticking and recognise the importance of safeguarding in creating a safe environment where all are valued equally.

> *"The true* **measure of any society** *can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." - Thomas Jefferson / Mahatma Gandhi*

The PCC recently reviewed a number of policies including the main Safeguarding Policy and those that need to be displayed in the church and Parish Hall.
I have continued to use the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard to keep tabs on what needs to be done and to draw up an Action Plan. This is to be presented to the PCC on 8th April. At the of point of writing this report we are on level 3 of the dashboard and have made 92% progress towards completing all its requirements. This should increase to 95% after the PCC has approved the Action Plan on 8th April.

I would like to record my thanks to Jenny Page for all her hard work verifying documents for DBS checks and to all who have undertaken safeguarding training during this last year.

Gillian Lyne
Safeguarding Officer

APCM 2025 Clergy Report

Our spiritual life is often referred to as a journey, sometimes the path is smooth and easy sometimes there are mountains we must climb. I think St Luke's is in a mountaineering phase at the moment, so this is a chance to stop and draw breath, to recognise the challenges ahead but also to celebrate all the achievements of the past year

<u>The Headlines (This is all you need to read)</u>

1. At the last APCM Ross had only just left and we were starting the process of preparing to appoint a replacement. A meeting with the Archdeacon and Area Dean made it clear we would not be allowed to do that unless we improved our financial situation, and we have worked hard on this with considerable success and hope to be able to advertise for a 0.75% post in the summer.

2. Despite these challenges (or maybe because of them) the church has flourished as a worshipping community, and we have
a) Continued with a variety of worship styles and tried out new and innovative ideas
b) Seen a substantial increase on the number of people attending our Church
c) Increased our provision for children on Sundays
d) Welcomed more children into our Parish Family
e) Encouraged people to deepen their faith including an extra Lent Group and a Prayer meeting on top of our midweek communion services
f) Offered a variety of special services at Christmas and Easter and have increased attendance at both.
In other reports you will hear that our income from giving has substantially increased, the Electoral Roll has over 100 people on it and a busy programme of social events has continued.

We may not be where God wants us to be yet, but we are well on the way with His help, and we can look forward to an exciting future.
We should use this time of vacancy to explore new ideas and grow together as the presence of God in this place, and all our successes are only possible because of the commitment of our congregation working together to be the Body of Christ in this place.

Thank you to everyone who contributes by welcoming people, making coffee, cleaning, doing the washing, reading, singing, playing instruments, doing the flowers, running Sunday club, being our server, administering the chalice and all the other jobs that get done and even I don't notice.

Especial thanks to:
Steve for his help with crazy schemes like the giant star;
Francis for starting Tuesday prayers, taking services and always being a source of support;
The Wardens, Janet and Lynne, for taking on the huge responsibility of a vacancy;
Jane who not only manages the Hall but does so much "backstage" to make services happen;
Sarah whose immense knowledge and unending patience and enthusiasm keep me going;
and finally, to all of you, the members of our Church who have made my life so easy over the past year.

Thank you for trusting me to lead our worship and care for you. It has been a privilege and a joy.

The Detail (if you want to know more)

1. As most of you know, the Parish was put “into restriction” last July which meant the appointment of a new incumbent was put on hold for 12 months. This was very disappointing, but St Luke’s is not easily discouraged, and we bounced back with a busy schedule of worship and social events, increasing our provision for children and beginning some new fund-raising initiatives.
Several people have asked me why we appear to have suddenly gone from being in a stable financial situation, to being unable to pay our Paish Share and therefore appoint a new incumbent.

The brutal truth is that our financial position has been precarious for some time. We have been digging into our reserves for several years and in 2022 we realised we were not going to be able to pay our share. The Deanery accepted this and put us onto a “recovery plan” which reduced our commitment to 50% of the normal allocation, rising by 10% each year. We have been successfully meeting this figure. The plan was that we would eventually been able to afford the full share and had he stayed it would have been Ross who led this process However, our unexpected plunge into Vacancy left us in the difficult position of wanting to advertise for a post which we did not have the financial capacity to support.
It would have been easy for this to have caused the Parish to lose heart and give up, but instead it had led to an amazing amount of energy enthusiasm and effort to ensure we don’t just survive, we flourish.

The Warden’s report explains the many ways in which people have worked had to raise funds, and our treasurer will tell you how much giving has already gone up.
Following a meeting to think about giving, a group to focus on Gratitude and Generosity was formed which has proved invaluable in taking us forward, inviting Rhodri, organising the International Meal and more. Many thanks to all the members.

Despite our financial needs, we continued being generous and for Advent we adopted Gratitude and Generosity as our theme, having an advent calendar (beautifully painted by Jane) and a weekly focus on one area for which we should be thankful. People brough gifts in response to God’s generosity and we donated gift to Cirdic, Bed for the night and the Food bank as well as financially supporting our work with children and young people.

However, we need to always have in mind that. We are not “St Luke’s plc” we are followers of Christ, and although we are called to be custodians and stewards of the inheritance gifted to us by past generations and wise managers of our current resources, we are so much more. We are called to be a community that worships the living God and acts as his hands and heart in our community, sharing the Good news of his kingdom. Without prayer and worship, we are just a social club in a fancy building!

2a) We have continued with a variety of worship styles and tried out new and innovative ideas

Our Sunday services are made much more enjoyable by the contribution of our Choir and Organist, Carlos. They work tirelessly week on week and their Commitment is much appreciated. They have been incredibly open minded in increasing the variety of music in our services and I want to thank them for never saying no!
Monthly messy masses have continued, and children of all ages have enjoyed singing and playing percussion instruments. These services are very varied and last year included bread making, racing toy cars, making bird feeders and musical instruments.
Huge thanks are due to the band for their musical contribution and Steve for operating the technology and aiding and abetting me with schemes like the giant star.

We celebrated St Barts Day at St Bartholomew's Church with an informal service and it was lovely to be back in the building and to see it being well loved and used by Aurora.
Our pattern of occasional services at St Barts continued with our Christmas celebration with Thomas the Cat and a Palm Sunday service with the Passion.

Of course, we marked all the other major festivals and celebrations: Harvest festival (followed by soup and puds), St Luke's Day (taken beautifully by Francis), All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday.

The Gratitude and Generosity Group invited Rhodri Bowen (the Parish Development Advisor) to join us for a session looking at our successes and hopes for the future. I was unsure how people would take to my suggestion that we move the whole service to the Church Hall and have our discussions as part of the service, but it proved remarkably successful and has produced some exciting ideas for the future. It is a credit to the whole church that we are not afraid to do something so different and innovative occasionally.

2b) We have seen a substantial increase on the number of people attending our Church

I hear time and time again from visitors that they have found the church to be welcoming and full of joy – let's not rest our laurels but it is encouraging that people have found the love to Christ to be a reality in our worship.
The number people attending Church is not the only measure of success that matters but it is good to note that from April – November 2024 the average attendance on a Sunday is up by 18% on the same period in 2023.

2c) We have increased our provision for children on Sundays

The Diocesan focus this year has been on children, young people and families and we have worked had to increase both their engagement in our worship in Church and our provision of learning opportunities specifically for them.
We have added an extra Sunday Club each month and we have provided activities for them to do when they are in Church for the whole service. Seeing them busy at their table at the front of church is a real joy.

Sunday Club is undoubtedly their favourite event and recently they have made chocolate bark to give away, decorated bottles and candles, and, of course, learned about their faith and prayed together.

Thank you to Lynne, Jenny and Jane for their commitment and enthusiasm for this vital work.

2d) We have welcomed more children into our Parish Family

We all realise that we need to nurture the next generation of Christian and we are very fortunate to have a growing number of children and young people involved with the church. Family life is very busy these days but There are now 20+ children who attend our worship when they are able to, and they bring their families with them.
We have also seen more than twice as many children Baptised this year than last, with both awareness of the Church through publicity and contact through our Toddler group encouraging parents to ask to have their children baptised.

2e) We have encouraged people to deepen their faith including an extra Lent Group and a Prayer meeting on top of our midweek communion services

The bedrock of a church is the regular prayer of its members. I know prayer happens in people's homes, but it is good to come together and feel the support of the community. Our weekday communion services continue Tuesdays and Thursdays and Francis has stared Prayers for our Parish at noon on Tuesday which is also well attended.

This year we have three lent groups (one more than last year), and they have all followed the “Story of Scripture” course provided by the diocese. It’s encouraging to see more people engaging in small group study.

As well as our regular worship, we have explored God’s love for us in a Parish Day at Pentecost (because we didn’t have a Parish weekend last year). This was great fun, and it was wonderful to be able to include people for whom a weekend away is too much of a commitment. Although we are having a weekend away this year, we will repeat the Pentecost Parish day.

2f) We offered a variety of special services at Christmas and Easter and have increased attendance at both.

Christmas was a time of great joy, and we had a lovely Carol service at which our choir were supported by extra singers form the congregation and some friends and family members. The variety of music was wide, and several visitors said they wished the service had been longer! It was lovely to have the opportunity to see the choir able to shine.

Our Crib service was partly in the garden and partly in Church and from my point of view that was an enjoyable compromise. An angel led us into church and the star (thanks again Steve) got an audible gasp from the children sitting with me at the front.
Francis took a beautiful midnight Mass service (thanks again Francis) and Christmas morning was relaxed and joyful.

Although the number of people in church is not a measure of our success as a church it is encouraging that numbers at our Christmas services were overall 12% higher than last year.

Our Holy Week and Easter Services followed the same pattern as last year. We started our Palm Sunday Service in the Hall and processed into church. We had evening services during first days of holy week with a lovely Maundy Thursday Commemoration of the Last Supper which ended with a watch of prayer in the garden.

In 2024 we held a rather different service on Good Friday morning which was less formal with music, images, the option of activity, meditation and prayer. This was a new departure and proved popular and will be repeated this year. However, we also had a traditional watch of prayer before the Cross in the afternoon, to offer different ways to engage in worship.

On Easter morning we lit the Easter fire and had a joyful service including three baptisms.

Conclusion

I said at the start that a spiritual journey had be like a climb up a mountain. The peak can sometimes seem a long way off, but when that happens, we need to stop and see just how far we have already come.

Over the next few months we will be continuing the work started with Rhodri to collect everyone’s ideas and collate them in our “Parish Profile” Once that is complete it should highlight our priorities for the future and from there we can create a “person specification “ and job description which will, God willing, allow us to advertise for a new incumbent who will be able to lead us on the next steps of our pilgrimage.

We do not yet know what that might look like, but I am confident that God has great things in store for us.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him (Romans 8 28)

Christine

Sunday Club Report

In September last year we decided that it would be a good idea to increase our Sunday Club provision from one Sunday per month to two.

This means that we meat on the first and third Sundays, on the second Sunday there is Messy Mass and on the remaining Sunday there are activities for the children to do at their table at the front of Church. (It was a deliberate decision not to have Sunday Club every week as we wanted children to become familiar with the rhythm of a normal Sunday)

As you know the Diocese has had a focus on work with children, young people and families (CYPF) and so we invited Kathryn Aboud (Discipleship Enabler) to visit the Sunday club team and others who are involved with work with CYPF. She was very encouraging and reminded us that it takes time for faith to develop, and we should not be downhearted when family activities keep children away from Church.

The children start in church and during the first hymn they go into the Hall, returning in time to receive a blessing and “show and tell” about their activities.

We begin with a song and prayers and then we do activities based on one of the readings for the day, usually the Gospel.

Sometimes there is a story to tell or act out, sometimes we will hear Jesus’ teaching and apply the lessons to our own lives.

There is then a chance to let off steam with a game that relates to our learning and finally we all join in doing a craft activity.

There are about 20 children who have attended over the past year but on an average Sunday there will be around 6 in attendance.

There will be at least one leader and one helper (who have appropriate Safeguarding training) present each week. We are very blessed to have Jenny and Lynne acting as the leaders and Jane who is there every week helping the children do their activities, setting up, putting away and giving continuity for the children. (If they are unable to be there, another appropriately Safeguarding trained person will step in). The children also enjoy visits from Perrie the dog who gets very spoiled and stands in as various animals in the stories.

Our thanks are due to Jane, Jenny and Lynne for all their hard work – the children always have a great time.

Christine

Pastoral Care Team Report March 2025

The Pastoral Care Team and other supportive parishioners, have offered Care and Support to members of the congregation. The Team consists of Christine Blackman, Mary Evans, Everette Marshall and myself, Sheila Cox. We meet monthly to discuss the possible needs of parishioners. Some of our parishioners are now housebound but are still very interested in the activities of our Church. I'd like to thank the team for their support and for keeping contact with parishioners who cannot get out to church or to social events.

Shopping support is available to those who need this form of help. Parish members can ask their fellow friends for lifts if required.

The teas for Senior Citizens continue to be held every other month. Thank you to the hosts and those who supply refreshments. New hosts have recently come forward to offer their homes for afternoon teas.

Sheila Cox - Pastoral Care Leader

Hall Report

By hosting more community events, like the art exhibitions, the Hall has raised the profile of the church in the local area and enabled people to see what a beautiful space we have to offer. The increased footfall has meant more bookings and even new regular hirers. We continue to enjoy the loyalty of our longstanding users.

Through church fundraising over the Christmas period, we were able to be part of a group of churches supporting Bed for the Night during the winter months, a scheme which has now finished.

More community events are planned for this coming year, so please look out for details and come along!

Jane Kenyon

St Luke's Toddler Group

Over the year 2024 the church Toddler Group met 41 times on a Wednesday morning in the hall on Erleigh Road, and twice in the church. In the year 70 families attended the group, some almost every Wednesday, others occasionally. We have an average of 18 children at every meeting. We take a break only for 2 weeks at Christmas and Easter, and for 5 weeks in the summer.

We publicise church activities at the Group meetings. It has been a great joy recently to see 2 children who attend the Group baptised in church, and a young lady who comes to the Group has arranged to be married in October in church to her long-term partner, the father of her children.

Our Christmas party is always very popular. All but one of the 21 children at the party in December came into church & joined in with Christine's lovely act of worship. We gave every child a Christmas book & a balloon to take home. We have an Easter book & an Easter egg for every child to take on 2 April this year.

The Group is a major part of the church's service to the local community. It is noticeable that the majority of adults who bring along their little ones, walk to the hall, because they live locally. It is also noticeable that we very rarely go out, to church, the Co-Op or the bus stop, without meeting someone that we know from Toddler Group!

The wonderful group who prepared information to display in the hall for the Week of Generosity, came to the Toddler Group and asked people for comments:

"Love coming to Toddler Group – very friendly & welcoming. Great opportunity for adults to socialise & children to play with others. Lots of lovely toys & activities & we really enjoy the singing." "A great group to come to!" "Lovely place to be where everyone is pleased to see you".

We are so grateful that someone from our team of coffee makers turns up each week, to care for us – Janet D., Shelagh, Elizabeth, Libby & Bridget.

Janet S., John, Francis, Hilary

Monthly Coffee Morning

A fund-raising coffee morning is held in the parish hall, in Erleigh Road, on 9 Saturdays in the year, from 11 am – 12 noon on the first Saturday of the month.

There is no coffee morning in January, nor in August, and the December one is usually combined with the church Christmas Fair.

The coffee morning is part of the church's outreach into the neighbourhood. A number of people who attend are not church members, but they contribute generously to the total raised (and help with the clearing up afterwards!)

Over the year from April 2024 - March 2025 we sent :

£140 to CIRDIC

£125 to Christian Aid. This was added to the whole church's gift to Christian Aid

£118 to REinspired

£160 to Open Doors. This includes extra donations

£206 to Mencap

£235 and £210 to Medical Aid to Palestinians. Two coffee mornings. The totals include extra donations from neighbours.

£460 to the Chocolatada. This includes many extra donations.

£180 to Church Action on Poverty

In addition to all these gifts, we have raised over £800 for St. Luke's.

Over the next few months we shall be fundraising for ReInspired, Christian Aid, the Red Cross, and Christian Community Action, with, as ever, a contribution to church funds also.

Hilary Jakeman

House Group/ Evening Lent Group report 2025

The House Group meets in the evening once a month at the Tonkyns' house and consists of nine regular members and two additional members who join us when possible.

The House Group year began with an interesting 'one-off' session in May in which Francis invited us to discuss the three Bible readings on which he would be preaching on the Sunday after our meeting. These were Acts 10: 44-48 (in which Gentiles hear the Good News), 1 John 5: 1-6 (in which John argues that faith in Jesus Christ, 'who came by water and blood', conquers the world), and John 15: 9-17 (in which Jesus describes himself as the 'True Vine' and gives his new commandment of love).

In June and July we spent time discussing liturgy, focusing first on worship in more general terms, and then looking in more detail at key elements in our own Eucharist service, which is the basis of our weekly Sunday worship. We looked at the value and nature of worship, as seen, for example in Jewish practice in the Old Testament. We discussed the respective merits of formal, as against more 'freestyle' worship, and also the role of elements such as symbols, repetition and body language in worship. Francis led our discussion on the Eucharist service, and we examined, in particular, the Kyrie, the Gloria, the Creed, the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei.

After our summer break in August, our next set of 5 sessions from December to January was based on the York course 'Caring for Creation' which examined our Christian duty in relation to looking after God's world. We examined such questions as: do humans simply have domination over the natural world, or does our pre-eminent position imply also responsibility for it? We frequently revisited the various ways in which humans are damaging the environment, and asked whether Christians should take part in demonstrations and even civil disobedience to express our concerns. In addition, we pondered on the respective roles of individuals and government in limiting environmental harms. We noted that it is often the poorest communities who suffer from human-induced climate change and environmental pollution. We looked at Biblical injunctions against greed and selfishness which should guide us in this area. On a more positive note, we examined practical steps which can be taken here and in other countries to reduce the harmful effects of human actions on the environment. We also looked at how we should face the future: with guilt and shame, or also with hope and confidence in our faith?

We concluded our pre-Lent discussions with another interesting one-off session, led by Shelagh entitled 'Hopefulness and Gratitude'. In this Shelagh invited us first to consider all the ways in which life for humans around the world has vastly improved during the last 100 years, and especially since World War 2, with regard to such things as life expectancy, food and famine, literacy, and child health. We noted particular causes for optimism arising from scientific and technological advances in healthcare, food production and environmental protection. We concluded by looking at a range of Bible passages urging us to be grateful for what we have been given and to be hopeful rather than despairing.

As has been customary in recent years, the House Group divided into two groups for Lent: a daytime group, led by Francis and Hilary Jakeman, and an evening group, led this year by Dianne Tavares and Gillian Lyne, and hosted by Leslie and Bridget Green with another additional member. (A third Lent group was led by Christine Blackman in church after Sunday services.) All three groups have been following the 6-session online Diocesan course 'The Story of Scripture' presented by the Rev. Andy Angel. The course looks at a sequence of themes from the Bible: Creation, Covenant, Prophecy, the Gospel and Mission.

At the time of writing, groups have studied the first two sessions. We have considered questions such as how creation is described in various places in the Bible, the ways in which our sense of being created by God affects our view of ourselves, and the responses which creation - especially our special places - stirs in us. We considered the different covenants between God and the people of Israel described in the Old Testament, and discussed the differences between a covenant - a promise-based and enduring offer in spite of sin - and a contract - legalistic and breakable. We spent time looking at the Ten Commandments and at how they divide into our duty towards God and towards our fellow-human beings.

Alan Tonkyn

On behalf of the members of the House Group, Francis Jakeman extends thanks to Alan for organising and hosting.

The Week of Gratitude and Generosity

Last summer we were told that St Luke's needed to increase its regular income by £25K/annum if we wished to appoint a new vicar full-time. This seemed like an impossible challenge to most people, but Christine nevertheless called a meeting in September to address that challenge. Given that we can't rely on a significant income from St Bart's, and that most of any income from the hall is needed for maintenance, it quickly became obvious that the only possible solution was for the congregation itself to raise the regular income required.

Most suggestions at the meeting were for one-off fund-raising events. However, it was felt that such events raised people's morale, but not the need for increased regular income. One suggestion, however, did seem promising: namely, to have a Special Week focusing on gratitude and generosity. Five members of the congregation agreed to organise it. One of them, Gillian Lyne, arranged for Joshua Townson, the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisor to talk to us in November. He made it clear that before you can have a stewardship programme, which is the only effective way of raising regular income, you need to have a level of buy-in from the congregation. The Church members need to feel they have a stake in the future of St Luke's, a say in how it develops, and the opportunity to contribute to its success.

The five of us went away to consider what could be done. What emerged was a way of raising the profile of St Luke's, first among the congregation, and then among the local community. We noted how many worthwhile activities our Church supports, many of which the congregation is largely unaware. So, Gillian and Ola created a wonderful collection of photographs and quotes from those involved in these activities which was displayed around the walls of our hall. They were on show during the two events which formed the basis of the Week.

The first involved Rhodri Bowen, the diocesan Parish Development Adviser. He came to the Sunday service on 23rd February which was held in our hall. During the service, in which we sat round tables café style, he led us in exploring a passage of scripture, recording aspects of our common life for which we are grateful, and looking ahead to how we would like our Church to be in 5 years' time.

Holding this exploration within worship gave it a spiritual atmosphere, while encouraging participation. The massive collection of post-it notes that were brought up to the front testify

to people's delight in being consulted and involved. All the ideas have been recorded and will be brought back to the congregation to explore further in June.

For our second event we supplied the congregation with invitation cards encouraging them to invite friends and contacts to an International Meal on Saturday 1st March. We asked for contributions of food from different ethnic backgrounds. These were coordinated and received by Shelagh and Alan Tonkyn, while numbers expected continued to rise!

In the end we used all our tables and chairs to accommodate the 90 people attending, of which 18 were children. Francis acted as compere inviting people to answer a quiz based on the display around the walls. To our surprise, about half of those attending were not people who worship at St Luke's. This demonstrated the high regard in which St Luke's is held in the neighbourhood.

We believe that these two events, underpinned by our prayers, have significantly increased our confidence as a congregation. We now know that we can collaborate theologically and come up with loads of reflections on post-it notes! We know that we have lots of good ideas as to how St Luke might develop; and finally, we know that people in the community do appreciate us as a church and are grateful that we are here. This means that we can be proud of being members of St Luke's!

The five of us are aware that we failed to achieve our original brief, namely to raise our Church's regular income. Nevertheless, we believe that the experience of the Week of Gratitude and Generosity has given us all the confidence we need to tackle the challenge we face. The only realistic way of raising our income to the level needed for a full-time vicar is by having a Stewardship Programme. For a programme to produce the desired result in the timescale required would mean holding it in the early Autumn. Joshua Townson has confirmed his desire to help us run such a programme, and so we have recommended to the P.C.C. that they accept that challenge on behalf of St Luke's.

We are aware that there is never a good time to ask people for money! But in our view the need for it is now so obvious to all of us who wish St Luke's not just to survive, but to thrive, that we need to strike while the iron is hot! In the meantime, we would like to thank all of you who attended the Week and helped to make it the great success it was.

Alan & Shelagh Tonkyn, Francis Jakeman, Gillian, Lyne, Ola Cassels White.

Erleigh Road Community Garden

Summer in the garden 2024

We've been busy in the garden over the winter with the Thursday morning sessions continuing throughout the colder months. We've been working on improving the structure of the garden by laying more wood chip on the paths, edging some of the borders by weaving willow along hazel stakes and clearing the back of the garden to create a new seating and planting area. We've also started seed sowing and are nurturing fruit tree and grape cuttings in the greenhouse.

Winter fruit tree pruning session January 2025

We have recently set up as an unincorporated charitable organisation which means we now have four Trustees overseeing the garden and our own bank account to make it easier to apply for grants and fundraise going forward.

Activate Learning continues to fund the Thursday morning and after school sessions but they don't now fund any weekend or holiday sessions. Luckily we have managed to find some funding to be able to restart the Saturday sessions which is good news especially as things start to get busier as the weather warms up!

Planting potatoes after school club March 2025

It's Your Neighbourhood Gold award

Last year we won Gold again in the It's Your Neighbourhood awards which is a lovely reflection of all the time and effort all our community gardeners put in. We held some successful plant and cream tea sales and are hoping to hold some more this year too as well as talks and workshops.

Saturday sessions are open to anyone and run from 2-3.30pm during term time, Thursdays sessions are on from 10-11.30am and the after school club runs on Fridays from 3-4.30pm.

For more information, please contact Naomi at garden@redlandsparish.org.uk

Wreath making workshop

Naomi German

Deanery Synod

It is always a great pleasure to go to the Deanery Synod meetings and chat to members of other churches across the Deanery. When we are invited to talk about what is happening in our various churches, there are always lows mentioned as well as highs. People can offer solutions from their own experience or borrow good ideas to use in their own church.

It has been a particular pleasure in this last year to know about Bishop Steven's emphasis on work with children & young people. St. Luke's was able to complete the questionnaire in good time last May, giving information on this topic, and we have heard at meetings about the spread of work across the Deanery. All churches are urged to keep up their efforts and increase their contact with children, young people & families.

Below is a summary of the 2024 Deanery Synod meetings provided by the Secretary Richard Canning.

February Meeting at St Catherine's Church, Tilehurst.

A proposal to re-introduce a Deanery Membership Fee of £27 per person was approved. This is to cover expenses, refreshments/entertainment, cost of hosting meetings, website costs and any other general running costs.

There was a breakout into small groups to discuss how things are going in each parish, missional needs and opportunities, and where we want to be in the next few years.

Kathryn Aboud, the Berkshire Discipleship Enabler and Youth Ministry specialist, talked about the Reading Youth Hub proposal from our bishops to put children, young people and families at the centre of a more Christ-like church. This will involve discerning, training and supporting paid youth workers and youth work volunteers.

The Area Dean, Revd Mike Smith, said Synod will discuss the published prayers of Love and Faith when full pastoral guidance is issued later this spring, focusing on how we flourish in disagreement.

June Meeting at Greyfriars Church, Reading.

19 benefices have produced Children & Young People and Families (CYPF) baseline

data. The next step is for each benefice to submit a summary of its own particular direction of travel over the next three to five years by early autumn - the Leadership Team will collate all the responses and help benefices work together.

Preparation of the new Mission Action Plan has started by reviewing financial trends, the range of churchmanship across the Deanery, and determining the condition, use and geographical location of the Building Stock.

Revd Mike Smith (Area Dean, CTM), Revd Andrew Bond (Minster), Revd Chris Leslie (PTO), and Fr Desmond Banister (PTO), Alan Cross (Greyfriars), John Missenden (Greyfriars), Joan Walker (Reading Gateway), Peter Stratton (Caversham Thameside) and Mark Burton (Emmer Green & Caversham Park St Barnabas) were elected to serve on the 2024/27 Diocesan Synod.

The Initial Recommendation for the 2025 Draft Deanery Parish Share Scheme was

presented, based on an average increase of 4.75% with a floor of 3.25% and a cap of 6.25%. Holy Trinity Church is to be allocated a Parish Share and had undertaken to pay a full allocation.

Joanna Laynesmith (St John & St Stephen) said her parish has just achieved a gold EcoChurch award from A Rocha. This is the first gold award in the Oxford Diocese.

September Meeting at St Mary Magdalen Church, Tilehurst.

The initial recommendation for allocation of 2025 Parish Share was approved subject to final ratification at the November meeting.

The Area Dean, Revd Mike Smith, presented the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) baseline summary, which gives cause to be optimistic – 18 out of 20 benefices do church based pre-school work, and 16 out of 20 do church-based work with primary and secondary schools, involving a total of 304 volunteers. It was noted that this is an opportunity to work together, share CYPF ministry, share youth ministers and stop competing with each other. These ideas will be included in the updated Mission Action Plan and benefices are urged to email the Area Dean or the Secretary with other ideas, which must include CYPF.

Kathryn Aboud, the Berkshire Discipleship Enabler for Oxford Diocese, recommended talking to Youth Mentors, circulating details of CYPF events, and setting up a directory of people involved in CYPF work. She explained the Axis apprentice scheme saying that the Diocese is preparing a bid to the National Church to fund the training of Youth Ministers (YMs) for 2 years. Under the scheme, benefices will be expected to contribute to the cost of a youth work apprentice.

The Deanery would be asked to meet the cost of releasing time for a number of existing senior youth workers to act as mentors, at an expected cost of £2,000 per mentor per year, and the apprentices would be paid a realistic salary to allow them to devote all their time to this training and live in Reading.

Benefices were urged to contact the Area Dean to express support for this apprentice scheme, and whether they could afford to make a contribution.

November Meeting at St James Church, Woodley.

Mark Humphriss, Diocesan Secretary, and Andrew Anderson-Gear, Director of Mission and Ministry, attended to explain the removal of the Axis youth apprenticeship scheme from the Diocesan bid for national church funding. A lively exchange of views was shared following which the Diocese committed to working closely with the Deanery to see if any of the proposal could be saved.

The Synod ratified the 2025 parish shares for each parish, the 2025 deanery budget and membership fees for 2025. It agreed to cease the Quinquennial Inspection Scheme.

The Synod heard from Joanna Laynesmith of St John with St Stephen Church about the awarding of their Gold Eco-Church award - she encouraged each parish to continue their environmental work and offered to give advice.

The Synod received a report about the recent Estates Ministry conference and the plans for a Diocesan network

Hilary Jakeman

World Day of Prayer

Several members of St. Luke's congregation attended the World Day of Prayer service held, this year, at the Methodist Church on Queen's Rd. It is extraordinary to think that on the same day – 7 March 2025 – people were meeting to pray together all across the world. The order of service was written by women in the Cook Islands. I had to get the atlas down, to find out where they are! It was a very satisfying event, and gave us information about the lives of Cook Islanders, so different in their setting but so similar in their concerns.

We already know that next year's World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 6 March, 2026, with the order of service being written by women in Nigeria.

Hilary Jakeman

ReadiFood, Reading Food Bank

Members of St. Luke's contribute very generously to the Reading Food Bank, and their gifts are always received with gratitude.

Items needed are, as ever, tins and packets of food, but people also need toiletries for adults & children, plus nappies and other items for the care of babies. A few treats are also welcome!

There are tubs at the back of St Luke's Church for donations to be left. We are grateful to Hilary and Francis Jakeman for regularly delivering your gifts to the food bank.

