

Annual Report 2025 Part 2

This document is supplementary to the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025 prepared by the PCC together with Sue Wintle (Independent Examiner).

1. Standing and Finance Committee Report by the Vicar

Members: Revd Stuart Cocksedge, Ben Counsell, Alan Cotterell, Steve Blight, Julie Murphy, Lis Cullis. 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: Stuart Cocksedge, Roger Jones, Richard Hudson, Trevor Muddimer, Ben Counsell, Alan Cotterell. The committee met on 4 occasions during the year.

Heating - The existing burner failed in early January and a replacement part ordered and fitted. We experienced problems with our heating engineers and during the year the company ceased trading. Latterly Asbury Heating have provided us with servicing and provision of the gas safety certificate. With the onset of winter the burner began failing. Although original parts were unavailable suitable options were found and the heating worked for Christmas events. The cost of visits and parts is considerable and decisions re the replacement have become urgent,(an option was presented to January 26 PCC). Investigations to find an appropriate replacement have continued during the year. Installation of Under floor heating was investigated but discounted as gas boilers would need to heat water circulating. SSEN were asked for a quotation to install a three phase supply. Their verbal quotation was about £150k, when written quotation received it was closer to £250k with daily charge of £10 for an onsite transformer. A visit from H2ECO was organised as this firm spoke at the Deanery. They suggested we incorporate de-stratification fans within the Church in order to move around the warmed air. This option was investigated with a local firm Airius. They suggested 2 or 3 fans. This option is still being considered. A meeting with the DAC in August recommended we look at Infrared heating where individuals are heated rather than the building. This option has been discounted as our electrical supply inadequate and also it suited a location where attendees remain seated and did not move around. In September the DAC secretary verbally agreed that a replacement gas burner seemed the only logical option given our investigations.

Dishwasher - The dishwasher was installed but we experienced issues regarding its operation. Following a service visit our machine functioned as required. Lessons regarding operation have been learnt during the year.

Electrical Circuits - The full electrical test in 2022 highlighted the need to retest the mineral cabling in 2025. These cables provide the lighting circuits around the main body of the Church. This test in April recommended their replacement but they are still safe to use. We have received two quotations for their replacement one like for like and another using a more domestic rated cabling. This is still under consideration and finance would have to be raised in order for this work to be progressed.

Roof - We still suffer the occasional ingress of water in various parts of the Church which are dependant on the intensity of rain and wind direction and strength. There has not been any ingress in the area where the roof felting was changed in the south aisle.

Improved Visuals in side aisles - Following donation of a large tv screen a mounting on a suitable trolley has enabled it to be used to provide additional coverage within the nave and north aisles.

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

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 the Churchwardens Ben and Alan.

Roger Jones 16/2/26

3. Church Hall Team Report

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

Over the last 12 months the hall has lost some of its regular bookings. These have mainly been groups for pre-school children who are now struggling due to the government's increase in free hours for children and babies in Nursery settings. At present this has been balanced out by an increase in party bookings at weekends. However the Hall team will monitor the effect that this will have on the hall's income as party bookings tend to be seasonal and drop off in the summer. A new booking has begun fortnightly from a Community choir and there has been interest from a ballroom dancing group. The hall is now being used on Sunday mornings by another Church.

The hall is now making a regular monthly payment to the Church finances from its income. It is too soon to see what impact this will have on the Hall finances over the longer term. The hall has a good reserve at present, but the hall is 60 years old this year and we cannot always predict what will need to be spent on maintenance.

During the Summer holidays the main hall was completely redecorated and the decorator very kindly repainted the wooden doors in the toilet lobby area at no extra charge. The internal doors into the toilet lobby have had small windows inserted into them which have been paid for by the ballet school who hire the hall. Following the tragic attack on a dance class in Southport, the ballet school wished to improve the security of the hall for the children. A loft hatch cover has also been installed which can be lowered over the opening when the loft is being accessed. This is to prevent anyone falling through the opening.

Trevor Muddimer has very kindly PAT tested the electrical appliances at the Hall which fortunately only found an issue with the Henry Hoover which had a damaged plug. In the Autumn an electrician had to be called out to replace and adjust the external security lights in the car park and to replace a faulty socket.

The Hall piano is no longer fit for purpose and we are hoping to replace it with an electric piano. One has been offered by a Church member which we hope will prove to be suitable.

An Autumn Fair was held at the Church Hall and over £1,000 has been raised for Church funds from sales on the day and on eBay.

