

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1170425

Details

Other names LOCKING CASTLE CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2016-11-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Jasmine Way
Weston-Super-Mare
BS24 7JW

Phone 01934 519888

Email office@lockingcastlechurch.org

Website www.lockingcastlechurch.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE PARTICIPATING CHURCHES. IN ACHIEVING ITS PURPOSE, THE CHARITY WILL ENGAGE IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, EITHER ON ITS OWN OR WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO):A) THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP; B) THE TEACHING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH; C) MISSION AND EVANGELISM; D) PASTORAL WORK, INCLUDING VISITING THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED; E) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES WITH A CHRISTIAN ETHOS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO) THE ELDERLY, THE YOUNG AND OTHER GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; AND F) THE SUPPORT OF OTHER CHARITIES IN THE UK AND OVERSEAS.

Activities: We are an Ecumenical church partnership of 4 denominations (Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and URC) operating out of our purpose-built premises in Locking Castle Weston-super-Mare. The church is open to all and offers Christian worship, bible study groups and social activities for all ages. We aim to follow the way of Jesus, serving the community - particularly Weston's new estates.

Classification

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

Geography

- North Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£125,224	£127,584	-	-
2023-12-31	£119,573	£138,790	-	-
2022-12-31	£175,855	£168,404	-	-
2021-12-31	£145,413	£141,064	-	-
2020-12-31	£153,262	£165,753	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW PEARCE		2016-11-14
CATHY BOND		2018-04-15
Clare Cleave		2023-04-23
Daniel John Dinsmore		2022-04-24
Fabien Mokhtari		2023-04-23
Helen Nicholas		2026-04-26
Jake Roberts		2026-04-26
Jill Lyons		2025-04-27
Jutta Stanley		2024-04-28
Katherine Mary Hollis		2018-07-01
MARTIN GEORGE PURNELL		2016-10-09
Neville Cranston Brownlee		2021-04-25
Sue Skinner		2026-04-26

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1170425

Accounts

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1 JAN 2024 – 31 DEC 2024

INCOME	2024	2023
Giving	71,780	65,705
Gift aid	12,735	14,084
Special collections	1,254	799
Denomination contributions to Manse rent	6,800	-
Lettings	24,165	22,084
Events	3,013	3,090
Children and youth	541	284
TLC	3,134	2,497
Haywood Village Church	-	6,625
Church @ St Annes (Wonderfully Made)	435	2,390
Repair café	180	-
Bank interest	665	610
Funeral fees	238	897
Other	284	510
	<u>125,224</u>	<u>119,575</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Community and mission giving	5,760	9,500
Events	1,501	1,305
TLC	1,780	1,503
Haywood Village Church	-	20,945
Church @ St Annes (Wonderfully Made)	181	2,302
Hospitality	1,555	1,468
Other mission and evangelism costs	1,581	1,045
Children and youth	3,328	2,181
Equipment	418	490
Other church running expenses	435	180
Worship	4,095	6,812
Staff salaries, expenses, training etc	73,473	71,374
Manse rent	10,100	-
Denominational contributions	4,623	4,331
General church maintenance	6,147	5,748
Utilities	8,015	6,482
Insurance	945	893
Office and sundry expenses	2,354	1,787
Cleaning materials	425	396
Minister expenses	236	-
Church away day	407	-
Guest speakers	225	50
	<u>127,584</u>	<u>138,792</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2024	2023
Income	125,224	119,575
Expenditure	127,584	138,792
Deficit	(2,360)	(19,217)

BALANCE SHEET

31 DEC 2024

31 DEC 2023

ASSETS			
Bank and cash	26,977		29,337
LIABILITIES		-	-
Net assets	26,977		29,337
Unrestricted funds	26,977		23,085
Restricted funds			
Church @ St Annes	-		5,179
Pastoral fund	-		537
Skate Club	-		536
	26,977		29,337

MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Church @ St Annes	Pastoral fund	Skate Club	TOTAL
Balance b/f	23,085	5,179	537	536	29,337
Income	125,224	0	0	0	125,224
Transfer	5201	(5,179)	(22)	0	0
Expenditure	(126,533)	0	(515)	(536)	(127,584)
Balance c/f	26,977	0	0	0	26,977

CASHFLOW

	2024	2023
Cash balances at start of year	29,337	48,554
Deficit for the year	(2,360)	(19,217)
Cash balances at end of year	26,977	29,337

Treasurer: M. Purnell MARTIN PURNELL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Locking Castle Church (Registered Charity No. 1170425) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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.

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.

Name: Peter Needham PETER NEEDHAM

Relevant professional qualification or body: _____

Address: 7 JUNIPER PLACE, WESTON SUPER-MARE, BS22 9XD

Date: 25th MARCH 2025.

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1170425

Accounts

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

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Relevant professional qualification or body: _____

Address: 7 JUNIPER PLACE, WESTON SUPER-MARE, BS22 9XD

Date: 25th MARCH 2025.

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1170425

Accounts



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Following the way of Jesus, serving the community

Book of Reports for the year 2022

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting
Sunday 23rd April 2023

incorporating
The Trustees Annual Report (TAR) for 2022
and
Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2022

Growing



Loving

Sharing



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Lead Minister's report on 2022

Andy Pearce

It's hard to quantify what happened in 2022 outside the significant changes to LCC. We have continued to hold a hybrid service using Live Stream to broadcast at 10.30 to aid those unable to attend physically. We have seen new and old faces attending regularly and a sense of excitement and expectation about the gathered congregation. The first service has grown, with some from Milton Baptist Church joining us as their service was no longer available. Oasis has also continued to thrive and grow, all of which are good indicators that we are going in the right direction. I am greatly encouraged that we are all in this together. I sense the Lord has great things for us as we build towards His Kingdom.

However, this is no excuse for us to rest on our laurels; we need to press on and take hold of all that Christ has for us, with the goal to win the prize of the upward call of Christ. We are called to make the main thing the main thing, which is: UP (to love God: personal discipleship), IN (to love one another: communal discipleship) and OUT (to love others: to be disciple-makers.)

There are a few highlights; one was the sermon series concerning the 'Ruthless Elimination of Hurry'. We learnt that our culture does not help us to connect with the Lord; we are called to a counter-cultural rule of life, where we make room for the 4 'S'; Silence and Solitude, Sabbath, Simplicity and Slowing. The other was the Frontline series, where we discovered that wherever we were, out at the shops, at school, or in our workplaces, we are all representatives of Jesus and have a ministry on our Frontline. I loved that 'Frontline' became a part of LCC's vocabulary and that people felt they had a purpose and ministry in everyday life. Another highlight was the rather ambitious Christmas production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Many were sceptical as it was a departure from the norm. However, it did attract those from the community and surprise people that using a different story can still communicate the good news of the kingdom of God at Christmas.

The significant change that hit us all was Tom and Mims leaving us to serve in Bath Weston. Tom felt he had to hold off taking his sabbatical for a few years because of the pandemic. Tom decided to take his sabbatical this year from June to September. During this time of searching and seeking the Lord, a new opportunity arose; coupled with the feeling that he had accomplished all that he had set out to do at LCC, it was time to move on. We learnt during his sabbatical that he would leave us, which to many was a shock, but to others, it wasn't that much of a surprise. Whatever camp we were part of, we knew we would miss them both. I am so grateful to Tom for leaving us in such a good position with a sure foundation to continue this great work, sharing and living out the good news of the Gospel of Christ. He has made it easy to take the reins; he has been an exceptional leader, leading us with integrity and love. We wish him and Mims all the best with all our love and prayers. May you be richly blessed and see the fruit of the kingdom established and grow in Bath Weston. Thank you.

I want to thank everyone in the church for their perseverance and patience as we navigated this liminal space; we found ourselves searching for a new minister. Thank you for your faithfulness and for giving of your time and resource to help LCC be the church it's called to be. Without you, without the POAB (the priesthood of all believers), we would not have

accomplished all we did in 2022. I am excited, and expect that as we build on this foundation, we will see many come to faith as we live out our discipleship in and through the power of the Holy Spirit, making the most of every opportunity God grants us. Amen!

Revd Andy Pearce - Lead Minister

Ecumenical Church Council (Trustees) following the 2022 AGM

Trustees

Andy Watts	Chair and Church Officer
Revd Tom Yacomeni	Lead Minister (Ex officio)
Revd Andy Pearce	Associate Minister (Ex officio)
Steve Gurney	Church member
Martin Purnell	Treasurer
Cathy Bond	Children and Families Pastor
Fiona Mayne	Community Pastor
Heather Colledge	Safeguarding Lead
Neville Brownlee	Church Member
Adele Lloyd	Church Member and AV Team
Alison Castry	Church Member and
Dan Dinsmore	Church Member and Church Warden
Linda Thomas	Church member and coordinator W@LCC

Co-opted Members

Katherine Hollis	Secretary
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Worship

Report by Andy Pearce.

We have many talented and versatile musicians and singers at LCC. With Dave Cleave joining, we can now bring 4 bands that rotate monthly and which can combine for special occasions. We have enjoyed the freedom to introduce new worship songs sprinkled amongst more well-known songs, giving us a wide variety to draw upon as we worship God together. Since the pandemic, we have also continued to sing hymns at the first service, aided by the talents of Val Ing and Salv. Some from the youth band have branched out and helped to lead a Youth Event called Movement, which moves around North Somerset and helps St Peter's monthly 4pm Service. I would also like to mention our tech team, sound technicians, and AV volunteers, without whom we could not facilitate worship at LCC. Also a big thanks to the LIVE stream team who broadcast services, enabling people to engage who cannot attend in person.

Prayer Ministry

Report by Carolyn Campbell

During Covid and Lockdown the Prayer Ministry after Church Services ceased. Adele was running a Whatsapp group for urgent prayer requests and Homefellowship leaders were keeping in touch with people in their groups.

So once we returned to normal Church Services on a Sunday we started up the Prayer Ministry Roster again having four teams available to anyone who needed prayer after the 10.30 am service.

Recently we have taken a more relaxed approach by encouraging the Prayer Team to wear their blue lanyards and name badges and to mingle with the congregation and be available for any prayer needs that way as we felt some people feel very intimidated coming up to the front for prayer. This seems to be working. We have also been encouraging people to pray for one another if they know each other and this too has had some wonderful results.

People watching online are encouraged to type their prayer requests and someone contacts them after the Service.

Pastoral Care

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

The first port of call for pastoral care is within our Life Groups, where we can share support for one another, giving and receiving that help as our circumstances change. As a Priesthood of all Believers, we are called to minister to one another where we can. From mid-2023 Andy P and I hope to offer a regular surgery for spiritual and pastoral support.

Pastoral ministry involves caring for people within our church and our community, and fostering care for each other within our congregation. It's an opportunity to show love in action and encourage people closer to God and to increase trust in him. This is carried out through lots of prayer, listening, encouragement and much practical help, always depending on the Holy Spirit to lead.

Some of my pastoral visits involve taking Communion to those unable to come to church, working with people from other social care agencies. We are aiming to increase our connections with our neighbours at the Homes and No.1 Elmham Way. As usual, in 2022 there have also been situations that were distinctive one-offs, it is a very varied role!

At LCC we have many compassionate people who generously offer help when they see a chance. Thank you so much for all you do. It's great to hear about these acts of kindness which point to the way of Jesus.

I'm grateful for pointers if you think someone may want help or a visit; emily.pastoral@gmail.com 07905 516624.

At LCC we also offer courses to help ease some situations –

The CAP Money Course, for a healthy approach to Godly stewarding of our finances, savings and worry-free budgeting.

And a Well-Being Course which looks at all the factors that contribute to great health in body mind and spirit.