St Luke with St Bartholomew, Reading

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31 Dec 2024

Introduction

The accounts have been produced directly from the accounting system (Finance Co-ordinator online) and are rounding up rather than showing only the pound.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	69,374	-	-	69,374	72,788
Income from charitable activities	19,328	-	-	19,328	16,449
Other trading activities	3,218	-	-	3,218	4,491
Investments	19,260	-	9,199	28,459	31,382
Total income	**111,179**	**-**	**9,199**	**120,378**	**125,110**
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	98,081	105	9,199	107,385	113,733
Other expenditure	300	-	-	300	275
Total expenditure	**98,381**	**105**	**9,199**	**107,685**	**114,008**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**12,798**	**(105)**	**-**	**12,693**	**11,102**
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	6,732	6,732	20,870
Net movement in funds	**12,798**	**(105)**	**6,732**	**19,425**	**31,971**
Total funds brought forward	**28,225**	**413**	**280,234**	**308,871**	**276,900**
Total funds carried forward	**41,023**	**308**	**286,966**	**328,296**	**308,871**

Represented by

Unrestricted					
General fund	41,023	-	-	41,023	28,225
Restricted					
Administrator	-	496	-	496	761
Parish Weekend	-	(189)	-	(189)	(349)
Endowment					
Cockburn Bequest	-	-	155,019	155,019	151,544
Curacy Fund	-	-	8,909	8,909	8,715
Lawrence Bequest	-	-	24,915	24,915	24,048
Schoolrooms Fund	-	-	98,122	98,122	95,927
Total funds	**41,023**	**308**	**286,966**	**328,296**	**308,871**

Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Fixed assets			
	Schoolrooms Fund	98,122	95,926
	Cockburn Bequest	155,292	151,817
	Lawrence Bequest	34,136	33,269
	Curacy Fund	8,671	8,477
	Total Fixed assets	**296,221**	**289,489**
Current assets			
	NatWest St Lukes	8,842	11,793
	NatWest Hall	5,966	5,204
	Lloyds St Barts	8,248	2,050
	CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account	22,943	15,187
	CCLA (CBF) St Barts deposit account	2,162	2,053
	CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account	2,422	2,299
	Cash in hand	240	144
	Accounts Receivable	4,616	4,486
	Total Current assets	**55,438**	**43,217**
Liabilities			
	Accounts Payable	23,363	23,835
	Total Liabilities	**23,363**	**23,835**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**328,296**	**308,871**
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	12,693	(272,112)
	Starting balances	335,085	586,327
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(26,213)	(26,213)
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	6,732	20,870
	Total Reserves	**328,296**	**308,871**
	Represented by Funds		
	General (Unrestricted)	41,023	28,225
	Restricted	308	413
	Endowment	286,966	280,234
	Total	**328,296**	**308,871**

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING

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

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the annual revaluation of listed investments to market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
- Income Tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Income from fund raising events is accounted for net of incidental expenses.

Other ordinary income:

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments:

- Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants:

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church:

- The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings:

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10 (2)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments:

- Investments are stated at market valuation.

Current assets:

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

Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies						
Gift Aid - Bank	40,872	-	-	-	40,872	38,494
Other planned giving	850	-	-	-	850	1,750
Loose plate collections	1,031	-	-	-	1,031	622
One-off Gift Aid gifts	4,818	-	-	-	4,818	1,180
Donations appeals etc	8,323	-	-	-	8,323	7,684
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	11,469	-	-	-	11,469	10,895
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	8,293
Non-recurring one-off grants	-	-	-	-	-	2,500
Other funds generated	2,011	-	-	-	2,011	1,369
Donations and legacies Totals	**69,374**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**69,374**	**72,788**
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	428	-	-	-	428	865
Church hall lettings - objectives	18,900	-	-	-	18,900	15,584
Income from charitable activities Totals	**19,328**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**19,328**	**16,449**
Other trading activities						
Rummage sales etc	-	-	-	-	-	1,982
Bookstall sales - fund raising	3,184	-	-	-	3,184	2,510
Church hall lettings - fund raising	34	-	-	-	34	-
Other trading activities Totals	**3,218**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,218**	**4,491**
Investments						
Dividends	-	-	-	9,199	9,199	8,986
Bank and building society interest	1,110	-	-	-	1,110	514

Rent from lands or buildings	18,150	-	-	-	18,150	21,882
Investments Totals	**19,260**	**-**	**-**	**9,199**	**28,459**	**31,382**
Income and endowments Grand totals	**111,179**	**-**	**-**	**9,199**	**120,378**	**125,110**

EXPENDITURE ON:

Expenditure on charitable activities

Giving to missionary societies	1,779	-	-	-	1,779	1,650
Giving - relief and development agencies	235	-	-	-	235	-
Home mission	3,011	-	-	-	3,011	2,426
Secular charities	970	-	-	-	970	795
Ministry parish share etc	17,522	-	-	8,964	26,485	26,667
Assistant staff costs	2,678	-	-	-	2,678	2,903
Salary of parish administrator	19,964	-	-	-	19,964	15,855
Working expenses of incumbent	(50)	-	-	-	(50)	-
Education	-	-	-	-	-	75
Parish training and mission	-	-	(160)	-	(160)	(5)
Church running - insurance	10,570	-	-	-	10,570	15,921
Church office - telephone	1,391	-	-	-	1,391	1,216
Organ / piano tuning	533	-	-	-	533	-
Church maintenance	10,559	-	-	-	10,559	2,632
Cleaning	1,514	-	-	-	1,514	1,099
Upkeep of services	2,152	-	-	235	2,387	3,781
Upkeep of churchyard	2,745	-	-	-	2,745	9,848
Administration	1,140	-	265	-	1,405	5,429
Church running - electric	3,510	-	-	-	3,510	4,394
Church running - gas	8,353	-	-	-	8,353	7,249
Church running - water	559	-	-	-	559	480
Hall running - electricity	1,468	-	-	-	1,468	1,986
Hall running - gas	4,210	-	-	-	4,210	6,995
Hall running - maintenance	2,774	-	-	-	2,774	2,215
Hall running - water	495	-	-	-	495	122

Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	**98,081**	**-**	**105**	**9,199**	**107,385**	**113,733**
Other expenditure						
Governance costs examination/audit fee	300	-	-	-	300	275
Other expenditure Totals	**300**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**300**	**275**
Expenditure Grand totals	**98,381**	**-**	**105**	**9,199**	**107,685**	**114,008**

FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investments held by the Central Board of Finance – Investment units.

Cost at 31 December 2024 was £64,633 (market value £296,221) and at 31 December 2023 £64,633 (market value £289,489).

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Fixed assets and investment	**-**	**-**	**296,221**	**296,221**
Current assets	**55,438**	**-**	**-**	**55,438**
Current liabilities	**(23,363)**	**-**	**-**	**(23,363)**
Fund balance	**£19.382**	**-**	**£296,221**	**£315,603**

See note below for identification of funds.

LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

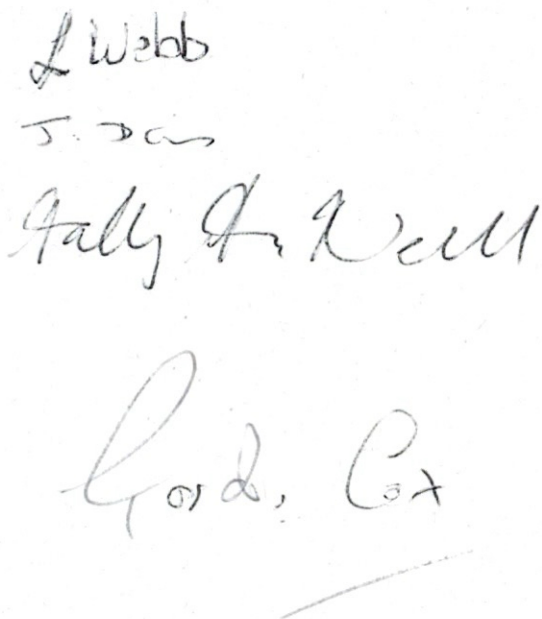
	2024	2023
Accruals and deferred income	**£19,382**	**£23,835**
	=====	=====

FUND DETAILS

The endowment fund comprises the Church School Rooms Fund, Curacy Fund, Lawrence and Cockburn Bequests.

This report dated 27 Feb 2025:

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11 May 2025 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew Reading		
On accounts for the year ended	31-12-2024	**Charity no (if any)**	1158694
Set out on pages	**See accompanying Annual Report and Financial Statements**		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Association of Accounting Technicians.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

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

Signed:		**Date:**	22/2/2025
Name:	Jo McAllister		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Licenced Accountant; Association of Accounting Technicians. Member:20024190		

Address:	4 Danvers Close
	Thatcham, Berkshire
	RG19 3XT

Section B Disclosure

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

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

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158694

Accounts

redlands
parish church

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew

Reading Reg. Charity No. 1158694

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 14 April 2024, 12 Noon,
In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Agenda
Minutes of 2023 Meeting
Parish Reports including Parish Accounts

redlands parish church

Sunday 14 April 2024, 12 Noon, In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

(Anyone on the electoral roll of the church, OR resident in the parish may vote in this meeting)

AGENDA

1. **Election of Churchwardens**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Only those on the electoral roll of the parish may vote in this meeting.
Others may ask questions and join in discussion at the discretion of the Chair

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the 2023 APCM**
3. **Confirmation/Elections of Deanery Synod Members**
4. **Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members**
    I. Election of PCC members
    II. Appoint independent examiner if necessary
    III. PCC Secretary
5. **Outline of the Annual Reports:**
    I. Chair of PCC Report
    II. Warden's Report
    III. Electoral Roll Update
    IV. Treasurer's Report
6. **The Year Ahead**
7. **Feedback, Questions and Any Other Business**
    (Items to be considered for AOB to be sent to the Chair via office@redlandsparish.org.uk no later than 12 April 2024)
8. **Closing Prayers**
9. **Dates of PCC meetings –** to be agreed by members of the PCC

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parish church

Minutes of the 2023 Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

(Anyone on the electoral roll of the church, OR resident in the parish may vote in this meeting)

Attendees: Rev'd Ross Meikle (Vicar), Rev'd Christine Blackman, Jane Kenyon, Kirsten Bayes, Libby Stroud, Elizabeth Rebbeck, Alan Tonkyn, Shelagh Tonkyn, Chris Wakelin, Melanie Shrubsall, Sylvia Rayner, Mary Evans, Barbara Walton, Sally-Ann McDowell, Julian Pratt, Janet Davis, Janet Shield, Francis Jakeman, Gillian Lyne, Ola Cassels-White, Lynne Webb, Hilary Jakeman, Sarah Collins (PCC Secretary), Sheila Cox, Gordon Cox, Leslie Green, Bridget Green, Marion Pitman; Dianne Tavares

2. **Election of Churchwardens – Janet Davis and Lynne Webb no objections received. All in favour.**

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Only those on the electoral roll of the parish may vote in this meeting.
Others may ask questions and join in discussion at the discretion of the Chair

10. **Minutes of the 2022 APCM – approved – Proposed Sally-Ann McDowell, Seconded Kirsten Bayes.**
11. **Confirmation/Elections of Deanery Synod Members – Hilary Jakeman re-elected to 2026**
12. **Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members**

IV. Election of PCC members

V. Appoint independent examiner if necessary, SAM last year we requested have a new IE, one appointed, Harriet not able to fulfil the requirements in time. SAM used another person can use either one or the other for net.

VI. PCC Secretary – no person from the congregation – paying Administrator but if someone would like to save the church some money at any point do come and speak with Sarah or Ross to chat about what is involved and what training is required, reappointed.

13. **Outline of the Annual Reports:**

V. Chair of PCC Report – Rev. Ross Meikle talked about the work done over the previous year of "getting our house in order" and some of the strangest fruits of that have been around the appointment of the Hall Manager and

separation of roles of Hall Manager and Parish Administrator. Appointment of Jane Kenyon as Hall Manager and already seeing fruitfulness of Jane's focus on hall and Sarah on Parish Administrator on our life. Thanks to the efforts of Gillian Lyne, we have jumped leaps and bounds with safeguarding, well ahead of other parishes. Now on level three and 78% through the requirements, close to achieving 100%. There is a requirement that all PCC members complete their safeguarding training and DBS checks, one current member outstanding. We have seen wonderful work on Garden of Wholeness and Healing and the parish history project. Teaching has been provided through house group and the parish weekend. Many thanks to those who have continued to work in these areas over the year. I arrived in the pandemic and struggled to see you all, the progress and settling into service routines has helped me to get to know you all. James was appointed as music leader; different types of music and we will be working with James to see how we can continue to play around with music and put him in touch with Sunday club to see if we can grow a children's choir. Read College has been significant in PCC life this year given their financial difficulties and recent announcement of closure this year. I would like to commend the PCC on their handling of this, they are excellent trustees looking out for our best interest, seeking to be compassionate but wanting to stick to letter of the law. There has been a huge Impact on our financial situation and we are currently not paying parish share. I will meet with the Deanery team soon to discuss. We hope to generate a steadier income stream moving forward. The church has seen several deaths of our family and seen several actual and spiritual births this year. I would like to give some general thanks to Sarah as PCC Secretary and to Roger Cox and Marion Pitman who are stepping away after many years of service to the PCC and the church family in general. Roger, it has been very beneficial to have your knowledge and skills. Sally-Ann McDowell and Leslie Green - many thanks for your service to the church through Deanery synod as your terms come to an end but also for remaining on the PCC. Jane appointed to Hall Manger so has stopped being a Churchwarden. Thanks to Jane for her 15 years at St Bart's – saw read settled into St Bart's and congratulations for being appointed to the role of Hall Manger. Thanks too to Kirsten for her time as Churchwarden, seeing the church through interregnum.

Questions. Gillian Lyne – where are we with Read college? – RM - Sarah Collins and I spoke with the legal team at the Diocese. Currently Read has paid all that is owed to date, pressure was put on them to do that. Read has been told it will not get access to the building if they do not pay. Their current plan is to vacate by June 19 and we are having conversations about how they will honour the licence as the first break clause is 2030 – we are unlikely to see any of that money but need to make sure we go by letter of the law. Bit of wait and see but they are vacating. Conversation about future of building and how to pull that together. Don't want to speculate at this point. Leslie Green - this is the right thing to do as under the licence we cannot actually rent St Bart's to anyone else until the Read licence ceases. Need to be careful legally as we are also committed to 2030 under the terms. Melanie Shrubsall – with a break clause in 2030 is this the earliest the licence may be brought to a close? LG – licence is very clear that Read college cannot end until 2030 but if they fail to meet their obligations then the PCC has the right to end the licence, so not all black so if for a number of months they do not pay we have the right to close them but this needs to be done legally rather than accept the keys and move on. Once the licence is defaulted upon, we have the right to move forward. Need Read college to acknowledge their responsibility under the licence. RM – generally conflict adverse – grateful to Sally-Ann, Leslie and Sarah for understanding it better than I do and encouraging me to make sure we take a very professional approach.

VI. Warden's Report – Kirsten Bayes - refer you to report which has been circulated in the annual report. As warden been member of three team – Ministry Team – Ross, Sarah, Jane and Christine, we meet weekly to discuss the affairs of the church and it is good to have a place to go for a cuppa; Team two - Chalice servers and Welcomers – I hugely appreciate all the fun we have had and sorting who does what. Finally, Team three - the PCC. I have enjoyed being on PCC and looking forward to continuing with my membership there.

VII. Electoral Roll Update – Gillian Lyne, Electoral Roll Officer confirmed the details from the Annual Report. Speak with Gillian if you are interested in being added and serving the church.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Sally-Ann McDowell – within the APCM notes there is a summary, also been sent larger document of the full accounts one and is the one which has been reviewed by an independent inspector. These now need to be signed by Ross and Kirsten then will be uploaded to Charity Commission as required.

14. **The Year Ahead –** RM – I have preached several times about cultural development among us how they affect and influence our life together. Soon will be at end of the year of Wholeness and Healing and it is good time to recognise how we have changed – last year creeping out of covid restrictions and where we are now. When I arrived, I had to be very reactive which meant I had to say no a lot of the time rather than yes. Hope that I will be moving to be a more proactive vicar, establishing a more productive way of working and will be setting up new system of meeting and looking at more effective way of working. Feedback at my Ministerial Development Review said people wish that I was more prepared and less reactive and more organised. I want to work closely with the new wardens. I am working on a worship booklet. I have been discussing about praying deeply about how people encounter church. Thinking about theme parks – the experience begins before you arrive – what does that look like, the queue, the ride etc. When I think about the worship booklet I am aware of how we do it and how it is communicated from the moment people step in to the moment they leave. How do we curate that as a community. I want us to be very deliberate and aware that as people come to a church that they are safe, loved and cared for. Not proposing that we have another year of something and something – but considering faith sharing and fund raising. Faith sharing takes precedence. Can be scary to some people. How do we explore and communicate the language we use and how do we speak together. How might that be shared with those around us. Faith sharing not with the intention of converting people or getting them to church on a Sunday. We are now a poor church and need to be responsible and watch our spending and look at growing our coffers. In the works we are exploring a way for new members to contribute financially, and new ways of existing people to give more. Finally, looking ahead to the next year. Some members of PCC said this will be their final year - what will their legacy look like? Please do pray and reflect if you would like to join the PCC either this or next year. What will be helpful to you to know or be trained in over the next year to help you participate more effectively? We do have some extra

baptisms in place and the work with Read and St Bart's ongoing but don't want that to detract from what happens here.
Sheila Cox – last year been wonderful with lots of activities, looks very vibrant. Thinking ahead we need to think about fundraising and getting balance in outreach and beyond church, making decision as a church where we are putting the effort in and getting people to attend events. We need more people to attend to raise funds. RM – proposed meeting structure - worship, events, etc keener eye on the ball as to what is coming up and may help with negotiating a balance. Bridget Green - St Peter's – when they hold an event they split fundraising between charity and the church – maybe think about here when we are doing outreach events and fundraising – split things 50:50 to help our church as well. Gordon Cox – hope we can keep our commitment to Christian aid – last night an example – attracts people and reaches out. RM – Alan last year of organising event, no one else yet willing to take on coordinating that type of event. Two ways – advertise – who would like to be CA co-ordinator to run events, or part of a committee – it was a group who put together last night's hugely successful event. We can have a discussion if the CA fundraising is in the name of this church or a passion of that group of people within the church. Last night was an amazing event would be good to see more of that even if just for fundraising. If anyone has any ideas how we might move this forward. Gillian Lyne – we have a commitment to the wider church through parish share to support those get their pension and salaries from parish share. RM – it is really important to recognise that we have been a very good church paying parish share. I hope we are in Deanery good books but will be a conversation soon about our finances. Don't mean to scaremonger but one of the conversations at Deanery level is that there are too many churches in Reading, what that means is that for some churches if they do not pay parish share they end up sharing vicars. Maybe if we cannot get finances in better shape that deanery may look to see where they can combine ministers again. Bridget Green – in this church you have regular committee members. We do have newer members, but they have not stayed for the meeting. Unless we sort this out our parish share contributions, we will be a dying church. RM – We are looking at publicity for new people. Christine Blackman – should we do welcome breakfast drinks?
Francis – reflecting that this summer he will have been retired for 10 years without responsibility. Been able to go to local church, absorb it all and appreciate the other side of organisation and burden of trying to keep the show on the road and I am

very grateful to those who do this. It is very easy, in my experience, particularly when finances are tight, for those in responsibility to feel that weight. Please don't feel that way if you are on the PCC or Ministry Team. It is a whole church, we are all part of it, and when we do what the church is about then other people see that they want to be part of it and although it takes time, enjoy his holy spirit and fellowship.

15. **Closing Prayers –** Francis prayed for the church community, parish and the year ahead.

    Meeting closed at 13.10

16. **Dates of PCC meetings** – to be agreed by the members of the PCC

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 14 2024

Administrative information

St Luke's and St Bartholomew's are two churches joined into one parish, situated in Reading, Berkshire. They are part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is ***The Parish Office, St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LU.***

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity which is registered with the Charity Commission.

Members of the PCC from the last APCM (22 May 2023) until the date this report was approved are:

The Rev'd Ross Meikle, Vicar, Chair (to March 10 2024)
The Rev'd Christine Blackman, Associate Priest
Lynne Webb, Church Warden
Janet Davis, Church Warden

Deanery Synod representatives
Hilary Jakeman

Other elected members:

Leslie Green	Paul Carnell
Marion Pitman	Sally-Ann McDowell, Treasurer
Gillian Lyne	Kirsten Bayes

Co-opted members: (no voting rights)
Sarah Collins (Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary)
Jane Kenyon (Hall Manager)
Folake Bisiriyu (Application made to the Diocese for LLM)

Officers newly elected at APCM 14 April 2024
Gordon Cox (from 14 January 2024), Chair to PCC from March11 2024

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

Objectives and activities
St Luke with St Bartholomew's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Churches of St Luke's, Erleigh Road, Reading; St Bartholomew's, London Road, Reading; and the Parish Hall, Erleigh Road, Reading.

Church attendance
The number on the Electoral Roll at 14 April 2024 is 109. We continued to provide zoom links for services which were appreciated by people who were unwell or out of Reading. The average weekly in attendance in October was 49 (of which 5 was under the age of 16) at St Luke's and ***0*** at St Bart's. A family service was held at St Bartholomew's just before Christmas. This was attended by 14 Adults and 6 Children. On Christmas Day 70 adults and 12 children attended the services in person with a number of others joining via Zoom.

Review of the year
The PCC has met on 6 occasions since the last APCM.

Churchwarden's Report 2024

We stepped into the roles of Churchwardens at the tail end of our successful 140th celebration year of Wholeness and Healing. We thankfully were guided by our long-established predecessors Jane and Kirsten and are now feeling confident in our new positions.

Being a Churchwarden and attending weekly team meetings, finance and buildings committees, has given us a true insight into the running of the church. We would like to thank everyone involved, our Clergy, our Office Administrator and Hall Manager, the PCC, our Treasurer and all involved in Safeguarding. Then we have our team of volunteers who we couldn't possibly do without including Welcomers and Chalice bearers, Readers, Flower Arrangers, Refreshment Providers, Ben our Server, Cleaners, all those involved with The Toddler Group and Monthly Coffee Morning and our technical sound and lighting expert who is always on call for sound system failures.

It was with regret that our Organist James had to leave in the Summer but thanks must be given to our stand in organists, our Choir who robe up each week and lead us in our singing and our Band who attend the Messy Service and provide us with a modern approach to our music.

Our social activities continue to flourish including the Harvest Lunch, Hymns and Pimms, Soups and Puds, International and Nigerian Meal nights, Pancakes and Prosecco, Muppets Movie Night, Art Exhibitions, Christmas Fair and Coffee Mornings.

Unfortunately, with Reed College moving out of St Barts and various other expenses our financial position is not where it was and we have had to make a few cut backs but with the hope of future lettings in St Bartholomew's and the increased number of hall bookings at St Luke's we should be well on the road to recovery.

Our Congregation continues to grow. Baptism's included Conrad Slack and Annabelle Mason from our church family and the Wedding highlight in September was when Christine married her Step Grandson Alex Baker to Zoe. After the hard work of clearing out the mess left by Reed College had been completed by a willing team, the Sanctuary at St Bartholomew's has been restored to a place of worship once more.

We were shocked to hear that Ross would be leaving us in February and that we would be entering another interregnum. We are so grateful that Christine has agreed to lead us through this period and ask for you to all support her and your church in prayer.

We wish Ross well in his new position at Salisbury Cathedral.

Lynne and Janet

Annual report from PCC Buildings Committee

Last year I reported that "The maintenance of our three buildings remains a challenge. Fuel prices have soured. The trees continue to grow so overhanging the public highway and need lopping. The valves and pumps on our heating systems approach the end of their useful life and need replacing".

I am pleased to report that despite financial constraints we have:

1. Lopped the trees at St Bart's,
2. Repaired all heating systems
3. Continued to maintain all our buildings to a satisfactory Standard.
4. All of the statutory inspections and annual maintenance contracts on our three properties are up to date.

This year the Quinquennial Inspections are due but by good governance over the past five years I do not expect any major items of expenditure.

The Chancel at St Bart's has been restored to its original splendour and the church largely cleared of all of Read College's redundant equipment. A Faculty to make the Rood screen's sound proofing a more permanent fixture has been sought. Negotiations are on-going to lease the building under licence.

Storage in the Hall is being addressed and there are plans in place to provide a toilet accessible directly to garden users. The Turner room has been redecorated and is a much warmer meeting room.

New phone lines and Internet contracts have been set up for the church and hall. The Wi-Fi service to the office still needs attention but generally Wi-Fi performance has been improved and is expected to save money.

The sensory Healing Garden is starting to take shape. The trees have been planted and the bench is securely sited, (and in regular use).

The retractable posts have helped to safeguard our parking, but parking remains an issue. This year we plan to install a few cycle racks next to the hall entrance.

The PCC has approved the expenditure to upgrade the St Luke's sound system and work is expected shortly.

We again owe a huge thank you to Roger Cox for project managing and, in many cases, undertaking the tasks involved in maintaining and refurbishing our three properties. I am

mindful of Roger's desire to step back from this role. One of our new members, Paul Webster has joined the group and is working with Roger.

The Buildings Committee would also like to thank Sarah and Jane for the day-to-day management of the Hall and the Church.

May I conclude this report by thanking all members of the congregation who have assisted the Buildings Committee in maintaining the fabric of our buildings.

Leslie Green,
Chair of the Buildings Committee
February 2024

Finance

Treasurer's Report

Utilities and insurance (excluding water)
Insurance in the two churches (and hall) increased to £15,900 from £15,500 in 2022. Read College covered a portion related to building and contents at St Bartholomew's as per their agreement whilst they were there. However, since they left and we have started to hold occasional services at St Bartholomew's, we have moved back to standard church insurance rather than landlord insurance which saves us money. As we have spent a considerable amount of time reinstating the Sanctuary at St Bartholomew's we are able to hold occasional services there now.
Electricity in the two churches was about £4,400 which is about £200 more than the previous year. Even though the buildings were in more use (specifically the hall), our utility prices dropped in October which is the time our contract renews.
Gas in the two churches was about £7,250 which is more than 2022, but that was due to us being in credit for the majority of 2022 at St Bartholomew's.
Hall gas was about £7,000 so considerably more than in 2022 (£2,650), but this was due to greater use of the hall as well as increased gas from October 2022. In 2023, electricity was about £2,000 compared to about £850 in 2022. Again, this was largely due to additional use plus increased energy prices from October 2022.

Charitable giving:
Our plan continues to be to donate to some local charities regularly and then do one off fundraising for others throughout the year. From our coffee mornings and other charitable events, we managed to give about £4,900 to charities which is slightly higher than 2022 (£4,600) and 2021 (£2,500).

Parish Share:
Our Parish share was £26,700 in 2023 compared to £45,800 in 2022. This is due to our request to only pay half our parish share due to the loss of income at St Bartholomew's. From 2024, we are in a recovery plan which increases the amount each year by 10% so that we will be able to return to paying full parish share in a few years' time. However, should we finalise the licence with our new tenants, we may wish to speed this up.

Parish Administrator and Hall Manager:
In April 2023, we split the role that our Parish Administrator was doing and appointed a Hall Manager. We also increased the salaries to be more competitive. As such the costs

increased to about £15,900 from about £11,750 in 2022 which included tax (where appropriate), national insurance (where appropriate) and pension. Although this is an increase, we have seen a benefit as the Hall Manager has more time to dedicate to increase hall use and this has paid off with increased revenue.

BALANCE OF FUNDS
Our usable funds have increased from last year to £45,800. These were £33,866 in 2022, £86,700 in 2021 and £103,000 in 2020.
We do also have some untouchable funds, which were valued at £289,500 on 31 Dec 2023 compared to £268,620 on 31 Dec 2022. These are the Lawrence Bequest, the Curacy fund, the Schoolrooms fund, and the Cockburn Bequest.

Reserves Policy
The usable funds that we hold in reserve reduced due to a decrease in the value of the investments plus the major works and repairs at St Barts. The reserves policy was not discussed in 2023, however our accounts show that we still meet the reserves policy as set in 2011.
The reserves policy is still to maintain reserves of at least £5,000 per building for emergency maintenance to the buildings. The maximum amount to be held in reserves was agreed to be £100,000, although we could potentially hold more if the PCC determined there was a valid reason for doing so.
All reserves are held as funds invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England for the time being.

Finance Committee
The finance committee met several times in 2023 to ensure the finances are regularly reviewed. It was as a result of one of these meetings that we proposed to the PCC that we request to reduce our parish share, which the PCC approved. If anyone has an interest in joining, please do let me know.

Sally-Ann McDowell
Treasurer

Safeguarding report 2024

'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you' Jeremiah 29:11

The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults continues to be an important priority within our church and the responsibility of each and every member of the church community.

To this end it is important that there is a culture of understanding and awareness of the appropriate interaction with individuals where all are welcomed, feel respected and safeguarding concerns can be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently.

Safeguarding is a standing item on every PCC agenda. At the last PCC meeting on 11th March 2024 the Safeguarding Report was presented to the PCC and approved.

All those who require DBS checks and safeguarding training are up to date. These checks and training need to be repeated every three years. Some people will be getting reminders in the next few months to do this.

An audit of safeguarding was also presented to the PCC on 11th March 2024. Using the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard an Action Plan has been created which has identified several areas where activity risk assessments and job descriptions need to be completed. This is work for the upcoming year.

Currently we are on level 3 of the Safeguarding Dashboard and have made 95% progress towards completing all its requirements.

I have been on several courses about a new Safeguarding Hub which has been set up by the Diocese of Oxford. It will help with the creation of job descriptions and keeping track of training and DBS checks. It requires a lot of time to put in the relevant information but should be very helpful in the long run.

My thanks, once again, to Jenny Page for all her work as DBS verifier and to all those people who have undertaken the online training and recruitment process.

Gillian Lyne

Gillian Lyne

Vicar's Report – The Reverend Ross Meikle

The year began with the appointment of two new Churchwardens, Lynne Webb and Janet Davis. Though new to the office of churchwarden, they are by no means new to the church having served as members of St Luke's congregation since childhood. It has been good to work with them, although none could have foreseen quite the year we have had!

It was a year of significant and unexpected change for Redlands Parish, kicking off with what I called a *summer horribilis* at PCC in September. We have seen: the liquidation of Read College, and with it the end of a significant source of regular income for the parish, uncertainty regarding our parish finances and the future of St Bartholomew's church building; the departure of James, our Music Leader, after he was given notice on his house and relocated; and, the parish entering into interregnum after my own appointment as Missioner for Young People at Salisbury Cathedral. Our sound system at St Luke's has also been problematic this year.

