



The Church weekend away October 2015

Annual report for the year 2015

The PCC of St. Luke's presents its report to members on activities for the year to 31st December 2015, in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and statement of recommended practice issued by the Charity Commission.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council powers measure. The PCC is registered with the charity commission – reg no. 1138030

Appointment of PCC members is governed by the 'Church representation rules'. As applied to St. Luke's this results in a PCC constituted as follows:

- Vicar (Chair)
- Other Parochial Clergy (ex officio members)
- Church Wardens (elected annually at the APCM)
- Deanery Synod representatives (currently 2, elected every three years)
- Up to 12 members elected at the APCM

The PCC has agreed that Church Wardens and PCC members who have served for three years should not stand for re-election for at least one year.

The PCC meets as a full council, approximately 8 times per year. There is a standing committee comprising Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary and additionally PCC committees to consider the following areas: 1 Mission Support, 2 Buildings, 3 Pastoral and evangelism,

During the year the following served on the PCC.

Alastair Thom (Vicar)
Jackie Barry (Associate Vicar)
Christopher Landau (Curate)
Ben Enwuchola (Honorary Minister)

Rob Stewart (Church Warden) (until April 2015)
Cheryl Buchanan (Church Warden)
Simon Grove (Church Warden) (from April 2015)
Stuart McTurk (until April 2015)
Conor Gunn (until April 2015)
Kevin Micklewright
Rosalind Okello
Keith Cookson
Barbara Harrington
Salome Irungu
Christina Morris (until April 2015)
Sarah Coker (until April 2015)
Ruby Pasong (until April 2015)
Alan Tuomey

Judith Thom

Keith Morgan (from April 2015)

Pepe Mykoo (from April 2015)

Alice Frankel (from April 2015)

Michelle Miller |(Deanery Synod)

Wendy Markland (Deanery Synod)

Objectives and activities;

The object of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC works in cooperation with the Priest-in-charge in promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC met 8 times during the year as well as in various smaller task groups to take forward particular activities.

The PCC organised or enabled the following and other activities during the year:

- Appointment of new Administrator
- New external sign boards
- Removal of large black poplar from the church garden
- Safeguarding audit
- Appointment of new church architect

- Christmas tree joint venture with local young people to encourage local employment
- Parish weekend at Carrotty Wood in Kent
- 'Adventure' advent family day
- Refurbishment of church toilets
- Redecoration of church lounge and creation of 'gallery' space
- Replacement of section of boundary wall with railings,
- Community Christmas meal
- Helped fund summer camps for some children
- Enabled the placement of volunteer (Daniel) through the Berlin Mission

In addition the PCC continued to support the school through the appointment of school governors and providing church facilities for the school in worship, concerts, music, cooking and gardening, the summer fayre, as well as facilities for the school to work with parents.

Financial Review:

Detailed financial information is set out in the financial report. This is a brief overview of financial position and policy.

- Overall income (£194,144) exceeded expenditure (£168,647) by £25,497 in 2015. This compares with surpluses of £213 in 2013 and £15,380 in 2014
- St Luke's main source of income continues to be regular donations from church members. Total income (including Gift Aid) from regular donations and Sunday service offerings was almost unchanged at £95,176, but with an increase of 10% to 61 in the number of households signed up to regular giving

- Rental income continued to increase, partly due to full occupancy of both flats 1&3, with total rental income from the church flats and the church centre amounting to £61,648. In addition grant income of £24,810 was received, being mostly a substantial part of the three year grant towards the cost of the families and children's worker, with smaller amounts due in the next two years.
- Expenditure was £13,317 higher this year at £168,647 with the largest item being the common fund contribution at £75,000 and with higher amounts spent on maintaining the building and on salaries, due to the first full year of the children and families worker.
- The PCC donated £13,880 to Mission together with £2,872 in donations (including Gift Aid) given specifically for particular Mission Partners by some church members. A further £3,301 from church members and the community café was sent to other mission and relief causes

St. Luke's does not have significant endowments or investments and maintains a policy of funding current expenditure out of current income. The only large asset owned by the church is the Church flats, currently valued at around £588,604

It remains the policy of the PCC to regard the church primarily as a parish and community resource and not to seek to fund expenditure on activities other than buildings from the income generated.

