

St Luke's Church Parkstone

'To be a Community of Whole-Life Disciples of Jesus Christ committed to Worship, Growth, Fellowship and Mission.'

Annual Report 2020 part 2

This document is supplementary to the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 prepared by the PCC together with Oak Accounting Ltd.

1. Standing and Finance Committee Report by the Vicar

Members: Chris Strain, Glenda Hammond, Steve Blight, Virginia Stacey, Roger Jones, Andy Roberts

This Committee met six times during the year to undertake the delegated responsibilities of the PCC between its meetings, to discuss matters of concern to the PCC and the parish, to take forward issues and to prepare the PCC Agenda. It was supported by others undertaking work in regard to the finances including Justin Coldstream and Liz Cotterell.

2. Fabric Team Report

Members: *Kate Wyatt, Richard Hudson, Chris Strain, Roger Jones, Glenda Hammond, Virginia Stacey, Geoff Sherwood, Andrew Monahan, Paul Gilbert, David Fisher.*

It is lovely to think that as we start to come out of Lockdown and look forward to the spring and summer, we can begin to clear the leaves and dust the cobwebs off, so restoring our beautiful church to a safe place of worship and a beacon of light and hope for our Church Family and our local community.

The Fabric Team has been unable to meet together recently to plan and discuss future needs and improvements. Lockdown has presented us with many challenges especially after some long periods of closure when we have found many things have rusted up, seized up or just started to leak!

Internally,

Plumbing problems in the toilets in the church rooms has included extra maintenance and the fitting of a new tap.

As usual minor issues have arisen with failing light bulbs and equipment, including the hot water urn in church kitchen which needs attention.

Unfortunately, when we have had heavy rain and strong winds, there have been a few leaks along the south aisle of the church these are being monitored and roofing repairs and may be needed.

One of the major issues this winter has been the failure of the heating system. A new part was sourced which has kept it going but it is a very old system and we will have to consider replacing it at some time in the near future. Richard is testing the heating on a regular basis and is trying to keep it working.

Externally

Fortunately, there haven't been too many issues to deal with. The winter storms have dislodged a tile or two and a piece of roof edging. This will be dealt with in due course.

The boat left from the flower festival is being used in our Easter display and we thank the Roberts and Giles families who will plant it up after Easter as a focal point in the front garden.

As we move towards returning to worship together in the church, we will be organising some of our very successful work party days. With a team of people pulling together much can be achieved but we know that cleaning and gardening are jobs that require constant attention. We really need more help! Can you commit to just half an hour or so once a week or a fortnight, or perhaps even once a month on a regular basis to take on a small job? We do however, extend our grateful thanks to all those who are serving so faithfully in these areas at present.

We are all aware that Richard 'retired' as our Verger a few years ago after a period of ill health but he is back helping almost full-time and more, in addition to overseeing and dealing with many issues single handed. We do thank him most sincerely for his care and devotion to St Luke's, we just would not be managing without him. We are however, still seeking someone to help Richard. Please pray for the right person to step forward.

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who faithfully serve on the Fabric Team, it's a vitally important job, challenging at times, but interesting and enormously rewarding. If you feel the Lord might be drawing you to serve in this area do please speak to Chris. We are due to have a Quinquennial Inspection later this year which will highlight any areas which will need addressing.

The Lord has gifted us this beautiful church. As we thank and praise Him for all His faithfulness it is up to each one of us to commit ourselves to looking after what He has given us.

Glenda Hammond. Acting Chair Fabric Team

3. Church Hall Team Report

Members: *Anne Roberts (Chair), Liz Cotterell (Treasurer), Frank Westfield, Chris Strain, Claire Storey (Caretaker), Fiona Attenborough*

The past twelve months have been an unusual time for the Church hall. With Covid 19 restrictions in place most of the groups who use the hall have been unable to operate as normal. The ballet school and exercise groups have been able to meet for short periods, but the social groups such as the Floral society have been unable to meet at all.