At time of writing, I am still with you in the hope that nothing else dramatic will happen before this is published. But even as I write this, there are more reasons to celebrate than there are to bring us down. After all, this has also been a year when our setbacks have not defined us, and we have borne witness to new life and new opportunities in response to these challenges.

There is new life at St Bartholomew's after a summer of intentional prayer, discernment and conversations. We had a Day of Prayer for the Holy Spirit in the church, including a prayer labyrinth. The result of that summer was a new relationship with Community (AF) - a community interest company with a history of supporting young people and community projects in Newtown - moving in and injecting a new level of energy and enthusiasm to the space. They have helped with the clearing and cleaning of the building, and it is has been a privilege to see St Bartholomew's loved after falling into a state of dust and disregard.

The sanctuary space around the high altar will remain designated as a holy and quiet space intended for worship and reflection.

Music-wise, we have new relationships with local organists who play for us on Sundays, as well as continued support from Tim and Gordon. Furthermore, Christine is exploring ways of introducing more modern music to the church during the vacancy.

Jane, having had a full year as dedicated Hall Manager, has stimulated the life of St Luke's Hall, both in regard to its service to the local community through art exhibitions and Bed For The Night, and also financially. The PCC agreed in a conversation around "what do we call ourselves?" that we seek to call the building as "St Luke's Hall" (rather than the Parish Hall or Church Hall). Plans for the future redevelopment of St Luke's Hall to maximise its missional and financial potential are ongoing, dependent on grants.

From a worship perspective, we have continued our regular Sunday worship at 1030am, seeing gradual and maintained growth, welcomed new members, and increased in diversity. Our midweek services of Holy Communion (Tuesday 7pm and Thursday 10am) have also shown times of growth and been of service to members of the community not previously known to us.

I led a short service at the War Memorial in the cemetery at Cemetery Junction on Remembrance Sunday - a traditional service of readings, prayers, and with a student bugler from the University. The event was at the request of local historians keen to preserve and maintain the history and significance of the cemetery and the lives of those remembered there, and also included ministers and worshippers from Park URC and the parish of St Stephen and St John.

We enjoyed a Parish Weekend in Bournemouth in 2023, and even though parish finances don't allow for a Parish Weekend in 2024, there is a fun-packed parish day planned and a hope to reinstate the Parish Weekend in 2025.

It is in that expression of hope that I draw my Vicar's Report to a close.

I had not expected to leave Redlands Parish as soon as I am. As I wind down, I put aside my own plans, ideas, and ego putting my trust in Christ and the power of Christ within each of you that God's love will continue to be made known - as it was before me, and will be after me. I relinquish control over vision and decision-making, and over what my legacy may be, giving such authority to the Churchwardens, the PCC, and the church.

I arrived in the midst of the Covid lockdown, a new incumbent, facing trials most vicars rarely face in their entire ministries. I have endeavoured to put our house in order, to clear the clutter, to free the parish up and return to basics, so that we can rebuild upon the foundation of Christ and not a foundation of nostalgia. I am sad I won't be part of that rebuilding, but as one friend reflected to me, perhaps my role among you has been, after the example of James and John with their father Zebedee (Bible reference), to mend the nets so that another may come and help you to cast the nets, leading you and others into new life.

God bless you in the vacancy, lead you wisely in discernment, and keep you open to the movement of the Spirit among you and the Church in the years to come. Amen.

Ross

Sunday Club Report

Sunday Club meets in Hall on the last Sunday of the month during the main service.

We begin with a song and prayers and then we do activities based on the Gospel for the day.

Sometimes there is a story to tell or act out, sometimes we will hear Jesus' teaching and apply the lessons to our own lives.

There is then a chance to let off steam with a game that relates to our learning and finally we all join in doing a craft activity.

There are about 20 children who have attended over the past year but on an average Sunday there will be around 6 in attendance.

There will be at least one leader and one helper (who have appropriate Safeguarding training) present each week, from a team of half a dozen, and more adults will be present if necessary.

Those of us involved always have a great morning.

Christine

Pastoral Care Team Report February 2024

The Pastoral Care Team and other supportive parishioners have offered Care and Support to members of the congregation. The Team consists of Christine Blackman, Mary Evans, Everette Marshall, Ross Meikle and me, Sheila Cox. I'd like to thank all members for their support and for keeping contact with parishioners who cannot get out to church or to social events.

Shopping support is available to those who need this form of help.

Parish members can ask their fellow friends for lifts if required.

Sheila tries to give the names of those who need prayers to Sarah when possible. This year the congregation have been asked to write down names to be prayed for, on Sunday mornings, on a sheet at the back of church. Permission needs to be sought from the people who would like to be prayed for.

The teas for Senior Citizens continue to be held every other month. Thank you to the hosts and those who supply refreshments.

Sheila Cox - Pastoral Care Leader

Parish Toddler Group

The Toddler Group meets in the hall on Erleigh Rd. every Wednesday morning except in the main school holidays at Christmas, Easter & in the summer. We welcome anyone who wants to bring in their little ones, up to about age 4, and we have lots of toys. We used to take a break in the half term weeks but realised that families whose children are not yet at school are often not tuned in to the half term breaks, & really appreciate being able to attend Toddler Group in the October & February weeks. Having said this, we did actually take a break in the May half term week in 2023, as we thought people would know about the Bank Holiday at the start of the week, & the weather might be good enough to take little ones to the park.

Our numbers since last April average 17 children, but we never know how many to expect, & we have had numbers on a Wednesday from 8 to 30 (this was the day of the Christmas party & included a few school-age children). The adults who bring little ones to Toddler Group can be parents (usually the mother, but not always), grandparents, aunties, minders and friends. We noticed it when 2 childminders turned up, each bringing 4 little boys! We have also on occasion had 4 generations of one family - 2 children, their mother, her mother, and her mother! All fit and well and enjoying the company in the hall! Some adults attend the group with friends, or as mother & daughter, while some arrange to meet up at the group. Others have bravely attended alone with their child and made friends at the group. Numerous languages can be heard in the hall at any meeting.

We give out information about church activities, drawing people's attention to any notices that might be of interest, and it is a great joy when a family brings a child to church for baptism. We regularly have a big turnout for the Christmas party, and almost everyone went into the church after the party last December, when Ross kept everyone interested with his telling of the Nativity story. We shall give every child an Easter egg at the last meeting of the spring term, on 27 March.

It is noticeable that most people who attend Toddler Group walk to the hall, which means they live locally. Such a flourishing group is a gift to any clergy who want to make contacts in their local community.

The Group could not function without the people who turn up faithfully to make tea & coffee & chat over the kitchen bar.

Hilary Jakeman, on behalf of the team –
Janet Shield, Melanie Shrubsall, John Starr & Francis Jakeman, and the coffee team - Elizabeth Andrews, Janet Davis, Bridget Green, Libby Stroud, & Shelagh Tonkyn.

Monthly Coffee Morning

There is a long tradition of coffee mornings at St. Luke's. The main aim is to bring people together in a relaxed social setting - church members and people who live locally - but we also have fund-raising stalls. At present the coffee mornings meet on the first Saturday of the month, in the hall, from 11 am - 12 noon. There is a break in August, and usually we do not hold a coffee morning on the first Saturday in January.
The December coffee morning used to coincide with the church Christmas Fair, so the coffee morning team took their full part in that. However, last Christmas the Fair was held

a week earlier, in November. The first Saturday in December was also the day before the first Sunday of Advent, and people were in the church to put their angel decorations on the church windowsills. We set up several of the usual coffee morning stalls & a good number of people were happy to come into the church ("I've never been in here before"!) so we were able to raise some money to go towards the expense of running Bed for the Night in the hall, from January - March.
The coffee morning in November was, as always in recent years, for the Chocolatada, in Pilcomayo, Peru. With some very generous donations, we were able to send £337 to John Starr's daughter-in-law, whose parents still live in the village & arrange the Christmas party for the local children.
In October we sent £116 to Reading Family Aid, for their work with poor families.
In September our gift of £96 went to the UNHCR
In July we sent £131 to Open Doors, an international organisation supporting Christians who suffer persecution.
June's gift of £202 went to the Berkshire Care Trust, supporting ex-offenders.
Our work in May raised funds for Christian Aid, which were added to the fund-raising across the whole church in Christian Aid Week
This year, 2024, we have held coffee mornings in February - raising £152 for Reading Refugee Support Group - and in March, with some generous donations, we were able to send £243 to Medical Aid for Palestine.
The next coffee mornings will be held on 7 April & 4 May. We try to support a charity local to Reading, in one month, & in the next, an international charity.
We have also since last September been able to make some donations to church funds, to help with heating costs & with the costs for Bed for the Night.

Hilary Jakeman
on behalf of Melanie Shrubsall, Elizabeth Rebbeck, Mary Evans, Libby Stroud, Margaret Carter, Sally-Ann McDowell

Traidcraft

Since the demise of Traidcraft it has still been possible to obtain fairly traded goods in Reading. While Traidcraft published a catalogue from which you could order all kinds of items, making life easy, now you have to research availability. However, many supermarkets & grocers stock food with the fairtrade mark, the best of these being the Co-op. There is also of course the World Shop, part of RISC, on London St. in central Reading, the various Oxfam shops, and the shop at Greyfriars, in Friar St., which stocks Easter eggs from the Meaningful Chocolate Company. We know that the fairtrade premium has helped countless producers' co-operatives round the world to invest in things which make a huge difference. They buy a van to be able to transport goods quickly to market, or they build a health clinic or a school, or they train farmers in better & climate-friendly techniques. The trade justice movement is a good example of how a small change in our shopping habits can benefit the people who produce the goods we need.

Hilary Jakeman

House Group/ Evening Lent Group report 2024

Our monthly House Group has comprised ten regular (or fairly regular!) members and we have enjoyed some very stimulating and challenging discussions, some as 'one-off' Bible Studies, and others as a sequence of parts of a course.

We began in May with a session that was a follow-up to a discussion at the Parish Weekend which had been led by Christine and focused on the theme of Wholeness and Healing. We looked at John Ch. 9 (the healing of the man born blind) and Galatians Ch. 5 (the works of the flesh and the fruit of the spirit). We noted that Jesus, in defying the Law by healing on the Sabbath, caused divisions amongst the Pharisees, and asked if he still causes divisions in our society, and how we handle that. We particularly enjoyed the feisty sarcasm of the healed man in dealing with the Pharisees. ("I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?")

From June to November we followed one of the York courses, entitled (with a nod to John McEnroe) 'You Can be Serious! - Meeting Jesus Afresh in John's Gospel'. As is usual with the York courses, this course featured alongside a text and questions, representatives of different Christian churches in an audio-recorded discussion: David Wilbourne, Anglican Bishop of Llandaff, Olivia Amartey of the Elim Pentecostal Church, and Brendan Walsh, the Editor of the Catholic weekly *The Tablet.* In reacting to the panel's discussion of John's Gospel, we wrestled with such questions as:

- In what ways does John's Gospel seem different from the other three?
- Are we sometimes, like the Pharisee Nicodemus, 'baffled' by Christ?
- What makes an act of worship inspiring and exciting?
- When have you sided with Jesus and stood against the crowd, as Jesus did in talking to the Samaritan woman at the well?
- Should God be blamed for suffering? (A question that, in one form or another, keeps coming back to haunt us at the group!)
- Do you feel guilty about how you keep the Sabbath?
- Are human beings a curse or a blessing to the earth?

In the last session, we were also asked to give our favourite Bible passage, which led to some interesting examples, and explanations.

For our Advent session, in December, we focused on one of the Advent readings from the church Lectionary: Mark, chapter 13, which recounts Jesus's prophecies about the future sufferings of his followers, and the end of the world, or possibly just the destruction of the Temple, and the end of the world as the Jews knew it. Our discussion of the chapter led us to ponder, amongst other things, on the nature of the persecution of Christians today, including the disregard, or worse, of Christianity in our society. We also thought about how to interpret Christ's final injunction: 'Keep awake'.

For our one-off pre-Lent meeting, we were led by Francis Jakeman in a discussion of the concept of God's Grace, which, as he pointed out, is mentioned far more frequently in the New Testament than the Old. Looking at the Sanskrit, Latin and Greek origins of the word, Francis emphasised its meaning as both something offered and also something for which we should give thanks. He argued that the Grace of God which is made known in Jesus

Christ does not represent a new divine power or virtue, but rather a new way in which God's power is expressed. Finally, we looked at the story of Zacchaeus in Luke's Gospel, as an example of the expression of God's Grace, through Jesus, to a repentant sinner.

In Lent, we have, as in the past, split into a daytime group, led by Francis and Hilary Jakeman (see separate report), and a smaller evening group of five members at the Tonkyns' home. In both groups we have been following the Diocese's 'Come and See' course, presented by the Bishop, Steven Croft, with its central theme of Jesus's interpretation of the Ten Commandments in the form of two key instructions to love God wholeheartedly and our neighbour as ourselves. At the time of writing, we have covered three of the six sessions. Each session focuses on a video presentation by the Bishop and an additional Bible passage. In the first session, Steven Croft presents the opposition of 'Two Ways' of viewing life and its purpose: the atheist and the Christian, seeing the latter view as focusing on the love shown by God in creation. Paired with this is a discussion of 1 John 4, a discourse on the nature of God's love. In the second session, entitled 'Two Treasures', Croft argues that our identity is 'grounded in the deep powerful truth that God loves us', and sees God's love as a 'hidden treasure' waiting for us to discover. The related Bible reading is an excerpt from Psalm 119 in which the writer expresses his love for God's law. The third session, with the title 'Two Tablets', looks at the first four of the Ten Commandments, with their focus on worshipping only the one God, and respecting His name and the Sabbath. Croft sees these Commandments as showing us how to love God. The selected Bible reading, from Hosea 6, recounts the Lord's despair at the faithlessness the people of Israel, and His desire that they should love and know Him, rather than offer mere ritual sacrifices. In our discussions, we have looked at such questions as:

- How might an atheist respond to Steven Croft's description of the atheist viewpoint?
- What relevance, if any, is there in still having "commandments" for Christians?
- Why would a failure to accept that we are loved by God make us unable to give love to others?
- How does the idea of the steadfastness of God's love make you feel?
- In what ways do you find it easy or difficult to love God?
- How can we, in Steven Croft's words, 'set the worship of God at the heart of our focus and energy and daily lives'?

We have enjoyed the engaging and pleasant manner of Steven Croft's presentations, and felt that, of the sessions so far, the third was the most impressive in the way that it opened up the significance of the first four Commandments and invited us to think about them afresh. The course so far has also made sense of the way in which Jesus was able to summarise the Ten Commandments in the form of his two 'greatest' Commandments. We look forward to further stimulating discussions based on the final three sessions.

Alan Tonkyn
08/03/23

Daytime Lent House Group 2024

Ten of us have been meeting together on Monday mornings. We have met 3 times so far with 3 more sessions to go. The subject for our discussions is 'The Commandments'. The material has been designed by the Diocese of Oxford as part of their 'Come & See' initiative. It involves studying passages from Scripture using a method called 'Dwelling in the Word'. The notes on each passage are backed up by a short talk each week from the Bishop of Oxford. Each session concludes with a different contemplative exercise explained in notes from the Diocese.

Our experience of the material has been very positive so far. Dwelling in the Word has allowed a variety of responses to each passage to emerge from those attending. In Week 1 we were challenged to consider two ways of approaching life. The first is to see it as the product of coincidences with no purpose beyond the purpose we create for ourselves. The second is to see life through faith in the God who created the heavens and the earth. His divine plan gives us purpose and a moral order beyond anything we might invent. God's love was explored through studying 1 John 4:7-19. The session ended with a group exercise on Stillness.

The pattern for the other sessions is similar. Week 2 is entitled the 'Two Treasures' and reminded us of the stories Jesus told of the Treasure in the Field and the Pearl of Great Price. Our study of Psalm 119 provoked a response from members in which we talked about 'savouring' the Word. Week 3 was called 'The Two Tablets'. It focused on the first 4 Commandments in Exodus Chapter 20 which address our relationship with God. Here we found ourselves noting the difference between rules or routines which we have adopted ourselves personally, and those prescribed by others. Recognising that what others, including in the Bible, say can contain real wisdom, we agreed that it is only when we adopt them for ourselves that they become truly beneficial.

We still have 3 weeks to go. They are entitled 4. Two trees; 5. Two questions; and 6. Two houses. Although we can't predict what we shall learn from the rest of the course we are convinced that studying together will continue to be enjoyable and fruitful. Jesus told us that when two or three are gathered together in His name, He is there in the midst of us. Our experience has borne that out, and is encouraging us to renew our trust in Him. We look forward to joining with others as we discern God's vision for St Luke's ready for the appointment of a new vicar.

Francis Jakeman
March 2024

Erleigh Road Community Garden

Last year was another busy one in the garden and it was lovely to see both regular and new people coming along to the community gardening sessions. We were also delighted to be awarded the Level 5 Outstanding Award in the Community Gardens category at the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood awards.

Alongside our regular gardening sessions, we also held additional talks and workshops. We took part in Wild About Reading and Edwin Trout came back to the garden to talk

about toads and Dr Chris Foster from the University of Reading came to talk to children about insects in the garden and to helped them identify various insects they found in the garden which is always fascinating! We continued to run cooking sessions using produce from the garden as well as apple and grape pressing.

Thanks to funding from the Diocesan Development Fund via the Church we were able to purchase some new picnic tables for the garden last year which are a walk-in style so more easily accessible and have wheelchair access too.

Regular sessions have now started up again after the winter with sessions on Thursday mornings from 10-11.30am and Saturday afternoons from 2-3.30pm. These sessions are funded by Activate Learning and are open to all. As well as various tasks around the garden we will be sowing vegetable and flower seeds ready for another plant sale in June. The sale we held last year was a great success and Mary's cream tea sold out in record time and the jams and chutneys made from produce from the garden were very popular too!

For more information, please contact Naomi at garden@redlandsparish.org.uk

Naomi German

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod has met 5 times in the last year. I find it is always a great place to meet people from churches around Reading Deanery, and to hear interesting news. Some of the debate is not ever so riveting, but finance has to be discussed & churches need to feel they have been considered, before they are asked to increase their Parish Share! One point made recently, sadly, is that a church which is in vacancy, but which is not paying its full Parish Share is unlikely to get any applicants for the job of vicar.

There is usually a guest speaker at Synod, and at a recent meeting we heard from the assistant priest at one of the churches in East Reading. She spoke of the ways to get people to volunteer to do the things that need doing in a church! Some people do not respond to a general invitation to volunteer. They may have a history of rejection when they did offer to get involved, or they may think that any general invitation just does not include them. It falls to church leaders to know their congregation members' gifts & experience, then ask people with the appropriate skills to do the job in question.

Another speaker was a newly appointed worker for Berkshire, appointed by Bishop Steven, to work with parishes on enhancing their children's work and youth work. The Bishop is asking every congregation to assess its work and let him know, so that he can support all efforts. We shall be discussing the initial clergy responses to this, at the next meeting, on 30 March.

Hilary Jakeman

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is held every year on the first Friday in March. You may remember it as the Women's World Day of Prayer. Men and children were always welcome, & it was renamed recently to make its inclusiveness clear. The order of service is always written by a group of Christian women, a long time in advance, so that it can be translated, printed & distributed to the national groups in good time for the day of worship itself.

For 1 March 2024 the order of service was written by Christian women in Palestine, long before the present war erupted in October, but it gave us a chance to pray for Palestine now, as well as using the prayers which were appropriate at the time of writing. We already know that next year's worship has been written by Christian women on the Cook Islands.

The one service held in Reading may not seem very significant, but it is part of a great wave of prayer in native languages, encircling the globe, beginning as the sun rises over Samoa, continuing around the earth, ending back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. This year we joined with people in 146 countries & islands, to pray with & for the people of Palestine.

We were made very welcome this year at the Salvation Army central, in Castle St. People attended from various churches across Reading. Another church will host the service on 7 March 2025: last year, 2023, St. Luke's hosted it.

Hilary Jakeman

St Luke with St Bartholomew, Reading

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31 Dec 2023

Introduction

The accounts have been produced directly from the accounting system (Finance Co-ordinator online) and are rounding up rather than showing only the pound.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	72,788	-	-	72,788	66,884
Income from charitable activities	16,449	-	-	16,449	7,809
Other trading activities	4,491	-	-	4,491	3,454
Investments	22,396	-	8,986	31,382	36,286
Other income	-	-	-	-	1,620
Total income	**116,124**	**-**	**8,986**	**125,110**	**116,053**
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	104,513	234	8,986	113,733	171,188
Other expenditure	275	-	-	275	250
Total expenditure	**104,788**	**234**	**8,986**	**114,008**	**171,438**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**11,336**	**(234)**	**-**	**11,102**	**(55,385)**
Transfers					
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	20,870	20,870	(32,892)
Net movement in funds	**11,336**	**(234)**	**20,870**	**31,971**	**(88,277)**
Total funds brought forward	**16,889**	**647**	**259,364**	**276,900**	**365,177**
Total funds carried forward	**28,225**	**413**	**280,234**	**308,871**	**276,900**

Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	28,225	-	-	28,225	16,889
Restricted					
Administrator	-	761	-	761	1,000
Parish Weekend	-	(349)	-	(349)	(353)
Endowment					
Cockburn Bequest	-	-	151,544	151,544	138,489
Curacy Fund	-	-	8,715	8,715	7,986
Lawrence Bequest	-	-	24,048	24,048	25,212
Schoolrooms Fund	-	-	95,927	95,927	87,678
Total funds	**28,225**	**413**	**280,234**	**308,871**	**276,900**

Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets			
	Schoolrooms Fund	95,926	87,677
	Cockburn Bequest	151,817	138,762
	Lawrence Bequest	33,269	34,432
	Nuttall Bequest	-	-
	Curacy Fund	8,477	7,748
	Total Fixed assets	**289,489**	**268,620**
Current assets			
	NatWest St Lukes	11,793	5,069
	NatWest Hall	5,204	715
	Lloyds St Barts	2,050	6,473
	Santander St Lukes	-	-
	CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account	15,187	13,036
	CCLA (CBF) St Barts deposit account	2,053	1,989
	CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account	2,299	2,228
	Cash in hand	144	37
	Accounts Receivable	4,486	4,317
	Total Current assets	**43,217**	**33,866**
Liabilities			
	Agency collections	-	-
	Accounts Payable	23,835	25,585
	Total Liabilities	**23,835**	**25,585**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**308,871**	**276,900**
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	11,102	(283,214)
	Starting balances	303,113	619,219
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(26,213)	(26,213)
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	20,870	(32,892)
	Total Reserves	**308,871**	**276,900**
	Represented by Funds		
	General (Unrestricted)	28,225	16,889
	Restricted	413	647
	Endowment	280,234	259,364
	Total	**308,871**	**276,900**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets						
Schoolrooms Fund	-	-	-	95,926	95,926	87,677
Cockburn Bequest	273	-	-	151,545	151,817	138,762
Lawrence Bequest	34,325	-	-	(1,056)	33,269	34,432
Curacy Fund	-	-	-	8,477	8,477	7,748
Total	**34,598**	**-**	**-**	**254,892**	**289,489**	**268,620**
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand						
NatWest St Lukes	75,492	-	12,194	(75,893)	11,793	5,069
NatWest Hall	17,634	-	(11,703)	(727)	5,204	715
Lloyds St Barts	(31,278)	-	270	33,058	2,050	6,473

Santander St Lukes		3,468	-	-	(3,468)	-	-
CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account		(32,238)	-	-	47,425	15,187	13,036
CCLA (CBF) St Barts deposit account		2,053	-	-	-	2,053	1,989
CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account		2,299	-	-	-	2,299	2,228
Cash in hand		144	-	-	-	144	37
	Total	**37,575**	**-**	**761**	**395**	**38,731**	**29,548**
Current Asset – Debtors							
Accounts Receivable		4,486	-	-	-	4,486	4,317
	Total	**4,486**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,486**	**4,317**
Liability - Agency Accounts							
Agency collections		141	-	(141)	-	-	-
	Total	**141**	**-**	**(141)**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year							
Accounts Payable		48,292	-	490	(24,948)	23,835	25,585
	Total	**48,292**	**-**	**490**	**(24,948)**	**23,835**	**25,585**
	Net total assets	**28,225**	**-**	**413**	**280,234**	**308,871**	**276,900**
Represented by							
General (Unrestricted)		28,225	-	-	-	28,225	16,889
Restricted – Admin		-	-	761	-	761	1,000
Restricted – PWE		-	-	(349)	-	(349)	(353)
Endowment – Cockburn		-	-	-	151,544	151,544	138,489
Endowment – Curacy		-	-	-	8,715	8,715	7,986
Endowment – Lawrence		-	-	-	24,048	24,048	25,212
Endowment – School		-	-	-	95,927	95,927	87,678
	Total	**28,225**	**-**	**413**	**280,234**	**308,871**	**276,900**

Fund movement summary

Fund		Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
Admin								
Restricted		1,000	-	239	-	-	-	761
	Sub-totals	**1,000**	**-**	**239**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**761**
Cockburn								
Endowment		138,489	4,150	4,150	-	13,055	-	151,544
	Sub-totals	**138,489**	**4,150**	**4,150**	**-**	**13,055**	**-**	**151,544**
Curacy								
Endowment		7,986	232	232	-	729	-	8,715
	Sub-totals	**7,986**	**232**	**232**	**-**	**729**	**-**	**8,715**
Lawrence								
Endowment		25,212	1,982	1,982	-	(1,164)	-	24,048
	Sub-totals	**25,212**	**1,982**	**1,982**	**-**	**(1,164)**	**-**	**24,048**
PWE								
Restricted		(353)	-	(5)	-	-	-	(349)
	Sub-totals	**(353)**	**-**	**(5)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(349)**
School								
Endowment		87,678	2,622	2,622	-	8,249	-	95,927
	Sub-totals	**87,678**	**2,622**	**2,622**	**-**	**8,249**	**-**	**95,927**
General								
Unrestricted		16,889	116,124	104,788	-	-	-	28,225
	Sub-totals	**16,889**	**116,124**	**104,788**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**28,225**
	Totals	**276,900**	**125,110**	**114,008**	**-**	**20,870**	**-**	**308,871**

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING

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

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the annual revaluation of listed investments to market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
- Income Tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Income from fund raising events is accounted for net of incidental expenses.

Other ordinary income:

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments:

- Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants:

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church:

- The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings:

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10 (2)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments:

- Investments are stated at market valuation.

Current assets:

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

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies						
Gift Aid – Bank	38,494	-	-	-	38,494	43,570
Gift Aid – Envelopes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other planned giving	1,750	-	-	-	1,750	1,652
Loose plate collections	622	-	-	-	622	689
One-off Gift Aid gifts	1,180	-	-	-	1,180	-
Donations appeals etc	7,684	-	-	-	7,684	7,590
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	10,895	-	-	-	10,895	9,987
Legacies	8,293	-	-	-	8,293	-
Non-recurring one-off grants	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	3,395
Other funds generated	1,369	-	-	-	1,369	-
Donations and legacies Totals	**72,788**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**72,788**	**66,884**
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	865	-	-	-	865	645
Church hall lettings – objectives	15,584	-	-	-	15,584	7,164
Income from charitable activities Totals	**16,449**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**16,449**	**7,809**
Other trading activities						
Rummage sales etc	1,982	-	-	-	1,982	1,120
Bookstall sales - fund raising	2,510	-	-	-	2,510	2,334
Other trading activities Totals	**4,491**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,491**	**3,454**
Investments						
Dividends	-	-	-	8,986	8,986	8,889
Bank and building society interest	514	-	-	-	514	213
Rent from lands or buildings	21,882	-	-	-	21,882	27,184
Investments Totals	**22,396**	**-**	**-**	**8,986**	**31,382**	**36,286**
Other income						
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	1,620
Other income Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,620**
Income and endowments Grand totals	**116,124**	**-**	**-**	**8,986**	**125,110**	**116,053**
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving to missionary societies	1,650	-	-	-	1,650	376
Giving - relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-	933
Home mission	2,426	-	-	-	2,426	2,340
Secular charities	795	-	-	-	795	931
Ministry parish share etc	17,913	-	-	8,754	26,667	45,813
Assistant staff costs	2,903	-	-	-	2,903	2,548
Salary of parish administrator	15,855	-	-	-	15,855	11,740
Working expenses of incumbent	-	-	-	-	-	(25)
Education	75	-	-	-	75	-
Parish training and mission	-	-	(5)	-	(5)	1,491
Church running – insurance	15,921	-	-	-	15,921	15,464
Church office – telephone	1,216	-	-	-	1,216	1,171
Organ / piano tuning	-	-	-	-	-	271
Church maintenance	2,632	-	-	-	2,632	42,328
Cleaning	1,099	-	-	-	1,099	1,975
Upkeep of services	3,549	-	-	232	3,781	2,832
Upkeep of churchyard	9,848	-	-	-	9,848	2,651
Administration	5,190	-	239	-	5,429	976

Church running – electric	4,394	-	-	-	4,394	4,189
Church running – gas	7,249	-	-	-	7,249	4,227
Church running – water	480	-	-	-	480	329
Church running – emergency heating	-	-	-	-	-	11,114
Hall running – electricity	1,986	-	-	-	1,986	853
Hall running – gas	6,995	-	-	-	6,995	2,655
Hall running – maintenance	2,215	-	-	-	2,215	726
Hall running – water	122	-	-	-	122	420
Church major repairs – structure	-	-	-	-	-	12,860
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	**104,513**	**-**	**234**	**8,986**	**113,733**	**171,188**
Other expenditure						
Governance costs examination/audit fee	275	-	-	-	275	250
Other expenditure Totals	**275**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**275**	**250**
Expenditure Grand totals	**104,788**	**-**	**234**	**8,986**	**114,008**	**171,438**

FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investments held by the Central Board of Finance – Investment units.

Cost at 31 December 2023 was £64,633 (market value £289,489) and at 31 December 2022 £64,633 (market value £268,620).

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Fixed assets and investment	**-**	**-**	**289,489**	**289,489**
Current assets	**43,217**	**-**	**-**	**343,217**
Current liabilities	**(23,835)**	**-**	**-**	**(23,835)**
Fund balance	**£19.382**	**-**	**£289,489**	**£308,871**

See note below for identification of funds.

LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
Accruals and deferred income	**£23,835**	**£25,585**

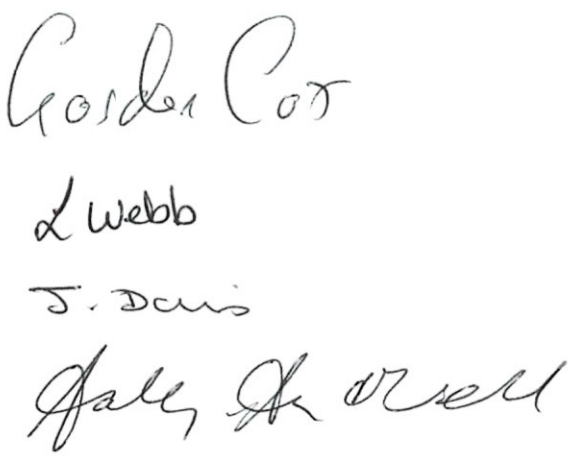
===== =====

FUND DETAILS

The endowment fund comprises the Church School Rooms Fund, Curacy Fund, Lawrence and Cockburn Bequests.

This report dated 14 Feb 2024:

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 Apr 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew Reading		
On accounts for the year ended	31-12-2023	**Charity no (if any)**	1158694
Set out on pages	**See accompanying Annual Report and Financial Statements**		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Association of Accounting Technicians.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

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

Signed:		**Date:**	11/03/2024
Name:	Jo McAllister		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Licenced Accountant; Association of Accounting Technicians. Member:20024190		

Address:	4 Danvers Close
	Thatcham, Berkshire
	RG19 3XT

Section B	Disclosure

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

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

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158694

Accounts

redlands
parish church

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew

Reading Reg. Charity No. 1158694

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 21 May 2023, 12 Noon,
In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Agenda
Minutes of 2022 Meeting
Parish Reports including Parish Accounts

redlands parish church

Sunday 21 May 2023, 12 Noon, In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

(Anyone on the electoral roll of the church, OR resident in the parish may vote in this meeting)

AGENDA

1. **Election of Churchwardens**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Only those on the electoral roll of the parish may vote in this meeting.
Others may ask questions and join in discussion at the discretion of the Chair

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the 2022 APCM**
3. **Confirmation/Elections of Deanery Synod Members**
4. **Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members**
    I. Election of PCC members
    II. Appoint independent examiner if necessary
    III. PCC Secretary
5. **Outline of the Annual Reports:**
    I. Chair of PCC Report
    II. Warden's Report
    III. Electoral Roll Update
    IV. Treasurer's Report
6. **Feedback, Questions and Any Other Business**
    (Items to be considered for AOB to be sent to the Chair no later than 19 May 2023)
7. **The Year Ahead**
8. **Closing Prayers**
9. **Dates of PCC meetings** – to be agreed by the members of the PCC

redlands parish church

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners and APCM
Sunday 22 May 2022, 12 Noon,
via Zoom and in person

Present in person: Rev'd Ross Meikle (Vicar), Rev'd Christine Blackman, Jane Kenyon, Kirsten Bayes, Libby Stroud, Elizabeth Rebbeck, Alan Tonkyn, Shelagh Tonkyn, Chris Wakelin, Melanie Shrubsall, Sylvia Rayner, Mary Evans, Barbara Walton, Sally-Ann McDowell, Julian Pratt, Janet Davis, Francis Jakeman, Gillian Lyne, Ola Cassels-White, Lynne Webb, Hilary Jakeman, Sarah Collins (PCC Secretary)

Present on zoom Marion Pitman; Dianne Tavares

Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

Meeting commenced at 12.03pm

1. Election of Churchwardens

Two nominations were received so Jane Kenyon and Kirsten Bayes were duly elected.

Meeting concluded at 12.11pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Meeting commenced at 12.13pm

1. Apologies for absence Bridget and Leslie green; Veronica and Roger Cox; Barbara Blakey; David and Helen Ewers.

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2021 APCM was proposed by Kirsten Bayes, seconded by Lynne Webb and passed unanimously.

3. **Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members**
   I. Leslie Green, Hilary Jakeman, and Sally-Ann McDowell will continue on the PCC and as representatives on Deanery Synod. Marion Pitman will step down from Deanery Synod and become an elected member of the PCC.
   Paul Carnell, Gillian Lyne, Roger Cox and Lynne Webb will continue as members of the PCC.
   Janet Davis was elected as a new member of the PCC and welcomed to the team.

Sarah Collins will continue as co-opted as Acting PCC Secretary. If you know anyone who might be interested in taking on this role, please speak with Ross or Sarah. Steve Allen is taking a break from the PCC after many years and was thanked for his commitment.

The PCC Membership is as above plus The Rev. Ross Meikle (Chair), The Rev. Christine Blackman and the two Churchwardens.

II. **The appointment of an Independent Examiner**. It will be necessary to appoint a new Independent Examiner. Not able to provide one at the moment but if anyone has any suggestions please contact Sally-Ann. There are some possible candidates, and these are being investigated. The work involved reviewing the accounts usually available from February to be ready for APCM in May. Does not take too long. As we are a charity, we do need someone competent to undertake this but we do not need a full audit so not necessary to be a qualified accountant although there are rules for who is able to inspect. A fee would be payable for this service – previously this has varied between £100 and £1500 (provision of full accounts). May be done electronically so could be someone working remotely. Could it be done electronically. An outline of what is required will be made available.

4. Outline of the Annual Reports:

The APCM report was sent out in advance of the meeting. Rev. Ross invited comments and questions.

I. Chair of PCC Report was accepted with no questions.

II. Warden's Report was accepted with no questions. Kirsten Bayes offered thanks to everyone who volunteers for the church. In Japan they say the meal is the work of many hands and this is true of the church. Thanks also to Sarah and clergy.

III. Electoral Roll Update was accepted with no questions. The Electoral Roll will be open to new applicants after the conclusion of the APCM. The PCC are responsible for reviewing and making decisions on applications.

IV. Treasurer's Report. Nothing to add nothing to add but if any questions after final accounts have been issued, please get in touch with Sally-Ann. The Independent Inspector has reviewed the accounts but final accounts not ready yet, but no issues raised so far.

5. Feedback and questions were invited as each report was considered.

Alan Tonkyn – The Vicar's report mentioned the vision meeting and raised again at the parish weekend considering where St Luke's wants to be by the 150th anniversary. Can you give us any idea of what came out of that meeting please?
Ross – going to park as that is going to come up under next item – The Year Ahead

Gillian – Safeguarding – we are now on level 2! Ross - huge strides made in the last year and Gillian has done a fabulous job of moving us forward on this and putting us in a

fabulous place. We are fully committed to looking after the most vulnerable in our community.

Alan Tonkyn – We had a bit of a shock during the year with the accounts showing we are way over our income – how are we going to survive?
Sally-Ann - Biggest expense was the boiler replacement at St Bartholomew's. The work on the roof didn't use money we had coming in but was funded from the sale of an endowment. There was about 15-20k extra which partially covered the boiler. We have used our deposit fund for the rest of the boiler and the emergency heating. Hopefully going to get people donating by resurrecting the plate. The biggest factor will be Read College themselves as although rent is low it is now covering utilities plus the bulk of the insurance costs and their rent coming in will make a big difference.
Alan Tonkyn - will it cover maintenance on the building? SAM yes for small amounts but would have to fund raise for larger amounts.

Ross put in an application for a contactless donation machine which was approved, and he attended webinar. Joshua from the diocese was talking about ways to encourage generous donations and fundraising. Also looking at options for people to give donations on a Sunday. He had a good meeting of people who are going to be Welcomers on a Sunday and there was discussion about what can be done as part of that. The bulk of fund raising comes from regular giving. Looking at fundraisers to give to the work of the church. Thank you to Sally Ann for holding us through this difficult period.

Libby Stroud – asked whether projected huge rise in energy cost will impact us or being part of the diocese will we get some remission.
SAM – the church is part of a scheme where buy in bulk so not affected so far but after October the fixed rate will end, and costs will rise. The Finance Group will be looking at what we can do. Ross is working with the buildings committee to look at how we manage some of the costs associated with our buildings.

7. The Year Ahead

RM – in October the Ministry Team (Ross, Christine, the Wardens and Sarah) stayed overnight at the Caversham Premier Inn overnight in Caversham, turning a bedroom into a study to spend time looking at scripture to try to discern what god is doing with us as a parish. We discussed the image of a bird bath – this theme continued at the PCC away afternoon at St Nicolas. Thinking about water and the bible verse the parable of the mustard seed. The idea being who are the birds within our community? Who does not come and rest in the Kingdom of God in our parish? Thinking about the communities we are and are not in touch with. This was framed at our weekend away in Bournemouth – water, birds, birth bath. What if we look at church as bird bath? Some really good discussion and questions emerged such as - who is going to clean the water? what do we do if rats or squirrels chase the birds away? Matt Andrews asked if bird baths are just for our own sense of comfort, don't serve a purpose but just make us feel better about ourselves. I want to run with the image of the bird bath and see where that might take us. I would like, over the next couple of years, having bird bath sessions - conversations about who are the pigeons we don't want, who are the squirrels? We also did some great craft activities and encouraged great conversations as well. Jane and I have discussed birdsong - where is the role of music in who we are and where we are going? We will be appointing a new music leader and we can see how music fits into the life of

the church. Where is Christ in all of this. Space to breathe. Would like other people to take the idea and run with it. We will all need to own this if there is something in there. Longer term would like to draw out some of those conversations and embedding them in the work of the parish and seeing if they might grow.

Separate to this is The Year of Wholeness and Healing but there may be some overlap between the two. I have been looking at Psalm 23 - still waters that birds come to for restoration and for wholeness and healing. There may be overlaps but the Year has an endpoint next June which may steer us in a whole different direction. Feedback and questions invited.

Alan Tonkyn – who we are and not engaging with – what conclusions did you draw?
RM – for examples students, non-Christian community, ecumenical interfaith,
Christine – the logo jane painted and the orange rectangle of bricks in church give a good idea of them. Challenges - one says restart Sunday club every Sunday – who is going to come forward and say I have seen this good idea and I want to run with it – it is easy to come up with ideas but expect someone else to do it, for example the Jubilee Tea Party. Who is going to say that's my bag and I am going to run with it. The risk is a cloud of warm thoughts without actions.

Gillian Lyne – At the Parish Weekend we discussed phrase "enemy of apathy" which was really challenging. Ian Collins really challenged us and made some very good points. (Ross chatted with Ian too. One thing to think about is to invite him to lead one of these sessions to do a deep dive). We have something already there with our Spaces for Life which is a place we could start/continue with if that is a framework we want to buy in to.

Shelagh Tonkyn – REinspired – we engage with two primary schools and it would be great if people could be a presence, welcome them or even join in with reinspired. If anyone felt they could contribute to this as currently no one from the church there. Could we help them financing. ST primary AT secondary. Right on our doorstep in our community.

Ross said that REinspired borne out of St Nicolas. Have had them in the church and RM intends to be there to meet and greets. Preparation help or being there would be great.

Ross - One last thing about presence in church. Once of conversation at PCC and Welcomers meeting is having people in the church during the week, trying to build a presence in the church so it can be open to the community.

There was no other business raised.

6. A closing prayer was offered by Christine.

7. Dates of PCC meetings will be agreed by the members of the PCC using an electronic calendar.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2023

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2023

Administrative information

St Luke's and St Bartholomew's are two churches joined into one parish, situated in Reading, Berkshire. They are part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is ***The Parish Office, St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LH.***

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity which is registered with the Charity Commission.

Members of the PCC from the last APCM (22 May 2022) until the date this report was approved are:

The Rev'd Ross Meikle, Vicar, Chair
The Rev'd Christine Blackman, Associate Priest
Kirsten Bayes, Church Warden, St Luke's
Jane Kenyon, Church Warden, St Bartholomew's

Deanery Synod representatives *(until 31st May 2023)*
Leslie Green Hilary Jakeman
Sally-Ann McDowell, Treasurer

Other elected members:
Paul Carnell Roger Cox
Mary Evans Lynne Webb
Marion Pitman

Co-opted members:
Sarah Collins (Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary)

Officers newly elected at APCM 23 May 2022
Janet Davis

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

Objectives and activities
St Luke with St Bartholomew's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Churches of St Luke's, Erleigh Road, Reading; St Bartholomew's, London Road, Reading; and the Parish Hall, Erleigh Road, Reading.

Church attendance
The number on the Electoral Roll at 9 May 2023 is 87. We continued to provide zoom links for services which were appreciated by people who were unwell or out of Reading. The average weekly in attendance in October was 49 (of which 5 was under the age of 16) at St Luke's and ***0*** at St Bart's. A family service was held at St Bartholomew's just before Christmas. This was attended by 14 Adults and 6 Children. On Christmas Day 70 adults and 12 children attended the services in person with a number of others joining via Zoom.

Review of the year
The PCC has met on 7 occasions since the last APCM.

Chair to PCC

This year, the PCC have shown good governance across the life of our parish and made decisions that will enable us to move forward as a safer and more conscious church. Here are some of our key decisions and discussions:

- **Policies**
  We ratified several policies relating to Safer Recruitment, Health and Safety, and Safeguarding.
- **Hall Manager**
  It was decided to split the role of Parish Administrator with a separate Hall Manager role, to have a stricter handle on our finances and to enable each role to flourish.
- **Safeguarding Training for PCC Members**
  It was agreed that new PCC members need to have completed their Safeguarding training within 6 weeks in order to stay on the PCC.
- **Gambling**
  We explored the topic of 'gambling in church', what the Bible and Christian tradition say on the matter, and discussed what our expectations are of ourselves at, say, the Christmas Fair, and others who use our buildings.
- **Read College response**
  I was mightily impressed by the response of the PCC and the good levels of governance on display as we discussed the situation regarding Read College.

There have been some requests for better communication between the PCC and the wider

church congregation. This has been noted and the incoming PCC will be given the opportunity to discuss how to develop this in the year ahead.

The Reverend Ross Meikle

Churchwardens' Reports

St Luke's Church

This year saw much of the activities in the Parish return to something resembling their pre Covid form.

The year of Wholeness and Healing, and all the work on remembering our history, including the pantomime (tribute!) brought great joy, and the work of the volunteers on the healing garden will provide a place where we can continue to reflect. Thank you to all involved.

I've hugely appreciated the work of our Clergy, Welcomers, Chalice bearers, Refreshment providers, Servers, Choir, and Flower Arrangers who have worked so hard to make our services so special, and all those who give so much of their time to run the Toddler Group, Coffee Mornings, Craft Group, Sunday Club, Community Garden and all the other groups and clubs that make the Parish such a brilliant place to be. Special thanks also to Gillian and all those working on Safeguarding, and Sally-Ann and the finance team, who make much of the above possible, and to the PCC who devote so much time to making sure the Church governance is all it should be.

Buildings have been especially challenging over the last year, with the boilers in our churches and hall all deciding to misbehave during the cold spell, so again huge thanks to all those who have been so devoted to this work.

And finally thank you to Sarah our Parish Administrator; Jane, as fellow Warden; Ross, and Christine, who have helped us all navigate the journey of the last several years.

The Church finds itself facing a number of challenges: financial, infrastructural, and the need for more pairs of hands to help with its many activities as it grows its mission in the Parish.

If you have been wondering "how can I help?" there are many opportunities: please do ask.

Kirsten Bayes, Churchwarden

St Bartholomew's Church

In my last year of being Churchwarden we held a successful St Bartholomew's Day event with the retelling of the story of Lazarus which involved lots of toilet paper and drama! The Christmas celebration introduced a new character in the form of Thomas, the Stable Cat, who made guest appearances at other services over Christmas.

Amongst many enjoyable and innovative social events, we restarted our Scrabble Club in the Autumn and it has gone from strength to strength with three tables of players.

The DAC finally gave permission for the creation of the Healing Garden for the community on the land around the church. Grant funding from the Diocese and a generous gift from RG Spaces enabled the commission of a beautiful bespoke bench. It is temporarily residing at the back of church where it is much admired and enjoyed as a comfortable perching place. Five native trees have been planted and are thriving and a notice keeping the community up to date with our plans is proudly displayed in a beautiful bright pink wheelbarrow donated to us by Sun Street Community Garden.

I can hardly believe that I have been Churchwarden for fifteen years. There have been moments of great joy but also of sadness and the church is in good heart as I pass the responsibility to my successor. My new role as Hall Manager promises to be challenging and rewarding.

Jane Kenyon, Churchwarden

Annual report from PCC Buildings Committee

The maintenance of our three buildings remains a challenge. Fuel prices have soared. The trees continue to grow, now overhanging the public highway and need lopping. The valves and pumps on our heating systems approach the end of their useful life and need replacing.

Next year the Quinquennial Inspections are due but by good governance over the past years I do not expect any major items of expenditure.

All of the statutory inspections and annual maintenance contracts on our three properties are up to date.

We still pay respect to the restrictions brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic but are pleased to see our buildings once more starting to serve our community.

When, on 30 November 2021, we signed the 25 year licence with Read College, allowing them to use St Bartholomew's church as their main operational home, and in December 2022, the College received DAC approval to fit a sound proof wall around the Rood screen so providing two distinct useable spaces of the Chancel and Nave, we had secured the church's future. Sadly, the College has run into financial difficulties and has informed us of its pending closure.

Storage in the Hall is being addressed and a review is being carried out as to how to provide a toilet accessible directly to garden users.

New phone lines and Internet contracts have been set up for the church and hall. This has improved Wi-Fi performance and is expected to save money.

To improve security in the church office a new door-bell video system has been installed.

The sensory Healing Garden has received Archdeacon approval, the bench and trees purchased and planting begun.

We again owe a huge thank you to Roger Cox for project managing and, in many cases, undertaking the tasks involved in maintaining and refurbishing our three properties. I am mindful of Roger's desire to step back from this role.

The Buildings Committee would also like to thank Sarah and Jane for the day-to-day management of the Hall and the Church.

May I conclude this report by thanking all members of the congregation who have assisted the Buildings Committee in maintaining the fabric of the buildings.

Leslie Green,
Chair of the Buildings Committee
April 2023

Finance

Treasurer's Report

Finance
Treasurer's Report
This report is based on the accounts produced by the treasurer directly using the accounting software.
At the summary level, in 2022 our income was greater than our expenditure.

INCOME
Total Income was about £106,000 (compared to £99,500 in 2021 and £100,000 in 2020).

Income from donors, collections and gift aid
In 2022, we received about £43,600 via the bank (compared with £33,700 in 2021 and £37,500 in 2020). The gift aid recovered from giving and one off donations (for tax year 2021-2022) was just under £10,000 (in 2021 this was about £7,500). There were additional donations via the contactless device and the hole in the wall plus other generous donations amounting to about £12,200.

Income from buildings rent (hall and churches):
In 2022, income from building rent was about £34,350 (compared with £33,700 in 2021 and £37,500 in 2020). The hall income was higher than in 2021 (about £7,200) but sadly the NHS Holiday club is no longer operating due to costs and so we have had to find alternative hirers. This is proving hard but Sarah has found some new groups and so we are hopeful we can continue to increase rental income to a level similar to before the pandemic. Read College continued to rent St Bartholomew's, but they had a cash problem towards the end of the year and so the PCC agreed to a 3 month rent holiday to allow them to recover which they seem to have done. During this period, though they continued to cover the costs of utilities as per their agreement.
Other income:
Coffee mornings occurred regularly again in 2022 and about £2,300 was raised for various charities at these events. The Christmas Fair also raised £1,100 and there was about £650 for weddings and funerals.

EXPENDITURE
Total expenditure was about £161,300 (compared to £253,500 in 2021 and £115,200 in 2020).

Major Building works and repairs
The final works related to the replacement of St Bartholomew's roof was £12,900. The boiler replacement at St Bartholomew's also cost £39,500.

Utilities and insurance (excluding water)
Insurance in the two churches (and hall) increased to £15,500 from £12,400 in 2021. Read College covered a portion related to building and contents at St Bartholomew's as per their agreement.
Electricity in the two churches was about £4,200 which is about £1,800 more than the previous year which is not surprising as the buildings were more in use. We had an increase in our energy prices from October 2022, so we were fortunate to keep our fixed prices for a few months after the general price rise of energy.

Heating costs were about £15,350 on the two churches, though this includes about £11,100 emergency heating costs for St Bartholomew's while the boiler was broken. Gas usage at St Bartholomew's is covered by Read College and due to previous years overpayment is currently simply reducing the credit that we have built up, but Read College pay the value of the invoice. The amount they have used in 2022 was about £5,000 (not included in the figure above).
Hall gas was about £2,650 so considerably more than in 2021 (£1,300), but this was due to greater use of the hall. In 2022, electricity was about £850 compared to about £500 in 2021.

Charitable giving:
As in recent years, we did not give 10% of our planned giving to charities in 2022. Our plan had been to continue to donate to some local charities regularly (which we continued to do) and then do one off fundraising for others throughout the year. Due to the coffee mornings restarting and other charitable events, we managed to give about £4,600 to charities which is considerably higher than 2021 (£2,500) and 2020 (£2,600) and puts us back at a level similar to before the pandemic.

Parish Share:
Our Parish share was £45,800 in 2022 compared to £47,250 in 2021.

Parish Administrator:
Costs for Parish Administrator reduced slightly to about £11,750 including tax, national insurance and pension compared to just over £12,700 in 2021.

BALANCE OF FUNDS
Our usable funds have dropped even more than last year to £33,866. These were £86,700 in 2021, £103,300 in 2020 and £119,000 in 2019. This has been due to a reduction in income from rent and the recent increase in energy prices but mainly due to the final spend on St Barts roof plus the costs associated with a new boiler and emergency heating at St Barts.
We do also have some untouchable funds, which were valued at £268,620 on 31 Dec 2022 compared to £301,512 on 31 Dec 2021. These are the Lawrence Bequest, the Curacy fund, the Schoolrooms fund, and the Cockburn Bequest.

Reserves Policy
The usable funds that we hold in reserve reduced due to a decrease in the value of the investments plus the major works and repairs at St Barts. The reserves policy was not discussed in 2022, however our accounts show that we still meet the reserves policy as set in 2011.
The reserves policy is still to maintain reserves of at least £5,000 per building for emergency maintenance to the buildings. The maximum amount to be held in reserves was agreed to be £100,000, although we could potentially hold more if the PCC determined there was a valid reason for doing so.
All reserves are held as funds invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England for the time being.

Finance Committee
The finance committee regrouped in 2022 and started to hold regular meetings to ensure the finances are regularly reviewed. If anyone has an interest in joining, please do let me know.

Due to the recent financial issues the parish has been seeing, the finance committee would like to suggest that coffee mornings for the next year raise funds solely for the church. This will allow the church to hopefully build up funds so we will be able in the future to support other charities. A suggestion would also be for individuals from the congregation using the hall to consider providing funds to cover extra gas and electricity whilst they are using the facilities.

Sally-Ann McDowell
Treasurer

Safeguarding report 2023

'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you' Jeremiah 29:11

The importance of creating a safer environment and culture within our church, where all will prosper and none will be harmed, continues to be of the utmost importance. An awareness of the safety and appropriate interaction with vulnerable individuals within our community is essential as we seek to create an environment which is welcoming, respectful and enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently.

As safeguarding continues to be an important aspect of church life there are frequent reviews of training, DBS checks and it is a standing item on each PCC agenda.

An Action Plan following the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard has seen various policies brought before the PCC for approval. New policies on the recruitment of ex-offenders, whistle blowing and a list of church activities that require safeguarding checks have all been approved by the PCC as well as an annual review of the Safeguarding Policy.

We are now on level 3 (last year it was level 1) of the Dashboard and have now completed 78% of the requirements of the Diocese.

Two new members of staff have been recruited in the past year following the guidance of the Diocesan Safer Recruitment and People Management framework.

Many thanks to Jenny Page for all her work as DBS verifier and to all those people who have undertaken the online training and recruitment process. I am also grateful for all who contributed to the role descriptions and person specifications for the various jobs advertised.

Gillian Lyne

Vicar's Report – The Reverend Ross Meikle

Most of this year past year has included our Year of Wholeness and Healing - an opportunity to mark and celebrate the time between the 140th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of St Luke's and the 140th anniversary of the consecration (which will be in June 2023). I have found it a helpful phrase for reflection throughout the year, and it's been exciting to see how different groups across our church community have embraced the idea, especially as we have increasingly enjoyed opportunities to be together in-person after the COVID-19 restrictions.

We have had a series of social events - Pimms & Hymns; Soups & Puds; Graves & Gelato; Panto & Punch; - which have given us opportunities to regather and enjoy the company of friends, old and new.

There has been a series of displays and materials produced about the history of the church, thanks to Ola, Gillian, and Gordon. Along with the Lent group 'Secrets of the Sanctuary', this year has also reconnected us with our building and the worshippers who have come before us.

Furthermore, the House Group have looked at the healing miracles of Jesus; wholeness and healing were the theme for our Parish Weekend; and work has begun on the healing garden on the corner of Donnington Road.

The Year of Wholeness and Healing will conclude on 6th June, and for me its legacy will be a year of **re-gathering** in our church, hall and garden; of **re-discovering** of our shared identity in Christ across the generations; and, of **re-finding** our feet together as we seek to bring God's message of love, healing and wholeness to the parish around us.

We continue to serve the kingdom of God through baptisms of children born to families in our local parish or who have a historic connection to St Luke's. Furthermore, off the back of my engagement with the University Chaplaincy, we have brought two young adults to confirmation, who have from time to time worshipped with us as St Luke's.

We have also held funerals - not only for our own dearly departed (especially Tim Baker, Barbara Walton, and Heather Stratford) but also for others within the parish. It was a privilege to lead the funerals of a couple who were married at St Luke's and lived in the house next-door to Tutu's in Palmer Park.

Over the past year, the phrase "we have everything we need" keeps coming up - from rope used to suspend the hymn boards from St Bartholomew's to the fabric used to make a river from the altar for our Mothering Sunday service. It has become something of a joke between us and God that as we imagine something that we want to do, we find the very thing we need to do it...!

This past year, we have become a poorer church financially through factors outside our control. Sally-Ann's finance report goes into more detail.

However, we have become richer in discovering the gifts that we already have - either by what we have found in cupboards or by the generosity of the church to specific projects and needs.

I've been your vicar for over two years now, and as I reflect on those years with others, I am reminded that most incumbents haven't dealt with half of what I've been confronted with: from managing lockdowns, to HR, and our current financial situation... These are things that theological college just doesn't prepare you for! It hasn't been an easy or straightforward two years, but I want to thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your kindness which have been invaluable in keeping me grounded. Thank you.

Ross

The Year Ahead...

At our Candlemas service and my second anniversary as vicar, I identified three areas for the development of our life together as a parish:

1. **Reflecting our globality**
   We are a multicultural congregation, but that isn't reflected across our groups or our worship. Let's look for ways to develop this together.
2. **Deepening our inclusivity**
   We have signed up to Inclusive Church, and it will be good to become more aware of how we can better support those who do not feel as if church is available or accessible to them - especially people who are discriminated on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.
3. **Strengthening our parish relationships**
   Part of our Anglican identity comes from our commitment to bring before God the needs and prayers of the people of our parish. I hope that over the coming years, we can build stronger relationships with the local residents, communities, and businesses across Redlands Parish. Thus, enabling us to better pray and serve, and to become known as place of safety, kindness, and love for those who need it.

These are some long-term goals for us as we grow and seek to be more Christ-like, in accordance with the Diocese of Oxford's vision.

More short-term, it will be good for us to take the next year **to stabilise our finances**. This report has highlighted the severity of our financial situation and some of the ways this out-going PCC has sought to mitigate our losses. The Ministry Team with the new PCC will need to make some difficult decisions, and some of recommendations have been made throughout this report.

There's an old proverb: "Necessity is the mother of invention." It isn't biblical but I find a kernel of wisdom within it: as someone with a theatre background, I know that limited resources are not necessarily a hindrance, but rather can inspire and create something all the more powerful and striking.

As we learn to live and worship as a much poorer church, let us use what we have to the glory of God and allow the Holy Spirit to inspire us.

The Inclusive Church Statement

"We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

Ross

Sunday Club Report

Sunday Club meets on the last Sunday of the month during the 10.30 am service.

There are five leaders who take it in turns to run the sessions and about eight children attend each session although fifteen children have attended over the last year.

Each session has faith teaching, prayers and a song, games and craft activities.

Highlights over the past year have been growing seeds, decorating biscuits and making stained glass windows.

We are aware of the safety and wellbeing of the children with all leaders having completed Safeguarding training and having DBS clearance, and working in pairs.

Christine

Music report

At the time of the last APCM, we were saying goodbye to Gemma and in a time of interregnum as we began the process of appointing a new Music Leader. I'm ever so grateful to Gordon Cox and Tim Hora for supporting the choir and congregation during that time, and again to Gordon for his helpfulness in the appointment process.

We were delighted to appoint James Bryant as new Music Leader who began from the start of September and is a wonderful new addition to our community.

After consultation with the PCC, the decision was made to invest in hymnbooks that matched the choir's. We launched a fund-raising appeal called 'Singing from the Same Hymnbook' which allowed us to buy 10 large print and 60 regular print hymnbooks through a local Christian bookshop in Wokingham.

Thanks also to Janet Davis who sourced the very smart crates that the hymnbooks 'live in' and fit like a glove on the back pew!

Ross

Pastoral Care Team Report April 2023

The Pastoral Care Team and supportive parishioners, have tried to provide Care and Support to members of the congregation. The Team consists of Christine Blackman, Mary Evans, Everette Marshall, Ross Meikle and myself, Sheila Cox. I'd like to thank all members for their support and visits during this year.

Church Members have been visited and given lifts to church and other events, as required including to the monthly coffee mornings. Shopping support is available to those who need this help.

We have sadly lost some church friends this year, Tim Baker, Mary Manning, Heather Stratford and Barbara Walton. Some people might also remember Les Whitehead (Cynthia's husband) who died last month.

Sheila tries to keep the prayer list up to date of those members who need praying for. Please contact her or Sarah if names need adding or taking away from the weekly sheet.

The teas for Senior Citizens have re-commenced. Thank you to the hosts and those who supply refreshments. It is wonderful to be able to have contact directly with others following a difficult period during the Covid Years.

Sheila Cox - Pastoral Care Leader

Parish Toddler Group

The Toddler Group is a part of the church's outreach into the community, and as such is very much appreciated by people who live locally, and also by those who travel in from further afield. It depends completely on the regular work of the team - Melanie, Janet Shield, John Starr, Francis & myself. In addition, we have our wonderful group of helpers who turn up, on a rota basis, to make the refreshments - Shelagh, Libby, Elizabeth Andrews, Janet Davis & Bridget. Without them the group would not function as well as it does.