Oasis

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

Our Oasis congregation continues to gather 30+ on Tuesday afternoons for a short talk, traditional hymns and fellowship. It's informal, interactive and dementia friendly with the aim of sign-posting our senior congregation to a closer relationship with God. We share a short talk, sing out our favourite traditional hymns, then chat over refreshments which is a perfect time for fellowship. The talks sometimes follow the Sunday congregation series, but we have also studied alternatives such as key characters of the Bible, and an overview of each of the four Gospels. On the first Tuesday each month we offer Holy Communion, usually led by Andy Pearce. It has been a good place to bring friends to, with some people sharing lunch together then heading over to Oasis. As a sister congregation we always pray for the people, ministries and outreach of the Sunday congregation, and keep up to date with church events. In 2023 we pray for some growth in numbers, and a deepening of faith for all. HUGE Thank you to our amazing team of helpers, musicians, those on refreshments and washing up and leaders – so many wonderful people! I'm very thankful to you all.

Prayer events: In 2022 we held 3 Prayer events, the 2 usual 24 Hours at the start of Lent and Advent, plus the national 'Thy Kingdom Come' week of prayer leading up to Pentecost. These will also run in 2023, with Thy Kingdom Come running on the 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost. These prayer events are overwhelming as there is always someone who has a fresh personal encounter like never before. The testimonies of visions and Words from God for the church or for individuals is priceless.

We also enjoyed a Maundy Supper - a combined meal and service with prayers, rituals and blessings from the oldest parts of our bible, intermingled with fun traditional Passover games and optional hand or foot washing; It celebrated our Jewish roots through recalling the Passover, reflected upon Jesus's Last Supper and helped prepare us as we approached the end of Holy Week.

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve within LCC and would like to be part of any of the Oasis, Pastoral or Prayer event ministries, please let me know as it would be great to add to the team! Blessings Emily

Online Prayer

Report by Katherine Hollis

We met via zoom on a Wednesday afternoon. We regularly have approximately 6-7 people who join together in intercessory prayer and prayer for those we know and care for.

Youth Ministry

Report by Andy Pearce

With the help of a great youth team, we have continued to provide a space for the young people on Thursday and Sunday nights. Due to the aftermath of the pandemic, it isn't easy to know how to engage with the youth. Many other youth workers have concluded that there seems to be a rise in individualism. This has created an environment in which they won't engage with youth work or even attend if the proposed event or activity doesn't meet their specific expectations. This has made planning challenging to cater to everyone's preferences

and second guess trying to provide a multifaceted program. I certainly made mistakes along the way trying to get it right for them, but we have tried our best, and with the team's encouragement, we will continue to make progress and connect with the young people. My highlight is Christmas 2022, when we performed a shadow puppet production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The young people didn't have much time to practice but pulled it together and blew me away, producing a flawless performance; I was so proud of them all. I want to thank Cathy, Dan and Beth Dinsmore, Chris Kavanagh, and Jake Roberts, who all helped make this happen.

Finance

Report by Martin Purnell

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1 JAN 2022 – 31 DEC 2022

INCOME	2022	2021
Giving	86,425	74,815
Gift aid	17,442	13,175
Grants	11,222	23,300
Special collections	8,575	1,860
Lettings	25,176	11,003
Events	3,098	1,850
Parochial fees income	90	2,419
Children and youth	503	532
TLC	3,081	1,397
Blessed Beginnings	521	230
Haywood Village Church	13,855	11,691
Church @ St Annes	3,110	2,119
Sale of organ etc	1,120	-
Bank interest	118	20
Tom amd Mims leaving collection	801	-
Other	<u>718</u>	<u>1,002</u>
	175,855	145,413
EXPENDITURE		
Community and mission giving	12,450	7,200
Events	1,630	1,032
TLC	2,410	528
Blessed Beginnings	284	263
Haywood Village Church	10,731	7,902
Church @ St Annes	2,109	491
Other mission and evangelism	3,532	1,114

costs		
Children and youth	2,211	2,530
Youth hub	4,000	-
Equipment	-	1,689
Other church running expenses	234	1,955
Worship	1,692	1,830
Staff salaries, expenses, training etc	64,158	61,126
Denominational contributions	43,934	39,426
General church maintenance	7,157	2,936
Utilities	6,294	4,837
Insurance	742	693
Office and sundry expenses	2,964	2,224
Cleaning materials	390	251
Parochial fees to Diocese	-	1,297
Clergy expenses	1,270	1,155
Other	<u>212</u>	<u>585</u>
	168,404	141,064

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2022	2021
Income	175,855	145,413
Expenditure	<u>168,404</u>	<u>141,064</u>
Surplus	7,451	4,349

BALANCE SHEET

31 DEC 2022

31 DEC 2021

ASSETS		
Bank and cash	48,554	41,103
LIABILITIES	-	-
Net assets	48,554	41,103
Unrestricted funds	27,961	23,678
Restricted funds		

Development fund	-		546	
Coronavirus hardship fund	-		1,087	
Church @ St Annes	5,091		4,090	
Haywood Village Church	10,615		6,014	
HV Youth Worker	3,705		5,152	
Pastoral fund	646			
Skate Club	<u>536</u>	<u>20,593</u>	<u>536</u>	<u>17,425</u>
		48,554		41,103

MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Development fund	Haywood Village Church	HV Church Youth Worker	Church @ St Annes
Balance b/f	23,678	546	6,014	5,152	4,090
Income	157,890	0	13,855	0	3,110
Transfers	(30)	0	1,477	(1,447)	0
Expenditure	(153,577)	(546)	(10,731)	0	(2,109)
Balance c/f	27,961	0	10,615	3,705	5,091

	Skate Club	Coronavirus Hardship Fund	Pastoral fund	TOTAL
Balance b/f	536	1,087	0	41,103
Income	0	0	1,000	175,855
Transfers	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	0	(1,087)	(354)	(168,404)
Balance c/f	536	0	646	48,554

CASHFLOW

	2022	2021
Cash balances at start of year	41,103	36,754
Surplus for the year	7,451	4,349

Cash balances at end of year	48,554	41,103
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Life Groups

Monday Morning Life Group

Emily

We started off 2021 studying the life of Esther, then moved on to Evangelism. As a group we have kept going continuously, either on zoom, but mostly in person, either at Irene's house, - Thank You Irene for your kind hospitality – or at church.

Elizabeth Wells is our chief organiser and very efficient, keeping a wonderful record of our prayer requests and answers to prayer. At Christmas we enjoyed a Life Group meal on 13th December and it was wonderful to invite back Su Lincoln, our previous leader to join us for that occasion.

Elizabeth Wells has kindly taken over now that I am unable to be there on Mondays. I wish her and all the group every blessing and I will hold them all in my prayers in gratitude for all their amazing support.

Monday Morning

Pete

Our LG still consists of 6 members and meets at LCC, from 10.30am to midday. Although throughout the last few months we have met at Graham Thomas's house sometimes. This has been due to Graham's health issues. We follow the sermon series as our discussion guide. We are very informal and we go along at the pace of our disabled members. Learning difficulties for some mean that we are careful re : "going to deep" and losing their input. The members are myself, Brian Humphries, Peter Richardson, Graham Thomas, Phil Hawkins, and Mark Bowden (a friend of Grahams who attends Clarence Park Baptist.) I don't see us expanding much due to the fact that we are all retired, or, disabled. Therefore, we meet during normal working hours. The able bodied tend to act in a pastoral role to the disabled. Encouraging and physically helping when needed. Everybody seems to gain something by attending. Growing in faith in a caring environment. We also "laugh" a lot and enjoy our faith.

Honeysuckle Life Group

Suzanne

Honeysuckle Place life group has continued to meet at church in the last year. The LG members remain the same, but this year has seen us growing closer to each other, whilst also working on our "Frontlines". We are a very supportive group. We trust each other and feel strongly that LG is a "safe" place for us to share our life experiences and spiritual journey. Our WhatsApp group is often used for prayer requests and support. For the most part, we follow the church sermon series. I'd like to acknowledge all group members for their support but particularly to Lorraine Bennett who has deputised for me a few times. If you would like to join us, then please do get in touch out.

Tuesday Life Group

Mark

My group meets every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the church. During 2022, my group has grown to 14 members.

Nearly every week we have been following the sermon series whilst always including prayers for each other, family, friends, the church etc.

Wednesday afternoon Life Group

Jutta

During last year we moved our group to a Wednesday afternoon to accommodate the needs of individuals. This group varies in size and attendance every week but is open to any parent/carer and their children as they seek to deepen their relationship with Jesus. The group now includes mature Christians and those seeking to understand more. It is a very diverse group which is very welcoming. We have found that many of our parents struggle with children's additional needs. Our aim is to discuss aspects of faith and to pray for each other. Louise Willis has joined the group recently as a co-leader and is a great support. The majority of people coming have also attended TLC at some point but are not necessarily coming on a Sunday morning (yet!).

Wednesday Room 1 Life Group

Jill & Luke Lyons

We continue to meet on a Wednesday evening discussing the sermon series and praying for each other's needs. In recent months we have moved back to Zoom meetings which is working well. Longer term we are looking at potentially moving our group to a different day in church so that we can open it to others from the church.

Thursday Life Group

Neville

We are a Thursday lunchtime (1.00 pm to 2.30 pm) group of 7 who meet at Adele Lloyd's house with great hospitality. We follow, but are not restricted to, the Church weekly questions. Our activities keep in mind, as individuals and as a group, the church's value filters of spiritual growth, safety and wellbeing, community cohesion and care for the environment. Anyone who feels able to lead a session is encouraged to do so. The group is relaxed and any questions can be asked, no matter how difficult the answer, and everyone is encouraged to express their personal views. We always make room for anyone wishing to join us for learning, caring and fun.

Church Groups

Men's Breakfast

Report by Andy Pearce

We have continued to enjoy the fantastic cooked breakfasts at the Landing Light Pub. We have a regular cohort of about 40 men from various backgrounds and ages. We have short testimonies, interviews, or talks with different group members. We all enjoy the rich humour and banter a gathering of men can afford. Thank you to Sarah and her Landing Light team, who give us this space to meet and eat together. Another big thank you to Pete Burden, who organises and sends texts to gather us together.

Women's Breakfast

Report by Lyn Thomas

The Ladies Breakfast meets once a month at Banwell Garden where we enjoy lovely food and fellowship together. We have a mix of ages and welcome those ladies who attend the church as well as those who are not church members.

The atmosphere is really relaxed and you get a chance to get to know people in a friendly environment.

Sunday Lunch

Report by Sandra Blackwell

Sundays can be difficult when you are living on your own. Families enjoy the day together and you feel at a bit of a loose end. I feel this and I know many other people do too. So, on the first Sunday of every month, anybody who is on their own, from church and the community, is invited to join us for Sunday Lunch together. It breaks up the day. We enjoy each other's company and, of course, we enjoy good food. We have frequented various hostelrys and recently enjoyed the hospitality at The Pavilion. We appreciate that transport can be an issue so, those of us with cars, give lifts to those who haven't. Please contact me on 07719 210623 if this is something you would like to do.

Outreach Ministries

Haywood Village

Report by Fiona Mayne.

Haywood Village Church continues to grow. The take 5 pop up cafe runs every Monday afternoon term time and Rooted mid-week Church service. Tea and Toast Church will be weekly from 2 April 2023. Youth group happens on a Friday night and detached youth work on Tuesday nights and there is a youth exploring faith group on Sunday nights.