Administrative information

Name: The Parochial Church Council of St Luke West Kilburn with St Simon and St Jude

Correspondence Address:

Church office
St Luke's church
Fernhead Rd
London W9 3EH

Bankers: HSBC; Pall Mall and Kilburn branches

Churchwardens: Simon Grove; Cheryl Buchanan

Treasurer: Ashleye Gunn

Vicar: Alastair Thom

Secretary: Alice Frankel

Vicar's Report 2015

There were many moments at St. Luke's to remember and to savour in 2015. Standing out in my memory are a packed Confirmation service on a Sunday morning with 20 candidates and three bishops, a delightful small wedding, the first for a while at St. Luke's, some wonderful baptisms, a parish weekend with superb input and a personal journey back to my childhood, a lavish Christmas meal and entertainment for all comers. All these are markers of life, of change, of hope that are of the essence of who we are as a church.

However in some ways 2015 has felt quite a testing year, although the testing has provided real encouragement. Testing is of course meant to be the norm for the Christian life, and I am aware that at any one time there are likely to be many members of the church who are coping with sickness, anxiety, family stress and more. Part of the encouragement of my role is to witness the love and support which is given and received in this imperfect and yet beautiful body.

A particular moment of testing was when three families left the church over an issue related to inclusion. It was certainly not a moment I had expected or seen coming and not one I would have wished for. It was a very painful thing for many to be faced with a rather sudden disconnecting from families who collectively have been part of this community for well over 60 years and who had been supported financially and in prayer in their mission work in a sustained way. The hurt is real and it may take a while to heal.

I have however been encouraged by the expressions of support from many and by the churchwardens and PCC who have provided wise and balanced leadership. I have seen a church coming together with a renewed sense of identity and mission wanting to reach out with the love of Christ.

There was a particularly encouraging Alpha course, which this year for the first time we ran after the Sunday morning service, and which continues to bear fruit.

On the staff front, we have continued to hope for a greater stability in the post of administrator and in the autumn we appointed Emily Coles as our new administrator, since when she has worked with a calm efficiency which has made a big difference to the smooth running of the church.

In the summer we said farewell to Friederike, our German volunteer and in September we welcomed in her place Daniel Schultze. This link with the Berlin Mission, part of the Lutheran church, has been a valuable ecumenical expression of our being part of the worldwide church, as well as providing I think a really stimulating years' experience for the volunteers and some very useful help for us, and I hope it can continue.

The PCC had an interesting away day in May where Claire Oh helped us think about what really matters to us as St Luke's. It's always a current question – what are we for, who are we for - ? Church of England parishes typically answer it by saying 'for everyone', which of course we are, but that doesn't always help. It was striking how we felt our diversity was one of our biggest assets and how we wanted to ensure this was sustained. As I write this and the world looks with some anxiety at 2016, the message of an inclusive outward looking community in a world that very often wants to put up barriers is as important as ever.

The context for our belonging and ministry is the local community that is the parish, and so the things we do that open up the church to the community really matter. As ever the links

with St. Luke's school remain an important partnership in this community and it was particularly good this year to be joined by many from the school including the Head teacher and chair of Governors at a very joyful 'School Sunday' service in September, which I hope can become a fixture. The Christmas tree project continues to flourish and the use of our building by local groups and organisations seems to be at a sustainable level. I am increasingly struck by the capacity of this not very high profile church to be a focus for action, for the homeless through the night shelter, through supporting the food bank or gathering people to consider the problems of debt. The things that matter to local people should be the things that matter to us.

Physically, there has been plenty of work going on with the building, sanding of floors, redecorating of rooms, and on the outside new signage. Also on the outside the removal of the large black poplar from the front of the building, due to root fungus has opened up the views. With development adjacent to the church continuing apace, the challenges of keeping a 1950s building looking smart and staying fit for purpose will not diminish, and we should I think continue to be open to the possibility of investing in improvements and developments to fit our mission.

Having disconnected with some of our significant mission partners, and yet retaining the commitment to support mission through giving 10% of our income, we are in a process of planning new links and hope to be able to report on these next year.