The hall is a very pleasant venue.

We are known as a friendly group apparently. Do you know how long it has been running? One young lady who attends, with her little boy, told us that she came to the group when she herself was a toddler, & she was curious to know how long it had run before she knew it.

We can have as many as 25 children in the hall at once, but it is more like 15 each week. Some families attend almost every week, others more infrequently. The main publicity seems to be word of mouth, from a friend, family member or an acquaintance from nursery.

We have people attend the group who speak different languages - on any day we may have people who come from Italy, Poland, Pakistan, Brazil and Hong Kong. The children attend with their mother, or father, grandmother, grandfather, even a great grandmother, or a minder, nanny or family friend.

We meet every Wednesday in term time, including the half term week. Many of the families who attend do not have school-age children, so their lives are not yet governed by the school timetable, & they are glad of somewhere to go on a Wednesday morning with their little ones. We still have a break in the main school holidays, though some people would like the group to function then too!

We finish each Wednesday with clearing up time, when everybody lends a hand, followed by a sing song, which I lead, while the rest of the team sort the toys & put them away in order. Most of the children & their carers join in the singing & the action songs with great pleasure, but some of the little ones love it when the hall is suddenly clear & they can run up & down in a big space!

We always publicise church activities, such as the coffee mornings, Christmas services, Mothering Sunday and so on, without putting anyone under pressure, of course. If you give people information, they can make an informed decision about whether to attend a church activity. Without information, they are excluded.

It is rare for me to go out without seeing someone I know from the Toddler Group. I am starting to see children that I knew as very little ones who are now taller than I am!

Hilary Jakeman

Monthly Coffee Morning

The coffee mornings continue to be held in the parish hall on the first Saturday of each month, from 11 am - 12 noon, the only exception being planned in May 2023 (at the time of writing) when the coffee morning will be held on 13 May, the coronation being on 6 May.

We usually have a break in August, often also in January, and in December the church Christmas Fair is usually held on the first Saturday of December, so we all contribute to that.

The coffee mornings have two equally important aims: 1. to bring together church members & people who live locally - a really valuable & fruitful part of our church outreach into the neighbourhood - and 2. to raise much needed funds. It has been a great joy in recent months to see members of the Toddler Group at the coffee mornings. As a result we always get out a few toys now, for the little ones.

The coffee mornings depend on the team members who turn up so faithfully to contribute to the work - Sally-Ann who makes the tea, coffee & cakes, Libby & Margaret who run the raffle, Mary who sells preserves & other scrumptious goodies, Melanie on the cake stall,

Elizabeth with a constant variety of interesting bric-a-brac, and John & Francis, who put up the banner the week beforehand, & the bunting on the morning, taking it down afterwards. I have to find a substitute for the Traidcraft stall! There is room in the hall for more stalls, so if you have an idea, do please come & join us.

We support a different charity each month, & I am always glad to hear from members of the congregation about a favourite charity which they would like to support.

In the last year we sent money to :

The Children's Society (formerly the Church of England Children's Society)
The appeal for help for victims of the earthquakes in Syria & Turkey
Church Action on Poverty (a UK-wide organisation)
Reading's Food Bank
The Chocolatada in Pilcomayo, Peru
RE Inspired (work in Reading's schools)
UNICEF
USPG (an international mission organisation)
The Jo Cox Foundation
Medical Aid for Palestine
Reading Refugee Council

At the coffee morning in May we shall be raising funds for Christian Aid, as the annual Week runs from 14 - 20 May. The cakes & coffee every month are unsurpassed, and there is always a variety of goods to be seen on the different stalls. We look forward to seeing you next time!

Hilary Jakeman

Traidcraft

Sales of Traidcraft's fair trade items were very good last year, I thought, helped by the fact that I took over another Fair Trader's contacts. So I ran a number of stalls apart from the regular ones at St. Luke's coffee mornings & in church. I went to Marlow Methodist Church, to St, Mary's in Henley & to St. James', Woodley, in addition to the Christmas Fair run by the Reading University chaplaincy.

It was a shock to me, when I received the email in January, announcing the end of Traidcraft. It was started by Christians in 1979, aiming to help people trade their way out of poverty. If a producer can make a living from their work, in the place where they work, then they do not have to consider moving somewhere else in order to make a living, their children can go to school & they can plan for a happier future. I was a fair trader with Traidcraft for 20 years, and a customer for longer than that!

The great bonus, with the Traidcraft catalogue, was that you could buy from a great range of products, all of them checked for quality & value for money. The craft items were all delightful, & the food items delicious!

Reading remains a committed fair trade town, & if you want to keep buying ethically-traded goods, you should go to the World Shop in London Street. The supermarkets sell

some fair trade items, and it is always a good idea for customers to lobby for more fair trade in the supermarkets!

I used to get Easter Eggs from the Traidcraft catalogue, & it was very good news this year that the Meaningful Chocolate Company managed to sell its wonderful products through direct sales to fair traders.

It is encouraging that the manager of the World Shop has arranged a meeting in May, to which she has invited fair traders & all who are interested in trying to continue Traidcraft's work. We shall see what more the shop can do & whether we can do some sort of mail order work too.

Hilary Jakeman

House Group/ Evening Lent Group report 2023

The Group comprised 11 regular (or fairly regular!) members, meeting, as before, at Alan and Shelagh's house in Eastern Avenue, usually on the first Tuesday of every month outside the period of Lent. In Lent, as in the past, the Group was reorganised, with Francis and Hilary Jakeman leaving us to form a daytime Group and recruiting (mainly) new members, while the remaining members continued as an evening Group. Both of these Lent Groups met on a weekly basis.

After Easter, from May to July, it seemed appropriate to study the first post-Easter church, by looking at the first three chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. We looked at Jesus's commissioning of the disciples ('You will be my witnesses') and what it means to be a 'witness'. We puzzled over the significance of the Ascension and the Second Coming. We discussed the gift of the Holy Spirit, and its effect on the Apostles, and especially on Peter as he boldly addressed the crowd at Pentecost and later in Solomon's portico of the Temple, and on the impressive behaviour of the early church. What lessons could we learn from this?

After a break in August, our September meeting focused on the theme of 'Wholeness and Healing' which Ross has set as the focus of our 140th anniversary year. We examined what we, and Ross (through a message), understood by those terms, and how the congregation had interpreted them via their postings on the prayer wall in church. We looked at a list of the healings of Jesus, and Group members spoke about their favourite healings, and the themes that emerge from the types of healing performed by our Lord.

In October and November we turned our attention to the parables of Jesus. We considered what we understood by the term 'parable' and why Jesus had so often taught in this way. Group members had been asked to nominate, and discuss, two favourite parables. We looked at the main themes that emerged from Jesus's parables as a whole, such as the need for action and repentance, and the dangers of pride and complacency.

Our Advent session in December focused on the lead-up to Jesus's birth as described in Luke, Ch. 1, looking at angelic visitations to Zechariah, Elizabeth and Mary, with closer attention to Mary's and Zechariah's hymns of praise, the Magnificat and the Benedictus.

In January and February, Francis proposed, and led, a discussion of 1 Peter, a book addressed to churches with congregations of low status people, referred to as 'exiles and aliens', and a text especially appropriate as we learn that Christians are now a minority in our land. 1 Peter gives suggestions as to how we can strengthen our faith in the face of incomprehension, apathy or derision, and shows how Christ's suffering can inspire those suffering for their faith today.

In Lent, the evening Group based its discussions on Bishop Steven Croft's course 'Deep Sea Fishing', which looks at how the Church needs, like Peter and his fellow-fishermen, to leave the comforting shallows, and boldly go out into deeper, and more challenging, waters if we are to make a miraculous catch of men and women for the Lord. We followed, and learnt from, the account of St Paul's second missionary journey in Acts 16-20, as he travelled through Asia Minor, meeting triumphs and setbacks along the way. The major theme of the course was how to 'do' evangelism in today's world, and how the Church can help and sustain us in this. (For a report on the daytime Lent Group, please see below.)

Alan Tonkyn
11/04/23

Report of the Daytime Lent Group 2022

A total of 10 people attended all or some of the 5 meetings held at the home of Francis and Hilary. We enjoyed a 4 week course written by the Bishop of Oxford, studying the four chapters of St Paul's letter to the Philippians. The first week was spent looking at St Paul's time in Philippi described in Acts 16.

Written during Lockdown, the course encouraged us to give thanks and rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus is alive and present with us.

His willingness to empty himself and become a servant, helped us to explore the theme of humility and its application to our own relationships. It became clear from the letter just how much St Paul valued the love and support he had received from the church in Philippi. This had helped him to see God at work, even in his time of imprisonment; such that his presence now in Rome had given the Christians there the confidence to 'speak the word with greater boldness'.

Finally, we remarked on Paul's repeated delight in the joy he got from knowing the Christians in Philippi, & for their love & support even in times that were difficult for them. We counted 13 occasions in which Paul told the Philippians to rejoice, & at our final meeting we listened to the beautiful anthem composed by Purcell - "Rejoice in the Lord always".

We were delighted by the fellowship we experienced in the group and would like to thank all those who joined us.

Francis and Hilary Jakeman

Erleigh Road Community Garden

Thursday morning sessions at the garden continued over the winter this year and we were glad to be able to use the church for teas and coffee to warm up at the end of the session on the colder days! Now that Spring is here, the after-school club is starting up again on Fridays from 3.15-4.30pm and regular Saturday sessions start up on the 22nd April from 3-4.30pm. The garden was open on Saturday 8th April for a special Easter session with Easter treasure trail, seed sowing and plant and seed sale. The damson, plum and pear blossom were out as well as daffodils, forget-me-nots, pulmonaria and primroses attracting lots of happy bees! Thanks to Mary for providing tea/coffee, cheese scones and Easter biscuits and also for providing refreshments throughout the year as well.

Last year the garden won the Gold award in the Community Gardens category in Reading in Bloom. It's a lovely achievement for everyone who has been involved in the garden.

As well as our regular community garden sessions we'll be running a number of new taster workshops over the next few months such as willow weaving, yoga or Tai-chi, art and more. Please keep an eye out for these as they'll be advertised in the notice sheet.

Naomi German

Deanery Synod

Your Synod reps. are Sally-Ann, Leslie & Hilary

The meetings of Reading Deanery Synod are of interest to us mainly for the chance to meet members of other churches in the Deanery. We also meet at other churches, so I am able to have a look at other buildings and church situations, at notice boards and other facilities, seeing how other congregations do things.

The main business of the Synod is:

1. To agree the Parish Share for each church
2. To produce and update the Deanery Mission Action Plan
3. To assist parishes in new developments e.g. Reading Gateway and in Burghfield area
4. To maintain a two way communication between PCCs and the Diocese with the aim of influencing General Synod and Parish objectives on such things as climate change.

Due to changes in the deanery leadership and management structure in the past year, the emphasis has been largely on item 1 and little on the Mission Action Plan

There is usually a presentation of "good news" from one parish.

At the last meeting, on 30 March '23, we spent a large part of the time in sharing news of how our congregations had changed, or not, in recent months. Most people said that their congregations had not returned the same from lockdown, with some members now permanently missing. But they had all found a higher than expected arrival of new members. Naturally the churches that offer consistent children's activities have

experienced the biggest increase in numbers, because families were now joining them. There was some discussion about how to encourage people to volunteer for all the things that need doing!

At the meeting on 23 November 2022 we had a fascinating presentation on the work of RE Inspired. Many members of the various churches, all volunteers, go into local schools, primary and secondary, to talk about what it means to be a Christian. The work is increasing and it sounds as if the schools are all really grateful to have people coming in to help with the teaching of religious education. The Rev. Richard Bainbridge is the new chair of Re Inspired. He is well known to some members of St. Luke's congregation, having taken services at times when there was no vicar.

At this meeting there was also a presentation on "Citizens UK". Oxford Diocese joined this movement two years ago and Synod agreed to join now. This was followed up on 7 March 2023 with a meeting in Reading Minster, entitled "Reading Citizens Listening Launch". Members of Deanery Synod were invited and a very good number turned up, along with people from all sorts of other local organisations - everybody from the local Roman Catholic churches, the Reading University Students Union and University administration, women's groups, men's groups, and many others that I had never heard of before! We are committed now to having as many conversations as possible and listening to the answers, about "If you had the power to change one thing about Reading or the wider Thames Valley area, what would you change, and why?" We need to be ready to report back by 15 June '23.

The Synod comes to the end later this year of its current three- year run, so the members need to stand down or be re elected.

Hilary Jakeman

St Luke with St Bartholomew, Reading

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31 Dec 2022

- **Introduction**

As per last year, the accounts have been produced directly from the accounting system (Finance Co-ordinator offline version 1) and are rounding up rather than showing only the pound.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	65,884	1,000	—	66,884	43,121
Income from charitable activities	7,809	—	—	7,809	5,052
Other trading activities	3,454	—	—	3,454	1,093
Investments	27,397	—	8,889	36,286	41,097
Other income	1,620	—	—	1,620	9,221
Total income	**106,164**	**1,000**	**8,889**	**116,053**	**99,583**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	—	—	—	—	—
Expenditure on charitable activities	161,038	1,261	8,889	171,188	253,382
Other expenditure	250	—	—	250	—
Total expenditure	**161,288**	**1,261**	**8,889**	**171,438**	**253,382**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(55,124)**	**(261)**	**—**	**(55,385)**	**(153,799)**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	130,000
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	(130,000)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	43,208
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	(32,892)	(32,892)	—
Net movement in funds	**(55,124)**	**(261)**	**(32,892)**	**(88,277)**	**(110,591)**
Total funds brought forward	**72,013**	**908**	**292,257**	**365,177**	**475,768**
Total funds carried forward	**16,889**	**647**	**259,364**	**276,900**	**365,177**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	16,889	—	—	16,889	72,013
Restricted					
Administrator	—	1,000	—	1,000	—
Parish Weekend	—	(353)	—	(353)	908
Endowment					
Cockburn Bequest	—	—	138,489	138,489	157,003
Curacy Fund	—	—	7,986	7,986	9,020
Lawrence Bequest	—	—	25,212	25,212	26,858
Schoolrooms Fund	—	—	87,678	87,678	99,376

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	Schoolrooms Fund	87,677	99,375
	Cockburn Bequest	138,762	157,276
	Lawrence Bequest	34,432	36,079
	Curacy Fund	7,748	8,782
	Total Fixed assets	**268,620**	**301,512**
Current assets			
	NatWest St Lukes	5,069	32,312
	NatWest Hall	715	2,646
	Lloyds St Barts	6,473	11,146
	Santander St Lukes	—	1,430
	CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account	13,036	31,144
	CCLA (CBF) St Barts deposit account	1,989	1,964
	CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account	2,228	2,199
	Cash in hand	37	37
	Accounts Receivable	4,317	3,832
	Total Current assets	**33,866**	**86,709**
Liabilities			
	Agency collections	—	—
	Accounts Payable	25,585	23,044
	Total Liabilities	**25,585**	**23,044**
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	**276,900**	**365,177**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(55,385)	(153,799)
	Starting balances	391,390	501,981
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(26,213)	16,994
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(32,892)	—
	Total Reserves	**276,900**	**365,177**
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	16,889	72,013
	Designated	—	—
	Restricted	647	908
	Endowment	259,364	292,257
	Total	**276,900**	**365,177**

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Schoolrooms Fund -	—	—	—	87,677	87,677	99,375
Cockburn Bequest -	273	—	—	138,489	138,762	157,276
Lawrence Bequest -	34,325	—	—	107	34,432	36,079
Curacy Fund -	—	—	—	7,748	7,748	8,782
Totals	**34,598**	**—**	**—**	**234,022**	**268,620**	**301,512**
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
NatWest St Lukes -	59,548	—	12,428	(66,907)	5,069	32,312
NatWest Hall -	13,145	—	(11,703)	(727)	715	2,646
Lloyds St Barts -	(24,641)	—	270	30,844	6,473	11,146
Santander St Lukes -	3,468	—	—	(3,468)	—	1,430
CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account -	(27,617)	—	—	40,653	13,036	31,144
CCLA (CBF) St Barts deposit account -	1,989	—	—	—	1,989	1,964
CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account -	2,228	—	—	—	2,228	2,199
Cash in hand -	37	—	—	—	37	37
Totals	**28,158**	**—**	**996**	**395**	**29,548**	**82,877**
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	4,317	—	—	—	4,317	3,832
Totals	**4,317**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**4,317**	**3,832**
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	141	—	(141)	—	—	—
Totals	**141**	**—**	**(141)**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accounts Payable -	50,043	—	490	(24,948)	25,585	23,044
Totals	**50,043**	**—**	**490**	**(24,948)**	**25,585**	**23,044**
Grand total	**16,889**	**—**	**647**	**259,364**	**276,900**	**365,177**

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Admin - Administrator						
Restricted	—	1,000	—	—	—	1,000
Sub-total for Admin	**—**	**1,000**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**1,000**
Cockburn - Cockburn Bequest						
Endowment	157,003	4,127	4,127	—	(18,514)	138,489
Sub-total for Cockburn	**157,003**	**4,127**	**4,127**	**—**	**(18,514)**	**138,489**
Curacy - Curacy Fund						
Endowment	9,020	230	230	—	(1,034)	7,986
Sub-total for Curacy	**9,020**	**230**	**230**	**—**	**(1,034)**	**7,986**
Lawrence - Lawrence Bequest						
Endowment	26,858	1,924	1,924	—	(1,647)	25,212
Sub-total for Lawrence	**26,858**	**1,924**	**1,924**	**—**	**(1,647)**	**25,212**
PWE - Parish Weekend						
Restricted	908	—	1,261	—	—	(353)
Sub-total for PWE	**908**	**—**	**1,261**	**—**	**—**	**(353)**
School - Schoolrooms Fund						
Endowment	99,376	2,608	2,608	—	(11,698)	87,678
Sub-total for School	**99,376**	**2,608**	**2,608**	**—**	**(11,698)**	**87,678**
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	72,013	106,164	161,288	—	—	16,889
Sub-total for General	**72,013**	**106,164**	**161,288**	**—**	**—**	**16,889**
Grand total	**365,177**	**116,053**	**171,438**	**—**	**(32,892)**	**276,900**

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

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the annual revaluation of listed investments to market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
- Income Tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Income from fund raising events is accounted for net of incidental expenses.

Other ordinary income:

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments:

- Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants:

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church:

- The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings:

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10 (2)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments:

- Investments are stated at market valuation.

Current assets:

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

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Gift Aid - Bank	42,570	—	1,000	—	43,570	32,316
Other planned giving	1,652	—	—	—	1,652	1,380
Loose plate collections	689	—	—	—	689	19
Donations appeals etc	7,590	—	—	—	7,590	845
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,987	—	—	—	9,987	7,560
Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-recurring one-off grants	3,395	—	—	—	3,395	1,000
Other funds generated	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	65,884	—	1,000	—	66,884	43,121
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	645	—	—	—	645	238
Church hall lettings - objectives	7,164	—	—	—	7,164	4,814
Total	7,809	—	—	—	7,809	5,052
Other trading activities						
Rummage sales etc	1,120	—	—	—	1,120	158
Bookstall sales - fund raising	2,334	—	—	—	2,334	935
Total	3,454	—	—	—	3,454	1,093
Investments						
Dividends	—	—	—	8,889	8,889	11,222
Bank and building society interest	213	—	—	—	213	25
Rent from lands or buildings	27,184	—	—	—	27,184	29,850
Total	27,397	—	—	8,889	36,286	41,097
Other income						
Insurance claims	1,620	—	—	—	1,620	—
Surplus - sales of fixed assets	—	—	—	—	—	9,221
Total	1,620	—	—	—	1,620	9,221
INCOME TOTAL	106,164	—	1,000	8,889	116,053	99,583

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving to missionary societies	376	—	—	—	376	—
Giving - relief and development agencies	933	—	—	—	933	33
Home mission	2,340	—	—	—	2,340	2,190
Secular charities	931	—	—	—	931	250
Ministry parish share etc	37,154	—	—	8,659	45,813	47,241
Assistant staff costs	2,548	—	—	—	2,548	3,800
Salary of parish administrator	11,740	—	—	—	11,740	12,679
Working expenses of incumbent	(25)	—	—	—	(25)	997
Parish training and mission	—	—	1,261	230	1,491	637
Church/hall running - insurance	15,464	—	—	—	15,464	12,376
Church office - telephone	1,171	—	—	—	1,171	810
Organ / piano tuning	271	—	—	—	271	—
Church maintenance	42,328	—	—	—	42,328	34,676
Cleaning	1,975	—	—	—	1,975	3,318
Upkeep of services	2,832	—	—	—	2,832	3,234
Upkeep of churchyard	2,651	—	—	—	2,651	2,723
Administration	976	—	—	—	976	2,194
Visiting speakers / locums	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church running - electric	4,189	—	—	—	4,189	2,441
Church running - gas	4,227	—	—	—	4,227	10,239
Church running - water	329	—	—	—	329	231
Church running – emergency heating	11,114	—	—	—	11,114	10,000
Hall running - electricity	853	—	—	—	853	478
Hall running - gas	2,655	—	—	—	2,655	1,305
Hall running - maintenance	726	—	—	—	726	4,875
Hall running - water	420	—	—	—	420	184
Church major repairs - structure	12,860	—	—	—	12,860	93,320
Hall + major repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	601
Hall + interior and exterior decorating	—	—	—	—	—	2,550
Total	161,038	—	1,261	8,889	171,188	253,382
Other expenditure						
Governance costs examination/audit fee	250	—	—	—	250	—
Total	250	—	—	—	250	—
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	161,288	—	1,261	8,889	171,438	253,382
GRAND TOTAL	(55,124)	—	(261)	—	(55,385)	(153,799)

FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investments held by the Central Board of Finance – Investment units.

Cost at 31 December 2021 was £64,633 (market value £268,620) and at 31 December 2020 £64,633 (market value £301,512).

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Fixed assets and investment	-	-	268,620	268,620
Current assets	33,866	-	-	33,866
Current liabilities	(25,585)	-	-	(25,585)
Fund balance	£8,281	-	£268,620	£276,901

See note below for identification of funds.

LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

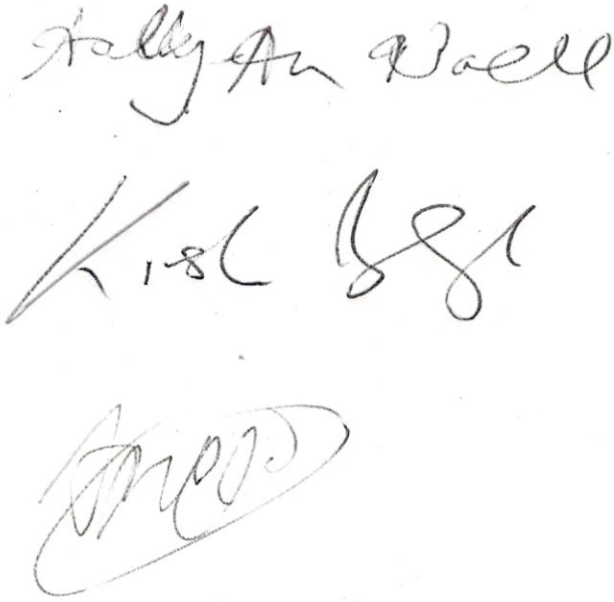
	2021	2021
Accruals and deferred income	**£25,585**	**£23,044**
	=====	=====

FUND DETAILS

The endowment fund comprises the Church School Rooms Fund, Curacy Fund, Lawrence and Cockburn Bequests.

This report dated 4 May 2023:

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew Reading		
On accounts for the year ended	31-12-2022	**Charity no (if any)**	1158694
Set out on pages	**See accompanying Annual Report and Financial Statements**		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

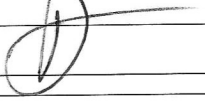
[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [Association of Accounting Technicians]].

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

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

Signed:		**Date:**	04/05/2023
Name:	Jo McAllister		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Licenced Accountant; Association of Accounting Technicians. Member:20024190		

(if any):	
Address:	4 Danvers Close
	Thatcham, Berkshire
	RG19 3XT

Section B Disclosure

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

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

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158694

Accounts

redlands
parish church

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew

Reading Reg. Charity No. 1158694

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 22 May 2022, 12 Noon,
In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Agenda
Minutes of 2021 Meeting
Parish Reports including Parish Accounts

redlands parish church

Sunday 22 May, 12 Noon, In-person at St Luke's Church and via Zoom

Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

(Anyone on the electoral roll of the church, OR resident in the parish may vote in this meeting)

AGENDA

1. **Election of Churchwardens**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Only those on the electoral roll of the parish may vote in this meeting.
Others may ask questions and join in discussion at the discretion of the Chair

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the 2021 APCM**
3. **Confirmation of Deanery Synod Members**
4. **Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members**
    I. Election of PCC members
    II. Appoint independent examiner if necessary
    III. PCC Secretary
5. **Outline of the Annual Reports:**
    I. Chair of PCC Report
    II. Warden's Report
    III. Electoral Roll Update
    IV. Treasurer's Report
6. **Feedback, Questions and Any Other Business**
    (Items to be considered for AOB to be sent to the Chair no later than 18 May 2022)
7. **The Year Ahead**
8. **Closing Prayers**
9. **Dates of PCC meetings** – to be agreed by the members of the PCC

redlands
parish church

Minutes of the Meeting of Annual Parishioners Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 23 May 2021, 12 Noon,
via Zoom and in person

Present: Present in person Rev'd Ross Meikle (Vicar), Rev'd Christine Blackman, Jane Kenyon, Kirsten Bayes, Bar Blakey, Libby Stroud, Elizabeth Rebbeck, Alan Tonkyn, Shelagh Tonkyn

Present on zoom Steve Allen, Sylvia Allen, Barbara Walton, Bridget Green, Leslie Green, Vernon Speed, Janet Davis, Melanie Shrubsall, Sally-Ann McDowell, Julian Pratt, Mary Evans, Gillian Lyne, Roger Cox, Veronica Cox, Lynne Webb, John Starr, Marion Pitman, Hilary Jakeman, Francis Jakeman, Jenny Page, Sarah Collins

Meeting of Parishioners for the choice of churchwardens

1. **Election of Churchwardens**
   i. Resolution to remove Section 3 of the Supplementary Material of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 to permit a person to continue serving as a Churchwarden of the Parish for a period exceeding six terms.

   This was proposed by Libby Stroud, seconded by Jenny Page and passed unanimously.

   ii. Election of Churchwardens

   Only two nominations were received so Jane Kenyon and Kirsten Bayes were duly elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence**

   No apologies were received .

2. **Minutes of 2020 APCM**

   Acceptance of the Minutes as written of the 2020 APCM was proposed by Kirsten Bayes, seconded by Bar Blakey and passed unanimously.

3. Deanery Synod election

Kirsten Bayes proposed the following continued:-

Leslie Green	Hilary Jakeman
Marion Pitman	Sally-Ann McDowell

All agreed to continue as Deanery Synod

4. Election of PCC officers and ordinary members

i. Election of PCC members

Paul Carnell, Gillian Lyne, Roger Cox and Steve Allen will continue as members of the PCC

Above were re-elected un-opposed

Lynne Webb was elected as a new member of the PCC.

Alison Carnell was thanked for acting as minutes secretary. She is now standing down.

Mary Evans is also retiring after many years. She was thanked for her hard work.

ii Appoint Sidespeople

Sidespeople were appointed for the coming year.

iii Appoint Independent Examiner

The continuing appointment of Michael Dix as independent examiner was proposed by Sally-Ann McDowell, seconded by Leslie Green and passed unanimously.

5. Outline of the Annual Reports

The Rev'd Ross Meikle began this section by reflecting on the passage from Matthew's gospel which describes the wise man building on rock and the foolish man on sand. The pandemic could be described as a storm and the church as a ship. Although we have been battered by the deaths of loved ones, uncertainty over St Barts and the interregnum, we have survived. He thanked all those who had worked to steer the ship and reminded us that we are all part of the crew. We are moving slowly into the easing of restrictions (sending out a raven from the ark) and as we do

i. we are working to improve our IT and communications;
ii. we are planning to reopen the hall and create new ways of using it for the community and mission;
iii. we are planning for the future remembering that a previous vica or St Barts waited 7 years before starting new works;
iv. we are putting our efforts into our primary work of worshipping God in thankfulness and praise.

- **Chair of PCC Report**
  Chair of PCC Report was accepted with no questions.

- **Churchwardens report**
  Warden's Report was accepted with no questions.

- **Electoral Roll update**
  Electoral Roll Update was accepted with no questions.

- **Treasurer report**
  Sally-Ann McDowell agreed to continue as treasurer.
  We have spent more than our income this year. Libby asked if we had plans to rectify this.
  Ross stated that this is mainly due to lack of income from Hall. The Buildings Committee has met to see how we can start using the Hall. The income from St Bartholomew's is helping despite us giving Read College a payment holiday. If individuals are in a position to increase giving that would be helpful, but personal circumstances dictate what each person can afford to give. No one should feel guilty.
  Alan Tonkyn asked about our ongoing financial commitment to St Bartholomew's. Leslie Green responded – we are in an advanced stage with the lease agreement, but this was held up by the pandemic. Building work has been delayed by a national shortage of materials. This should start late summer.
  Libby Stroud stated she had fund raising ideas which she will share with Ross via email.

  Treasurers report was accepted as proposed by Kirsten Bayes.

6. **Feedback, Questions and AOB**

   Feedback and questions were invited as each report was considered.
   There was no other business raised.

7. **A closing prayer** was offered for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the life of our Church.

8. **Dates of future PCC meetings** will be agreed by the members of the PCC using an electronic calendar as some members were in Church and some on zoom.

The meeting was closed at 12.30pm

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2022

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2022

Administrative information

St Luke's and St Bartholomew's are two churches joined into one parish, situated in Reading, Berkshire. They are part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is ***The Parish Office, St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LH.***

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity which is registered with the Charity Commission.

Members of the PCC from the last APCM (23 May 2021) until the date this report was approved are:

The Rev'd Ross Meikle, Vicar, Chair
The Rev'd Christine Blackman, Associate Priest
Kirsten Bayes, Church Warden, St Luke's
Jane Kenyon, Church Warden, St Bartholomew's
Dr Steve Allen, Deputy Warden, St Luke's

Deanery Synod representatives *(until 31st May 2023)*
Leslie Green Hilary Jakeman
Sally-Ann McDowell, Treasurer
Marion Pitman, Deputy Warden, St Bart's

Other elected members:
Paul Carnell Roger Cox
Mary Evans

Co-opted members:
Sarah Collins (Parish Administrator and Acting PCC Secretary)

Officers who resigned during this current year:
Mary Evans

Officers newly elected at APCM 23 May 2021
Lynne Webb

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

Objectives and activities
St Luke with St Bartholomew's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Churches of St Luke's, Erleigh Road, Reading; St Bartholomew's, London Road, Reading; and the Parish Hall, Erleigh Road, Reading.