There has, of course, been a huge reduction in income for the hall. The caretaker has been furloughed when the hall has been out of use but other expenses such as the insurance still need to be paid. Furthermore in the periods when the hall has been used the cleaning costs have risen significantly in order to make the hall Covid secure. Fortunately the hall has been successful in applying for grants which have helped to cover much of the shortfall.

At the start of lockdown in March 2020, a programme of work had already been organised for the hall and this has been completed. A baby changing unit has been installed in the disabled toilet and some extra shelving put up in the Church store cupboard. Some unused storage cupboards in the small entrance room next to the stage have been removed and this room was re-painted by a volunteer. The old carpets in the two rooms either side of the stage have been replaced with a commercial grade vinyl, which has the advantage of being much easier to clean and also helps to keep the hall Covid secure. Liz Cotterell also kindly re-lined some of the hall curtains as the lining material had rotted.

Although the hall is not being used at the moment, it is checked regularly for Insurance purposes. Unfortunately, at the end of January, quite a large leak was noticed on the ceiling of the small entrance room. The flat roof above this room has had to be replaced as it had reached the end of its life and at the same time a small leak in the kitchen was repaired. Hopefully there will be no further expenditure needed at the hall until it once again has a regular income.

Anne Roberts (Chair Hall Team)

4. Children's and Families work.

It has been an unusual year for our children's ministry. A couple of weeks after starting my job as Children's and Families minister we went into a full national lockdown and it almost been a year away from 'normal' for our children's groups. But over the year we have managed to meet on Zoom most weeks. We started in March meeting on Zoom, with activities emailed every week to families to do at home together. We had an average of 6 people on Zoom each week but as the year went on we formed a more solid group and we are now having 25 regular children on a Sunday morning Zoom.

During the year I managed to meet a few families in their gardens or homes when it was allowed, this was a great opportunity to finally meet some families and to get to know them better too.

During the quieter months of this year, it gave me a great opportunity to do some research on discipleship materials for children's and families ministry and helped me to write some material for an academic year for all of our groups for under 11's. This is due to start properly in September 2021.

In October 2020 we had the opportunity to meet in person again! (For a short time!) we were allowed to have 15 children in each group, so we set up 3 groups. We managed to have around 25 children in total so that gave us a chance to have 3 groups for children in years Reception – year 2, year 3-year 5 and year 6+ (usual groups: Climbers & scramblers, Explorers and Pathfinders.)

In December 2020 we created 40 Christingle packs to deliver to families to make at home and bring to our Christingle service with them. This was a great opportunity to touch base with those families we hadn't seen for a while!

Then it wasn't too long until we were in another lockdown so groups returned to Zoom.

In January 2021 I chose to do a series on the 'I am' statements of Jesus and I created and delivered activity packs for the children who are regular attendees of our Sunday morning Zoom which has been well received.

Despite it being a very strange year for our children's ministry we have still been able to cover many topics during our times together and we have managed to learn more about Jesus which has been our main priority.

We are looking forward to putting plans and ideas into practice and to continue planning forward and seeing what that will look like for us as a team and for the children' and families of St Luke's.

Anna Counsell, Children's and Families Minister

5. Pastoral and Social Care

Members: Marianne Mutlow (chair), Chris Strain, John Pattison, Roy Stacey, Ruth Greig, Christine Gilbert, Lorna Coombes, Joan Percy, Val Wilson, Maggie Strain, Kate Wyatt, Anne Roberts, Linda Litterio, Janine Newman, Liz Howes, Virginia Stacey, Glenda Hammond, Sue Walkden, Judy Hudson, Carole Blight, Sue Ash, Wendy Lockwood, Linda Jones, Andy Roberts, John Parrett, Julie Murphy

The main function of the group is to coordinate pastoral work at St Luke's. Thank you to all those who are involved in any aspect of pastoral work.

In the past the group has met bi-monthly but for the last few months meetings have been monthly. Apart from one meeting last summer all have been by zoom.

During the last year Covid restrictions have severely impacted our ability to provide our normal level of practical pastoral help. This has resulted in the suspension of social gatherings e.g., the One to One Lunches, tea parties and games afternoons. Where possible zoom meetings have been arranged e.g., coffee mornings but obviously people who do not have online access have not been able to join in. The emphasis this year has been to keep in touch particularly with those shielding and those less mobile. A number of people at St Luke's have been providing pastoral help e.g., doing shopping for others, offering soup and cakes to people who are isolating. Many others have been ringing people regularly. These initiatives have been much appreciated by those receiving.