Haywood Village Church have taken over the oversight of TLG at Haywood Village School from April 2023. Haywood Village Church has its own PCC and is in the process of setting up its own bank account so it will be a separate entity from Locking Castle Church but still a sister Church with a Church planting connection. the bank account will be finalised by the end of March

The building project for a permanent Church and community cafe has been delayed due to Persimmon being behind in their schedule of building new homes due to Covid and they still currently need the site for their sales office.

St Anne's West Wick

Report by Andy Pearce

I feel we have not recovered from the pandemic; we struggled to regain the momentum we had before the lockdown. We continued to meet, but it wasn't the same. Tom's sabbatical started in June, so we decided to pause during that time as I was to cover in his absence. Then, in September, we had to cease all services and close all together as Tom was leaving LCC to go to another church. However, all is not lost; there is a Life Group that meets every other week, and we also have started a Toddler group in the school for residents in West Wick and Mead Fields. Cathy and I still regularly lead worship at the school, and I am a governor. Please pray with us as we seek the Lord for what he wants to do next with West Wick. Thank you to the faithfulness of the West Wick team: Simon, Caroline, Bob, Sonia and Ellie, who continue to meet for Life Group. Thank you to the school for partnering with us in the Toddler group and providing this space for the community.

TLC – Toddlers Locking Castle

Report by Jutta Stanley

TLC continues to thrive at LCC. We welcome between 40 and 65 children and their carers each week. The team has been joined by Pam Axelsen and Sue Morley on baking and Jill Hill as a helper on a rota basis. Each helper makes a tremendous difference as we are seeking to listen to and support adults and children alike. In recent months we have introduced a few more new Christian songs. We also have times of celebrating the Christian faith with a clear message such as at Christmas and Easter. TLC remains an area of outreach into the community. It would not be possible to run this group without the support of a very dedicated team. Thank you!

Safeguarding and Safe Recruiting

Photographs in Church

Please remember to always seek consent of a leader before taking or publicising photographs on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that include photographs of children and/or young or vulnerable adults.

Driving

If you are a designated driver, please remember to let me know when you have renewed your insurance, tax and MOT and if you have changed your car. Finally, please remember that we must **all** take responsibility for safeguarding within our Church. The Diocese are extremely supportive of the work we do at LCC. If you have **any** safeguarding concerns, please contact the team immediately.

Community and mission giving 2022

Report Martin Purnell and Emily Cumberbatch

Mission partners in 2022:

Open Doors	600.00
Kenya Hope	600.00
Kreativity Ukraine	8849.51
Hope for Justice	600.00
Katya Rocks (CMS)	300.00
A Rocha	600.00

Other giving:

Transforming Lives for Good	900.00
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Total giving:	12,449.51
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Mission Focus

One Sunday each month we focus on one of our 6 Mission Partners. We hear about the work they are doing and learn what specifically to pray for. At the start of each year the church council select the 6 charities for the year. An amount set by the ECC is shared between the Partners. This way we cover a diverse yet relevant range of missional activity. On occasion a representative from the charity comes to speak and tell us first-hand about their cause.

Our revised list of Mission Focus partners for 2023:

Open Doors, Kenya Hope, Kreativity, Arocha, North Somerset People First, and Shelter.

Thank you for your generosity 😊 Be blessed.

Flowers

Report by Suzanne Pearse

This last year has brought us some mixed blessings as we sadly lost our dear friend Sandria Elvey who served on the flower rota for as long as I can remember. We've all missed Sandria's cheeky ways and laughter. Many thanks yet again to the remaining fabulous flower team namely Elizabeth Wells, Susan Brooks, Rose Gray and also our lovely new recruits Sue Morley and Pat Sparkes. The ladies and I continue to brighten up each Sunday morning with flowers for all to enjoy. If you would like to join the team, please let me know.

Bookings

Report by Teresa Britton

2022 has been a good year. We have had new hirers join us as well as our loyal regulars, plus enquiries and bookings for parties and events. Locking Castle Church has become the busy hub of the Community that it was before Covid!

Church Administration

Report by Katherine Hollis

The church office remains busy, which is wonderful as it means we have a church busy with worshipers as well as the local community.

I continue with my regular tasks and being a presence in the church if anyone needs anything. My hours changed to 9.30-11.30 Monday, Wednesday Thursday & Friday so please don't hesitate in contacting me at the office.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1170425

Accounts



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Following the way of Jesus, serving the community

Book of Reports for the year 2021

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting
Sunday 24th April 2022

incorporating
The Trustees Annual Report (TAR) for 2021
and
Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2021



Growing



Loving



Sharing



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Lead Minister's report on 2021

Tom Yacomeni

Despite 2021 being such a challenging year due to the Covid pandemic, I am pleased to report that Locking Castle Church has grown and developed in lots of different ways. Our wonderful church family have really pulled together and made the most of the opportunities, innovating new ideas, trying things differently and continuing to *grow a loving community by sharing Jesus with everyone*.

2021 began with the 3rd national lockdown starting January 6th, which meant many church activities had to remain online until Easter. Our Covid secure plan and risk assessments were continually updated throughout the year as restrictions varied. Booking in was required for 9am services with places initially limited to 24, rising to 44 seats by the end of August. Easter day was the first in-person 10.30am service for over a year and it was a wonderful celebration of the resurrection as we were able to baptise 3 people by full immersion.

The team worked hard to develop hybrid live-streamed services, such that every 10.30am service has been live streamed every week since September 2021. A steady 25 or so people continue to watch live with several hundred further views afterwards during the week.

A highlight of the year was commissioning a team of 12 to go with Caroline Deakin to serve at St. Peter's Milton with Mead Vale. Sending out planting and revitalisation teams is a core part of the calling of Locking Castle Church, and it was a time of mixed emotions as we said sad goodbyes to some wonderful long term members, whilst holding on to the faithful expectation of good things to come for Weston. Our other church plants at West Wick and Haywood Village continue to develop well under the leadership of Andy Pearce and Fiona Mayne, who was ordained in September. Haywood Village started the process of becoming a Conventional district (a precursor to a separate parish) and drew up exciting plans in faith for a wonderful café church building at the end of the Runway.

Lockdown did produce further innovations during the year. As well as LCC continuing to operate midweek as a Foodbank outpost whilst restrictions were in place, Emily developed CAP courses online in partnership with other churches, and also a *wellbeing* course which proved very helpful and can be rolled out as a teaching package in future. The youth group met for support and encouragement, starting new programmes such as *Greenlight* and *youth Alpha* on Sunday evenings. Katherine organises Zoom prayers every Wednesday on Zoom to keep us praying online. Andy and Cathy started providing weekly assembly videos for St. Anne's Church Academy which were so popular that they are continuing to produce them every week. Cathy started a popular new Parent and Baby group called *Blessed Beginnings*, ran *Parenting for Faith* courses online and Kids club had some very special moments on zoom.


With such uncertainty over restrictions during the year it took a great amount of energy to overcome the inertia of restarting midweek activities. But we are getting there. Our active volunteer base gradually started to return towards the end of the year and we were delighted to welcome 8 new members in the first week of December, as well as baptising 2 people who had been on Alpha during lockdown.

There are so many activities and too many team members to thank everyone individually here for all their hard work over the year. Our Staff team, Ecumenical partner ministers Angie, Gary and Steve and the ECC are amazing, always staying positive and going the extra mile in faith. But I do also want to pay tribute to all those

who do so much in the background, providing hospitality, safeguarding, praying and caring, organising our finances, leading life groups, running courses, serving our children and youth, cleaning and maintaining our facilities, arranging flowers and running our tech. Thank you to everyone for giving to the Lord's work at Locking Castle too – even though 2021 was a challenging year financially, the Lord has always provided and we can be confident he will continue to do so.

I give thanks to God for such a wonderful church at Locking Castle. We continue to experience His love, grace and faithfulness daily, and we continue to pray that His Kingdom will come in 2022.

With my love and prayers and on behalf of the Trustees,



Revd Tom Yacomeni - Lead Minister

Ecumenical Church Council (Trustees) following the 2021 AGM

Trustees

Andy Watts	Chair and Church Officer
Revd Tom Yacomeni	Lead Minister (Ex officio)
Revd Andy Pearce	Associate Minister (Ex officio)
Emily Cumberbatch	Pastoral Asst. & Ecumenical Rep
Steve Gurney	Church member
Martin Purnell	Treasurer
Cathy Bond	Children and Families Pastor
Fiona Mayne	Community Pastor
Heather Colledge	Safeguarding Lead
Jacob Skyrme	Church Member and Worship Team
Neville Brownlee	Church Member
Adele Lloyd	Church Member and AV Team
Salv Lomanto	Church Member and Worship Team

Co-opted Members

Katherine Hollis	Secretary
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Worship

We have been truly blessed by the worship at the church this year. We started off the year with some great worship recorded for us to use on our online services by some of our young musicians. The youth band are developing into a fantastic addition to the worship team. We are looking forward to developing our worship and growing the team. Thank you to all involved.

Report by Andy Pearce

Prayer Ministry

Report by Carolyn Campbell

Prayer Ministry was suspended due to Covid. We are only starting to get back to normal now. Leaders were praying for people as and when the need arose. Going forward we are looking at all those who want to be involved in praying for people wear a badge so they can be approached after the service for prayer.

Pastoral Care

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

My role is to ensure that Pastoral care is offered to those in need, where their Life Groups are unable to fully support them.

Pastoral Care ranges widely. Counselling, completely confidential, either in a room at church, at the person's home, or by phone or zoom, usually takes place weekly over several weeks or months, but can also be a single 1-to-1 chat or time of prayer ministry.

During 2021 I started meeting with several people who have been through the most deeply traumatic experience. One person just needed to share their story, and to be heard by another person, that was sufficient for them. Another has shared their story and is still working on processing it to find that freedom to live based on who they are at their core, rather than based on the person they became as a result of their experiences.

One person struggled with patterns of thoughts but found stability over several months of weekly phone meetings.

Forgiveness is a frequent theme that can be hard to face on your own, but when prayerfully explored it can take a huge spiritual and emotional weight off!

My work also includes a missional aspect reaching those outside of our church family, for example we have served people sent to us through Social Prescribing, and through ROC (Redeeming our Communities). Usually this might involve befriending, counselling or helping with shopping and prescriptions when someone comes out of hospital without a care package in place, just as we help our own church family in this way. ROC continue to hold regular meetings to share information and ideas.

As I look back, 2021 also seems to have been a year of 80th birthdays, delivering homecooked meals, writing many references, and house hunting - may God's will be done in all those homes and posts applied for - and multi-disciplinary meetings either educational or for health care.

House blessings or cleansing prayers, hospital visits, home Communion, memorial prayer vigils, practical jobs of all sorts, indoors or out, all come under my remit, I do my best to find the best way forward for each individual, mindful of trying to be Jesus' hands and feet, and doing it His way and in His strength. I'm very grateful for the many many generous people who have agreed to join in when more pairs of hands are needed, and also to all those who serve others pastorally.

During covid restrictions doorstep meetings were a common way to safely meet with an individual, or else a slow meander at the park or beach while we chat.

As a church we opened a Foodbank Outpost - a twice weekly chance for people to collect food without having to travel into town. This ran until the end of March.

The **WellBeing course** started in January, running for 10 weeks, covering the WellBeing's Simple 7 Keys to regaining and maintaining a good level of Wellbeing in body mind and spirit. We ran one course on zoom, and later in the year an in-person course.

On March 4th **Churches Together in Somerset** said a sad farewell to the County Ecumenical officer Alan Dixon, at the AGM & Forum. He has been a great support. Please pray for the new CEO, Revd Canon Jonathan Lloyd.

My remit includes Haywood Village church, for pastoral care and support, and I love to join Tea & Toast whenever possible, especially Fiona's ordination special in September!