Church attendance
The number on the Electoral Roll at 8 May 2022 is 87. Due to Covid restrictions services were a mixture of restricted number in person attendance and attendance via zoom. The average weekly in attendance in October was 37 (of which 1 was under the age of 16) at St Luke's and ***0*** at St Bart's. A family service was held at St Bartholomew's just before Christmas. This was attended by 14 Adults and 12 Children. On Christmas Day 23 adults and 7 children attended the service in person with a number of others joining via Zoom.

Review of the year
The PCC has met on 7 occasions since the last APCM.

Chair to PCC

Since our last APCM, the PCC has met 8 times (including extraordinary meetings), where it has continued to review policies make decisions, and begin a process of discerning a long-term vision.

With the new Safeguarding Dashboard, we are more aware and set up to ensure that we are a church who take our Safeguarding duties seriously. We have approved our Safeguarding policy, and processing a Lone Worker policy and a Social Media policy. We are also committing ourselves to the Safer Recruitment process for all roles of responsibility, focusing on proportionality and diligence. I'm grateful to Gillian Lyne as Parish Safeguarding Officer for all her work in holding us accountable with our training, policies, and implementation.

Regarding Safer Recruitment, we have approved the Role Descriptions for various roles across the church: three to support Sunday worship (Steward; Welcomer; Tech Team Member), and one to support our hall bookings (Hall Assistant). Other future roles are in the works, including Vergers and Hospitality. An innovation from Gillian is to ensure that each role has an assigned PCC member to support new recruits.

We have also passed a Parking Policy, which seeks to outline our responsibilities as a parish and manage the expectations of our congregations, neighbours, and hall users with regards to the parking bays in front of the Parish Hall. I'm grateful to Hilary Jakeman who compiled a lot of information which helped to form the final policy.

At one of our extraordinary meetings in February, we were informed of the major cost that the parish had incurred as a result of a broken boiler at St Bartholomew's. As we heard the figure, I was impressed that the PCC remained level-headed and calm. I am grateful to Sally-Ann for her handle of the finances and keen oversight, and to Roger Cox and Leslie Green for their stewardship of St Bartholomew's.

This was followed by an afternoon of exploring vision for the parish. We explored thoughts and ideas for the 140th anniversary of St Luke's church, and then began to look ahead to the next 10 years, asking the question: "who do we want to have been by the 150th?" or "what do we want Redlands Parish Church at the 150th anniversary to say about us at the 140th?". It was a hopeful and stimulating conversation, which will feed into other activities and conversations over the coming months and years at PCC level and across the whole parish community.

The Reverend Ross Meikle

Churchwardens' Reports

St Luke's Church

The last year has been characterised by two competing drives. On the one hand the desire to return the life of our Church to the busy worship, social and groups schedule that characterised its life pre pandemic. On the other the stubbornly high and (currently) rising levels of Covid which has demanded a cautious, step by step approach.

The Christmas period provided a very welcome return to a more recognisable service pattern, and with its beautiful decorations and the amazing cribs from the festival. Easter similarly brought joy (though marred personally by having to self-isolate).

We face a degree of financial challenge from the boiler issues at St Bart's that will mean we need to keep finding new ways to do things. And we need to keep the focus on Safeguarding, building on the work being so ably led by Gillian to ensure our Church nurtures and protects all who come to it.

I continue to be hugely grateful to our clergy team; to Jane my fellow warden; to Sarah our administrator; to our PCC and all the volunteers that help keep the Church running. It is my hope that with God's help this coming year truly will be one of healing and wholeness, and we will move forward into the next phase of our collective life, whatever that may bring, together and in good heart

Kirsten Bayes, Churchwarden

St Bartholomew's Church

It has been a year in which, at last, the "what are we going to do about St Barts and all its things" problem has begun to be dealt with head on. Most of the items on the inventory have now been moved to St Luke's and some have seemed to have found semi /permanent homes almost seamlessly. There is a genuine feeling of two churches truly becoming one. Now that the lease of the building has been signed, giving Read College greater responsibility inside the building, the urgency to remove the rest of the larger items belonging to the church has increased and hopefully will be resolved in the coming year.

The beginning of advent saw the return of Delilah the donkey to St Barts, together with a not very good shepherd (played by Ross) and lots of lost sheep. It was a Christmas service for families and was well received.

Jane Kenyon, Churchwarden

Annual report from PCC Buildings Committee March 2022

As the Covid 19 pandemic lessens, we are starting to open up our three buildings however where necessary social distancing rules are still applied and rigorous cleaning protocols adopted.

On 30 November 2021 we signed the 25 year licence with Read College, allowing them to use St Bartholomew's church as their main operational home, thus securing the church's future.
The roof of the nave and side aisles have been renewed and the roof of chancel and lady chapel undergone major repair. The guttering and downpipes have been refurbished and now look like their original design. The soakaways have been cleared and enlarged.
We saved £25,000 against the original budget.
In November the boiler broke down and has had to be replaced. The gas regulations are much tighter now and with the discovery of asbestos the whole job has not only used the surplus but reduced the church's reserves to single figures. The new boilers are now working and Read College have a much more efficient source of heat.

All issues identified in the 2019 Quinquennial Inspections have been completed.

All of the statutory inspections and annual maintenance contracts on our three properties are up to date. Routine repairs, maintenance and replacements of expired equipment have been carried out as the need required.

The main Hall windows have been freed and new pull cords fitted. This has increased ventilation, required to reduce the risk of Covid. Several regular users have returned but we are still being very cautious about fully opening the hall to single use hirers.
The opportunity has been taken to re-floor and redecorate the Turner Room and upgrade the electric supply points. It is now a much more friendly and useable space.
Storage is also being addressed.

Discussions are on-going as to how the hall will be managed outside of the buildings committee and new hall agreements have been established.

The wifi signal in the church has varied significantly during the year and a number of different setups tested. As a result new phone lines and Internet contracts are being set up for the church and hall. This will not only improve the performance but is expected to save money.

To improve security in the church office a new door-bell video system is being installed.

The retractable posts have helped to safeguard our parking but parking is still a big issue and will again receive further consideration this coming year.

We again owe a huge thank you to Roger Cox for project managing and, in many cases, undertaking the tasks involved in maintaining and refurbishing our three properties.

The Buildings Committee would also like to thank Sarah for the day to day management of the Hall and the Church. Due to the pandemic, carrying out this responsibility has been made more difficult.

May I conclude this report by thanking all members of the congregation who have assisted the Buildings Committee in maintaining the fabric of the buildings.

Leslie Green,
Chair of the Buildings Committee
March 2022

Finance

Treasurer's Report

This report is based on the accounts produced by the treasurer directly using the accounting software.

At the summary level, in 2021 our income was greater than our expenditure.

INCOME

Total Income was about £99,500 (compared to £100,000 in 2020 and £125,000 in 2019).

Income from donors

In 2021, this was about £33,700 (compared with £37,500 in 2020 and £47,000 in 2019).

Income from buildings rent (hall and churches):

In 2021, income from building rent was about £34,700 (compared with £34,500 in 2020 and £50,000 in 2019). The reduction was due to a decrease in hall rent due to the continuing pandemic and the fact that although there were fewer restrictions, the hall was not being used other than for the NHS holiday club and then only during holidays, thereby reducing hall income massively. Although Read College were able to use St Barts, there was a major boiler failure in November and so some of the rent due (£10,000) was used to offset costs that Read College had incurred by installing emergency heating. This has however been included in the figures above.

Other income:

There was about £31,200 in other income during 2021. This included mainly gift aid from our giving plus dividends. We had minimal income from our single coffee morning in November, minimal income from weddings (banns) and funerals and about £950 from the Christmas Fair.

EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure was about £253,500 (compared to £115,200 in 2020 and £107,500 in 2019).

Major Building works and repairs

The PCC approved money to be used to replace the roof at St Barts. Funding for this is explained later. There were also unexpected costs due to a boiler breakdown at St Barts which necessitated emergency heating in addition to boiler replacement costs. In 2021, this amounted to £93,300 with more spend in 2022.

Utilities and insurance (excluding water)

Insurance in the two churches (and hall) increased to £12,400 from £10,800 in 2020. This was because from September the insurance at St Barts changed due to the agreement with Read College and the fact that services were no longer held at St Barts necessitated a change to a Landlord insurance. The formal agreement was only signed in November so from December Read College were invoiced for the insurance costs in addition to utilities costs with a reduced rent.

Electricity in the two churches was about £2,400 which is about £500 lower than the previous year but given we were not in the building during the Winter months is not surprising.

Gas was about the same in the two churches (about £10,200) in 2021 as in 2020. Although time in the church was different in the two years this reflects the increase in gas prices in 2020.

As mentioned above the boiler broke at St Bartholomew's and Read College installed emergency heating which in 2021 was £10,000.

Hall gas was 50% lower than in 2020 at about £1,300, but this was due to very minimal use of the building. In 2021, electricity was about £500 compared to about £800 in 2020.

Charitable giving:

As in recent years, we did not give 10% of our planned giving to charities in 2021. Our plan had been to continue to donate to some local charities regularly (which we continued to do) and then do one off fundraising for others throughout the year. However due to only one coffee morning in November 2021 we were only able to give about £2,500 to charities which is considerably lower than 2020 (£2,600) and 2019 (£4,200).

Parish Share:

Our Parish share was £47,250 in 2021 compared to £44,800 in 2020.

Parish Administrator:

Costs for Parish Administrator increased to about £12,700 including tax, national insurance and pension compared to just over £10,100 in 2020. This was due to some additional hours being worked to get the new vicar settled in.

BALANCE OF FUNDS

Our usable funds have dropped significantly to £86,700 in 2021 from £103,300 in 2020 and £119,000 in 2019. This has been due to a reduction in income from rent and a small reduction in giving but mainly due to the extra spend on St Barts roof plus the costs associated with a new boiler and emergency heating at St Barts.

We do also have some untouchable funds, which were valued at £301,512 on 31 Dec 2021 compared to £378,811 on 31 Dec 2020. These are the Lawrence Bequest, the Curacy fund, the Schoolrooms fund, and the Cockburn Bequest. A sale of £130,00 of shares in the Lawrence bequest was used to fund the replacement of the roof at St Barts. This was approved by the PCC and also by the Charity Commission. Interestingly despite the pandemic, the value in the shares increased as can be seen by the fact that £130,000 worth of shares from the Lawrence Fund were sold to fund the roof at St Barts but the value of that particular fund only reduced by £111,000.

Reserves Policy

The usable funds that we hold in reserve reduced due to a decrease in rent of buildings plus the major works and repairs at St Barts. The reserves policy was not discussed in 2021, however our accounts show that we still meet the reserves policy as set in 2011. The treasurer will ensure a meeting of the finance committee in 2022 to reconfirm this.

The reserves policy is still to maintain reserves of at least £5,000 per building for emergency maintenance to the buildings. The maximum amount to be held in reserves was agreed to be £100,000, although we could potentially hold more if the PCC determined there was a valid reason for doing so.

All reserves are held as funds invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England for the time being.

Finance Committee

The finance committee is being refreshed and anyone interested in joining should contact me directly.

Sally-Ann McDowell
Treasurer

Safeguarding report 2022

‘For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you’

Jeremiah 29:11

Creating a safer environment and culture within our church, where all will prosper and none will be harmed, continues to be of the utmost importance. Many steps have been taken over the last year to create an environment which is welcoming, respectful and enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently.

There have been considerable changes in the last year to ensure that our churches are places of safety and well-being for all children, young people and vulnerable adults. A new Safer Recruitment and People Management framework has been implemented which requires a more rigorous approach to those who volunteer in church. This includes online training modules and DBS checks to be undertaken every three years. All PCC members are required to do several of these safeguarding training modules.

A new Safeguarding Parish Dashboard to monitor essential aspects of Safeguarding has been introduced. The Diocese would like all parishes to have completed level 1 of this Dashboard. We have not fully competed the requirements for Level 1 but have an action plan to do so.

Following the guidance of the new Safer Recruitment and People Management framework both the Toddler Group and Sunday Club were able to start back at the end of 2021 with clear volunteer role descriptions and person specifications for those involved.

These guidelines will be followed as we return to greater volunteer involvement with Welcomers and Stewards helping at church services.

There is still a large amount of paperwork in the vestry office that needs to be reviewed and collated. Much of this will probably not be required and we should avoid keeping records we don’t need to ensure compliance with GDPR regulations.

Many thanks to Jenny Page for all her work as DBS verifier and to all those people who have undertaken the online training and recruitment process. I am also grateful for all who contributed to the role descriptions and person specifications.

Gillian Lyne

Worship Spaces

Clergy Report – The Reverend Ross Meikle

Now I have been with you for a full year, it is good to share with you a year's worth of church mission and ministry.

Starting with last summer, some of the highlights for me include the opportunities that we had to use the fine weather to congregate. An especially fun afternoon was a picnic in Palmer Park to celebrate St Bartholomew's Day. By the leadership of Jenny Page, we also had our Big Book Giveaway outside the Parish Hall, which not only cleared over a thousand books from the Turner Room but also served a good number of people local to us who took books in their hundreds.

Since then, the Turner Room has been redecorated, freshened up, and now has access to brand new Parish Hall WiFi which will make it a more viable space for hirers. We have kept the books related to faith and spirituality, and they have been categorised by topic.

This significant piece of work has been part of a vision statement that I've used called 'Getting our house in order'. From a physical perspective, some of us have gone through our cupboards and storage to review what we have, what we need, and how we might better use our available resources so that we are primed for mission post-pandemic. This has included the storeroom, backstage areas and under the stage (Parish Hall); the organ loft, the vestry, the cupboards in the choir vestry, and the office (St Luke's church); and, much of the church treasures and furniture from St Bartholomew's. Relatedly, our lease with Read College is now signed and approved. Thanks go to Leslie Green for spearheading that particular piece of work, and to Roger Cox who has been key in so much of the developments across all of our buildings and the community garden too.

We have improved our communications systems with email and WiFi systems, re-installing a phone line into the Parish Hall. We have also taken the opportunity to begin to consider how we manage our Hall Bookings, and some of us heard from Earley St Peter's church to learn how they manage things.

A huge part of getting our house in order has been to do with Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment, ensuring that we are not only do what is necessary but also what is wise and appropriate for our community. Shout out to Gillian Lyne for her sterling work in this regard.

Over the course of the year, we have begun to open up more our church buildings to different missions and ministries as it has become safe to do so. It has been good to see the Toddler Group, the Craft Group, and the Coffee Morning start up again, as well as the more seasonal Christmas Fayre. We have also welcomed back some of our regular hall hirers.

Advent saw us celebrating a Nativity Festival, utilising our window-sills, which has been adapted for our Easter celebrations too. We had a 'Purple Party' the night before Advent 1 where a number of gathered to clean the church for the new year.

Advent was an exciting season, with Delilah the Donkey making her return at St Bartholomew's Church, St Luke's playing host to Christmas concerts from both the Thames Valley Gay Chorus and musicians from the University of Reading. We also

celebrated our Crib service again in the Community Garden - it may have been quite wet, but a lot of fun was had and it was good to make use of our garden.

Spiritually-speaking, it has been good to be back in the church for more regular service patterns on a Sunday morning and throughout the week with Breathe on a Tuesday morning, mass on a Tuesday evening and also on Thursday morning. Daily prayer has also been continuing on Zoom, and it has been good for as many of our services as possible to be accessible via Zoom for those who are housebound, unwell, or absent. Thanks go to Christine too, who has been a kind and excellent colleague in her support of me, and is indeed a good friend. In her role as Assistant Priest, I find myself thinking of her as a Chaplain offering wisdom and insight, care and kindness to the congregation and to me.

We have had two funeral services at St Luke's, including our sister Jean Bascom. We have had a number of baptisms, primarily for infants but also for Amy who has joined our worshipping community who was baptised by full immersion using the deanery baptistry on the afternoon of Advent 1.

With regards to discernment of the future of the church community, the Ministry Team met for a night away last October. Thoughts and ideas were then shared with a PCC Afternoon Away to Earley St Nicolas' church in February, and further work will be done following the Parish Weekend. We are not only excited to be thinking about marking the 140th anniversary of St Luke's church, but also looking ahead to the horizon of the 150th anniversary.

Personally, it has been good over the year to get to know you better through church events and also over drinks and meals to which I've been invited. On St Luke's Day last October, I was installed as Vicar to the parish and in February I was elected to General Synod following a casual vacancy. I am developing chaplaincy work with both Read College and the University of Reading Chaplaincy Centre, as well as continuing my role as LGBTI+ Chaplain to the Diocese of Oxford. I am also a Young Vocations Champion for the Berkshire Area.

I'm enjoying being your vicar. A lot has been achieved since I have arrived, and as I look to the year ahead, there are ways in which I need to learn to better ask for your help and support as we grow and proclaim the Kingdom of God to Redlands Parish.

Ross

Music Director's report 2021/22

As we have returned to singing live in church, it has been good to be able to return to music we have not sung together for a while. Despite many changes in the way the choir operates, a core committed group of members continue to sing each week and attend choir practices when they occur. It has been great to hear the return of in person singing and less limits on numbers and the amount of music within a service.

We continue to be affiliate members of 'The Royal Schools of Church Music' and receive musical inspiration from their Sunday by Sunday publication. With recent changes of circumstance, the choir continue to sing each Sunday, with particular focus on Festal Services when we can rehearse and sing on a larger scale.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who assist with the other musical aspects; the band who are making their comeback, Gordon and Timothy for playing the organ and their support.

As I prepare to step down from my role of music director, I would like to thank everyone at St. Luke's for the opportunities and support I have received from a young age and to wish everyone all the best and continued music making within worship together.

Gemma Mason

As Vicar, I'd like to extend my thanks to Gemma for her ministry to the church as Director of Music since 2006. I'm especially grateful for all that was managed with music during the lockdowns when I arrived. Gemma and her family remain a part of our community, and we pray for them and wish them well in their new chapter.

I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to our music-making this year: to our organists Gordon and Tim, to the choir, and to the Worship Band who made their return to worship for our Mothering Sunday Messy Mass. An especial thanks goes to Gordon for his work during the maternity leave and during this vacancy.

We are currently advertising for a Music Leader and are hopeful to have someone in post over the summer.

Ross

Social Spaces

Pastoral Care Team Report

The Pastoral Care Team, alongside other committed parishioners, have tried to maintain support, to others, during another uncertain year, due to Covid.

Cakes and flowers were delivered at Easter time in April when social mixing was still not allowed.

Telephone contact has been a source of communication, chats on doorsteps to some parishioners and then from Summer 2022 visits have re-commenced to keep in touch and to visit those who are unwell or need additional support. Shopping has been delivered when needed and also support with technology to enable church members to join in Zoom Services and Meetings. Ross informed church members to ask for help if they had Covid and needed any items delivered by church members.

Sadly Jean Bascombe died this year and her funeral took place in October 2021. Gloria Atwell's Funeral took place in December 2021.

The Pastoral Care Team consists of Christine Blackman, Mary Evans, Everette Marshall and myself, Sheila Cox. Ross Meikle attends the Pastoral Care Team Meetings whenever possible. I'd like to thank all of the team for their support and visits during this another unusual year. We have also returned to providing lifts to people when they have asked to come back to church services.

Sheila tries to keep the prayer list up to date of those members who need praying for. Please contact her or Sarah if names need adding or taking away from the weekly sheet.

Thanks must also go to members of the church who give support without necessarily any recognition, in particular Steve and Sylvia, Shelagh and Alan and Jane, amongst others, providing on-going support to individuals in the Parish.

Sheila Cox - Pastoral Care Leader

Parish Toddler Group

The Toddler Group started meetings again on Wednesday 3 November 2021, having last met on Wednesday 11 March 2020. We meet every Wednesday in school term time, in the parish hall The numbers attending the Group have been variable, from only 2, up to 17, with their carers. We hear constantly from those who attend that the group is really important, as so many children had little or no opportunity to mix with other children during lockdown, & socialising is a major part of early years development. It is also very good for the parents & other carers to chat to other adults. Bringing up small children can be a very busy but also very lonely time. We have a wonderful reliable team of helpers who turn up to make tea, coffee & squash for everyone, with biscuits, or on 6 April Easter eggs. It is vital to be hospitable.

On 15 December 2021 we had our annual Christmas party, with a great deal of festive party food being consumed! We were interested to observe that the children liked the colourful bubbles being blown out of our machine, but did not go wild to chase them, whereas they squealed with delight at balloons & were not worried when the balloons burst! The party was followed by a delightful time in church, when the children were able to "help" the vicar put together a Nativity scene. We always get a lot of positive remarks & thanks, but after the Christmas party the carers, including a number of grandparents, were particularly appreciative. We were recently given a number of children's books, which we offered to the Toddler Group families to take home, as the Group already owns 2 boxes of excellent books. We have been able this Easter to give £100 to the church, to help with costs.

Hilary Jakeman

Monthly Coffee Morning

It was wonderful to start the coffee mornings again, on 6 November. As usual, the first Saturday in December was filled with the church Christmas Fair, there was no coffee morning on the first Saturday in January (New Year's Day!), but since then, following the long-established pattern, they have been held on 5 February, 5 March & 2 April. Members of the congregation have flocked to the coffee morning for a chance to chat over coffee, something so much missed on a Sunday morning, and people who live locally have also come into the coffee mornings for delicious cake, Mary's wonderful preserves, bric-a-brac, Traidcraft & the raffle. On 6 April we even saw Ray Towsend, in the usual group brought by the excellent carers at Pembroke Lodge.

On 6 November we were glad to raise over £220 for the Chocolatada in Pilcomayo, Peru. It means so much to a poor village, and the children especially. We got some lovely pictures from the village party!

On 5 February the total was over £250 for Church Action on Poverty.
On 5 March, in Fair Trade Fortnight, we were able to send the magnificent amount of £285 to Traidcraft Exchange.
On 6 April we raised £253 for Reading Refugee Support Group.

The next coffee mornings will be:
on 7 May, with funds to go to Medical Aid to Palestine
on 4 June, for the Jo Cox Foundation
and on 7 July for USPG.

We shall have the usual break in August, with the next coffee morning to be held on 3 September.

Hilary Jakeman

Traidcraft

Traidcraft was started in 1979 by a group of Christians who wanted to challenge the deep injustices embedded in global trade. It has grown to working with producers from 30 different countries around the world. It is a member of the World Fair Trade Organisation, and it co-founded the Fair Trade Foundation in the UK. It is this organisation which checks the conditions in which items are produced, so that you can be sure that the Fair Trade logo on anything tells you that every transaction was conducted with justice.

Since we were able to start the church coffee mornings again, on 3 November last year, I have held my usual Traidcraft stall at the coffee morning in the parish hall. Sales vary considerably - from £20 one month to over £100 another month - and I am always happy to take orders for items that I do not currently hold in stock. It was a great joy to see so many people at the church Christmas Fair, at which I had my usual stall, on 4 December, but in the church building, as that was open in addition to the hall.

Continuing the tradition of having a Traidcraft stall on the second Sunday of the month, at the family service, I re started this on 10 October, selling out of my car boot. This was successful except that I got very cold & wet outside on 13 February, and had to cancel the stall on 13 March as I was ill. I hope soon, as I am sure you do, for a Traidcraft stall back in church again every second Sunday.

It was so good that the team running the church coffee mornings was prepared to raise funds on 5 March, in Fair Trade Fortnight, for Traidcraft Exchange. This development charity helps people start up a business, or gives advice on land management. If people are able to make a living in their own neighbourhood, they do not need to become migrants or refugees, they have a better life and their children can go to school. It is well documented that the Fair Trade Premium paid to producers enables them to take care of their local environment and combat the effects of climate change.

There are always new items to be seen in the Traidcraft catalogue. Do make sure you have one, so that you can order things from it , whether it's food for everyday, sweet treats, or lovely craft items for yourself or to give to other people.

Hilary Jakeman

Community

"The Great British Spring Clean" was held this year in the spring – 25 March - 10 April. Last year because of the restrictions, it was more in the summer - 28 May - 13 June. This means there have been 2 litter-picks in one year, & groups have gone out from St. Luke's car park in each one. We picked up a great deal of litter! Our Green councillors in Redlands Ward have of course been supportive of this work, and it feels good to make this connection with the local political network.

Hilary Jakeman

Thinking Spaces

House Group/ Evening Lent Group report 2022

The Group initially comprised twelve fairly regular members, one of whom had to leave us in October. With coronavirus still a threat in Reading, our first three meetings were held via Zoom, which worked fairly well, and the group were very tolerant of occasional technical hitches!

With Easter not long behind us, we spent our May and June meetings watching a conversation on the topic of the Resurrection between former Archbishop Rowan Williams and Dr Paula Gooder, part of the series of recorded talks and conversations at St Paul's cathedral in London. After tackling some challenging questions (e.g. Can you go on believing without the resurrection? How do we cope with the diversity of accounts of the resurrection?), we discussed Rowan Williams's suggestions for prolonging our Easter celebrations throughout the year.

Our July meeting gave us the chance to experience four dramatic paintings by the modern German religious painter Sieger Köder depicting Bible stories. (Elijah on the mountain, Ezekiel prepares for exile, Joseph's dream, Mary meets Elizabeth.) We were delighted to welcome as presenter June Hardcastle, wife of our former Vicar, who introduced each painting, and invited us to reflect on its effect on us and on how it related to our own experiences.

We cast off our Covid19 shackles in August with a tea party in the garden of 35 Eastern Avenue, the home of Alan and Shelagh Tonkyn.

We spent the months of September, October and November considering The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. This gave our new Vicar, Ross, the chance to meet the Group in person for the first time in October and then again in November. The sessions were led by Alan Tonkyn, Francis Jakeman and the Vicar respectively. The three chapters raised some difficult issues such as Jesus's teaching on adultery and divorce, on earthly and heavenly treasures and how we are to judge others.

Our December and January meetings were devoted to a further St Paul's Cathedral talk by Rowan Williams, this time on the topic 'What makes a good Christmas?' (on the understanding that more than Morrison's is required!). Rowan Williams used three carols ('O come, all ye faithful', 'Hark the herald angels sing' and 'We three kings') as the basis for his talk, challenging us to decide what we mean when we sing such well-known lines as 'Born to raise the sons of earth,/ Born to give them second birth', probing the meaning of the Incarnation, and picking out three things he feels are necessary for a good Christian Christmas.

In February, Group members were invited to bring a favourite Christian poem or hymn to the session, and to discuss its value to them. Poems old and new were offered, ranging from 'God's Grandeur' by Gerard Manley Hopkins to 'Candlemas' by Malcolm Guite, and hymns old and new as well, such as Charles Wesley's 'And can it be' and Stuart Townend's 'See what a morning'.

In March and April, as in some previous years, we split into two weekly Lent discussion groups: a daytime one led by Francis and Hilary Jakeman (see separate report), and an evening one led by Alan Tonkyn. The latter group had eight participants, and discussions were based on a York course 'Life to the full?' involving a conversation between Canon Simon Stanley and the Rev. Matthew Woodcock. We looked at what Jesus means by an abundant life, discussing, amongst other things, the need to avoid lives that are over-hectic, or ungenerous, and to accept the Holy Spirit into our lives as guide. We faced, again, the problem of suffering in the world, and how it can also be part of a full Christian life.

Alan Tonkyn
18/04/22

Report of the Daytime Lent Group 2022

As in previous years, we arranged a daytime group for those who found meeting in the evening unsuitable. We followed a course produced by USPG entitled 'Living Stones, Living Hope'. It focused on the metaphor of the Christian Community in I Peter 2 as living stones. This is also the focus text for this year's Lambeth Conference. The passage touches on Jesus' own experience of rejection as "the stone that the builders rejected".

Six of us met for most of the 5 weeks, looking at 5 Christian communities around the world that are experiencing challenges in one way or another. We were grateful to USPG for providing video recordings of people from each of these churches, that gave us a personal insight into the way they see God working in their situations. We met a woman in Zambia encouraging women and men in her community to tackle gender based violence. We heard from a young ordinand in South Korea who has inspired local people to re-open a derelict church building for worship and community events. We explored 'Liberation Theology' through the experience of a 'base community' in Brazil. Closer to home we reflected on the challenge facing Christians in the Church of Ireland which straddles the divide between North and South. Finally, we were told how Anglicans in India are offering hope to some of the 230 million Dalits (Untouchables) living on the margins of society.

Each week an Indian Theologian offered us insights from the different passages from Scripture that were set for each week. In Week Two the passage was the Good Samaritan, a passage we thought we knew well; so, we were surprised to be invited to identify Jesus as the Good Samaritan and the Church as the Inn Keeper. Thinking about it we realised how challenging it must have been for the Inn Keeper to be presented with the stricken victim and told to care for him by someone (a Samaritan) whom he would normally see as the enemy. We were impressed to think that he trusted the Samaritan's word, when he said he would pay whatever more was needed for the victim's care sometime in the future! Can we, as Christ's Church, trust Jesus to keep his promise to bless us when we care for those in need?

Each week we were invited to identify situations in our own lives and that of our Church where we felt God is working in similar ways. There was much appreciation of the various church sponsored activities that are now happening again, following the pandemic. We

appreciated the opportunity to pray together and wondered whether at St Luke's we might build opportunities to pray for each other into our Sunday gatherings. Finally, we were surprised to learn that USPG was founded in 1701 and is still going strong! We put this down to the change it has made from being an arm of Britain's influence as a colonial power, into a movement seeking to serve Anglican churches worldwide in their own understanding of how God is calling them to share the Good News in their own situation.

As the course was provided by USPG free of charge, and because we were impressed by the valuable work it is clearly doing, we said we would like to raise money for them. The opportunity for doing this that we would recommend, is for funds from the Coffee Morning on 2nd July to be allocated to USPG.

Francis & Hilary Jakeman

Creative Spaces

Erleigh Road Community Garden

The garden is looking beautiful with lots of spring flowers blooming and seed sowing is underway so that we can grow plenty of vegetables at the garden again this year. The garden has continued to benefit a wide range of people in the local area – providing a green space where they can come and help look after the garden, learn new skills and meet other people.