The increased use of the Hall, on weekends in particular, has added greatly to our caretaker's workload and is impacting on her life. If any Church members felt able to volunteer to help with checking after parties or key collection it would be much appreciated.

Anne Roberts March 2026

4. Children's and Youth Ministry – Anna Counsell

Children's and Youth Ministry at St Luke's has been going well over the past year. We have welcomed new families and young people, and have started a few new initiatives. It has been encouraging to see God at work in many different ways and to see prayers being answered.

St Luke's Kids and Youth on Sundays

- We have seen more families attending church on Sundays, with increasing numbers of children and young people joining the groups. It has been particularly encouraging to see many families attending regularly.
- We have welcomed several new members to the Sunday Kids and Youth Team: **Jess Harwood, Delia Hardyman and Paul Gilbert**. They join our existing team of **Anna Counsell, Matt Richardson, Kate Giles, Rachel Cocksedge, Katie Yates, Helen Harris, Sara Turnbull, and Becky Hebditch**.
- Over the past year we have introduced a **Bible timeline**, helping children and young people understand how the whole story of the Bible fits together.

Midweek Ministries

Youth Deeper

Over the past year we have started *Youth Deeper* on Wednesday evenings. Around nine young people attend each week to spend time socialising and digging deeper into the Bible. It has been really encouraging to see their eagerness to learn more and to grow in their faith while having fun together. This group is led by **Anna and Ben Counsell**.

Toddlers

Toddlers has continued to grow this year, with many new families joining us each week. We have been able to build stronger relationships with parents, carers, and grandparents who attend. Looking ahead, I would love to explore ways of including more Christian input during our weekly sessions. **Liz Mantle** will soon be joining the Toddlers team alongside **Anna Counsell, Harriet Sturgess, Linda Jones, and Gill Randall**.

Fab Friday

Fab Friday has been one of the greatest encouragements this year. Our numbers have almost tripled since this time last year, and we now have over **60 children on our register**. It has been wonderful to see so many children and families coming each week. The evening includes games, crafts, and activities, followed by time in small groups where we watch a short video and have discussions about the Bible. We have also seen some Fab Friday families begin attending church and/or Breakfast Church, which has been very encouraging.

Breakfast Church

We have been encouraged to see **Breakfast Church** develop a regular following each month. These gatherings include singing together, hearing from God's word, doing crafts, and sharing breakfast. It has been particularly encouraging to see families from Fab Friday and Toddlers attend and feel part of the church community.

Schools

Over the past year, **Stuart and I** have had the opportunity to serve in several local schools.

- At **Baden Powell School**, we have been visiting monthly for the past six months to lead their collective worship assemblies. This has strengthened our relationship with the school, and it is always encouraging to see children who also attend our church groups.
- At **Bournemouth Collegiate Prep School**, we have led assemblies and welcomed them to church for various services, including an assembly in December.
- **Courthill** joined us at church last Easter, and we have also visited them for several assemblies and lessons throughout the year.

Events

Throughout the year we have run a number of events for families and the wider community, including:

- Messy Easter
- Holiday Club
- Light Trail
- A Taste of Christmas

These events have welcomed many families into the church building and provided opportunities for them to hear the message of the Bible and about Jesus. It has been a great encouragement, and we hope to continue running these events in the year ahead.

Thank You

I am extremely thankful for all of our Children's and Youth Ministry volunteers. None of this work—welcoming children, supporting families, and running events—would be possible without their time, dedication, and faithfulness.

Anna Counsell, March 2026

5. Pastoral and Social Care

Members: Stuart Cocksedge, Julie Murphy, Carole Blight, Ruth Greig, Liz Howes, Linda Jones, Margaret Lloyds, John Pattison, Anne Roberts, Iris Prudom, Val Wilson and Pauline Potterton

The small but committed pastoral team have continued to provide home visits and other support mainly to people who used to attend St Luke's Church whilst they were able. At Harvest, cards made by the toddler group were taken to all on the pastoral list. At Christmas calendars were distributed. Home Communion is also available to those requesting this ministry.

The Wednesday Communion with lunch once a month has continued with the pastoral team arranging the lunches and giving lifts to people who need them. Food is often taken out after the lunch to people who are no longer able to come to the Church.

The team continues to meet on alternate months. At many of these meetings there have been visiting speakers. Most of these talks have been opened to the wider Church family. In July we had a speaker talking about Mental health first aid. In September representatives from University hospitals Dorset came to talk about the changes taking place in hospital health care. In November Rachel Cocksedge talked about the work of Faith in Later life. This has led to some members of the group attending their open training and discussion sessions. In February there was a talk about Alzheimer's disease.