With the formation of Fiona's new Conventional District, I hope this support can continue.

My chief days for in person visits are Tuesdays and Thursdays, with Mondays being Counselling placements and Wednesdays being College days. As always I hope to be flexible where necessary to ensure that pastoral care is available to all who need it.

Oasis

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

Oasis has survived the pandemic surprisingly well! We didn't miss a beat – moving to zoom when necessary, and back in person by Spring with an option to attend by Zoom for those who were still too vulnerable. Once most of the flock were back in person and zoom attendance dropped to ones or twos, we were able to stop zoom and focus on carefully keeping our in-person congregation safe.

The format for an Oasis service is set up as informal café church, with bistro tables for our cuppas and choccy biscuits etc. We have a 5 minute talk on a bible passage, and half a dozen traditional hymns. It's very gentle, with some friendly chat and our Saviour Jesus at the centre! Everyone is welcome, there's usually 20 to 30 each week, it's dementia friendly, and it's a great chance to get to know people as we recognise the importance of fellowship and leave some space for this.

We especially emphasise the special days, Harvest, Remembrance etc. At Christmas we were so blessed by a couple of members bringing in delightful gifts to share among the whole congregation!

A huge shout out for the Oasis team; Peter R, Sandra B, Carolyn C, Sue Watts, Nadine, Kathryn S, Tom, Tarisa S, Linda P, Sue W, and all those who volunteer to help and those who kindly give lifts to others so that they can attend. You make an amazing contribution, bless you all.

Soaking Prayer

Report by Katherine Hollis

This was suspended due to covid and will return in 2022.

Youth Ministry

Report by Andy Pearce

We started the year where we had left vital support groups, a lifeline to those suffering from mental health. As the year progressed and restrictions were lifted, we started moving the support group to a regular youth group with a new youth team. We reintroduced with wide games, making use of the excellent weather. The main aim was to build community again and enjoy being together. We then started to look at how we could reconnect them spiritually as their faith had taken a big hit through the Pandemic. We began to formulate a plan by learning through the Parenting for Faith Course, which equipped parents with the tools they need to help their young people grow in their faith.

In September, we launched a new vision that provided a new space called 'Green Light' on Sunday evenings where we worship, study, and discuss the bible. We also planned for an intergenerational service called 'Uprising.' We encouraged the young people to stay in and serve in the main morning service, to worship alongside their parents instead of taking them out. Research suggests that young people are more likely to stick with their faith in an intergenerational environment than being separated. This has helped the youth be more actively involved in many aspects of the church; they lead worship, volunteer at Kids Club, Kids Church, and give hospitality on Sundays.

We are so fortunate to have kept our youth over the lockdown period when many other churches experience the opposite. It was tough, but we made it through by the commitment of a great youth team. I want to thank Cathy Bond, Jacob Skyrme, Dan and Beth Dinsmore, Chris Kavanagh and others who made it possible to make Thursdays and Sundays possible.

I am looking forward to seeing how young people develop in their faith and service in the future.

Children's and Families Work

Report by Cathy Bond

Our children and families work started another year on zoom!!!! With Kids Club, Parenting for Faith still supporting everyone and lots of positive faith experiences happening, along with Mountain Rangers 1:1.

Managing to stay connected with our families to support and encourage them. This happened through conversations, walks, encouragements, and different resources I was able to find along with videos of activities they could try. Our YouTube channel continued to help build new and strengthen old relationships. It continues to grow in followers and content as we upload our weekly videos to the channel so families, schools and Kids Club can easily access them. St. Anne's school welcomed us back in on Wednesdays to spend time with pupils and staff during lunchtime in the playgrounds and deliver assemblies.

'Parenting for Faith' courses, continued online and have been so fruitful for all in many ways. This year PFF courses ended with a teens course live on zoom with over 100 other churches led by Rachel Turner which we joined with parents/carers and our youth team. We will continue to run and resource the course for everyone as this is a great ethos and we would like to see it being taught as a regular part of discipleship in the church.

During the Easter holidays the community and church family enjoyed a trail around the estate, starting at the church, incorporating fun at the vicarage, and ending back at church for Easter treats. This was a fun way to celebrate Easter during the continued restrictions of the pandemic.

Mountain Rangers completed a few 'sunrise walks' over Easter weekend and during the summer, please pray for more opportunities for families to join in.

'Zoom Kids Club' became 'Kids Club' face to face again in June, I think I was more excited than the kids at being back together in our lovely large church room. The children continue to grow in faith and size of group, with amazing ability in Chat and catch prayer with God. Katherine hosts a parent's room every week supporting the parents in faith and life journeys.

Blessed Beginnings began as a support group for expectant and new parents/carers providing a safe place and facilities to weigh, change and swap clothes, and support from the team and each other. This group grew very quickly through word of mouth and need in the community. We have used the Parenting for Faith Babies and toddlers' resource, completed paediatric first aid, and look forward to our first Baby massage course in the new year.

The autumn term began with a church family breakfast in between the Sunday morning services. We had another in the winter term, they were a great way to reconnect as restrictions started to lift.

The Neon light party on 31st October was full of fun, games and light using the whole church for both age groups during the night finding clues to get the answer, 'Jesus'.

The start of advent Katherine Hollis prayerfully planned a family advent evening during a Kids club session where families enjoyed special prayer stations and our new prayer tree.

Dance worship WSM started its first workshop with Rev Caroline Deakin leading and choreographing along with the dancers, many of which are from LCC. We look forward to Gods plans for this lovely intergenerational group.

The year ended with two Christingle services due to restrictions, families enjoyed Christingle making stations in the hall guided safely into Church for a little service with worship led by the youth band and a nativity dance from Dance Worship WSM.

I would like to thank Andy Pearce, Adele Lloyd, Katherine Hollis, and June Ford for always being by my side and all their hard work through this year along with all the amazing leaders and helpers who work so hard delivering the Jesus story and my crazy ideas to all the children and families.

'Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.'

Deut 6:7-8 MSG

If you have a heart for children and young people please come contact me for an informal chat in church, at mine or on a walk? This is a real privilege discipling children and families in support and prayer on their journeys.

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1 JAN 2021 – 31 DEC 2021**

INCOME	2021		2020
Giving	74,815		73,088
Gift aid	13,175		15,019
Grants	23,300		16,772
Special collections	1,860		2,226
Lettings	11,003		8,010
Events	1,850		1,916
Parochial fees income	2,419		2,117
Children and youth	532		593
Skate Club	-		886
TLC	1,397		776
Haywood Village Church	11,691		2,941
Church @ St Annes	2,119		3,744
Bank interest	20		190
Boiler fund	50		19,050
Coronavirus hardship fund	-		2,346
Other	<u>1,182</u>		<u>3,588</u>
	145,413		153,262

EXPENDITURE			
Community and mission giving	7,200		8,004
Events	1,032		652
TLC	528		101
Haywood Village Church	7,902		2,562
Church @ St Annes	491		1,658
Other mission and evangelism costs	1,114		853
Children and youth	2,793		1,277
Skate Club	500		2,437
Coronavirus hardship fund	70		1,189
Equipment	1,689		2,455
Other church running expenses	1,385		3,754
Worship	1,830		2,006
Staff salaries, expenses, training etc	61,126		59,895
Denominational contributions	39,426		42,848
General church maintenance	2,936		2,100
Utilities	4,837		6,704
Insurance	693		788
Office and sundry expenses	2,475		2,275
Parochial fees to Diocese	1,297		1,666
Clergy expenses	1,155		1,119
New boiler	-		20,971
Other	<u>585</u>		<u>439</u>
	141,064		165,753

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2021		2020
Income	145,413		153,262
Expenditure	<u>141,064</u>		<u>165,753</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	4,349		(12,491)

BALANCE SHEET

31 DEC 2021

31 DEC 2020

ASSETS				
Bank and cash	41,103			36,754
LIABILITIES	-			-
Net assets	41,103			36,754
Unrestricted funds		23,678		24,146
Restricted funds				
Development fund	546			546
Mentoring/TLG	-			30
Coronavirus hardship fund	1,087			1,157
Church @ St Annes	4,090			2,462
Haywood Village Church	6,014			937
HV Youth Worker	5,152			6,440
Skate Club	<u>536</u>	<u>17,425</u>		<u>1,036</u>
		41,103		36,754

MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Development fund	Mentoring/ TLG	Haywood Village Church	HV Church Youth Worker
Balance b/f	24,146	546	30	937	6,440
Income	131,603	0	0	11,691	0
Transfers	0	0	0	1,288	(1,288)
Expenditure	(132,071)	0	(30)	(7,902)	0
Balance c/f	23,678	546	0	6,014	5,152

	Church @ St Annes	Skate Club	Coronavirus Hardship Fund	TOTAL
Balance b/f	2,462	1,036	1,157	36,754
Income	2,119	0	0	145,413
Transfers	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	(491)	(500)	(70)	(141,064)
Balance c/f	4,090	536	1,087	41,103

CASHFLOW

	2021	2020
Cash balances at start of year	36,754	49,245
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,349	(12,491)
Cash balances at end of year	41,103	36,754

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Locking Castle Church (Registered Charity No. 1170425) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

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.

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.

Name: Peter Needham PETER NEEDHAM

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Accountant (ICAEW 7673280)

Address: 7 JUNIPER PLACE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE. BS22 9XD

Date: 24th MARCH 2022

Life Groups

Report by Jacqui Keir-Bucknell

LCC Life Groups - providing a space where each member is truly known, deeply loved and radically challenged to follow the way of Jesus in serving others.

Lead: Jacqui Keir-Bucknell

Despite the Covid19 challenges, life groups continued to find ways of meeting and supporting one another. Some moved online for a period of time, others met outside in gardens or in the church building, until social distancing measures enabled gatherings to resume in their usual venues.

Through their meetings and other contact, life group members were able to support one another's wellbeing and spiritual growth. Issues could be discussed in confidence, experiences shared and concerns lifted in prayer.

In the Autumn, LCC carried out a comprehensive survey amongst the congregation, gathering experiences, thoughts and ideas about Life Groups. This information was analysed and shared with life group leaders so that it could be used to inform future developments.

By the end of the year there were 13 life groups, providing pastoral support for approximately 110 members at LCC, with non-contact oversight for another 40 people. This was in addition to the regular gatherings at Oasis, Haywood Village *Rooted* and West Wick.

A meeting for life group leaders continued to be held each half term, which provided opportunities to ensure newcomers to church were identified and invited to join a life group, support was provided for leaders and any church priorities could be disseminated. It was also an opportunity for leaders to pray for one another and the important Life Group ministry of LCC.

Monday Morning Life Group

Emily

We started off 2021 studying the life of Esther, then moved on to Evangelism. As a group we have kept going continuously, either on zoom, but mostly in person, either at Irene's house, - Thank You Irene for your kind hospitality – or at church.

Elizabeth Wells is our chief organiser and very efficient, keeping a wonderful record of our prayer requests and answers to prayer. At Christmas we enjoyed a Life Group meal on 13th December and it was wonderful to invite back Su Lincoln, our previous leader to join us for that occasion.

Elizabeth Wells has kindly taken over now that I am unable to be there on Mondays. I wish her and all the group every blessing and I will hold them all in my prayers in gratitude for all their amazing support.

Monday Morning

Pete

Our LG has met throughout 21/22 on Monday mornings at the church, from 10.30 to midday.