This year we are running a Gardening for Health & Wellbeing session on Thursday mornings during term time from 10-11.30am and an after school session on Fridays from 3.15-4.30pm. Both of these sessions are funded by Activate Learning and are open to anyone. Currently we do not have funding for the Saturday sessions but we are looking at ways to fundraise for these so hopefully they can start up again soon.

Last year we ran a Growing Conversations course for people with English as a second language who would like to improve their conversational skills and learn about gardening at the same time. A new course is due to start up after Easter on Thursday 28th April from 1-2pm.

We'll be running family sessions in the school holidays too and some more cooking sessions using produce from the garden. We also ran some talks in the garden last year including one for children about insects by Chris Foster, Lecturer in Animal Ecology at Reading University and Hadil Tamim came in to do a talk about her beautiful artwork and her book 'Islamic Art Meets British Flowers'. We're hoping to run some more talks in the garden this year too.

Thanks to Mary who has been providing refreshments for us plus helping in the garden too and to Roger who has recently made us a new table for seed trays in the greenhouse.

For enquiries about the garden please contact Naomi at garden@redlandsparish.org.uk

Naomi German

Deanery Synod

Since the last APCM there were two deanery Synod meetings held over Zoom in July and November. These discussed how the deanery should function given the work was too much for half an area dean. It was agreed the deanery should be split into 4 areas which has been working well especially as the area dean resigned at the end of 2021 and so this works out well until a new area dean is found. There was then one face to face meeting this year where we had a talk by someone from PACT.

It was a great honour to be invited to hold a Traidcraft stall in the Minster - St. Mary's Church in The Butts - at the special meeting of the Reading Deanery Synod, when Bishop Steven was visiting Reading Deanery. As this was in Fair Trade Fortnight, it felt appropriate. He set an example by buying something from the stall, mentioning it & showing it off during his talk! The stall was set up for me in the middle of the church, where people went past to get their refreshments, so a lot of people stopped to look & chat & take a catalogue - all very good publicity.

As always, Bishop Steven spoke very gently and encouragingly. He talked about The Lord's Prayer, exploring it line by line. His words are printed in the current edition of "Pathways" (April - July 2022) and a longer version of his talk is available as 5 films, to be found at oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see. Well worth while!

Hilary Jakeman

St Luke with St Bartholomew, Reading

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31 Dec 2021

Introduction

As per last year, the accounts have been produced directly from the accounting system (Finance Co-ordinator offline version 1) and are rounding up rather than showing only the pound.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	43,121	—	—	43,121	51,682
Income from charitable activities	5,052	—	—	5,052	11,767
Other trading activities	1,093	—	—	1,093	—
Investments	29,874	—	11,222	41,097	36,372
Other income	9,221	—	—	9,221	—
Total income	**88,361**	—	**11,222**	**99,583**	**99,821**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	—	—	—	—	—
Expenditure on charitable activities	242,072	310	10,999	253,382	115,092
Other expenditure	—	—	—	—	100
Total expenditure	**242,072**	**310**	**10,999**	**253,382**	**115,192**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(153,711)**	**(310)**	**223**	**(153,799)**	**(15,371)**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	130,000	—	—	130,000	25,111
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	(130,000)	(130,000)	(25,111)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	43,208	43,208	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	(16,116)
Net movement in funds	**(23,711)**	**(310)**	**(86,569)**	**(110,591)**	**(31,487)**
Total funds brought forward	**95,724**	**1,218**	**378,826**	**475,768**	**507,255**
Total funds carried forward	**72,013**	**908**	**292,257**	**365,177**	**475,768**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	72,013	—	—	72,013	95,724
Restricted					
Administrator	—	—	—	—	—
Parish Weekend	—	908	—	908	1,218
Endowment					
Cockburn Bequest	—	—	157,003	157,003	137,320
Curacy Fund	—	—	9,020	9,020	7,683
Lawrence Bequest	—	—	26,858	26,858	147,057
Nuttall Bequest	—	—	—	—	—
Schoolrooms Fund	—	—	99,376	99,376	86,766

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	Schoolrooms Fund	99,375	86,766
	Cockburn Bequest	157,276	137,593
	Lawrence Bequest	36,079	147,057
	Nuttall Bequest	—	—
	Curacy Fund	8,782	7,668
	Total Fixed assets	**301,512**	**379,084**
Current assets			
	NatWest St Lukes	32,312	1,666
	NatWest Hall	2,646	2,418
	Lloyds St Barts	11,146	41,282
	Santander St Lukes	1,430	1,430
	CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account	31,144	44,608
	CCLA (CBF) St Barts deosit account	1,964	1,962
	CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account	2,199	2,198
	Cash in hand	37	—
	Accounts Receivable	3,832	7,749
	Total Current assets	**86,709**	**103,313**
Liabilities			
	Agency collections	—	—
	Accounts Payable	23,044	6,629
	Total Liabilities	**23,044**	**6,629**
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	**365,177**	**475,768**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(153,799)	(15,371)
	Starting balances	501,981	533,468
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	16,994	(26,213)
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	—	(16,116)
	Total Reserves	**365,177**	**475,768**
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	72,013	95,724
	Designated	—	—
	Restricted	908	1,218
	Endowment	292,257	378,826
	Total	**365,177**	**475,768**

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Schoolrooms Fund -	—	—	—	99,375	99,375	86,766
Cockburn Bequest -	273	—	—	157,003	157,276	137,593
Lawrence Bequest -	34,325	—	—	1,754	36,079	147,057
Curacy Fund -	—	—	—	8,782	8,782	7,668
Totals	**34,598**	**—**	**—**	**266,914**	**301,512**	**379,084**
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
NatWest St Lukes -	77,640	—	12,689	(58,017)	32,312	1,666
NatWest Hall -	15,076	—	(11,703)	(727)	2,646	2,418
Lloyds St Barts -	(17,813)	—	270	28,689	11,146	41,282
Santander St Lukes -	4,898	—	—	(3,468)	1,430	1,430
CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account -	(2,775)	—	—	33,919	31,144	44,608
CCLA (CBF) St Barts deosit account -	1,964	—	—	—	1,964	1,962
CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account -	2,199	—	—	—	2,199	2,198
Cash in hand -	37	—	—	—	37	—
Totals	**81,226**	**—**	**1,257**	**395**	**82,877**	**95,564**
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	3,832	—	—	—	3,832	7,749
Totals	**3,832**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**3,832**	**7,749**
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	141	—	(141)	—	—	—
Totals	**141**	**—**	**(141)**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accounts Payable -	47,502	—	490	(24,948)	23,044	6,629
Totals	**47,502**	**—**	**490**	**(24,948)**	**23,044**	**6,629**
Grand total	**72,013**	**—**	**908**	**292,257**	**365,177**	**475,768**

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Admin - Administrator						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Admin	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Cockburn - Cockburn Bequest						
Endowment	137,320	3,991	3,991	—	19,683	157,003
Sub-total for Cockburn	**137,320**	**3,991**	**3,991**	**—**	**19,683**	**157,003**
Curacy - Curacy Fund						
Endowment	7,683	223	—	—	1,114	9,020
Sub-total for Curacy	**7,683**	**223**	**—**	**—**	**1,114**	**9,020**
Lawrence - Lawrence Bequest						
Endowment	147,057	4,486	4,486	(130,000)	9,801	26,858
Sub-total for Lawrence	**147,057**	**4,486**	**4,486**	**(130,000)**	**9,801**	**26,858**
PWE - Parish Weekend						
Restricted	1,218	—	310	—	—	908
Sub-total for PWE	**1,218**	**—**	**310**	**—**	**—**	**908**
School - Schoolrooms Fund						
Endowment	86,766	2,522	2,522	—	12,609	99,376
Sub-total for School	**86,766**	**2,522**	**2,522**	**—**	**12,609**	**99,376**
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	95,724	88,361	242,072	130,000	—	72,013
Sub-total for General	**95,724**	**88,361**	**242,072**	**130,000**	**—**	**72,013**
Grand total	**475,768**	**99,583**	**253,382**	**—**	**43,208**	**365,177**

Note regarding fund movement by type:

In 2021 the curacy fund had income but there were no curate expenses in 2021 so this amount has been carried forward to 2022. Additionally, £130,000 from the Lawrence endowment fund was sold and used to fund works associated with a new roof for St Bartholomews. Advice on how to show this in the accounts was obtained from Data Developments whose accounting software is used to do the accounts.

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING

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

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the annual revaluation of listed investments to market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
- Income Tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Income from fund raising events is accounted for net of incidental expenses.

Other ordinary income:

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments:

- Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants:

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church:

- The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings:

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10 (2)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments:

- Investments are stated at market valuation.

Current assets:

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

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Gift Aid - Bank	32,316	—	—	—	32,316	35,349
Gift Aid - Envelopes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other planned giving	1,380	—	—	—	1,380	1,600
Loose plate collections	19	—	—	—	19	707
Donations appeals etc	845	—	—	—	845	1,633
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	7,560	—	—	—	7,560	9,144
Non-recurring one-off grants	1,000	—	—	—	1,000	3,250
Total	43,121	—	—	—	43,121	51,682
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	238	—	—	—	238	281
Church hall lettings - objectives	4,814	—	—	—	4,814	11,486
Total	5,052	—	—	—	5,052	11,767
Other trading activities						
Rummage sales etc	158	—	—	—	158	—
Bookstall sales - fund raising	935	—	—	—	935	—
Total	1,093	—	—	—	1,093	—
Investments						
Dividends	—	—	—	11,222	11,222	13,629
Bank and building society interest	25	—	—	—	25	243
Rent from lands or buildings	29,850	—	—	—	29,850	22,500
Total	29,874	—	—	11,222	41,097	36,372
Other income						
Surplus - sales of fixed assets	9,221	—	—	—	9,221	—
Total	9,221	—	—	—	9,221	—
INCOME TOTAL	88,361	—	—	11,222	99,583	99,821
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving - relief and development agencies	33	—	—	—	33	—
Home mission	2,190	—	—	—	2,190	2,190
Secular charities	250	—	—	—	250	450
Ministry parish share etc	36,241	—	—	10,999	47,241	44,799
Assistant staff costs	3,800	—	—	—	3,800	3,122
Salary of parish administrator	12,679	—	—	—	12,679	10,127
Working expenses of incumbent	997	—	—	—	997	673
Education	—	—	—	—	—	124
Parish training and mission	327	—	310	—	637	465
Church and Hall running - insurance	12,376	—	—	—	12,376	10,755
Church office - telephone	810	—	—	—	810	263

Organ / piano tuning	—	—	—	—	—	510
Church maintenance	34,676	—	—	—	34,676	5,896
Cleaning	3,318	—	—	—	3,318	4,511
Upkeep of services	3,234	—	—	—	3,234	4,729
Upkeep of churchyard	2,723	—	—	—	2,723	3,121
Administration	2,194	—	—	—	2,194	1,350
Church running - electric	2,441	—	—	—	2,441	2,903
Church running - gas	10,239	—	—	—	10,239	10,640
Church running - water	231	—	—	—	231	406
Church running – emergency heating	10,000	—	—	—	10,000	—
Hall running - electricity	478	—	—	—	478	791
Hall running - gas	1,305	—	—	—	1,305	3,117
Hall running - maintenance	4,875	—	—	—	4,875	3,477
Hall running - water	184	—	—	—	184	674
Church major repairs - structure	93,320	—	—	—	93,320	—
Hall + major repairs - installation	601	—	—	—	601	—
Hall + interior and exterior decorating	2,550	—	—	—	2,550	—
Total	242,072	—	310	10,999	253,382	115,092
Other expenditure						
Governance costs examination/audit fee	—	—	—	—	—	100
Total	—	—	—	—	—	100
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	242,072	—	310	10,999	253,382	115,192
GRAND TOTAL	(153,711)	—	(310)	223	(153,799)	(15,371)

FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investments held by the Central Board of Finance – Investment units.

Cost at 31 December 2021 was £64,633 (market value £301,512) and at 31 December 2020 £64,633 (market value £378,811).

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Fixed assets and investment	-	-	301,512	301,512
Current assets	86,709	-	-	86,709
Current liabilities	(23,044)	-	-	(23,044)
Fund balance	£63,665	-	£301,512	£365,177

See note below for identification of funds.

LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
Accruals and deferred income	£23,044	£6,629
	=====	=====

FUND DETAILS

The endowment fund comprises the Church School Rooms Fund, Curacy Fund, Lawrence and Cockburn Bequests.

This report dated 9 Jun 2022:

Approved by The Parochial Church Council on 6 SEP 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

6 SEP 2022

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2021	**Charity no (if any)**	1158694
Set out on pages	See accompanying Annual Report and Financial Statements (including SOFA, Balance Sheet & Notes) (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2020**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:		**Date:**	09/06/2022
Name:	Michael Dix		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Member (Institute of Chartered Accountants England &Wales)		

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158694

Accounts

redlands parish church

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2021

Please note that this report contains two kinds of reports. Some with information that pertain to the full calendar year running [April 2020] to [April 2021]; others only with updates since our last APCM in October 2020, delayed due to the COVID pandemic.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2021

Administrative information

St Luke's and St Bartholomew's are two churches joined into one parish, situated in Reading, Berkshire. They are part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is ***The Parish Office, St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LH.***

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity which is registered with the Charity Commission.

Members of the PCC from the last APCM (18th October 2020) until the date this report was approved are:

The Rev'd Ross Meikle, Vicar, Chair (since 1st February 2021)
The Rev'd Christine Blackman, Associate Priest
Kirsten Bayes, Church Warden, St Luke's (Chair of PCC until 31st January 2021)
Jane Kenyon, Church Warden, St Bartholomew's
Dr Steve Allen, Deputy Warden, St Luke's

Deanery Synod representatives *(until 31st May 2023)*
Leslie Green Hilary Jakeman
Sally-Ann McDowell, Treasurer
Marion Pitman, Deputy Warden, St Bart's

Other elected members:
Paul Carnell Roger Cox
Mary Evans Nicola Taylor

Officers who resigned during this current year:
Nicola Taylor

Structure, governance and management
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election on the PCC. Changes to the structure of the PCC were approved ahead of the last APCM and have been implemented this year. More details may be found in the review of the year, below.

Objectives and activities
St Luke with St Bartholomew's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Churches of St Luke's, Erleigh Road, Reading; St Bartholomew's, London Road, Reading; and the Parish Hall, Erleigh Road, Reading.

Church attendance
The number on the Electoral Roll at May 2021 is 79. Due to Covid restrictions services were a mixture of restricted number in person attendance and attendance via zoom. The average weekly in attendance in October was ***51*** (of which ***1*** was under the age of 16) at St Luke's and ***0*** at St Bart's. A limited number in person family service was held at St Bartholomew's just before Christmas. This was attended by **15** Adults and **9** Children. On Christmas Eve there were no in person services, a zoom streamed blessing of the crib was held with **27** attendees. On Christmas Day a limited number in person service was held with **30** attendees.

Review of the year
The PCC has met on 5 occasions since the last APCM.

Chair to PCC

This report covers the period from the last APCM in October to mid January when Ross took over as PCC Chair.

The PCC took several big decisions in this comparatively short period.

It decided that the roof at St Bart's should be repaired, with the funds coming from an endowment (the process for releasing these funds is ongoing). This in the context of ongoing discussions with Read College.

It also decided that the parking spaces outside the Parish Hall should be protected for the users of the Hall and Church, and authorised the installation of barriers.

However, the biggest decisions concerned operating the Parish safely.

Gillian Lyne was appointed to the role as Parish Safeguarding Officer, to continue the work of making sure children and vulnerable adults are protected by the Parish. Thanks go to Nicola and Ant, the outgoing team, for all their work.

The PCC also agreed how we would run services safely in the church buildings in the run up to Advent then through into the Christmas period; it also took the difficult decision that services should once again move to online only, due to the Covid situation.

And finally it decided to lend a part of the Parish's furniture to the NHS to help speed the set up of a local vaccination centre. This to be a good neighbour to those in our community, and to help the NHS protect as many lives as possible.

My thanks to everyone on the PCC for their kindness while I was PCC Chair, to Allison our minutes secretary, and to our group/committee leaders and volunteers for their work. I am very grateful to everyone who gives so much time and love to the work of the Parish.

Kirsten Bayes

Since taking over as Chair of the PCC following my licensing at the start of February, we have held three PCCs and an extraordinary PCC meeting pertaining to the release of funds to replace the roof of St Bartholomew's. Thanks especially go to Sally-Ann and Leslie for coordinating this.

One of the early pieces of work that has begun has been to tackle the church's communications systems, to simplify and to streamline our email services. As a part of this, we have a contract with an IT Consultant to aid us in getting started in a professional transformation of the ways in which we communicate as a church.

We have also begun to ask questions about the use of the space and furniture at St Luke's Church. A decision was made to remove the blue fabric kneelers from the church, and we have discussed how we might make different parts of the church building such as the children's corner and materials for children's ministry and worship. Thank you to Christine for leading us on this.

Likewise, with St Luke's hall we have reviewed our Terms and Conditions for those who hire it, ready for when we are able to let it out again. I give thanks to Sarah who has worked on this document a lot.

We have approved our Safeguarding Policy for another year, and I'd like to thank Gillian for her commitment to her new role as Safeguarding Officer.

Ross

Churchwardens' Reports

St Lukes's Church

Serving as a Churchwarden during a period of interregnum is always a challenge. As well as the regular part of the job, the administration that the incumbent usually carries out lands on the Wardens desks. There is also the small matter of finding a new Vicar.

During a pandemic, these all became more difficult. Nevertheless, with the help and patience of Sarah and Christine especially, and with the support of the PCC and Archdeacon, we were able to ensure the Parish operated safely and legally, and carry out a proper recruitment process.

After a deep and reflective process, which involved many people in the Parish, it was wonderful to be able to meet and then appoint Ross as our new Vicar. There was then the work of making sure his arrival went as smoothly as possible, and to help bring in the next phase of the life of our Parish.

Again huge thanks go to my colleague Jane; to Sarah and Christine; to the PCC; and to Ross himself. Together, the team has made this process actually rather wonderful.

Kirsten Bayes, Churchwarden

St Bartholomew's Church

St Bart's was host to a family Christmas celebration this year, with the retelling of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of a donkey. The donkey who carried Mary to Bethlehem, who loved Joseph and ....who loved carrots!! Delilah, fashioned from a fluffy dressing gown and turned into a puppet, retold her story with the help of some carefully placed props, music, mime and lots of carrots !

Jane Kenyon, Churchwarden

Annual report from PCC Buildings Committee March 2020

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, use of our three buildings has been severely restricted. Where necessary social distancing rules have been applied and rigorous cleaning protocols adopted. The hall kitchen has undergone a deep clean.

As reported last year, we are in discussions with Read College to agree a long term licence. These negotiations are well advanced and it is hoped very shortly to submit the final licence for Faculty approval. Approval to reroof and replace the guttering at St Bartholomew's has been granted and the Architect has instructed the contractor to commence preparations to purchase the materials. Funding for the project has been obtained from the D A Lawrence Trust and work is expected to be completed later this summer.

All issues identified in the 2019 Quinquennial Inspections have either been completed or are in progress. Earlier this year the pointing at St Luke's was completed and a fire rated curtain and panelling between the choir vestry and chancel installed. Fire exit signage has also been improved.

A repair to St Luke's bell rope required the erection of scaffolding to the bell tower and this has enabled a proper inspection of the brick and stonework to be carried out. No immediate repairs were identified.

All of the statutory inspections and annual maintenance contracts on our three properties are up to date. Routine repairs, maintenance and replacements of expired equipment have been carried out as the need required.

Work to replace the garage/shed in the hall garden with an accessible greenhouse and to improve the disabled access to the Turner room were completed in Quarter 1 of 2020. New locks to the garden gate have also been fitted to improve security and egress in the event of an emergency.

To control our limited parking outside the hall, retractable posts have been installed.

We again owe a huge thank you to Roger Cox for project managing and, in many cases, undertaking the tasks involved in maintaining and refurbishing our three properties.

The Buildings Committee would also like to thank Sarah for the day to day management of the Hall and the Church. Due to the pandemic, carrying out this responsibility has been made more difficult.

May I conclude this report by thanking all members of the congregation who have assisted the Buildings Committee in maintaining the fabric of our buildings.

Leslie Green,
Chair of the Buildings Committee

March 2021

Finance

Treasurer's Report

Finance

Treasurer's Report

This report is based on the accounts produced by the treasurer directly using the accounting software.

At the summary level, in 2020 our income was greater than our expenditure.

INCOME

Total Income was about £100,000 (compared to £125,000 in 2019).

Income from donors

In 2020, this was about £37,500 (compared with £47,000 in 2019).

Income from buildings rent (hall and churches):

In 2020, income from building rent was about £34,000 (compared with £50,000 in 2019). The reduction was due to a decrease in hall rent due to the pandemic, though we did get income from the NHS as they used the building for a reasonable amount of the year. However we had reduced income from St Barts as we allowed Read College a 3 month rent holiday as they were unable to use the building from 23 March until September.

Other income:

There was about £28,500 in other income during 2020. This included, mainly gift aid from our giving plus dividends. We had minimal income from our usual coffee mornings and no weddings and only minimal income from funerals and no Christmas Fair.

EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure was about £115,200 (compared to £107,500 in 2019).

Utilities and insurance (excluding water)

Insurance in the two churches (and hall) was about £10,800 which is about the same as the previous year.

Electricity in the two churches was about £2,900 which is almost £1,000 lower than the previous year but given we were not in the building for about 7 months is not surprising.

Gas was about the same in the two churches (about £10,700) in 2020 than in 2019, but again as the time not in the churches coincided with warmer months, this is also not surprising.

Hall gas was 50% higher than in 2019, but may have been due to the NHS using the building during the days in March and April but electricity for the hall was slightly lower than in 2019. It is likely less electricity was used by the NHS than might have been for other hall users who rent the building in the evenings and use lights.

Charitable giving:

As in recent years, we did not give 10% of our planned giving to charities in 2019. Our plan had been to continue to donate to some local charities regularly and then do one off fundraising for others throughout the year. However due to the stopping of coffee mornings from 23 March, we were only able to give about £2,600 to charities which is considerably lower than 2019 (£4,200).

Parish Share:

Our Parish share reverted back to full rate as Fr Graeme had left us and there is no rebate during an interregnum. Our parish share was £44,800 in 2020.

Parish Administrator:

Costs for Parish Administrator reduced as there was no need for the additional hours for work for the Area Dean and so this resulted in less tax, national insurance and pension. (Total cost just over £10,100, which includes salary and these additional items).

BALANCE OF FUNDS

Our usable funds have decreased from 2019 where they were £119,000 to around £103,300 as we have spent more than we have received.

We do also have some untouchable funds, which were valued at £378,811 on 31 Dec 2020. These are the Lawrence Bequest, the Curacy fund, the Schoolrooms fund, and the Cockburn Bequest. These reduced in value by almost £16,500 due to the economic situation arising out of the pandemic.

Reserves Policy

The usable funds that we hold in reserve have been increased due to an increase in rent of buildings. The reserves policy was not discussed in 2020, however our accounts show that we still meet the reserves policy as set in 2011.

The reserves policy is still to maintain reserves of at least £5,000 per building for emergency maintenance to the buildings. The maximum amount to be held in reserves was agreed to be £100,000, although we could potentially hold more if the PCC determined there was a valid reason for doing so.

All reserves are held as funds invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England for the time being.

Sally-Ann McDowell

Safeguarding

‘For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you’ Jeremiah 29:11

Promoting a safer environment and culture within our church, where all will prosper and none will be harmed, continues to be of the utmost importance. Although we have rarely been together in person over the past year, we wish to create an environment which is welcoming, respectful and enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently.
Since the last APCM Nicola Taylor has given up the position of Parish Safeguarding Officer and has been replaced by myself, Gillian Lyne.

We are very grateful to Nicola for all the hard work she has invested in this role and for continuing to act as a consultant for the next few months until I have completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Leadership training. I would also like to thank Jenny Page who has remained as the DBS verifier.
The safeguarding audit carried out in February 2021 identified key areas such as safer recruitment and training as a priority for us as a church. It is important that we follow the House of Bishops’ policies including safer recruitment practice guidance. This means that application forms need to be generated and used in the appropriate circumstances as do generic “activity risk assessments” for activities with children and vulnerable adults. It is worth noting that although we have made progress, there is currently still a lot of work for us to do in this area.

A review of the safeguarding log is in progress to ensure this is up to date with both DBS checks and current safeguarding training. This review has shown that some DBS checks do need redoing after the five year period since they were last done. All PCC members and anyone working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are reminded that they need to be DBS checked. It is also necessary to ensure that all training is up to date as some people don’t appear to have done this. We are currently working on a process to remind individuals of these training and DBS check requirements and to ensure that they have been done.

A safeguarding policy for those who hire the Hall has been written.

It is worth noting that despite the challenges of the last year, safeguarding procedures were followed for online Junior Church meetings last year and at the Christmas nativity play at St Barts.
As online services and activities may remain for some time it is necessary to ensure that any such activity is compliant with diocesan safe working practice policies. Work on this will start shortly.

Also identified in the audit was the need to comply with all data protection legislation (GDPR) especially in regard to storing information and safeguarding records. Further work on this is needed, particularly in regard to the disposal of historic data held in St. Luke’s.

The PCC is reminded that as the trustee body it has responsibility for the oversight of all safeguarding activity and for creating an environment in the church where all are safe and can flourish.

Gillian Lyne

Worship Spaces

Clergy Report - Christine/Ross

The last APCM was held in October, during a time when it was possible to have worship in Church. We had two services to keep the numbers down and we were able to have communion in person with between 35 and 40 people in Church as well as between 5 and 10 on zoom.

By that point the advertisement for the post of Vicar of our Parish had been published, and although we did not know it, Ross had already discovered it and had started wondering if we were where God wanted him to be.

The advert excited me, and having known the outgoing curate Serena well through mutual curacy training days, I had some insight into the nature of the parish. I was excited by the commitment to Inclusive Church, and also the relationships in the wider community through the Community Garden and READ Performing Arts College.

Meanwhile we were preparing for the interview process, first with a couple of days when the candidates were able to have an informal look found the Church and the Vicarage

Visiting the church for an orientation was a delight. There was a warmth both in the welcome of those I met and in the feel of St Luke's church building. I loved the community garden especially, and looking around the vicarage got me excited about the parties I could throw! It was rather an overwhelming day, but I rather fell in love with the parish. A member of my cell group said that I was talking about Redlands with the same tone that I talk about a new romantic crush!

All the candidates had lots of strengths and even on that day, it was clear that the interviewing panel were going to have a hard job, although in the end I think they felt that making the right choice was easy.

When I was offered the post, it was an immediate yes from me. I was about to host a drinks party on Zoom for my curacy benefice, and to restrain myself from saying anything! It seemed to feel like forever before it could be announced due to the Bishop being on holiday and then the various safeguarding procedures.

Then came the long months while we waited for Ross to join us and he put the finishing touches to his ministry in Witney.

In November we went back into lockdown for a while but we were allowed a few weeks of in person worship over Christmas before returning to lockdown in January.

On February 1st we had to welcome Ross over zoom and it felt like the culmination of a very long process. Graeme had left in August 2019 and the process of finding his successor was put back by Covid restrictions on several occasions. However, although it seemed long overdue, we were delighted to join him over zoom for his first Eucharist at Candlemas.

Bishop Olivia spoke at my licensing about our shared call to be candle-bearers to the world, and for us, to Redlands. She also reminded us that I am a work-in-progress, and it

has been good to remember that as I come to terms with being a vicar - and especially in such a trying time as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We celebrated the start of Lent online with a Pancake Party and a Eucharist for Ash Wednesday, with a video encouraging us to ‘bury the Alleluia’.

It was important for me that during Lent, the focus was on me getting to know you and you getting to know me. As such, I told my Beatitude Fairy Tales twice weekly to adults and to children and into Holy Week so that you could understand the creativity that I bring with me. The conversations and discussions we had afterwards were fruitful and helpful for me in getting to know where you are. We also had a Desert Island Discs evening, where I told my life story and played music important to me.

At the Annunciation, we launched a long-term mission project: a Nativity Festival, encouraging parishioners and local community groups to contribute and maybe even craft a Nativity scene to adorn the windowsills at St Luke’s during Advent and Christmas 2021 (COVID permitting).

Our Holy Week and Easter Day were celebrated online too, with daily services, stories, or viewing parties. We watched Riding Lights’ ‘Breaking Day’ during the Hours on Good Friday and the 2015 concert version of ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’ in the evening. As restrictions began to ease, the choir gathered in the Community Garden to record some music for our Easter Day worship.

Eastertide was a season of celebration of the Resurrection, and also preparation for returning to worship and events in our church buildings. This began in Easter Week with two weekday masses: on a Tuesday, and on a Thursday. Eastertide will end with my having my first Sunday services with a congregation in the building and also online. St Luke’s Church has also been used as a polling station for local elections, and we offered the opportunity for people to light a candle by moving the pricket stand. We remain, however, to be a community who gather together online and our Social Quiz for Christian Aid Week was held on Zoom.

It has been quite the extraordinary start to my new ministry among you, and I’m excited by how much we have accomplished together thus far as we seek to worship God and serve all God’s children.

Christine/Ross

Music Director's report 2020/21

It has obviously been a very different year for the choir and all involved in making music at church. As we all got to used to the technology and what we could do; we gradually began to meet for online choir practices. I want to thank the choir for being so patient as I worked out how best to present materials and exactly which buttons to press. We now meet every 2/3 weeks on a Friday evening, juniors 7-8pm and adults 7.30-8.30pm as a good opportunity to talk and share music, singing along on mute. It is fantastic that several past members have been able to join us from afar.

As we grew in confidence, it was great to be able to contribute to Diocesan services and our own zoom services. It has been lovely to hear and see different singers as best we can online. Even though it was only for a few months in was good to be able to bring a smaller, distanced version of the choir back into church in the winter last year and especially to be able to have a carol service for which we rehearsed entirely on zoom. Although the difficulty of this is that the congregation cannot join in with the singing and we obviously miss all singing together.

Looking forward, we hope to gradually return to singing safely together and I am looking forward to awarding ‘voice for life’ medals to several members. We are excited to be broadening our repertoire with new ideas from Ross and are happy to receive music suggestions if there is something we haven’t sung for a while you would like to hear. We also hope to be able to share music with everyone in other ways online.

