

Annual Report 2024 Part 2

This document is supplementary to the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024 prepared by the PCC together with Sue Wintle (Independent Examiner).

1. Standing and Finance Committee Report by the Vicar

Members: Revd Stuart Cocksedge. Kate Wyatt, Ben Counsell, *Steve Blight, Roger Jones, Julie Murphy and Dan Washbrook.*

This Committee meet 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.

2. Fabric Team Report

Members: (Glenda Hammond and Virginia Stacey until April 2024), Richard Hudson, Roger Jones, Trevor Muddimer, Ben Counsell, Stuart Cocksedge, Dan Washbrook (Sept24) and Alan Cotterell (Sept24). The committee met on 3 occasions during the year.

Heating

DAC approached for site visit to advise. They required submission of faculty which must detail our actions to date and completion of Heating checklist and Heating appraisal. Both documents completed.

A site visit by members of the DAC together with Archdeacon Penny took place at the end of June. They emphasised the need for a replacement system to be in line with the Diocese carbon friendly guidelines. They will also require us to demonstrate we have considered all options even those that are costly or most unlikely. Work continues to seek a suitable system that will be both effective and within the Diocese eco limitations.

Current heating working since new part fitted in November 23. Excessive heat in Chancel caused problems with projector but being managed. The heating is unreliable and failed in November 24 but was coaxed back ready for Christmas.

Dishwasher

Following decision to install appliance a suitable location identified in west end kitchen. Two local suppliers approached and advice taken. A faculty had to be approved by the Diocese. Due to electrical constraints a machine able to work on the existing kitchen supply was selected. There was a delay in sourcing this machine but installation took place in early August. There were issues but by early December these had been resolved. The cost of this work was covered by a legacy received and money pledged at the gift day in March.

Roof Repair

We experienced considerable delay in getting the work carried out after faculty approval by the Diocese. Work on south aisle roof to install a bitumen felt finally carried out in May and the final cost largely covered by a gift from a fellowship member from March 23.

Additional work replacing damaged flashing above rear rooms and sealing the west end buttress was finally completed in early December.

Electrical matters

The current two 'single phase' supply is limiting our options when considering replacement heating, especially the move to a more eco friendly system. We continue to explore ways of mitigating this constraint.

Screens to improve Visuals in side aisles

As we seek to encourage new members to St Luke's there is a need to improve the display of words and pictures into both aisles and around the Church. The use of TV screens in north and south aisles was started in the Autumn but a more permanent mobile solution is still being investigated. The PCC agreed to commit money to this project.

Minor repairs

Minor repairs and refurbishment have been carried out during the year by members of the Fabric team.

Thanks to members of fellowship

My thanks go to members of the fellowship who regularly carry out tasks both in the Church and in the surrounding gardens. We rely on this work in order to keep St Luke's looking like a welcoming area for members and those visiting for the first time. If you are able to offer your time and talents please have a word with myself or the Churchwardens Kate and Ben.

Roger Jones Chair Fabric Committee 30/01/2025

3. Church Hall Team Report

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

The Church Hall is generally in a good state of repair although it is need of internal redecoration. General maintenance work has been undertaken such as hedge cutting and replacing broken toilet seats etc plus some more expensive work.

An area of the roof has had to be repaired as rainwater was getting into the entrance room and the gutters were cleaned and repaired at the same time. The alarm system became faulty and this has been repaired and upgraded. The main area of expenditure has been in the car park where when heavy rain falls a large puddle forms at the end of the car park. In cold weather this was freezing making this area dangerous. The drain and soak aways have been improved, although in very heavy rain there is still a small puddle forming. The hall team have come to the conclusion that this is a result of climate change, the fact that we are at the bottom of a steep slope and development in the road has replaced gardens with hard standing. At the same time work was carried out to remove roots, rubble, bricks etc at the rear and kitchen side of the hall. The uneven ground has been levelled, the drains repaired and shingle laid making this area safer and more attractive.

Some electrical work has also been carried out, replacing a wall heater in the side room and some of the emergency exit signs in the main hall. The strip lights in the main hall have all been replaced with Led lights which are giving out a much better light than the old ones and should use less electricity.

The decision to increase the cost of hiring the hall was taken in the Autumn as the cost of electricity has risen immensely and there had been no increase since 2017. There has been a 20% increase in hire charges but no regular users have been lost and bookings at the hall remain healthy. It was agreed with Stuart that generally there would be no party bookings on Sundays and no yoga classes would be allowed.