We consist of a tight group of 6 people. Brian, Peter R, myself, Graham Thomas, Phil Hawkins, and Mark Bowden (Clarence Park Baptist-close friend of Graham). The group is attending Emily's wellness course, at the request of our disabled, and learning needs members Our able-bodied members pastorally care for our disabled folk, who struggle on occasions. Our group may expand, but would realistically cater for retirees or those who do not have a work commitment.as we when most are working.

Honeysuckle Life Group

Suzanne

Honeysuckle Place life group has met on both zoom and in person at church in the last year. There have been some changes in attendees but I feel strongly that we are supportive of each other and it is a “safe” place for us to share our life experiences and spiritual journey.

Our WhatsApp group is often used for prayer requests. We meet at church on a Wednesday at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us then please do come along and try us out. For the most part, we follow the church sermon series.

Tuesday Life Group

Kat

Our life group started 2021 mainly on zoom catching up with each other whilst in lockdown. It was great to be able to support each other through that tricky time.

In summer we managed to meet together for a meal in Kat and Andy's garden - the first time we all met together for a long time.

In the autumn on a Thursday night we alternated between zoom and meeting in person and enjoyed discussing the weekly bible notes.

In 2022 we are looking to increase our numbers so if you are looking for a life group to join have a chat with Kat or Andy.

Tuesday Life Group

Martin

Our life group relaunched in September, meeting earlier in the evening and at different people's houses each week.

This has worked well and we have eight regular members. We have done a study of the 'I Am' sayings of Jesus and a DVD course on Samson. We are currently enjoying the church's Lent course. Prayer, laughter and food are also important to us as we seek to encourage each other in our walk with Jesus.

Tuesday Life Group

Mark

Initially the group continued to meet via Zoom. To catch up, continue with the sermon series, prayer and followed the Peter Greig 'How to prayer' series

As the year progressed the attendance started to twindle and surprising continued to fluctuate even when we started meeting in person in the church itself.

By September only on average, 4 of us attended and lost 2 members. This has been due to individuals own personal issues, and necessarily a reflection on the group itself.

In October the group increased to 12 members. It is working so well, now that we have a broader range of experience in our faith journeys. A lot of experience and feelings are shared which brings a lot to the group.

Attendance stills flutters, but not to the same degree prior to October.

Wednesday morning Life Group

Jutta

This group restarted last year after the pandemic with a new intake of parents, some of whom have been associated with TLC, some through church and church contacts.

We meet on a regular basis, children are part of our group which makes the group rather lively. Initially looking at the Parenting for Faith Course, this has developed to be a support group for parents and their Christian walk. Rachel has stepped up to do the majority of leading with others helping at times.

All parents/carers of younger children welcome, with or without children.

Wednesday Room 1 Life Group

Jill & Luke Lyons

This group meets weekly at 730pm and started in the autumn as a follow up from Alpha. We laugh a lot and enjoy lively discussion and support each other in prayer there are currently 7 members.

Thursday Life Group

Neville

We are a Thursday lunchtime (1.00 pm to 2.30 pm) group of 7 who meet at Adele Lloyd's house with great hospitality. We follow, but are not restricted to, the Church weekly questions. Our activities keep in mind, as individuals and as a group, the church's value filters of spiritual growth, safety and wellbeing, community cohesion and care for the environment. Anyone who feels able to lead a session is encouraged to do so.

The group is relaxed and any questions can be asked, no matter how difficult the answer, and everyone is encouraged to express their personal views. We always make room for anyone wishing to joins us for learning, caring and fun.

Church Groups

Men's Breakfast

Report by Pete Burden

We meet early at the Landing Light where we are provided with a fantastic cooked breakfast. We enjoy the fellowship that this brings and also some teaching from our guest speaker each month. We regularly have a full house. We are looking forward to another year of great food and talks. Thank you to Sarah and the staff at the Landing Light

Women's Breakfast

Report by Lyn Thomas

We started back up in November meeting at Banwell Garden Centre for a wonderful time of good food and great company. The meeting is very popular and always full. We are looking forward to another full year of fellowship.

Sunday Lunch

Report by Sandra Blackwell

Sundays can be difficult when you live on your own. Families enjoy the day together and you feel at a bit of a loose end. I feel this and I know many other people do too. So, on the first Sunday of every month, anybody who is on their own, from church and the community, is invited to join us for Sunday Lunch together. It breaks up the day. We enjoy each other's company and, of course, we enjoy good food. We have frequented various hostelrys and, this month, April, we met up at The Pavilion Beefeater where we all agreed that the food was excellent. We appreciate that transport can be an issue so, those of us with cars, give lifts to those who haven't. Please contact me on 07719 210623 if this is something you would like to do.

Outreach Ministries

Alpha

Report by Tom Yacomeni

Alpha continues to be such a blessing to all who attend courses. We ran 3 courses during 2021 on Sunday afternoons with Holy Spirit days on Saturdays. Numbers varied from 2 to 10 people attending each session, but we continue to see lives transformed as people discover who Jesus is in a safe place where any question is valid and respected. Alpha was more difficult with lockdown but smaller numbers actually allowed greater depth of conversation and connection. Thank you to everyone who made cakes, scones and helped make each course delicious!

Haywood Village

Report by Fiona Mayne.

In 2021 the Wednesday night Rooted Church group continued to meet over a meal for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. They continued to disciple new believers which resulted in three people getting baptized on Easter Sunday 2021. They also did two wedding blessings and two baby blessing services in people's gardens over the summer as well as a child baptism service at Tea and Toast Church. Tea and Toast Church met on the fourth Sunday of the month in 2021 and Take 5 pop up café relaunched on Monday afternoons in a new simplified format which has been a great success. Detached youth work on Tuesday evenings and youth group in the school hall on Friday evenings has gone well and this has resulted in youth coming to Tea and Toast Church. Fund raising has been happening for a permanent church/café space on the Persimmon sales office site throughout the year and is ongoing. We had an Easter experience and 100 people came and followed a trail and we gave away eggs and people had selfies with the Easter bunny and we gave away 200 hot chocolates at Halloween in the park. We had a Christmas experience outdoor event and it had activities and stalls and we sang carols and gave out mince pies and mulled wine

West Wick

Report by Andy Pearce

We have had to carry on meeting via Zoom over most of the year because we could not use the school Hall due to Covid restrictions. So, we connected with the community of West Wick in other creative ways.

Easter, we hid painted rocks for people to find with the message of Easter on them and encouraged the school children to do the same. We also hid messages of Hope over the summer, with a scripture and keyring gift for people to find around the community, using videos on Facebook to give them clues.

In September, we were allowed to use the hall again, so we started to meet face to face again, bringing our own food instead of a bring a share.

Cathy and Andy have continued providing videos for the school worship every week as the school as all years have been allowed to come back in Year Bubbles. These videos have greatly blessed the children and teachers receiving positive feedback from them.

A big thank you to the church for supporting one another through this time; I love seeing the care and concern for each other. Also, a big thank you to the school for allowing us to use the sports field to gather for worship in the summer and enabling us to use the hall from September.

Summer Lane Care Home Chaplaincy Team

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

Our **Summer Lane Chaplaincy** has been dramatically impacted by the pandemic, with very limited access into the home and no regular ministry allowed there during 2021. Some other Homes are more accessible for visits, such as Lakeside, Diamond Court, Butterfly House and Beaufort Hall. We did however gather a very tuneful bunch to sing **Carols with candles** on 21st Dec around each of the 3 main homes, staying outside and singing through the open doors and windows! I very much hope that during 2022 we can make a full return to Chaplaincy at Summer Lane.

Reading in Care Homes

Report by Suzanne Pearce

Having finally been allowed into Beaufort Hall Care Home I am hoping I can resume visiting Betty and Keith and re start my reading with them and possibly others in the care home.

Foodbank

Report by Dave Manuel.

The Foodbanks are increasingly busy especially with the current economic situation with many increased costs of living yet we are receiving a lot more donations, especially at supermarkets so the Lord is obviously working with us in this situation. LCC we are still maintaining an average of delivering essential food to one family a week, which has been maintained for a number of years now, Our aim at LCC is to provide essential food and make contact with those in need, usually by delivering the food to them shows that others do care for them and are willing to help them. They are always so much appreciative of this and often struggle to come to terms with the fact that it's free and there are people out there who are giving their time and effort to help them and that it is provided free of charge to their front door, we are therefore shining a light to the local community that LCC is there for them.



TLC – Toddlers Locking Castle

Report by Jutta Stanley

TLC kept going during the pandemic and was one of the first groups to reopen again, initially with small groups of up to 15 parents per session – over 4 sessions over 2 weeks. We then moved to up to 30 parents per group meeting every week to reopening fully with a bang and up to 65 children present at any time. As we also offer a baby group with Blessed Beginnings, TLC has become more of a toddler group, but we have a few babies arriving now.

Sadly, we had to say good-bye to a couple of team members, Mims Yacomeni and Debbie van der Watt, who have moved on to new responsibilities. We very much valued their leadership over the many years. But God is faithful and we have had new team members start since then but are always happy to welcome additional help! It is a fun, lively group. Each week we have a Christian focus through singing, craft and praying with special days such as celebrating Christmas and Easter.

CAP Money - Christians Against Poverty

Report by Emily Cumberbatch

Having previously run CAP Money courses for over 10 years, many of those times with Caroline Williams, it has been a great joy to connect with Liz and Sarah-Jane from Worle Baptists, to partner in delivering this course with Caroline Williams (now at Church@ St Annes West Wick). The church unity this presents is really important, and of course it is an opportunity to meet peoples' financial needs as well as witness for Jesus and pray for those on the course. As a partnership we ran several online courses in 2021 and enjoyed a well earned CAP Coaches pudding evening in my garden to review and plan together. We made a great team and will continue to partner in 2022.

TLG – Transforming Lives for Good

Report by Mims Yacomeni

Coaching children through the TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) programme during a pandemic was a challenge! Some of the coaches had a natural break and were without a child, and other coaches kept in touch with families with messages of support.

From May 2021 it was great to be able to coach in person, back at Haywood Village Academy. We have had 5 active coaches this year. Gwyn Air, Paul Gill and I have continued to coach and we welcomed Karen Thompson and Roger Paul to the team. It is a great honour to work so closely with a child, be their encourager and cheer leader, and journey alongside their family. The coaches have done a great job at finding out the child's strengths and weaknesses (using a strength and difficulties questionnaire) and planning sessions to develop their skills and working on building confidence in areas they may struggle. All coaches receive training and we meet up termly to support one another and pray together.

There are plenty of children that need a coach, so if you're interested in joining the TLG crew, have at least an hour a week during school hours, do come and speak to me.

Thank you.

Church Operations

Safeguarding and Safe Recruiting

Report by Suzanne Pearce, Safeguarding Officer

So the last year has still not been quite “normal” but more of our new normal! Safeguarding is a constant whether we are meeting in person, on zoom, teams or if we are making recordings for Youtube! It supports all aspects of church life including the ECC, Sunday worship, TLC, youth and families, Oasis, music groups, life groups and prayer ministry etc.

The church council has again voted to adopt the safeguarding guidelines and arrangements of the Church of England through the Diocese of Bath & Wells. LCC's policy statement can be found on our website with a link to the Diocese of Bath and Wells' safeguarding webpage. This covers the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church, online and the groups that we run. As a church the ECC has also adopted a policy against domestic violence and you will find this policy statement on the church website. If you have any concerns regarding domestic violence then Tom, Emily, Andy Watts and I have all undertaken training.

Not all positions need a DBS check so have a word with me about any volunteer role that interests you. You can “observe” a session to see if a particular role suits you and I can then talk to you about how to progress to the safer recruitment and DBS process. Please remember you cannot be included on a rota until you are cleared.