- Telephone support has continued to be available for anyone caring for someone with Dementia. Please call Liz Howes if you have a need for this. This winter Liz has organised collections of much needed warm clothing for the homeless.
- We support the Poole Domestic Abuse Refuge. Families First again organised presents for each family at Christmas. Thanks to Virginia Stacey for organising this and to all members of the congregation who contributed.
- Thank you to those who have supported the collections for the Poole Food Bank either by donating food or delivering collections. We continue to hold vouchers that can be given to people needing emergency supplies of food.
- Poole Waste Not Want Not takes food donated by local supermarkets and is for referred people on low incomes or in financial difficulties. It also acts as a satellite for the Food Bank. Thanks to those in the church who have supported this.
- One of our group has continued to provide pastoral support at Abbeyfield on a regular basis.
- Harvest gifts were given to the Poole Food Bank in October. Harvest cards were delivered to those on our usual Harvest list.
- A memorial Service was held in Church on 1st November but sadly it was not possible to follow it with a tea this time.
- The Pastoral Care & Contact List is regularly reviewed and updated at the Group meetings and is used to pray for any needs identified.

We look forward to resuming our previous pastoral activities as and when restrictions allow.

If you would like to know more about any of the above, particularly if you would like to contribute in some way to pastoral care within St Luke's, then please contact me. If you would like pastoral support please let us know, either through the church office or directly to a member of the Pastoral Group. We will endeavour to help as much as we can.

Marianne Mutlow

6. World Church and Mission

Members: Carole Schouten (chair), Chris Strain, Becky Hebditch, Linda Litterio, Jo Haslam-Jones, Brian Finch, Christian Verrinder, Andy Roberts, Sue Walkden, Simona Reeves, Sue Walkden, Val Wilson.

"...forgetting what is behind and straining toward to what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

Praise God, despite lockdown, our mission outreach continued steadfastly, albeit in modified or alternative formats. The mission team communicated regularly on email and met on Zoom to share and pray. Each mission was supported by generous donations from the congregation.

The Mission Budget for 2020 – 2021 A tithe of £16,000 from the St Luke's annual budget was pledged to our Mission Societies by the PCC and allocated as follows:

OMF £7,000	CPAS £1,500	CMS £2,000
BIBLE SOCIETY 1,500	TEARFUND £650	CHRISTIAN AID £500
S.SUDAN-WAU £500	OPEN DOORS £500	PACE £500
EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE £250	ROUTES TO ROOTS £250	FRIENDS INT £250
POOLE STREET PASTORS £100	A. MURPHY £250*(CMS)	POOLE REFUGEES*

**POOLE REFUGEES SUBSEQUENTLY STOPPED, THEREFORE, THE £250 LAPSED.*

**DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, ALISHA WAS UNABLE TO GO TO SRI LANKA WITH CMS. THE £250 GIFT, THEREFORE, LAPSED. CONSEQUENTLY, A FURTHER £500 WAS DONATED TO ROUTES TO ROOTS, (WITH WHOM ST LUKE'S IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED,) TOWARDS THEIR PROJECT OF BUILDING PREMISES TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF HOMELESS, VULNERABLE FAMILIES.*

Partnering in Mission Gift Day 5th July 2020

Although this year's gift day could not take place in the church, a well-attended Zoom event was organised for our Sunday morning service with the theme of 'Making Disciples from all Nations' inspired by the Memory Verse for 2020. The Bennetts and the Pain Family gave moving and encouraging video presentations of the work in Rwanda for CMS and in Japan for OMF. A powerful video from Open Doors on the theme of Faith and Danger provided insights into the suffering church. Other missions also gave testimonies and participated in the service – a real team effort. £11,000 was raised to support our missions.