I would like to thank all the choir for their commitment despite us not being able to meet in person. I would like to thank Christine and Ross who have encouraged us all and made musical suggestions and then had the very challenging job of organising the technology. Thanks also to Gordon for recording backing tracks and to both Gordon and Timothy for accompanying us in church and playing when there was no choir. Thank you to Steve and Sally-Ann for technical support and everyone for your lovely encouraging comments.

Gemma Mason

Social Spaces

Pastoral Care Team Report

March 2020- March 2021

The Pastoral Care Team, alongside other committed parishioners, has tried to maintain support, to others, during this Covid Year. Penny Starr, John Davis and Jenny Weller have died during this year and many of us watched the live streaming of their funerals. We have remembered Janet Davis, John Starr and Jenny Weller's family in their great loss.

Telephone contact has been the main source of communication and chats on doorsteps to many parishioners. Shopping has been delivered when needed and also support with technology to enable church members to join in Zoom Services and Meetings. Weekly Sheets have been delivered and as the Senior's Teas could not go ahead this year the Pastoral Care Team have delivered cakes to parish members at special times of the year: Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter. The team consists of Christine Blackman, Mary Evans, Everette Marshall and myself, Sheila Cox. Ross Meikle will also attend the Pastoral Care Team Meetings whenever possible.

I'd like to thank all of the team for their support and visits during this very unusual year. We look forward to visiting people in their homes in the near future and offering lifts to people wanting to come back to church services.

Sheila tries to keep the prayer list up to date of those members who need praying for. Please contact her or Sarah if names need adding or taking away from the weekly sheet.

Thanks must also go to members of the church who give support without necessarily any recognition, in particular Steve and Sylvia, Shelagh and Alan and Jane, amongst others, providing on-going support to individuals in the Parish.

Sheila Cox - Pastoral Care Leader

Parish Toddler Group

St. Luke's Toddler Group has not met since March last year, sadly. We look forward to when we can reopen! It is rare for me or Francis to go out without meeting someone we know from Toddler Group, but many of the children are now old enough not to need the Group! However, we did recently see 2 grandparents who used to attend every week with their little grandson, now at school, and they said they have 3 new grandchildren. So we know we have one family at least, looking forward to joining us!

Hilary Jakeman

Monthly Coffee Morning

Saturday coffee mornings will restart in the hall, as soon as it is safe to do so.

Hilary Jakeman

Traidcraft

Traidcraft sales have been good, though, predictably, not as good as before the lockdowns, because of not having stalls at the coffee morning nor in St. Luke's church on the 2nd. Sunday each month. There was that brief window last year when I could have a "stall" in the back of our car, in St. Luke's carpark, so people were able to see & buy some Christmas stock. Regular customers have of course been happy to order as usual, & they either collect from me or I deliver or post
to them.

There was a wonderful surge which started in Fair Trade Fortnight this year, when one member of the congregation had the brilliant idea of giving me the money to take a box of Traidcraft groceries to the Food Bank. I had been wondering about how to give to the Food Bank, who found that demand had rocketed during the lockdowns. Other people followed this idea & I was able to take over £150 - worth of groceries, & a few treats, to the FB. This is a completely win-win situation, as the FB gets goods to give to people who are struggling, & Traidcraft is able to buy more from the producers, who also struggle with unfair trade practices.

Traidcraft puts its profits into its development charity, Traidcraft Exchange. I have yet to work out what I should send, for the last financial year, from my small profit & your generous donations, but if I send it before 7 June it will be matched £ for £ by the UK government. As an example of what can be done, £50 will pay for an acre of land in Tanzania to be planted with fruit trees.

Hilary Jakeman

Thinking Spaces

House Group/ Evening Lent Group

The Group had 10 regular members until Lent 2021, when our numbers increased to 12. Because of pandemic-related restrictions, we completed our 2020 Lent course ('Five ways of receiving Christ') using Zoom, and continued to meet in this way until the end of Lent this year. Though we would have preferred to meet face-to-face, the Zoom meetings worked fairly well, especially when 'breakout rooms' allowing small sub-group discussions were introduced alongside our whole-group interactions.

Our monthly meetings in May, June and July 2020 were all based on single Bible studies: 1 John, the book of Jonah and the Epistle of James. From August to December we focused on a Bible Society course entitled 'Jesus the Jew', examining Jesus's teachings in the context of his Jewish background and circumstances. Amongst other things, this course introduced us to the different Jewish groups - Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians - who played an important part in Jesus's life and teaching. We also examined aspects of the Jewish Law dealing with wealth and divorce, which were important to Jesus. We looked at the ways in which Jesus's Jewish audience would have tried to understand who Jesus was: radical John the Baptist-type preacher, prophet, miracle-worker or rabbi? Finally, we discussed how the Lord's Prayer would have related to Jewish prayer rituals of Jesus's day.

After a single study in January from the 'Words of Life' series entitled 'What to do when trouble comes', examining different ways in which the Christian can view life's troubles, the Group embarked on weekly meetings as a Lent Group, as is our usual practice. For our Lent deliberations, we chose a York course entitled 'Superstar', which used the lyrics from five songs from the musical 'Jesus Christ Superstar' as starting-points for five rather disparate sessions. These dealt respectively with 'Who is Jesus?', 'Miracles', 'The Psalms', 'The Church' and 'Cross Purposes' (i.e. the purpose behind Jesus's suffering and death). Our discussion questions were linked to the recorded views of an ecumenical panel of prominent Christians. These discussion points tackled a wide variety of challenging topics, such as whether Jesus was an early feminist, why God seems selective in His approach to miraculous interventions, whether some of Christ's teaching is 'unpalatable' today, and whether we need more, or less, 'hellfire and damnation' preaching from the Church nowadays.

Alan Tonkyn
14/04/21

Beatitude Fairy Tales

During Lent, it was good to offer two concurrent sessions during which I would tell the Beatitude Fairy Tales to an adult audience during the week, and also to children on a Sunday evening. It was encouraging to have regular attendance, and to have conversations and discussions about the stories and the insights we each found in them afterwards. The feedback and conversations have also helped me as the writer to reflect, edit, and improve them.

Ross

Creative Spaces

Erleigh Road Community Garden

The garden has reopened in time for spring 2021 with a number of sessions each week. There is a Monday after school club from 3.30-4.15pm, Thursday morning gardening from 10-11.30am and Saturday afternoons 3-4.30pm. Starting on Thursday 10th May we will also be running an 8 week course called Growing Conversations which is for people looking to improve their English and learn about gardening at the same time. In April and May we will be running four sessions for Under 5's in partnership with East Reading Children's Centre with a range of activities for little ones including sowing sunflower seeds, nature art and bug hunts.

The garden is bursting into life at the moment and we've had blossom on the damson tree and the apple and pear trees are just starting to blossom now. We have started sowing lots of seeds in the greenhouse and outside in the garden broad beans, chard, spinach, leeks, onions, garlic, cavolo nero and rocket have been growing over the winter. We hope to create a flower border this year as were donated lots of lovely flower seeds so have started those off in the greenhouse too.
In other news we have been working on another community project in the area to green up Redlands Primary School for the benefit of the children's (& staff!) health and wellbeing, as well as encouraging greater biodiversity and assisting with water saving and urban cooling. For more info please take a look at https://uk.gofundme.com/f/Redlands

Sessions numbers are restricted at the moment to ensure we can social distance properly so if you would like to book a place please email garden@redlandsparish.org.uk

Naomi German

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod has met over Zoom, which is remarkably successful. The last meeting, in March this year, was the annual general meeting, at which officers were elected. There is still no secretary, unfortunately, but excellent people were elected as the other officers, to keep the show on the road, the main benefit, as I see it, being to give church members the opportunity to get to know members from other churches, & think about the impact of the church in the local area. The object of the November meeting was to agree the parish share, & it was agreed without the usual discussions (?arguments!). Redlands parish share remains unchanged from last year.

Hilary Jakeman

St Luke with St Bartholomew, Reading

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31 Dec 2020

- **Introduction**

  As per last year, the accounts have been produced directly from the accounting system (Finance Co-ordinator offline version 1). Note, at the request of the independent inspector, this year's accounts round up rather than showing only the pound. Some of the reports also have a slightly different layout due to the accounting system change from offline to online.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior Year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	51,682	—	—	51,682	56,524
Income from charitable activities	11,767	—	—	11,767	14,840
Other trading activities	—	—	—	—	2,146
Investments	24,267	—	12,105	36,372	51,329
Total income	**87,716**	**—**	**12,105**	**99,821**	**124,840**
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	103,802	(815)	12,105	115,092	107,417
Other expenditure	100	—	—	100	100
Total expenditure	**103,902**	**(815)**	**12,105**	**115,192**	**107,517**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(16,186)**	**815**	**—**	**(15,371)**	**17,322**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	1	25,110	25,111	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(25,111)	—	—	(25,111)	—
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	59,593
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	25,377	—	(41,492)	(16,116)	—
Net movement in funds	**(15,920)**	**816**	**(16,382)**	**(31,487)**	**76,915**
Total funds brought forward	**111,644**	**403**	**395,208**	**507,255**	**430,340**
Total funds carried forward	**95,724**	**1,218**	**378,826**	**475,768**	**507,255**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	95,724	—	—	95,724	111,644
Restricted					
Administrator	—	—	—	—	(1)
Parish Weekend	—	1,218	—	1,218	403
Endowment					
Cockburn Bequest	—	—	137,320	137,320	132,483
Curacy Fund	—	—	7,683	7,683	6,854
Lawrence Bequest	—	—	147,057	147,057	172,161
Schoolrooms Fund	—	—	86,766	86,766	83,710

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	Schoolrooms Fund	86,766	81,345
	Cockburn Bequest	137,593	128,740
	Lawrence Bequest	147,057	177,926
	Nuttall Bequest	—	—
	Curacy Fund	7,668	7,188
	Total Fixed assets	**379,084**	**395,199**
Current assets			
	NatWest St Lukes	1,666	19,402
	NatWest Hall	2,418	3,392
	Lloyds St Barts	41,282	46,359
	Santander St Lukes	1,430	1,920
	CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account	44,608	38,147
	CCLA (CBF) St Barts deosit account	1,962	1,954
	CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account	2,198	2,189
	Cash in hand	—	—
	Accounts Receivable	7,749	5,917
	Total Current assets	**103,313**	**119,280**
Liabilities			
	Agency collections	—	—
	Accounts Payable	6,629	7,224
	Total Liabilities	**6,629**	**7,224**
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	**475,768**	**507,255**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(15,371)	17,322
	Starting balances	533,468	430,340
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(26,213)	59,593
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(16,116)	—
	Total Reserves	**475,768**	**507,255**
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	95,739	111,644
	Designated	—	—
	Restricted	1,218	403
	Endowment	378,811	395,208
	Total	**475,768**	**507,255**

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Schoolrooms Fund -	—	—	—	86,766	86,766	81,345
Cockburn Bequest -	273	—	—	137,320	137,593	128,740
Lawrence Bequest -	25,104	—	—	121,953	147,057	177,926
Curacy Fund -	—	—	—	7,668	7,668	7,188
Totals	**25,377**	**—**	**—**	**353,707**	**379,084**	**395,199**
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
NatWest St Lukes -	35,995	—	12,689	(47,018)	1,666	19,402
NatWest Hall -	14,538	—	(11,393)	(727)	2,418	3,392
Lloyds St Barts -	17,032	—	270	23,980	41,282	46,359
Santander St Lukes -	4,898	—	—	(3,468)	1,430	1,920
CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account -	17,202	—	—	27,405	44,608	38,147
CCLA (CBF) St Barts deosit account -	1,962	—	—	—	1,962	1,954
CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account -	2,198	—	—	—	2,198	2,189
Totals	**93,826**	**—**	**1,567**	**172**	**95,564**	**113,362**
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	7,749	—	—	—	7,749	5,917
Totals	**7,749**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**7,749**	**5,917**
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	141	—	(141)	—	—	—
Totals	**141**	**—**	**(141)**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accounts Payable -	31,071	—	490	(24,932)	6,629	7,224
Totals	**31,071**	**—**	**490**	**(24,932)**	**6,629**	**7,224**
Grand total	**95,739**	**—**	**1,218**	**378,811**	**475,768**	**507,255**

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Admin - Administrator						
Restricted	(1)	—	—	1	—	—
Sub-total for Admin	**(1)**	**—**	**—**	**1**	**—**	**—**
Cockburn - Cockburn Bequest						
Endowment	132,483	2,887	2,888	(3,744)	8,580	137,320
Sub-total for Cockburn	**132,483**	**2,887**	**2,888**	**(3,744)**	**8,580**	**137,320**
Curacy - Curacy Fund						
Endowment	6,854	215	215	350	479	7,683
Sub-total for Curacy	**6,854**	**215**	**215**	**350**	**479**	**7,683**
Lawrence - Lawrence Bequest						
Endowment	172,161	7,178	7,178	30,869	(55,973)	147,057
Sub-total for Lawrence	**172,161**	**7,178**	**7,178**	**30,869**	**(55,973)**	**147,057**
Nuttall - Nuttall Bequest						
Endowment	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Nuttall	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
PWE - Parish Weekend						
Restricted	403	—	(815)	—	—	1,218
Sub-total for PWE	**403**	**—**	**(815)**	**—**	**—**	**1,218**
School - Schoolrooms Fund						
Endowment	83,710	1,824	1,824	(2,365)	5,422	86,766
Sub-total for School	**83,710**	**1,824**	**1,824**	**(2,365)**	**5,422**	**86,766**
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	111,644	87,716	103,902	(25,111)	25,377	95,724
Sub-total for General	**111,644**	**87,716**	**103,902**	**(25,111)**	**25,377**	**95,724**
Grand total	**507,255**	**99,821**	**115,192**	**—**	**(16,116)**	**475,768**

Note regarding fund movement by type:

It was discovered that in the accounts for year ending 31 Dec 2019, a mistake was made in that the incoming and outgoing movements for the following funds did not match to the extent that they should have: Cockburn, Curacy, Lawrence and Schoolrooms. Each year the incoming funds are supposed to be spent on the items as per each bequest. Occasionally there may be more or less spent, and this can carry forward. Although the overall figure for year ending 31 Dec 2019 matched, the individual line items did not. An adjustment was therefore made in this year's accounts and this can be seen by the transfers from the General Fund to each of the individual funds. Some corrections were made to the Lawrence fund and this means that the gains/losses and transfers looks high. However, the closing balance of all funds is now more or less correct, with minor differences to the balance sheet as per the comment above.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the annual revaluation of listed investments to market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
- Income Tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Income from fund raising events is accounted for net of incidental expenses.

Other ordinary income:

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments:

- Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants:

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

  Activities directly relating to the work of the Church:

  - The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings:

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10 (2)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments:

- Investments are stated at market valuation.

Current assets:

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

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Giving	39,288	—	—	—	39,288	47,336
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,144	—	—	—	9,144	9,188
Non-recurring one-off grants	3,250	—	—	—	3,250	—
Total	51,682	—	—	—	51,682	56,524
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	281	—	—	—	281	1,031
Church hall lettings - objectives	11,486	—	—	—	11,486	13,809
Total	11,767	—	—	—	11,767	14,840
Other trading activities						
Bookstall sales - fund raising	—	—	—	—	—	2,146
Total	—	—	—	—	—	2,146
Investments						
Dividends	1,578	—	—	12,051	13,629	15,208
Bank and building society interest	189	—	—	54	243	291
Rent from lands or buildings	22,500	—	—	—	22,500	35,830
Total	24,267	—	—	12,105	36,372	51,329
INCOME TOTAL	87,716	—	—	12,105	99,821	124,840
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Charitable Giving	2,640	—	—	—	2,640	4,170
Ministry parish share etc	40,862	—	—	3,937	44,799	21,031
Assistant staff costs	3,122	—	—	—	3,122	4,775
Salary of parish administrator	10,127	—	—	—	10,127	14,119
Working expenses of incumbent	512	—	—	161	673	1,207
Education	124	—	—	—	124	92
Parish training and mission	1,280	—	(815)	—	465	4,454
Church and hall running - insurance	10,755	—	—	—	10,755	10,841
Church office - telephone	263	—	—	—	263	1,301
Organ / piano tuning	510	—	—	—	510	—
Church maintenance	5,896	—	—	—	5,896	9,265
Cleaning	4,511	—	—	—	4,511	4,255
Upkeep of services	311	—	—	4,417	4,729	4,953
Upkeep of churchyard	3,121	—	—	—	3,121	2,776
Administration	1,326	—	—	24	1,350	2,557
Church running - electric	2,883	—	—	20	2,903	3,745
Church running - gas	7,094	—	—	3,546	10,640	10,666
Church running - water	406	—	—	—	406	351
Hall running - electricity	791	—	—	—	791	880
Hall running - gas	3,117	—	—	—	3,117	1,812
Hall running - maintenance	3,477	—	—	—	3,477	3,833
Hall running - water	674	—	—	—	674	336
Total	103,802	—	(815)	12,105	115,092	107,417

Other expenditure						
Governance costs examination/audit fee	100	—	—	—	100	100
Total	100	—	—	—	100	100
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	103,902	—	(815)	12,105	115,192	107,517
GRAND TOTAL	(16,186)	—	815	—	(15,371)	17,322

FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investments held by the Central Board of Finance – Investment units.

Cost at 31 December 2020 was £64,633 (market value £378,811) and at 31 December 2018 £64,633 (market value £395,199).

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Fixed assets and investment	**-**	**-**	**379,084**	**379,084**
Current assets	**103,313**	**-**	**-**	**103,313**
Current liabilities	**(6,629)**	**-**	**-**	**(6,629)**
Fund balance	**£96,684**	**-**	**£379,084**	**£475,768**

See note below for identification of funds.

LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

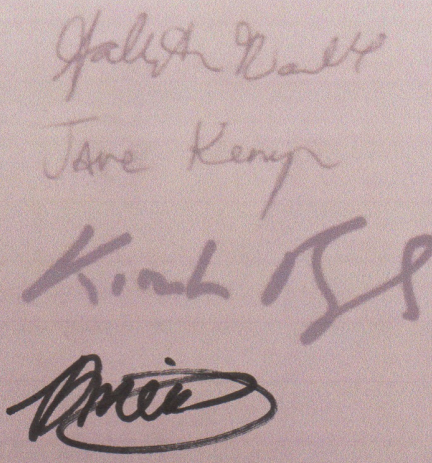
	2020	2019
Accruals and deferred income	**£6,629**	**£7,224**
	=====	=====

FUND DETAILS

The endowment fund comprises the Church School Rooms Fund, Curacy Fund, Lawrence and Cockburn Bequests.

This report dated 15 Sep 2021

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28 Sep 2021 and signed on its behalf by



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2020	**Charity no (if any)**	1158694
Set out on pages	See accompanying Annual Report and Financial Statements (including SOFA, Balance Sheet & Notes)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2020**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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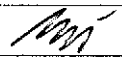
Signed:		**Date:**	15/09/2021
Name:	Michael Dix		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Member (Institute of Chartered Accountants England &Wales)		
Address:	2 Green Lane,		

Wokingham
RG41 5FE

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	None to report

St Luke with St Bartholomew, Reading

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31 Dec 2020

- **Introduction**

  As per last year, the accounts have been produced directly from the accounting system (Finance Co-ordinator offline version 1). Note, at the request of the independent inspector, this year's accounts round up rather than showing only the pound. Some of the reports also have a slightly different layout due to the accounting system change from offline to online.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior Year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	51,682	—	—	51,682	56,524
Income from charitable activities	11,767	—	—	11,767	14,840
Other trading activities	—	—	—	—	2,146
Investments	24,267	—	12,105	36,372	51,329
Total income	**87,716**	**—**	**12,105**	**99,821**	**124,840**
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on charitable activities	103,802	(815)	12,105	115,092	107,417
Other expenditure	100	—	—	100	100
Total expenditure	**103,902**	**(815)**	**12,105**	**115,192**	**107,517**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(16,186)**	**815**	**—**	**(15,371)**	**17,322**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	1	25,110	25,111	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(25,111)	—	—	(25,111)	—
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	59,593
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	25,377	—	(41,492)	(16,116)	—
Net movement in funds	**(15,920)**	**816**	**(16,382)**	**(31,487)**	**76,915**
Total funds brought forward	**111,644**	**403**	**395,208**	**507,255**	**430,340**
Total funds carried forward	**95,724**	**1,218**	**378,826**	**475,768**	**507,255**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	95,724	—	—	95,724	111,644
Restricted					
Administrator	—	—	—	—	(1)
Parish Weekend	—	1,218	—	1,218	403
Endowment					
Cockburn Bequest	—	—	137,320	137,320	132,483
Curacy Fund	—	—	7,683	7,683	6,854
Lawrence Bequest	—	—	147,057	147,057	172,161
Schoolrooms Fund	—	—	86,766	86,766	83,710

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	Schoolrooms Fund	86,766	81,345
	Cockburn Bequest	137,593	128,740
	Lawrence Bequest	147,057	177,926
	Nuttall Bequest	—	—
	Curacy Fund	7,668	7,188
	Total Fixed assets	**379,084**	**395,199**
Current assets			
	NatWest St Lukes	1,666	19,402
	NatWest Hall	2,418	3,392
	Lloyds St Barts	41,282	46,359
	Santander St Lukes	1,430	1,920
	CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account	44,608	38,147
	CCLA (CBF) St Barts deosit account	1,962	1,954
	CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account	2,198	2,189
	Cash in hand	—	—
	Accounts Receivable	7,749	5,917
	Total Current assets	**103,313**	**119,280**
Liabilities			
	Agency collections	—	—
	Accounts Payable	6,629	7,224
	Total Liabilities	**6,629**	**7,224**
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	**475,768**	**507,255**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(15,371)	17,322
	Starting balances	533,468	430,340
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(26,213)	59,593
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(16,116)	—
	Total Reserves	**475,768**	**507,255**
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	95,739	111,644
	Designated	—	—
	Restricted	1,218	403
	Endowment	378,811	395,208
	Total	**475,768**	**507,255**

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Schoolrooms Fund -	—	—	—	86,766	86,766	81,345
Cockburn Bequest -	273	—	—	137,320	137,593	128,740
Lawrence Bequest -	25,104	—	—	121,953	147,057	177,926
Curacy Fund -	—	—	—	7,668	7,668	7,188
Totals	**25,377**	**—**	**—**	**353,707**	**379,084**	**395,199**
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
NatWest St Lukes -	35,995	—	12,689	(47,018)	1,666	19,402
NatWest Hall -	14,538	—	(11,393)	(727)	2,418	3,392
Lloyds St Barts -	17,032	—	270	23,980	41,282	46,359
Santander St Lukes -	4,898	—	—	(3,468)	1,430	1,920
CCLA (CBF) St Lukes deposit account -	17,202	—	—	27,405	44,608	38,147
CCLA (CBF) St Barts deosit account -	1,962	—	—	—	1,962	1,954
CCLA (CBF) Hall deposit account -	2,198	—	—	—	2,198	2,189
Totals	**93,826**	**—**	**1,567**	**172**	**95,564**	**113,362**
Current assets - Debtors						
Accounts Receivable -	7,749	—	—	—	7,749	5,917
Totals	**7,749**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**7,749**	**5,917**
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	141	—	(141)	—	—	—
Totals	**141**	**—**	**(141)**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year						
Accounts Payable -	31,071	—	490	(24,932)	6,629	7,224
Totals	**31,071**	**—**	**490**	**(24,932)**	**6,629**	**7,224**
Grand total	**95,739**	**—**	**1,218**	**378,811**	**475,768**	**507,255**

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Admin - Administrator						
Restricted	(1)	—	—	1	—	—
Sub-total for Admin	**(1)**	**—**	**—**	**1**	**—**	**—**
Cockburn - Cockburn Bequest						
Endowment	132,483	2,887	2,888	(3,744)	8,580	137,320
Sub-total for Cockburn	**132,483**	**2,887**	**2,888**	**(3,744)**	**8,580**	**137,320**
Curacy - Curacy Fund						
Endowment	6,854	215	215	350	479	7,683
Sub-total for Curacy	**6,854**	**215**	**215**	**350**	**479**	**7,683**
Lawrence - Lawrence Bequest						
Endowment	172,161	7,178	7,178	30,869	(55,973)	147,057
Sub-total for Lawrence	**172,161**	**7,178**	**7,178**	**30,869**	**(55,973)**	**147,057**
Nuttall - Nuttall Bequest						
Endowment	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Nuttall	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
PWE - Parish Weekend						
Restricted	403	—	(815)	—	—	1,218
Sub-total for PWE	**403**	**—**	**(815)**	**—**	**—**	**1,218**
School - Schoolrooms Fund						
Endowment	83,710	1,824	1,824	(2,365)	5,422	86,766
Sub-total for School	**83,710**	**1,824**	**1,824**	**(2,365)**	**5,422**	**86,766**
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	111,644	87,716	103,902	(25,111)	25,377	95,724
Sub-total for General	**111,644**	**87,716**	**103,902**	**(25,111)**	**25,377**	**95,724**
Grand total	**507,255**	**99,821**	**115,192**	**—**	**(16,116)**	**475,768**

Note regarding fund movement by type:

It was discovered that in the accounts for year ending 31 Dec 2019, a mistake was made in that the incoming and outgoing movements for the following funds did not match to the extent that they should have: Cockburn, Curacy, Lawrence and Schoolrooms. Each year the incoming funds are supposed to be spent on the items as per each bequest. Occasionally there may be more or less spent, and this can carry forward. Although the overall figure for year ending 31 Dec 2019 matched, the individual line items did not. An adjustment was therefore made in this year's accounts and this can be seen by the transfers from the General Fund to each of the individual funds. Some corrections were made to the Lawrence fund and this means that the gains/losses and transfers looks high. However, the closing balance of all funds is now more or less correct, with minor differences to the balance sheet as per the comment above.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the annual revaluation of listed investments to market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
- Income Tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Income from fund raising events is accounted for net of incidental expenses.

Other ordinary income:

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments:

- Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants:

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

  Activities directly relating to the work of the Church:

  - The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings:

- Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10 (2)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments:

- Investments are stated at market valuation.

Current assets:

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

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
Giving	39,288	—	—	—	39,288	47,336
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,144	—	—	—	9,144	9,188
Non-recurring one-off grants	3,250	—	—	—	3,250	—
Total	51,682	—	—	—	51,682	56,524
Income from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	281	—	—	—	281	1,031
Church hall lettings - objectives	11,486	—	—	—	11,486	13,809
Total	11,767	—	—	—	11,767	14,840
Other trading activities						
Bookstall sales - fund raising	—	—	—	—	—	2,146
Total	—	—	—	—	—	2,146
Investments						
Dividends	1,578	—	—	12,051	13,629	15,208
Bank and building society interest	189	—	—	54	243	291
Rent from lands or buildings	22,500	—	—	—	22,500	35,830
Total	24,267	—	—	12,105	36,372	51,329
INCOME TOTAL	87,716	—	—	12,105	99,821	124,840
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Charitable Giving	2,640	—	—	—	2,640	4,170
Ministry parish share etc	40,862	—	—	3,937	44,799	21,031
Assistant staff costs	3,122	—	—	—	3,122	4,775
Salary of parish administrator	10,127	—	—	—	10,127	14,119
Working expenses of incumbent	512	—	—	161	673	1,207
Education	124	—	—	—	124	92
Parish training and mission	1,280	—	(815)	—	465	4,454
Church and hall running - insurance	10,755	—	—	—	10,755	10,841
Church office - telephone	263	—	—	—	263	1,301
Organ / piano tuning	510	—	—	—	510	—
Church maintenance	5,896	—	—	—	5,896	9,265
Cleaning	4,511	—	—	—	4,511	4,255
Upkeep of services	311	—	—	4,417	4,729	4,953
Upkeep of churchyard	3,121	—	—	—	3,121	2,776
Administration	1,326	—	—	24	1,350	2,557
Church running - electric	2,883	—	—	20	2,903	3,745
Church running - gas	7,094	—	—	3,546	10,640	10,666
Church running - water	406	—	—	—	406	351
Hall running - electricity	791	—	—	—	791	880
Hall running - gas	3,117	—	—	—	3,117	1,812
Hall running - maintenance	3,477	—	—	—	3,477	3,833
Hall running - water	674	—	—	—	674	336
Total	103,802	—	(815)	12,105	115,092	107,417

Other expenditure						
Governance costs examination/audit fee	100	—	—	—	100	100
Total	100	—	—	—	100	100
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	103,902	—	(815)	12,105	115,192	107,517
GRAND TOTAL	(16,186)	—	815	—	(15,371)	17,322

FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investments held by the Central Board of Finance – Investment units.

Cost at 31 December 2020 was £64,633 (market value £378,811) and at 31 December 2018 £64,633 (market value £395,199).

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Fixed assets and investment	**-**	**-**	**379,084**	**379,084**
Current assets	**103,313**	**-**	**-**	**103,313**
Current liabilities	**(6,629)**	**-**	**-**	**(6,629)**
Fund balance	**£96,684**	**-**	**£379,084**	**£475,768**

See note below for identification of funds.

LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

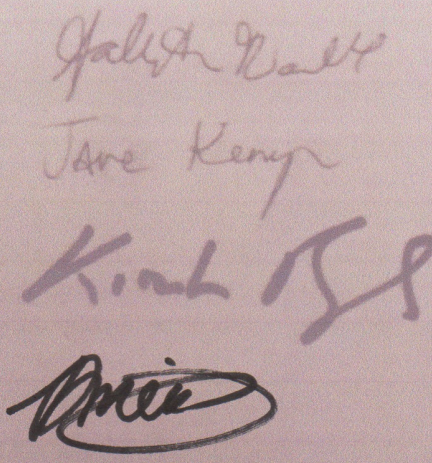
	2020	2019
Accruals and deferred income	**£6,629**	**£7,224**
	=====	=====

FUND DETAILS

The endowment fund comprises the Church School Rooms Fund, Curacy Fund, Lawrence and Cockburn Bequests.

This report dated 15 Sep 2021

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28 Sep 2021 and signed on its behalf by



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Luke with St Bartholomew		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2020	**Charity no (if any)**	1158694
Set out on pages	See accompanying Annual Report and Financial Statements (including SOFA, Balance Sheet & Notes)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2020**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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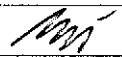
Signed:		**Date:**	15/09/2021
Name:	Michael Dix		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Chartered Member (Institute of Chartered Accountants England &Wales)		
Address:	2 Green Lane,		

Wokingham
RG41 5FE

Section B	Disclosure
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Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	None to report