Lots of you are now due to renew your safeguarding training so please keep an eye out for an email from me. Safeguarding training is mandatory if you are in a church role that require a DBS check.

I have regular calls, emails and meetings with Cathy who keeps me up to date with the children, families and youth work. Tom, Heather and I meet monthly on zoom and I also still prepare monthly reports for the ECC and the open church meetings. I'm grateful to Heather Colledge for being the safeguarding lead on the council.

Photographs in Church

Please remember to always seek consent of a leader before taking or publicising photographs on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that include photographs of children and/or young or vulnerable adults.

Driving

If you are a designated driver, please remember to let me know when you have renewed your insurance, tax and MOT and if you have changed your car. Finally, please remember that we must **all** take responsibility for safeguarding within our Church. The Diocese are extremely supportive of the work we do at LCC. If you have **any** safeguarding concerns please contact me immediately.

Mission Partners

Report by Martin Purnell and Emily Cumberbatch

Each month, on the fourth Sunday, we focus on one of our 6 Mission Partners. We hear about the work they are doing and learn what specifically to pray for. Normally the offering collected during that service is given to their work, during lockdown and church closure the church council agreed £300 would be donated twice a year. At the start of each year the church council select the charities for the year. This way we cover a diverse yet relevant range of missional activity. On occasion a representative from the charity comes to speak and tell us first-hand about their cause.

Community and mission giving January to December 2021

Mission partners 2021	Total	
Hope for Justice	1019.39	Fighting Human Trafficking and helping victims and survivors of modern slavery around the world
CMS (Jimmy Rocks)	1019.39	Church Mission Society, Jimmy Rocks and family 'Sharing Jesus, Changing Lives'
Kreativity, Ukraine	1105.00	Passionate about Mission, developing business projects to fund ministry.
A Rocha	1019.38	Equipping Christians and churches to care for the environment, working to protect & restore the natural world.
Open Doors	1042.53	Serving persecuted Christians in the world's most dangerous countries
Kenya Hope Charity	1019.39	Responding to God's call to care for the poor in Kenyan villages

Other giving:

Life Bookshop	500.00	Weston's best bookshop supplying Christian books and gifts
St Peter's	32.40	

Total giving in 2021: £7200.00

In addition, we packed off 35 shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse, with some online shoeboxes and also over £100 in donations to enable the boxes to be sent.

Our **2022 Mission Focus Partners** are:

- CMS – Jimmy Rocks, Brazil
- Kenya Hope – supporting work in Yala, Kenya
- Kreativity - The Bute Family, Ukraine
- Open Doors, Serving the persecuted church
- A Rocha – Eco church
- TLG – Early years coaching intervention

Thank you for your generosity, and we pray that all our mission partners will be blessed.

Flowers

My thanks yet again to our fabulous flower team namely Lyz Wells, Susan Brooks, Rose Gray and Sandria Elvey. The ladies and I continue to brighten up each Sunday morning with flowers for all to enjoy. If you would like to join the team, please let me know.

Report by Suzanne Pearse

Bookings

2021 has certainly been a challenging year as we all know but we have started to return to normal as the year ends.

Thank you to our loyal returning hirers and welcome to some new ones too. Here's to 2022 being a much brighter year!

Report by Teresa Britton

Church Administration

2021 saw the building slowly opening up. It is lovely to see it being used again. Many of our paper forms are being transferred to online which is great for organisation and the environment.

Report by Katherine Hollis

Life is always busy in the office with regular tasks and requests for Banns and Baptisms are starting in increase which is wonderful, breathing life and normality to the church and the promise of new beginnings.

Psalm 33: 20-22. We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1170425

Accounts



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Growing a loving community by sharing Jesus with everyone

Book of Reports for the year 2020

incorporating
The Trustees Annual Report (TAR) for 2020
and
Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2020



Growing



Loving



Sharing



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Lead Minister's Report on 2020 at Locking Castle Church

Despite a year dominated by Covid restrictions and social distancing measures, Locking Castle Church has weathered the pandemic storm with great resilience and creativity. When lockdown measures were introduced in March 2020, nobody anticipated that well over a year later, distancing would still be in place and congregational singing is still banned indoors.

As our [video slideshow review of the year](#) shows, the year began really well with flourishing youth and children's activities, over 30 regularly attending Oasis mid-week café church, skate club preparing for an exciting season ahead and a wonderful Alpha course running at Jenny and Steve Webber's house. LCC Art, TLC toddlers and Kids Cubs were all creating new connections with the community. Haywood Village Tea and Toast and West Wick Church@5 were growing their membership and LCC just launched a new Repair Café initiative to help us with our bid to go for Eco-Church gold status.

Then the lockdown was announced and months of uncertainty ensued as the ECC and leaders tried to determine what church activities were permissible, beneficial and safe.

One of the first ways the church responded was to become a WsM Foodbank outpost helping 2 families on average every week with emergency food provisions. Also during the first Lockdown in association with Locking Castle Medical Centre, Morrisons and ROC Redeeming Our Communities WsM, a team of a dozen volunteers coordinated by Cathy and Emily collected prescriptions and shopping for over 50 people from our community. Thank you to all those involved in this excellent community response – it was really evidence of the loving

community we are creating as we share Jesus with everyone. I am so grateful for our amazing staff team and for all the willing volunteers who have worked so hard going the extra mile on so many occasions.

Another key learning curve for the church was adapting to online interaction. We decided early on to try live streaming to Facebook for our 10.30am service, partly because it is a fairly robust and free, but mainly because it allows live comments and feedback from those watching. Andy Pearce pioneered the use of OBS broadcasting software and through a rapid learning process, trial and error, by the summer LCC's services were attracting between 80 and 100 live viewers, and around 250 subsequent engagements. We invested in a broadcast quality camera which allowed us to record or stream services from the main church room. We managed to live-stream Carol services from the church at Christmas, which was beautifully decorated this year with a lovely star to add to the Angel scene. Thank you to Dave Manuel for blessing the community with such an encouragement during the dark winter evenings.

All the ministries adapted to work online brilliantly, whether using Zoom, Facebook, or Youtube. When we were no longer able to go into St. Anne's to do assemblies, Andy and Cathy started to produce weekly videos which have proven to be really popular, particularly with the staff! Life groups, Kids Club and Parenting for Faith moved online and it has been excellent to see how everyone has adapted to keep in touch and care for one another over the year. The quality of the worship songs created during lockdown has been amazing as technical skills and confidence have increased, so I am so grateful to all our worship teams, and Salv, Andy, Jacob, and Oscar for their wonderful leading and production work. Emily and Katherine Hollis hosted Wednesday zoom prayers which has seen a core committed group praying for the life and work of the church throughout the Pandemic and it shows no signs of ceasing!

Much has been lost to Covid, including the life of one of our much loved members Yvonne Spring. We pray for all those who have been bereaved during the restrictions and for all those who have been isolated through shielding or care home closures. Young people, children and families have struggled with online learning and young people particularly have missed meeting freely with their peers. We look forward so much to being able to gather all ages back together once restrictions are lifted.

Another unexpected challenge in 2020 occurred when the boiler was condemned at the end of the Summer. The church responded wonderfully to an appeal for funds that we were able to replace it with 2 new high efficiency units in time for the winter. Thank you everyone for your amazing generosity!

We made the most of the opportunities presented to us, with great creativity and ingenuity. The concept of a drive-thru Light party, Christingle or Wreathmaking event was unheard of before 2020, but they worked really well. We managed some fantastic competitions and games during the year with several baking challenges and even a head teacher dancing on TikTok!

Ecumenical Denominations and Sponsors

We are so grateful to be an Ecumenical church with such brilliant support from our 4 partner denominations and also our sponsoring body – Churches Together in Somerset (CTS). We learned in 2020 that Alan Dixon, Ecumenical officer for CTS would be retiring and we are very thankful for Alan's care and wisdom over the last 6 years and wish him well in his retirement.

Our Methodist circuit ministers Angie and Gary Hoare and Steve Bennett preach and lead regularly at LCC and their ministry is always so appreciated. We are also very blessed by continuing financial support from the URC

towards Emily's training and also from the Baptist local Webnet for their support for Andy's ministry at West Wick. I am grateful to LCC for releasing me to carry out my role as Area Dean of Locking Deanery overseeing 28 Anglican churches in the Area. We are blessed as a church to be able to support other churches in this way.

Despite all the challenges the Kingdom has continued to grow in 2020. We remain committed to 'growing a loving community by sharing Jesus, the beacon of hope for everyone.' As we review all that has happened in the we can evaluate our progress using our values filters:

- Does it promote Spiritual Growth?
- Does it promote safeguarding and wellbeing?
- Does it promote community cohesion?
- Does it care for the environment?

Spiritual growth.

As well as 5 people coming into membership during 2020 taking our total to **103**, Alpha continued online and several people came to faith in Jesus. It was amazing to see the Holy Spirit at work even over Zoom! Discipleship has developed 1-1 as walking together has proven to be an excellent way to share deeply. Life groups have continued to meet either online or when permitted in person. We didn't have any adult baptisms in 2020, although a number are planned for 2021. If our spiritual depth may be measured in terms of our commitment to proclaiming the Gospel, care and compassion for the community, heartfelt prayers, and serving one another practically then 2020 has been a deeper year than we might think. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with each other in so many different ways.

We were delighted to be able to dedicate Megan Brown in the Summer and host a wedding for Marie and Andy Jones in the Summer.

Safeguarding and wellbeing:

LCC is a safe church and safeguarding is woven into the fabric of all our activities and initiatives. Suzanne Pearse and Heather Colledge do a great job as our safeguarding team in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding advisors and I am very grateful to everyone for ensuring the wellbeing of everyone involved in the life of the church. Thankfully we had no major incidents during 2020 and we were able to safely recruit many new volunteers to help serve our community.

Emily Cumberbatch launched and ran a Wellbeing course during the Autumn of 2020 which proved really helpful for those taking part. She has developed the material from scratch using her counselling training and this is a valuable resource for connecting with the community in future. Congratulations too to Ellie Gray who is now an accredited counsellor, running Counselling4Christians.co.uk as well as her work at West Wick.

Community Cohesion

As well as all our own community initiatives and the work done in partnership with local organisations during lockdown, LCC has continued to support 6 mission partners both in the UK and abroad. We were delighted that Kreativitiy Ukraine were able to launch their Start Academy school on time in the summer with toilet blocks funded by LCC. Kenya Hope Charity launched a tree nursery initiative which saw hundreds of trees grown and planted in local schools providing food and jobs as well as the environmental benefits. We received regular updates from Jimmy Rocks, the CAP WsM debt centre and were able to send gifts to Beloved and Open Doors for their work with the persecuted church.

Does it care for the environment?

It was a disappointment that the repair café's brilliant start was thwarted by the pandemic. However with the encouragement of Andy Watts we have continued to work towards making the church more energy efficient in the meantime. The new condensing boilers are A rated efficiency, and more fluorescent lights have been replaced with LEDs. Green Sunday was a highlight with guest speaker Caroline Pomeroy sharing the pressing need to keep the environment as a missional priority for the church. Thankfully one benefit of the lockdown is that church members used their cars less during the year and we have learned that business meetings such as ECC and the AGM can be effective and efficient over Zoom.

Overall we thank God for his faithfulness during 2020. Although the Pandemic has presented unique challenges to us all, we have been able to share God's love and the hope that Jesus brings in new ways, which we will not forget!

Thank you to everyone for all your enthusiasm, hard work and encouragement. It is a privilege to serve at Locking Castle Church and I look forward with great expectation to what the Lord has planned for us in 2021.