A selection of other Mission Events/Happenings:

- We were pleased to welcome two speakers to Sunday Zoom services: Sandra Tebbutt from the Bible Society on the 14th June, who spoke about the Road to Emmaus. There are unprecedented numbers of people turning to the Bible at this time. Charles Burgess for CPAS on the 22nd November spoke about the work of CPAS on the theme of 'Community of Good News' based around Acts 8:26-40
- Open Doors supporters were updated through emails and online information from the Open Doors website. The booklet outlining the 50 most dangerous places in the world to be a Christian, along with world maps, is now available free of charge, from the website. Our local MP has been encouraged by letter to participate in ensuring justice for Christians imprisoned for their faith.
- Despite Covid restrictions Christian Aid Week went ahead in May with some modifications, successfully raising £1,600.
- At the annual Holes Bay Walk, again, despite restrictions, a record £4,000 was raised for South Sudan-Wau
- Bi-monthly Prayer meetings for South Sudan continued through the pandemic.
- Although the annual Mothers' Union garden party had to be cancelled this year, they raised £200 for South Sudan through voluntary donations.
- In October, Chris Strain spoke on a South Sudan Facebook TV station run by the Rev Mabith from Uganda. The programme went out worldwide.
- A successful Quiz Evening on the 2nd December for Tearfund raised £215. £500 was raised for Tearfund through the Harvest Festival and Christmas collections. A Lent fund raiser is currently being planned.
- Chris and Maggie's daughter, Anna went out to Rwanda in early spring, on behalf of Tearfund (as the pandemic was gaining momentum) and has made good contacts.
- Andy and Jo are in regular contact with the Bennetts (CMS) since their return to Rwanda.
- The Pains (OMF) faithfully send informative prayer letters. A copy, when sent, is usually printed with the weekly bulletin. Do read this and pray for them.
- If you are not already supporting mission, would you consider adopting one or more of our many missions to discover, pray for and support. Do contact our Mission reps if you would like further information.

As a church, locked out from the building and reaching beyond the walls, pray for those whose churches have been burned down or permanently locked up, and for those who have to exercise their faith secretly and in dangerous conditions. Please pray for Andy Roberts as he takes over the mission chair in 2021 and the Lord's guidance for the team and the PCC in the allocation of funding to mission. In our giving and our praying and all we do, may each one of us be guided by God's Word and bring glory to Him.

Thank you for supporting Mission and may you continue to be in partnership with us as we serve God's people across the globe.

Carole Schouten January 2021

7. Girl Guiding at St Luke's in 2020

2020 has been a year like no other, presenting challenges to both individuals and organisations. Events like the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic can be very difficult for young people to understand, and they may feel anxious and scared. Girlguiding nationally and locally has responded to the challenges and Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger leaders at St Luke's have all continued to deliver fun and adventure to the girls.

Rainbows

- Rainbows have continued to have fun, learn new skills and earn badges. Girls have taken part in:
- Weekly zoom meetings
- Summer and Christmas themed virtual sleepovers
- UK Parliament Week
- Activities to learn British Sign Language

Brownies

After one outdoor meeting in September we have run online meetings and emailed activity suggestions and also posted out various badges earned by the girls at home. Activities have included:

- Making a bug hotel
- Finding out about DIY tools
- Learning to communicate with the phonetic alphabet and sign language
- Virtual sleepover (though the girls said it was not the same as the real thing)
- UK Parliament week
- Pizza in a mug cooked in the microwave

A quote from a Brownies about the online meetings – "It's been fun, very different but I miss seeing all my friends."

Guides

For both girls and adults meeting with friends and taking part in activities together are the key reasons for coming to Guides. How could we achieve this within the constraints of social distancing? We have offered:

- Activities sent by weekly e mail, followed by a 'gallery' of photos submitted
- A handwritten letter from one of the leaders posted to the girl's home.
- Zoom meetings, where silly games are the priority
- Suggestions to enable them to continue to achieve awards within Guiding.

Rangers

- An outdoor face to face meeting in September – when it was allowed
- Zoom meetings continuing with the Ranger programme and games
- Encouragement to carry on with the Duke of Edinburgh award using the current flexibilities – within the group one bronze, two silver and one gold award have been completed this year.