As always I struggle to know whether to single out people to thank – thanks is not really why we do things, and why one and not another, but perhaps I can be allowed to mention Cheryl Buchanan and Simon Grove who have provided superb support as churchwardens, and my colleagues on the staff without whose hard work, support and creativity the activity levels of St. Luke's would be a great deal lower. And if not specific thanks then huge thankfulness to God for this wonderful church and parish, which in all my travels, and they have been quite extensive recently, I have not found its equal.

Alastair Thom
April 2016

Mission Committee Report

The past year has seen significant change in the mission giving commitments of St Luke's. PCC policy requires that St Luke's reviews its mission from time to time. This was a policy adopted in order to ensure that there is an active and positive commitment to those we are supporting in mission. In line with the Mission Support Policy a review of the mission groups supported by St Luke's and how we support them was undertaken.

During the course of the review process St Luke's made a contribution to the British Red Cross following the floods in the north of the country. This and other were contributions became possible as a consequence of funds becoming available when two mission partners made the decision that the financial support they had been receiving from St Luke's should cease.

The review process is still ongoing as consideration is given to issues such as whether to renew former links, strengthen existing ones or whether to establish links with potential new mission partners, with at least one of them being a local mission group.

Wendy Markland
April 2016

Children, Youth and Families from May 2015 to April 2016

Pre-school group: A weekly group consisting of play, art, craft, storytelling and singing. Easter and Christmas services are held. This group has been established for a number of years and is led by Sue Turner and Barbara Harrington. The children, youth and family worker assists with all activities as well as engaging in conversation with parents and carers as outreach to the community. Prayer support is given where requested.

Sunday Youth Bible Study group: This group was re-started by the children, youth and families worker in October 2015 for those aged 15-18. The group combined with the 11-14's in June 2015. This group is currently being led by Daniel Schultze from the Berlin Mission Society. This group is held in the Chill Zone at St Luke' CE Primary School. We invite unchurched youth who attend the Friday youth group to join this group.

Sunday Creche: This group is run by parents but the register, rota and resources are managed by the children, youth and families worker.

Sunday Group for 2 - 5 year olds: Children are given the opportunity to hear a Bible story, engage in associated art and craft activities, pray, sing and play musical instruments. Louise Clark has been leading this group since September 2015. She is assisted most weeks by one helper. We are in need of more helpers! The register, rota and resources are managed by the children, youth and families worker.

Sunday Group for 6 - 7 year olds: Children hear a Bible story, receive teaching, complete worksheets and engage in associated art and craft activities. This group is run by Gill Umpleby a long-standing experienced leader assisted by Barbara Joshua.

Sunday Group for 8 - 11 year olds: This is a combined discipleship and outreach group. Outreach was initiated by the children, youth and families worker in May 2015 and involves home visiting. Children in this group are invited to attend even if their parents don't remain on church premises. Parents leaving their children complete a registration form giving relevant details including information regarding their child's health. This enables local children to have an opportunity to attend church.

Home visiting: This takes place every week to ensure that every child has a home visit at least once per month. This enables stronger relationships to form with children and their families. The children who have just joined the church from non-Christian homes are visited 3 weeks each month to establish relationships with their families. Where appropriate support is offered. This can include prayer, food bank and links with other agencies such as CAP.

Regular outreach children's parties: The first outreach party was in December 2014. Further parties took place in October and December 2015. The October party was followed up by a church lunch the next day. All children, parents and guardians were invited. Parties are open to all children in the community and a way of developing relationships with families of a different faith or no faith. We aim to make it fun for the children and a 2 hour rest for parents as they can leave their children once a completed registration form is provided.

Youth Group for all aged 11 -18: Friday evenings. Combines discipleship and outreach. This group started in June 2015, runs twice per month and is led by the children, youth and families worker together with the Berlin Mission intern. Activities include table tennis, table football, indoor football, an opportunity to play drums, listen to music and dance. There is a short interactive optional Bible study focussing on issues directly related to young people. Support with school homework is offered. Those attending will have a home visit at least once a term in order to reach out to even more families in the community. The intention is to run a Youth Alpha course with members of this group in the future.