The team have been involved in events during the year such as hosting the Memorial tea in November. The link with Abbeyfield remains strong with several of the pastoral team either visiting or attending events there during the year alongside other members of the Church Family.

Safeguarding has continued to be on every meeting agenda with topics such as self neglect being discussed. During this year we have introduced risk assessments for each person that is visited, to take account of anything which may pose a risk during a visit, Home Communion or during lifts.

If anyone is interested in joining the pastoral team or knows of anyone who might benefit from the services provided by the team, please contact either Julie Murphy, Carole Blight or Stuart Cocksedge. Stuart, Julie and Carole would like to thank everyone in the team for their continued support of this valuable ministry.

Julie Murphy and Carole Blight, February 2026

6. Safeguarding Report – Cara Birch, Parish Safeguarding Officer

- The Parish Safeguarding Officer, Cara Birch, and Julie Murphy previously, have given advice and guidance and have worked closely with the Vicar, Church wardens and PCC. They have 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 children and youth team meetings.
- 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 and have been safely recruited where appropriate.
- All staff and volunteers are up to date with safeguarding training.
- Information about safeguarding including domestic abuse and services is on the notice board at the back of the church and on the church website.
- All PCC members and the pastoral team are 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://safeguardingtrainingportal.cofeportal.org).
- Risk assessments have been carried out for church activities and events, including pastoral visits, children and youth groups and events.
- The Dashboard, a safeguarding tool, is being used at St Luke's to review safeguarding practice. This is being updated and reviewed termly.
- Safeguarding review meetings occur termly with the last meeting being held in January 2026.
- A new safeguarding tool for tracking training and DBS checks, the Safeguarding Hub, has been launched, and we are transitioning over to this new database.
- The Christian charity 31:8, has recently taken over conducting our DBS checks and provide 'out of hours' support for any safeguarding concerns.
- St Luke's Church participated in Safeguarding Sunday in November 2025 and this is in the church calendar for November 2026.
- Cara Birch took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer from Julie Murphy in September 2025, after shadowing Julie for some months.

Further Actions:

To continue to update the Parish Dashboard and to transition fully over to the new Safeguarding Hub as a training and DBS database for Parish staff and volunteers.

Sincere thanks to Julie Murphy for her hard work, dedication and commitment to the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer for 10 years, and thanks to everyone who has supported Cara Birch taking on the role of PSO.

Cara Birch – Parish Safeguarding Officer – March 2026

7. Mission Partnership Team

- The Mission Partnerships Team met several times during the year, to discuss how we support our mission partners, to plan the annual Mission Partnerships Sunday, and to work out the allocation of the £12,000 mission tithe between our 8 mission partners.
- The annual Mission Partnerships Sunday was held on Sunday 13th July. As well as praying for our various mission partners and giving to support their work, we had a particular focus on the Poole Wau Partnership, as we welcomed Mark Rathbone (from St Dunstan's Upton) as our guest speaker. Mark spoke engagingly on the visit which he and others from Poole & North Bournemouth Deanery undertook to Wau, South Sudan, earlier in the year. Mark recounted details of the teaching which he and the team gave in Wau on Luke's gospel, as well as sharing photographs of the new Poole Wau Partnership building opened at St John's College Wau, funded by people in various Poole churches.
- On or following our Mission Partnerships Sunday, a total of £5,327 (including Gift Aid) was given and passed on our mission partners. We are grateful to everyone who has given, but note that this amount was lower than in previous years.
- At our Christmas services collections were taken up for our two chosen mission organisations, Tearfund and Faithworks Wessex. There was a generous response which was split equally between the two, so that £753 was given to Tearfund and £753 to Faithworks Wessex.
- 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), Martin Holst (CMS), Linda Litterio (Bible Society), Carole Schouten (Open Doors), Val Wilson (Poole Wau Partnership).
- We continue to pray for our mission partners regularly in our weekly news sheet prayers and our weekday morning and Sunday evening prayer meetings.

Stuart Cocksedge, March 2026

8. Girl Guiding at St Luke's in 2025

February 22nd is a significant date for Girlguiding when World Thinking Day is celebrated, it is the birthday of both the Founder Baden Powell and his wife, who later became the World Chief Guide. In 2026 we are celebrating 100 years of World Thinking Day, many things have changed in that 100 years, but the essence of Guiding still remains, have fun, going on adventures and thinking of others before yourself.

Rainbows - continue to have lots of fun and enjoy their mainly hall-based activities. We have been working on building their badge collections, focusing on building teamwork between them. They really enjoyed the annual campfire trip run by the Rangers.