Guides and Rangers

- A virtual sleepover, which included baking, craft, games, an escape room, an opportunity to meet and interview some goats and a visit from Santa
- The chance to take part in bigger Guiding events organised in Dorset, within the South West Region and Nationally.

Virtual meetings do not suit everyone, but both girls and parents have appreciated what we have been able to offer. As ever, every cloud has a silver lining and there have been positives to these new ways of working. Vicky, Anna and Amy have been able to take a full part in meetings despite living in Bristol, Wrexham and Hull, parents have had a chance to watch their daughters taking part in activities, and we have been able to make good use of the IT skills and confidence of our younger leaders.

However, girls and leaders are agreed, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Ranger meetings are much better when we can meet regularly, get out and about and go on holidays and camps.

There are many opportunities within Guiding to build your skills, for girls, but for the adults too. We are always looking for enthusiastic adults to help us – it does not have to be a regular weekly commitment, but perhaps occasional help on outings or at large events. We would love to talk to you if you would like to volunteer.

Leaders@girlguiding St Luke's

8. Deanery Synod Report

Poole and North Bournemouth Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod was only able to meet twice in 2020 due to the restrictions imposed to cope with the Coronavirus Pandemic. For the first part of 2020, until the APCM, St Luke's were represented on the Synod by Brian Finch, Glenda Hammond and Richard Hudson. All three of us stood down at St Luke's APCM at the end of our term on the synod, but we had all indicated that we were happy to stand again for re-election to the Deanery Synod. All 3 of us were subsequently re-elected and will represent St Luke's on the Synod until the APCM in 2023.

The last meeting of the previous Synod was held at St George's Oakdale in February 2020. This was an open meeting with our speakers being the Bishop of Salisbury, Bishop Nicholas and Lydia Reese from A Rocha. The Rural Dean, Revd Canon Lucy Holt welcomed those attending the meeting, which started with a short act of worship led by the Revd Penny Draper. Bishop Nicholas, who is the lead Bishop for the Church of England on Environment, gave an interesting, challenging and thought provoking talk on the subject of Global Warming, Climate Change and the Environment. Lydia Reese from A Rocha spoke to the meeting about the work of her organisation and how Christians and the Church can help to improve things.

The first meeting of the new Synod was held via Zoom on 24th November 2020. The Rural Dean opened the meeting with prayer. John Rolleston was elected as the new Lay Chair of the Synod and he then read the Gospel Reading. Brief updates were given on the Deanery Project (which is due to be further considered by the Synod at the meeting in February 2021) and the situation in Wau and the work of the Poole-Wau Partnership.

Our guest speaker, The Archdeacon of Dorset - the Venerable Antony Macrow-Wood, then addressed the meeting on the state of finances within the Diocese of Salisbury. The Covid situation had adversely affected the financial situation of the Diocese as it had affected all Parishes and there were very real challenges to be faced in the years ahead. The Archdeacon explained that because of the situation facing us all it had been decided that the Parish Share would stay the same for 2021 as it had been in 2020. Payment of share for 2020 was expected to be at around the 90% level of what had been requested, despite the challenges that churches were facing. Despite steps being taken to reduce expenditure at Diocese level it was anticipated that there would be a deficit of around £2 million in the budget for the Diocese for both 2020 and 2021. The Archdeacon further explained that planning was in place to balance the budgets by 2025. The meeting split into smaller breakout groups to discuss the presentation and the matters raised by the Archdeacon.

If you would like to know more about the Synod meetings then please speak to one of the St Luke's representatives and perhaps consider standing for election to the Synod in 2023.

Richard Hudson – February 2021

9. Electoral Roll Other Matters

As at 15 March 2020 *there were 169 members on the Church Electoral Roll, 49 (29%) resident in the parish and 120 (71%) non-resident.* A copy of the Electoral Roll is on the notice board in the north aisle. We have been advised to display a copy which has individuals addresses removed.

Roger Jones – Electoral Roll Officer

Note regarding Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimated that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and,
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Measure of the Church of England. The trustees are responsible for safe guarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:

Reverend Christopher Strain

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Date

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