Youth Confirmation course: This interactive 6 week course was offered to teenagers in the church.

Community outreach: The children, youth and families worker assisted with a weekly group for children aged 6 to 11 years for one term at the Oxford/Kilburn club on South Kilburn estate in order to engage with local children and their families. The children, youth and families worker also assists at the weekly church café as well as with church events for the community e.g. games evenings, Harvest Supper and Advent day.

Holiday Club: A joint venture with The Salvation Army and Oxford/Kilburn club (OK club). This club took place during the 2015 Easter school holidays and was open to all children aged 5 to 11 years. It provided games, sport, art and craft as well as teaching about unity and perseverance. On the final day parents and guardians were invited to share in a family meal after the session. This club was provided on the request of parents and was the first joint venture with 2 local churches and the OK club. There is a plan to repeat it in 2016.

Governor of St Luke's primary school: The children, families and youth worker became a new school governor at St Luke's CE Primary school in January 2015. As well as the usual Governor duties it enables more links with the local community. This was enhanced by the school fair in June 2015 which was held on church premises.

School class assemblies (Collective worship): The children, youth and families worker leads a class within St Luke's CE Primary School twice per month. These interactive collective worship sessions link with weekly whole school services.

Whole school church services: Interactive teaching, drama by the children, worship and prayer. These take place one day per week and are led twice per month by the Children, youth and families worker with clergy leading the remainder.

Conclusion: The continuation of current groups, establishment of new groups in the past year, outreach events and introduction of regular home visiting has enabled relationships which are essential in order to build on in future years. The vision to disciple and reach out to as many as possible in order to grow the kingdom of God in both depth and breadth remains paramount. All deserve to hear the good news of the gospel. Please pray for more leaders.

Janet Ramsell
April 2016

Alpha Course

For the first time in several years St Luke's ran an Alpha course in the autumn of 2015. We met after church on Sundays – and a very big thank you is due to Rosalind Okello for organising a team of cooks who provided a fantastic meal each week for eight weeks. That we have so many people willing to serve others in this way is a real sign of the commitment and generosity of the existing congregation, and those on the Alpha course were all struck by this generosity.

Alpha courses tend to attract a mixture of people, some already part of church but wanting to examine their faith, others completely new to Christianity. We were fortunate to have a lively mixture on the course, and it meant our discussions week by week were never dull and people were determined to wrestle with the big questions!

For those who were able to attend, I think it's fair to say that the day away at St Mary's Church Princes Risborough was a real highlight. Called the 'Holy Spirit day', it's an opportunity to think in particular about the living reality of God at work in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit, and then to be prayed for, to be 'filled with the spirit' – to know that presence of God as a personal reality not just an abstract idea. For Ian Hunter and myself it was a tremendous privilege to be able to pray for each person who attended the day away in this way, and it was wonderful to see how God blessed each person, without exception, in a way that I know has been memorable.

We hope to run another Alpha course in autumn 2016 so if you are reading this, do begin to think and pray about who you might like to invite...

Christopher Landau
April 2016

Church Weekend Away

In October, 60 people of all ages went to Carroty Wood in Kent for the church weekend away. We were joined by Tricia Hillas, Canon Pastor of St Paul's Cathedral who led sessions on the theme of 'The Crossing Point'. Tricia's clear communication, the variety of the sessions, and the way in which she encouraged us all to think about the 'crossing points' in our lives, not least where our faith meets our everyday life, were deeply valued by those present.

Carroty Wood is a beautiful location and we had glorious weather, making a Saturday night camp fire great fun for many – and some of us even enjoyed using the indoor swimming pool! It was a great chance to get to know people in the church community (and even if washing up in groups was a shock to some several people have said that was where the best conversations happened!).

Overall the accommodation provoked what might be described as 'Marmite' responses – so a weekend away back at High Leigh is booked for 15-17 September 2017 (save the date!). Meanwhile we will have a day away at Ripon College Cuddesdon on Saturday 10th September 2016.