The hall piano has been tuned and repaired, but has immediately had problems again. The hall team had an in depth conversation with the tuner and the conclusion was reached that the piano had reached the end of its life. The piano is rarely used and it was suggested that it be replaced by a keyboard. Further discussion about the piano will take place at the next Hall team meeting.

Anne Roberts (Chair Hall Team)

4. Children's and Youth Ministry

- Children's and youth ministry at St Luke's has been going well over the last year. We have seen new families, new young people and a few new initiatives. We have seen God working in lots of different ways and seeing answers to prayers.

St Luke's Kids and Youth on Sundays

- We have seen new regular families each week and children forming friendships with one another, meaning the children want to come to church and don't want to leave afterwards! The crèche room at the back of church has helped the children spend time and play with one another and form good friendships. We have been praying for this to happen over the last year or so and it has been a real answer to prayer. We are praying the same prayer for our Youth. We have seen the youth on a Sunday grow and we would love our young people to form friendships with one another.
- There are 3 main leaders in St Luke's Kids on Sundays they are: Anna Counsell, Kate Giles and Matt Richardson. And the helpers are Katie Yates, Rebecca Hebditch, Helen Harris and Rebecca Norris. The Leaders in St Luke's Youth on Sundays are Anna Counsell, Dan Washbrook and Rachel Cocksedge and the helpers are Sara Turnbull, Becky Washbrook and Nick Giles. John Parrett decided to step down from all his youth volunteering in October, we are very thankful for all the hard work and commitment he gave to St Luke's youth work over so many years. If you feel God is calling you to a youth or children's team, please speak to Anna.
- We have some online material that helps the leaders plan sessions, this is called Energize, Anna puts the material into a program, so it is easy access for the other leaders to use and there is a program with follow up each week to help disciple the children.
- The material we have used over the last year in kids are Jesus' Miracles, Characters of the Bible and Jesus' Parables. Over the next year or so we will be looking at the Character of God, The Bible and why we read it and prayer.
- We have youth deeper on Sunday evenings run by Anna Counsell and Dan Washbrook. It has been great to see young people coming together to learn more about faith and how they can have a personal relationship with Jesus themselves.

Breakfast church

- Breakfast church meets every 2nd Sunday of the month, we have a regular following and families who come each week. We spend time worshiping, learning from God's word and doing craft.

St Luke's kids and youth mid-week

- We have Fab Friday every Friday during term time in the church rooms 3:30-4:45pm this is a space for primary school aged children to come and play games, do craft, eat lots of snacks and hear a bible story. We have seen lots of regular children attending this and hearing stories from the Bible. The leaders for this group are Anna Counsell, Stuart Cocksedge, Dan Washbrook, Rebecca Hebditch and John Pattison. We have also recently created a space for parents to have a cup of tea while their children have fun. This has been great seeing parents build friendships with one another.
- Youth Club happens every Friday during term time in the church hall 7:30-9pm, this is a space for young people to run around and meet others their own age. We also have food together and a chance to talk about faith. We currently using material called 'Start to stir' and resource that gets young people talking about spirituality. The Youth club team is: Anna Counsell, Harriet Sturgess, Nick Giles, Kate Giles, Paul Gilbert, Rebecca Norris, Katie Yates, Stuart Cocksedge and Dan Washbrook.
- St Luke's Toddlers meets every Thursday during term time, we have seen new families coming into the church and we've had some great conversations over the last year or so and have seen families

from the toddler group coming along to other events that we have. The Current toddler team is: Anna Counsell, Harriet Sturgess, Linda Jones and Gill Randall.

Events

- We have had lots of different events that welcomed members of our community into church. We have also had some of our young people on the team and we have seen lots of new faces and regular people who come to all our events.
- Messy Easter, Holiday Club, The Light Trail, A Taste of Christmas, St Luke's Community Fun day.

I am extremely thankful for all of our children's and youth ministry volunteers, we wouldn't be able to have so many children's, youth, families, or events without them.