On behalf of the Trustees and with my love and prayers,

With my love and prayers,



Revd Tom Yacomeni - Lead Minister 8th April 2021

Ecumenical Church Council following the 2020 AGM

Trustees

Andy Watts	Chair & Eco-Church Officer
Revd Tom Yacomeni	Lead Minister (Ex officio)
Revd Andy Pearce	Associate Minister (Ex officio)
Emily Cumberbatch	Pastoral Asst. & Ecumenical Rep
Sandra Blackwell	Church Officer (Church Warden)
Luke Lyons	Church Officer (Church Warden)
Steve Gurney	Church member
Martin Purnell	Treasurer
Cathy Bond	Children and Families Pastor
Fiona Mayne	Community Pastor
Heather Colledge	Safeguarding Lead
Jacob Skyrme	Church and Worship Team member
Steve Gurney	Church Member
Peter Richardson	Church Member

Co-opted Members

Katherine Hollis	Secretary
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Pastoral Report by Emily Cumberbatch

January – March 2020

In the first quarter of 2020 we were mindful of the virus in the East, but unaware of the impact it was to have on the UK and the world. **Pastorally** I was meeting people for prayer and for support, in their homes or at church, or for a walk. I was able to visit in hospitals, or take people a cooked meal when they were poorly or going through a difficult time. Support normally ranges from spiritual and emotional support, to all kinds of practical help! Often it's a combination of all three for example accompanying to a court appearance may require a lift, prayer and moral support. Another way is through the CAP Money course - in 2020 this mostly took place on a 1:1 basis which allows for other spiritual and emotional support to be integrated as we work on the finances. We also have a strong pastoral team who are particularly good at supporting people in whatever way is needed.

Monthly visits to **Summer Lane Nursing Home** were going well, the team meeting with every resident in each of the 90 rooms, and for the afternoon service of Holy Communion around 25 regulars gathered most months.

Oasis Café Church was meeting on Wednesdays and growing steadily in the strength of the bonds we shared and in numbers, starting to more regularly get into the 30's. Peter Richardson was set to take it on during term time from September 2020 while I continued attending my Counselling course on a weekly basis, which was moving from Tuesdays to Wednesdays for the final two years.

As the Ecumenical rep I attended the URC Annual Gathering, (1st Feb) and also the Churches Together in Somerset AGM & Forum (27th Feb). Also in February the **Redeeming Our Communities** (ROC) conversations started led by Deborah Green, with a gathering of people from many churches and organisations such as the police, street pastors, social services, education. ROC were the driving force behind the organising of Weston churches and volunteers to provide practical and emotional support during lockdown – keeping us extremely busy with a steady flow of people needing shopping, prescriptions or telephone contact. We made an additional contribution to this service by sharing with ROC our LCC pastoral guidelines for making support telephone calls, protecting both caller and client.

March – December 2020

Early in March the Repair café held its first session led by Andy Watts, and a seeker friendly prayer station was prepared in a side room for any wishing to use it. However from that point forwards the focus was intently on the increasing risk from covid-19 posed by gathering together.

Looking back at the communication of those days, Tom's leadership wisdom and clarity ensured we were alert and prepared and that we were assured that we had the best information to make the right decisions. Looking back with hindsight and gratitude, the church has been able to keep everyone safe while delivering a brilliant online service, and to be able to deliver ongoing pastoral care, adapt to Oasis on zoom and manage a significant increase in pastoral workload as we began reaching many additional others in the community outside of our church membership to deliver shopping, prescriptions and companionship.

Just before full lockdown commenced we still managed to deliver Mother's day flowers to the ladies of our church! A change of emphasis in pastoral care was made to accommodate the needs of those shielding, for those unable to get cash or prescriptions or groceries, even bike repairs to keep people active. Instead of a home Communion kit I carried a folding chair and travel mug of tea for doorstep pastoral visits.

Monday Life Group has, with barely a pause, continued either by zoom or - when both sunny and permissible - in the garden. I'm grateful for their prayers and encouragement.

We visited **Locking Castle Medical centre** to meet with the managers to establish a connection that enabled them to refer patients for pastoral support – some of the relationships made since these earliest days of lockdown are still in contact today.

Individual counselling has continued to be held throughout the year - either by phone, zoom or occasionally when necessary, in person. In preparation for anticipated mental health issues I have attended training on Mental Health, and on Suicide Planning.

In mid-May I started a **Midweek Prayer group on zoom** for people who love to pray and intercede and join with one another in prayer, our world so needed to be covered in prayer. Before my course started term in September 2020 I handed on to Katherine Hollis who continues to lead the prayer group which is flourishing fabulously under her care.

24 Hour Prayer was held in person at church at the start of Lent 2020. We moved to a virtual prayer room for 24 Hours of prayer for **Thy Kingdom Come** 21st-31st May 2020 which was super boosted by a collection of wonderful video clips by our own church family sharing how they pray – awesome inspiration and very moving! A huge thank you to all who contributed.

In July 2020 as things temporarily relaxed a little, I enjoyed an outdoor celebration at the school with my young **TLG** person and her friends and family and Mims – to bring to an end our weekly sessions running since Sept 2018. Do contact Mims if you feel called to the brilliant work of TLG.

The first of 2 ten-week **Wellbeing Workshops** commenced on 24th Sept 2020 with a great team and an awesome group of delegates. The content for this was carefully investigated and based on scientific research material endorsed by key organisations such as NHS, Mind, NEF etc. It is designed as a response to the burden of the pandemic and aims to improve Wellbeing in body mind and spirit and is anchored on biblical foundations. It was adapted for delivery both in person and online, with a 2nd bigger course running online from Jan-March 2021. Funding was sought to supplement the time spent on writing the course as well as delivery and development time, but as funding was subject to restrictions on professing a faith it was therefore not applied for.

We returned to Oasis in person at the end of summer for a few months, moving to a Tuesday to work around my counselling course on Wednesdays. Peter Richardson and Sandra Blackwell are amazing to work with and I have depended heavily upon them and owe a huge debt of Thanks to them both. On 1st November we held our last Oasis service in person at church before the November lockdown. We shared Holy Communion led by Tom which set us up for the season of Oasis on zoom – technology has helped fill the gap but I'm glad to say this Easter 2021 we have now just started again meeting at church for Oasis so we can worship together in person. Wonderful to celebrate Easter with Communion for our mid-week flock.

24 Hour Prayer for Advent was very well attended with additional slots being arranged to accommodate the last few participants. **Christmas 2020** was safely restrained but I'm grateful we could still sing Carols at the local homes, and celebrate the birth of our Lord, which helps put an eternal perspective over the events of the year, a year like none I've ever known, but praise God he has been with us throughout and has brought us through it. Thank you Lord.

Youth Ministry - Report by Andy Pearce

We started the new year confident in a way forward, continuing with all the aspects we had established in 2019 which were: Skate Club, Ynot?, youth band and Sunday mornings.

Ynot? group was practicing their interactive play for the Easter Experience, new young people were joining the group, all the while Covid was creeping ever closer, rumours of a possible lock down were circulating. Then it happens, first lockdown came into force and everything had to change, how where we going to do this? We had to shut Skate Club as we could no longer meet any longer.

All the structures that had been in place for the young people disappeared overnight, we knew we had to help them through this and try to keep them together with a new structure which evolved as we went on, this was a very challenging time. We introduced Zoom games evening on Thursday nights and Monday nights was Bible study. Sunday evenings we created our own YouTube channel called 'LCY Excite' and live streamed Movie Club Quizzes and Interviewed people to discover their faith journey. As the various lockdowns and restriction relaxed or became stricter we adapted and met together as we could following our Covid Secure plan. Despite the young people being the more connected to social media and using technology we did struggle to keep them going online especially as the adults were now invading their domain. It highlighted to us the need of face-to-face social interaction became the number one priority, so as soon as we could come together physically, we did, through support groups as the mental health of the young people were suffering. I would like to thank Cathy Bond, Jacob Skyrme, Jordan Coombes and Chris Kavanagh who made it all possible to experiment and make the transition to help the young people come through this pandemic.

Children and Families - Report by Cathy Bond

Families

Our children and families work started the year really well with so much planned and everyone in a good place along with lots of positive faith experiences and journeys happening. With Easter on the horizon, we were looking forward to a new Easter Holiday Club and Easter Experience Day with the help and support of Ynot? and our amazing friends who give up so much time to support all the children who come to start their faith journey gain new friendships and learn so much about the 'Jesus Story'. Kids Band was flourishing and confident to bring worship to their church family this year.

That all came to a sudden halt due to the Pandemic, and I was tasked to set up an emergency response team to support church members and the local community with their prescriptions, shopping and other jobs. This took up a lot of time but through prayer and patience I really wanted to stay connected with our families and support and encourage them. This happened through conversations, walks, encouragements and different resources I was able to find along with videos of activities they could try. We set up a YouTube channel where some of us recorded a video of ourselves reading different bible stories and praying, for families to watch

together. It has grown in followers and content as we now upload school assemblies to the channel so families and schools can easily access these resources.

Zoom Kids Club online began and continues still with an amazing group of children all hungry for the 'Jesus Story'. It has been so much fun with the kids teaching the adults more techniques with using Zoom. With TLC we communicated encouragement through Facebook and phone calls and were especially pleased when we could form a face to face support group after the summer holidays. This was greatly received by the families and especially those who had babies during the lockdown. This safely continued until the second lockdown and we continue to stay in contact and support young families. TLC team have also been a power of support and had great fellowship together via WhatsApp, what a great team well done all. The same happened with Kids Band where we managed to meet again, practice our worship and enjoy being together safely which we then had to stop again for lockdown part 2.

God helped me with the key focus through the pandemic to equip, support and encourage families through this challenging time, at first it was a challenge as families were having to juggle work, home school their children, try to get online with the different after school groups available and get through this. I introduced the 'Parenting for Faith' course, these courses have been held online and have been so fruitful for all in many ways. We will continue to run and resource the course for everyone as this is a great ethos and we would like to see it being taught as a regular part of discipleship in the church.

'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates'. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

We have continued to find ways to reach and support families through this difficult time in the form of a drive through light party and a drive through Christingle. For the light party families booked a time slot to pull up on the drive of Locking Castle Church to collect Light Party bags for their children then when home they had the link to watch and join in with the Pulse Ministry Light Party, these guys are a young group with great resources for communicating the Gospel to children. The same contingency was used for the Christingle on Christmas Eve, big thanks to Matt Barney for producing an online booking in system for this, after the fun of collecting their Christingle bags the families were given a link to watch a pre-recorded service and how to make your Christingle by Andy Pearce and me.

I would like to thank Andy Pearce, Adele Lloyd, Katherine Hollis for seeing my vision and all their hard work through this year. Also, all our friends who have recorded videos, packed bags, handed out drive through packs, delivered crafts, made crafts, cakes and taken part in many of my crazy ideas along the way.

Please note – a signed copy of these Accounts, independently examined by Peter Needham will be presented at the AGM.