Brownies – had a two night sleepover in the hall which included a bus trip into Poole. Several joined the County Watersports day on Sandbanks. During the weekly meetings we celebrated Chinese New Year, made pancakes, played on the beach and cooked on barbecues and gained various badges. Three Brownies gained their Gold award which involves commitment from them

Guides – camped at Foxlease Park in May and then at Dudsbury in the Summer. There was also a County weekend at PGL Osmington in September which was enjoyed by many. They had a day trip to Harry Potter World, and one to the Mary Rose museum in Portsmouth as well as a monopoly style challenge around Poole. During term time the Guides meet weekly following the Guiding programme as well as standalone meetings such as a murder mystery evening, 10 pin bowling, first aid and CPR and a task master themed evening.

Rangers – also camped at Foxlease in May and attended the County weekend at PGL Osmington in September. Fortnightly meetings often see them out of the hall and enjoying the outdoors at Dudsbury, Shell Bay or around Poole Quay. The Rangers continue to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award at all levels and many of the Rangers are also young leaders giving their time to help

out with Rainbows, Brownies or Guides, they also lead the District campfire – they are great role models.

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 2025

St Luke's Church is currently represented on the Deanery Synod by Trevor Muddimer and Richard Hudson. We were elected to represent St Luke's on the Deanery Synod until the APCM in April 2026. There is currently one vacancy for St Luke's on the Synod. At the APCM in April three members of the church will be able to be elected to represent St Luke's on the Deanery Synod for the next 3 years until April 2029.

The Deanery Synod met 3 times during 2025 and a summary is given below of the topics discussed and considered by the Synod at these meetings.

The first meeting of the year was held at St Marks, Talbot Village on 20th March 2025.

The meeting was opened in prayer by the Rural Dean, Revd Simon Evans. Simon introduced Revd Charles Burgess who addressed the meeting on Courageous Leadership. Charles is currently Associate Vicar at St Nicholas, Corfe Mullen having previously served with CPAS. Following the presentation there was a general discussion to consider the presentation.

Revd Nick Wells led a time of worship and talked about the work at St Marks. John Rolleston explained to the meeting the ideas for a Dorset Evangelistic outreach in the summer of 2026. Mark Rathbone gave an update on the recent visit to Wau by members of the Poole Wau Partnership and the various projects in hand in Wau.

The second meeting of the year was held at St Luke's Church, Parkstone on 11th June 2025. The Rural Dean opened the meeting with prayer. Our Vicar, Revd Stuart Cocksedge, led a time of worship and prayer. He then told the meeting about three areas of growth at St Luke's, Growing deeper as disciples, Growing outwards within the Parish and Growing Younger to reach all ages. The Rural Dean introduced the Dean of Salisbury, The Very Revd Nick Papadopulus who spoke to the Synod about The Cathedral and Community. The Cathedral is a Charity governed by the Chapter and contains the Bishops Seat. The Dean then explained the operation and funding of the Cathedral and the relationship with the Diocese. Questions from Synod members were answered by the Dean. A statement was given to the meeting about the winding up of the Poole Missional Community after it has been decided that it had come to the end of its season. Updates were given on the current works of the Poole Wau Partnership and liaison with the Diocesan Board of Finance.

The third meeting of the year was held at All Saints Church, Branksome Park on 14th October 2025. The Rural Dean introduced the theme of the evening of becoming a younger church and then opened the meeting in prayer. Simon advised the synod that he was retiring shortly and this would be his last meeting as the Rural Dean. Revd Dr Luke Steven led a time of worship and spoke about the ministry at All Saints. Presentations were given on the Theme of Young Persons by Andrew Mead, Headmaster of Lychett Minster School, John Rolleston, Trustee of MARS and Dave Pegg of PACE. The 3 speakers then answered questions from the Synod members. David Hart of Christian Aid spoke to Synod about the work of Christian Aid and about Legacy Giving, its importance and associated issues.

If you would like to know more about the Synod please speak to either Trevor or myself. As can be seen from the above summary many challenging and interesting subjects are covered at the Synod meetings during the three meetings held each year.

Richard Hudson – February 2026

10. Electoral Roll and Other Matters

This year there has been a complete revision so it is a fresh start with everyone completing a form if they wanted their name on the new electoral roll. There has been a reduction of 72 and an addition of 25 new people when compared to last year. One new member will be added on their 16th birthday. There are 133 names on the new roll and this can be viewed in the north aisle and is displayed without addresses. Thank you to Roger.

Roger Jones – Electoral Roll Officer