Anna Counsell, Children's and Families Minister

5. Pastoral and Social Care

Members: *Julie Murphy (chair from Sept '24), Marianne Mutlow (chair until September '24), Carole Blight, Ruth Greig, Glenda Hammond, Liz Howes, Linda Jones, Margaret Lloyds, Julie Murphy, John Pattison, Anne Roberts, Iris Prudom and Val Wilson*

- Marianne Mutlow retired from leading the pastoral team in September 2024 after many years of dedicated and much appreciated service and we are very grateful to her. Julie Murphy and Carole Blight have taken over the joint leadership of the team.
- Sadly, the Pastoral team has lost some very faithful servants this year notably Virginia Stacey who has since gone to be with the Lord, Roy Stacey, Christine Gilbert and Judy Hudson who are all involved in other roles within the Church. We have been very grateful for their ministry over many years. We have gratefully welcomed Iris Prudom back into the team.
- The team would like to welcome new members and if there is interest in serving in this way please contact the leaders or Rev Stuart Cocksedge to discuss this further.
- The pastoral team has continued to be busy during the year. Pastoral visits and home communion take place regularly for those on the pastoral list.
- Church family known to the pastoral team are invited to the 3rd Wednesday Communion and lunch and lifts given where requested.
- There has been a review of the work of the pastoral team and of the job description for pastoral workers. The main focus of the work of this team will be on visits to those who are house bound or in need of pastoral support.
- Pastoral team Meetings are held once every two months. At the January meeting there was a speaker from the Samaritans. In the autumn Rev Dan Washbrook talked about Trauma informed practice.
- A meeting was attended with Faithworks and further consideration is being given to developing closer links. A meeting with the Safe families team was held in November.
- Other events which the pastoral team have been involved in have included: Harvest cards and marmalade given to those on the pastoral list; the Memorial service and tea; Operation Christmas child shoe boxes; Reverse advent calendar for the food bank; gifts for local children given via Smile; biscuits for the domestic abuse refuge; the winter clothing project.

In conclusion, the pastoral ministry at St Luke's is significant. Many people work very hard to achieve this Christian service to support those in the Church family and the community who benefit from pastoral assistance. This ministry can be through the pastoral team, Connect groups or informally. We are very grateful for this level of service and hope that the work will continue to prosper and develop during 2025.

Julie Murphy and Carole Blight

6. Safeguarding Report – Julie Murphy, Parish Safeguarding Officer

- The Parish Safeguarding Officer, Julie Murphy, has given advice and guidance and has worked closely with the Vicar, Church wardens and PCC. She has liaised with the Salisbury Diocese advisors when safeguarding advice and support has been necessary.
- Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting, all pastoral team meetings and Anna Counsell inputs on safeguarding in her meetings with the children and youth team.
- The Safeguarding policy and the Domestic abuse policy are reviewed and accepted by the PCC annually and they are available on the safeguarding notice board at the back of the Church and on the Church web site.
- All volunteers and staff have DBS checks as required, monitored by Church suite and the Diocese where appropriate
- All staff and volunteers are up to date with safeguarding training. Face to face training was held in January 2025. All others have attended on line training either at foundation or leadership level.
- Information about safeguarding including domestic abuse and services is on the notice board and the church web site together with information about domestic abuse help on toilet doors. This information was reviewed and up-dated in March 2025.
- All PCC members and the pastoral team are being encouraged to undertake the Church of England Domestic abuse training. This training is available by logging into the Church of England training portal [Safeguarding Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](https://cofeportal.org)
- The Dashboard audit of safeguarding tool is being used at St Luke's to review safeguarding practice. Stage 1 is now complete and Stage 2 is commencing from March 2025 onwards.
- Safeguarding review meetings occur termly with the last meeting being held in January 2025. Actions are being taken forward from this meeting.
- A meeting giving the church family an opportunity for reflection following on from national Church of England safeguarding reports published this year, was held on March 2nd.
- St Luke's Church participated in Safeguarding Sunday In November 2024 and this is in the church calendar for November 2025.
- Succession planning is in place to have a deputy PSO to support f the current PSO with view to a new PSO taking on the role within the next year as Julie Murphy will have served in this role for 10 years by summer 2025

Further actions

- To undertake the Dash board stage 2 audit
- To progress with succession planning for the PSO role

Julie would like to thank everyone who has supported her in this role during the year.

Julie Murphy- Safeguarding Officer

7. Mission Partnership Team

- In February the Mission Team met to discuss how we continue to effectively support our mission partners with more limited resources than in the past. We agreed a name change to 'Mission Partnerships Team'. The allocation of the £12,000 St Luke's mission tithe between our 8 mission partners was subsequently agreed.
- In April several members of St Luke's went to meet our mission partners the Cables at a presentation they gave in Southbourne during a visit to the UK. They were ministering in very challenging circumstances following the terrorist attacks in Israel in October 2023 and the war which has followed. (See also point 7 below.)