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1 JAN 2020 – 31 DEC 2020**

INCOME	2020		2019
Giving	73,088		69,295
Gift aid	15,019		13,921
Grants	16,772		8,028
Special collections	2,226		5,399
Lettings	8,010		35,575
Events	1,916		4,012
Parochial fees income	2,117		619
Children and youth	593		1,914
Skate Club	886		10,145
TLC	776		1,290
Haywood Village Church	2,941		2,663
Church @ St Annes	3,744		2,204
Bank interest	190		317
Boiler fund	19,050		-
Coronavirus hardship fund	2,346		-
Community shopping	2,156		-
Other	<u>1,432</u>		<u>2,472</u>
	153,262		157,854

EXPENDITURE			
Community and mission giving	8,004		7,689
Events	652		3,755
TLC	101		448
Haywood Village Church	2,562		3,713
Church @ St Annes	1,658		4,570
Other mission and evangelism costs	853		3,694
Children and youth	1,277		4,904
Skate Club	2,437		6,149
Coronavirus hardship fund	1,189		-
Community shopping	2,154		-
Other church running expenses	4,055		3,489
Worship	2,006		2,600
Staff salaries, expenses, training etc	59,895		53,971
Denominational contributions	42,848		37,622
General church maintenance	2,100		6,579
Utilities	6,704		7,012
Insurance	788		696
Office and sundry expenses	2,275		1,505
Parochial fees to Diocese	1,666		598
Clergy expenses	1,119		1,407
New boiler	20,971		-
Other	<u>439</u>		<u>880</u>
	165,753		151,281

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2020	2019
Income	153,262	157,854
Expenditure	<u>165,753</u>	<u>151,281</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	(12,491)	6,573

BALANCE SHEET

31 DEC 2020

31 DEC 2019

ASSETS				
Bank and cash	36,754		49,245	
LIABILITIES	-		-	
Net assets	36,754		49,245	
Unrestricted funds		24,146		35,587
Restricted funds				
Development fund	546		9,413	
Mentoring/TLG	30		1,034	
Coronavirus hardship fund	1,157		-	
Church @ St Annes	2,462		376	
Haywood Village Church	937		248	
HV Youth Worker	6,440		-	
Skate Club	<u>1,036</u>	<u>12,608</u>	2,587	<u>13,658</u>
		36,754		49,245

MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Development fund	Mentoring/ TLG	Haywood Village Church	HV Church Youth Worker
Balance b/f	35,587	9,413	1,034	248	0
Income	124,295	0	0	2,941	0
Transfers	(1,921)	(7,060)		310	6,750
Expenditure	(133,815)	(1,807)	(1,004)	(2,562)	(310)
Balance c/f	24,146	546	30	937	6,440

	Church @ St Annes	Skate Club	Coronavirus Hardship Fund	Boiler fund	TOTAL
Balance b/f	376	2,587	0	0	49,245
Income	3,744	886	2,346	19,050	153,262
Transfers				1,921	
Expenditure	(1,658)	(2,437)	(1,189)	(20,971)	(165,753)
Balance c/f	2,462	1,036	1,157	0	36,754

CASHFLOW

	2020	2019
Cash balances at start of year	49,245	45,292
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(12,491)	6,573
Repayment of obligation to Diocese	-	(2,620)
Cash balances at end of year	36,754	49,245

CASHFLOW

	2020	2019
Cash balances at start of year	49,245	45,292
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(12,491)	6,573
Repayment of obligation to Diocese	-	(2,620)
Cash balances at end of year	36,754	49,245

Treasurer: M. Punell

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

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

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

Name: Peter Needham PETER NEEDHAM

Relevant professional qualification or body: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address: 7 JUNIPER PLATE, WESTON / SUPER-MARE. BS22 9XD

Date: 20th APRIL 2021

LCC Life Groups

LCC life groups have continued to meet both physically when permitted or via online platforms during the Pandemic, and provided wonderful pastoral support to each other. We decided not to submit individual reports for groups this year as most have experienced similar highs and lows together during 2020. However the Life groups are a vital source of comfort and blessing and thank you particularly to the amazing team of Life Group leaders and all those who support them.

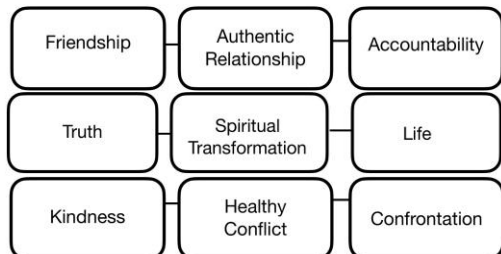
Life group leaders Report by Jacqui Keir-Bucknell

LCC Life Groups - providing a space where each member is truly known, deeply loved and radically challenged to follow the way of Jesus in serving others.

Spiritual growth?

Life group leaders generally meet every eight weeks to support one another in their spiritual leadership role. In addition to praying for life groups and updating the life group register, different experiences, concerns or questions that have arisen during life group gatherings are shared so that more effective strategies for managing relational challenges can be identified.

On occasion, meetings have also included leadership training, with some sessions based on *Walking the Small Group Tightrope: Meeting the Challenges Every Group Faces* by Bill Donahue. These have been focused on developing the awareness needed to manage potential tensions in life groups, arising from opposing attitudes and dispositions, in order to help nurture the spiritual growth of group members.



Safety and wellbeing?

Through the meetings and other contact, life group leaders are able to support one another's wellbeing, as worries can be discussed in confidence. With permission, any more critical issues can be brought to the attention of the Lead Minister or Pastoral Assistant as required.

Any safeguarding concerns are reported to the LCC Safeguarding Officer.

Community cohesion?

There are approximately 12 life groups, in addition to the regular gatherings at Oasis, Haywood Village *Rooted* and West Wick. Through the life group leaders, of which 8 or 9 regularly attend the scheduled meetings, there is oversight of approximately 140 LCC life group members with pastoral oversight for another 40.

Care for the environment?

Life group leaders are aware of the responsibility to steward resources wisely, protect the environment and nurture creation. These issues sometimes arise in discussions, when ideas and/or strategies are shared.

Outreach Ministries

Haywood Village

Report by Fiona Mayne

In 2020 the pandemic did mean that we had to make some changes. We paused Take 5 as we were unable to access the school hall and community room. We ran foodbank from Fiona's garage to support Haywood Village families as well as offering to shop for people and collect prescriptions. Tea and Toast Church went online mostly but we did a face to face light trail for the October one and Christingle trail for December. These were well attended, and we gave away 100 Christingle packs for December. We had two people singing carols and playing guitars at the collection point. There was a great atmosphere. Rooted continued but was online via what's app and zoom. It was a very different format in that there was no meal and no singing but despite this it grew from 12 to 19 people during the pandemic. The youth work was affected by lockdown as the youth group could not start but detached youth work continued when guidelines allowed. The building project for a community café/church is still ongoing and we are awaiting a decision from the Diocese as to whether they will support it going forwards. Despite the pandemic the Haywood Village team are feeling optimistic about the future.

West Wick

Report by Andy Pearce

We continued to meet until the first Lockdown hit then we had to take things online. We met via Zoom 5pm Sunday evenings and introduced a Wednesday morning session at 10am. Even as the restrictions during the summer of 2020 lifted, we could not use the school halls due to Covid. However, we did meet a few times outside in the sports field for a worship picnic following a Covid secure plan to assure safety of those who gathered. Going online has not been everyone's cup of tea so not everyone connected to the church has been able to join us online, but we have grown spiritually during this time together. Cathy and Andy have been providing videos for the school worship on a weekly basis as the school was caring for the children of Key Worker, these videos have greatly blessed the children and teachers receiving positive feedback from them. A big thank you to the Church in supporting one another through this time, I love seeing the care and concern they for each other. Also, a big thank you to the school for allowing us to use the sports field to be able to gather for worship in the summer.

TLC – Toddlers Locking Castle

Report by Mims Yacomeni

Well the last year for TLC has been unusual. We stayed open for as long as we could but shut down just before Mothering Sunday 2020 and everyone was invited to collect vases of flowers if they wanted to. We then tried some 'facebook live' and zoom calls to help keep our families connected, which just wasn't the same as meeting up.

At Easter, Christmas and Mothering Sunday the Team did door-step visits to deliver gifts which were all warmly received. One of our team fell off a doorstep and ended up breaking her foot :- (which was really sad and she is still recovering.

We opened up TLC again before Christmas when Lockdown was lifted and families could join a fortnightly Bubble that met for a shorter hour session. This worked well and everyone was very grateful to be able to meet fellow humans. We also found that we got to know everyone better as we had smaller numbers. We are re-opening again at the end of April 2021 and will be meeting quite a few new families. We're praying for opportunities to share the love of Jesus.

Church Operations

Safeguarding and Safe Recruiting

Report by Suzanne Pearse, Safeguarding Officer

Well what a year for everyone! Safeguarding has continued behind the scenes with new ways of verifying ID and upgrading DBS checks to the right level to allow existing and new volunteers to serve. God has spoken to so many people during this pandemic and the love that we have for our neighbours has certainly shone through our community and LCC. I am so proud of the response of all our volunteers who worked really hard shopping, collecting prescriptions and delivering them, picking up the phone and checking in on family, friends, neighbours and complete strangers! I know many are itching to get back to our "new normal" whatever that looks like! Zoom, YouTube and teams have been a great success for many including our life groups, Oasis, prayer groups, youth and children's work.

The church council has again voted to adopt the safeguarding arrangements of the Church of England through the Diocese of Bath & Wells. LCC's policy statement can be found on our website with a link to the Diocese of Bath and Wells' safeguarding webpage. This covers the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church, online and the groups that we run. Not all positions need a DBS check so have a word with me about any volunteer role that interest you and I can speak to you about 'observing' that role and how to progress to the safer recruitment and DBS process. Please remember you cannot be included on a rota until you are cleared. Lots of you are now due to renew your safeguarding training so please keep an eye out for an email from me. I have had regular calls and meetings with Cathy who has kept me up to date with the children, families and youth work and spoken with Tom a few times on the phone. I still prepare monthly reports for the ECC and the open church meetings and I'm grateful to Heather Colledge for being the safeguarding lead on the council.

Photographs in Church

Please remember that you **cannot** assume it is okay to take photographs in church of children or young and vulnerable adults. Please seek consent of the leader and those involved before you consider publicising photographs on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Driving

If you are a designated driver please remember to let me know when you have renewed your insurance, tax and MOT and if you have changed your car.

Finally, please remember that we must **all** take responsibility for safeguarding within our Church. The Diocese are extremely supportive of the work we do at LCC. If you have **any** safeguarding concerns please contact me immediately.

Reading in Care Homes

The couple who I used to read to at Summer Lane moved to a home down the seafront at the start of lockdown and I have therefore been unable to visit them. As they have moved they are no longer able to attend Oasis or church on a Sunday. I have kept in touch with them and taken them a couple of food parcels. It is not uncommon to see my waving at them frantically whilst speaking to them on the phone. I have really missed them and am so looking forward to seeing them and reading poems and The People's Friend short stories to them again.

Honeysuckle Place Life Group

Honeysuckle Place life group met for the first 2 ½ months of the year at my house and following this we have met on zoom. It started with a zoom cuppa and catch up and a second zoom to follow the weekly sermon series and life group questions. We have really gelled as a group and I think it is a "safe" place for us to share our life experiences and spiritual journey during this pandemic and our WhatsApp group pings on a regular basis with requests for prayer. We also share some songs and scriptures.

Flowers

Even though for the most part we were not in church last year I would like to thank the flower team namely Lyz Wells, Susan Brooks, Rose Gray, Sandria Elvey for continuing to put flowers in church when it has been open. If you would like to join the team, please let me know.

Church Administration

Report by Katherine Hollis

The administration of the church has continued during 2020, although it was slightly different. My role was different on different days, ranging from the church admin to helping Cathy and Emily coordinating our wonderful band of volunteers who helped in the community during the lockdowns. Debbie has stepped down from her role of occasion's administrator and she will be missed in the office, but I am sure she will enjoy her new adventures. We all are looking forward to the church opening again, and there will still be ways in which you can serve the church. Please contact me if you would like to help in anyway.

Thank you to all at Locking Castle over the past year. It has been a true blessing to all who have seen, helped and supported the local community.

Psalm 33: 20-22. We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him ours hearts rejoice for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.