- The annual Partnering in Mission Sunday was held on 14th July. It was encouraging to welcome the Pain family over from Japan, to hear Chris Pain preach on the subject of engaging in mission, and to give towards the work of our mission partners.
- On or following the Partnering in Mission Sunday, a total of £10,420 (including Gift Aid) was given and passed on our mission partners. We are grateful to everyone who has given, but note that it was a fairly small number of people who made donations.
- In September we welcomed David Hart from our mission partner Christian Aid to express thanks for the money raised by Geoff and Will Sherwood's fantastic cycle ride across Europe 'in the footsteps of St Paul' in support of Christian Aid. And in November Geoff gave a fascinating presentation on his cycle ride. This very well received by all who attended.
- In October we welcomed Katharine Robinson from our mission partner Tearfund. Her talk on the work of Tearfund and the difference they are making through local churches in poorer countries, and a theology of abundance, was very powerful. The Tearfund Big Quiz Night in November raised £345 for the work of Tearfund. Thank you to all who took part and donated.
- During 2024 our mission partners the Cables came to the end of their time with CMS and decided to continue their ministry under the auspices of CMJ. Following a number of discussions it was decided that St Luke's would not continue to support the Cables through CMJ, but would seek to retain our link with CMS. We are still working out what this link may look like.
- At our Christmas services collections were taken up for our two chosen mission organisations, Faithworks Wessex and Open Doors. There was a very generous response and a total of £1,139.75 was raised, of which half will be given to Faithworks Wessex and half to Open Doors.
- Members of the Mission Partnerships Team and the mission partners they represent are: Stuart Cocksedge (Tearfund), Justin Coldstream (OMF), Lis Cullis (CPAS), Becky Hebditch (Christian Aid), Linda Litterio (Bible Society), Carole Schouten (Open Doors), Val Wilson (Poole Wau Partnership). (CMS does not currently have a rep.)
- We continue to pray for our mission partners regularly in our weekly news sheet prayers and our morning prayer meetings.

Stuart Cocksedge, March 2025

8. Girl Guiding at St Luke's in 2024

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers have adventures.

Girlguiding defines an adventure as an exciting and unusual experience. The essence of adventure lies in stepping into one's brave space which will look different for a Rainbow than it would for a Ranger. Girls will stretch themselves and try new activities whilst having fun. Adventure encourages personal growth and development, provides fun and memorable experiences, fosters a sense of community and supports physical and mental health.

There is a badge for land, water, snow and height adventures for each section. Read on to find out more about the adventures in 2025.

Rainbows

Rainbows is all about developing self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things and having fun. Girls get their hands dirty with arts and crafts, get in touch with nature and play games - it's all about learning by doing. During this year, the 9th Parkstone (St Luke's) Rainbows have tackled various badges, Science experiments and games all whilst having fun. A particular highlight for our Rainbows this year was our district campfire held a Butcher's Coppice and our joint Thinking Day celebration held

with all our other St Luke's units. These events are fantastic for allowing Rainbows to see what happens in the next sections of Guiding as well as making them feel part of the Guiding family.

Brownies

The biggest adventure was possibly taking some of the Brownies to Dudsbury for a Harry Potter holiday, the first time some had stayed away without their parents

The Brownies' Land and Height challenges have been reflected in some of the badges gained Land -Dancing, Performing, Mindfulness, Painting, Baking, Jobs

Air – Aviation

Charities and Speaking out badges have also been awarded

Other activities included hosting a tea party for parents to a tea party where they helped the girls decorate t-shirts, cooking on barbecues and a cinema trip to see Moana 2. Towards the end of the year we packed several shoe-boxes which have ended up in Moldova and 81 Christmas cards for the residents of The Oakdale Care Home.

Guides

Land: In October a group of Guides explored Brownsea Island, making our way all the way to Pottery Pier, while taking photos of our inflatable mascots!

Water: In July some of us had the chance to kayak and canoe in Poole Harbour, while others tried their hand at crabbing at Poole harbour. Then in August those who were camping had a trip on the canal from Devizes, this was a first for our Guides.

Height: October took us to Paris, where we climbed the 647 steps to the second level of the Eiffel Tower and the more intrepid of us travelled on Space Wars Hyperspace Mountain!

Rangers

Land: The Rangers have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award through Girlguiding. Rangers completed their Silver expedition in the New Forest and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh participants had their practice expedition on Dartmoor and their qualifying expedition in the Yorkshire Dales.

Water: We have tried three times to go Coasteering, but the weather has got the better of us each time! The Rangers who went to summer camp travelled on the Kennet and Avon canal.

Height: In September the Rangers had the opportunity to try Gliding at a local air field and in October some also went up the Eiffel tower when we were in Paris with the Guides.

If you would like to help more girls to have adventures, and have fun yourself, please ask any of the leaders.

Girl Guiding Leaders.

9. Poole and North Bournemouth Deanery Synod Report 2024

St Luke's Church representatives on the Deanery Synod are Brian Finch and Richard Hudson. We were elected to represent St Luke's on the Deanery Synod at the APCM 2023 until the APCM 2026. There is currently one vacancy to represent St Luke's at the Synod.

The Deanery Synod met 3 times during 2024 and brief details are given below of the topics discussed and considered at the meetings.

The first meeting of the year was held at St Philips, West Howe on 21st February 2024.

After the opening worship, Reverend Christine Brooks gave an overview of the history, current work and witness at St Philips Church including the issues associated with deprivation in the Parish.

Mark Rathbone gave an update on the work of the Poole-Wau Partnership and was able to tell the meeting that the target of £20,000 towards the completion of the college building had been raised, with much local fundraising and the help of grants.

Feedback was given from the recent Diocesan Synod with particular reference to the Diocesan Vision and Strategy and the new Diocesan Share Scheme and new logos for the Diocese.

The main presentation of the evening was given by David Reed and concerned Lessons learnt from the Church Graft in Hamworthy. A summary of the church graft process was given from the perspective of one who had been involved in the graft and the successes and issues that arose from the graft. There were a number of difficult and challenging issues that were raised and then considered by small groups and feed-back was given.

The second meeting of the year was held at St James Church, Poole on 5th June 2024

Reverend Lucy Holt welcomed those attending the meeting and after a time of worship gave details of the work currently in progress at St James and those planned for the future. She also explained the work that was involved with the church being the parish church for Poole. She advised that the Reverend Simon Evans was to be the new Rural Dean.

The main presentation of the evening was given by Alistair Doxat-Purser CEO of Faithworks. He talked about the work of Faithworks and what had been achieved so far and how things were evolving and developing. He also looked forward to the next steps in the adventure. Synod broke into small groups to consider a number of points and how they could be taken forward and other considerations. Mark Rathbone gave an update on work of the Poole – Wau partnership. The meeting closed in prayer after thanks had been given to Lucy Holt for her work as Rural Dean.

The third meeting of the year was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd and was held in the recently rebuilt church. After those attending were welcomed by the Rural Dean, the Reverend Debbie Smith led a time of worship and talked about the work at the Good Shepherd.

The main theme of the evening was based around one of the pillars of the Diocesan vision of Making Jesus Known and was to take a look at Climate Action and Sustainability. There were 4 presentations. The first being the Clothes Swap at St Thomas Church which was currently being held monthly on Saturdays. Reverend David Price gave a presentation on the rebuilding of the Good Shepherd and the sustainable features included in the building works. The church had so far been found to be largely self-sufficient in energy usage. The third presentation was given by Neil Stevens of St Nicholas, Corfe Mullen and also a Solar Power Professional. He talked about the work that had been carried out at St Nicholas using Solar Power and how that had reduced energy consumption and the principles and limitations involved. The last presentation by Simon Burnham-Slipper was about the Churchyard projects at St Marys, Longfleet and how that had been progressed and the principles involved. The meeting split into small groups to consider the presentations and to offer Feedback.

An update was given on the Poole – Wau partnership including the results of the Holes Bay Walk.

If you would like to know more about the Synod please speak to us. As can be seen many challenging and interesting subjects are covered at the Synod meetings during the three meetings held each year.

Richard Hudson – February 2025

10. Electoral Roll and Other Matters

The revision has resulted in a reduction of 1 and an addition of 6 new members (two members were added during 2023), when compared with last year's roll, 53 people (29%) are resident in the parish and 127 (71%) non- resident. There are now 180 names on the new Roll which is available to view on the notice board in the north aisle of the church.

Roger Jones – Electoral Roll Officer