Christopher Landau
April 2016

Community Café

2015 was another year of continuity and change for the café. Huge thanks are due to Gill Hooper who coordinated the café until the summer; from the autumn onwards, Daniel Schultze, Marcia Lopes and Noor Ahmed have offered hospitality, ably assisted at the end of most Thursday mornings by Joe McCabe putting away the tables and chairs.

The timing and format has changed slightly, such that we now open 9:30-12 for coffees, teas and cake with bacon sandwiches also available. We have a good number of 'regulars' but there are doubtless more opportunities to publicise the café and to think about how it relates to the wider mission of hospitality at St Luke's – so please do chat with the volunteers or church staff if you have ideas for its development.

A final and deep thanks to all those who bake for the café, whether regularly or on an occasional basis – it couldn't happen without you.



Another amazing creation by Angela Stewart

Christopher Landau
April 2016

Night Shelter 2015-16

Having had a break from shelter activities for a couple of years after the Brent scheme moved into a single venue, we have now signed up to the Westminster Churches and Synagogue Night Shelter coordinated by West London Day Centre in Seymour Place, W1. We started by doing Thursdays in April and May at the end of 2014-15 season and continued in the new season from October to the end of January handing over to another church for the remaining four months. Churches and synagogue in the scheme include:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Farm Street Church | Hinde Street Methodist Church |
| Fernhead Methodist | St James, Piccadilly |
| St Mary of the Angels | Notre Dame De France |
| Westminster Cathedral | Holy Apostles Pimlico |
| St Paul's Rossmore Road | St Patrick's Soho Square |
| West London Synagogue | St Stephen's Rochester Row |
| All Souls Clubhouse | |

We have been very impressed by the Day Center's efficient coordination and responsiveness to issues as they arise.

We host our guests at Emmanuel but rely on volunteers from St. Luke's, St Stephen's, St. Peter's and the wider community. It's always very rewarding to be able to offer our guests a place of refuge from the streets and to see the progress most of them make towards more permanent housing and, in some cases, employment, while they're with us. However it is also very hard work and even though it's only one night a week it can be challenging to find volunteers for all the shifts, particularly overnight and early morning. Cooking an evening meal every week for up to 20 is also demanding. We are extremely grateful to those who

commit to this work and would love to hear from others who might be able to assist next season. Please extend this request to family and friends who might not otherwise get involved in anything church based.

Rose, Jackie & Salome
April 2016

Tuesday Morning Drop-In (2015)

The Drop-In continues to run every Tuesday morning during term time from 10 am to 12 noon, as it has for the last 22 years (yes, it really is that long!!). We welcome about 40 babies, toddlers, parents, grandparents and carers every week for playing, chatting, singing, dancing, making, drinking (mostly tea & milk with mulled wine for Christmas) & eating (biscuits, cake – made by the Mums & Dads, hot cross buns & toast & fruit)

At the end of each session we have a story and singing. At Easter we celebrate the Easter story & then have an Easter egg hunt. At the end of the summer term we had a special talk about moving on and gave out "Ready, Set, Go" books about starting school to some of our leavers. At Christmas we had a party & then Alastair involved the children in an interactive Christmas story & we sang some traditional & not so traditional Christmas songs (the wise men on the camels went up & down (guess the tune) etc). We also participated in Operation Christmas Child & made some shoeboxes which ended up in Romania.

It has been great to welcome so many new people & new babies over the last year and also some families returning with the next round of children. We have also welcomed an increasing number of child minders with their charges.

As always helpers change each year: Frederieke led the craft activities until she left last Summer & Janet took over & Daniel arrived in September to become the man behind the bar.

Sorry there are no photos again this year!

Thanks to all who continue to support us practically & in prayer.

Sue, Barbara, Janet, & Daniel.
April 2016

Games Nights

The Games Nights have become a termly event over the last year on Saturday early evenings at St Luke's. They involve playing all sorts of games from Quirkle to Table Tennis, Chess to Twister with all sorts of people, of all ages (from 8 years old), members of St Luke's & others.

We also expanded into a New Year's Eve party for all ages with games & a short service & lots of lovely "bring & share" food.

See you at the next one?!

Sue, Gill, Walter & Barbara
April 2016

Signing

A small group of us have continued to try and sign (British Sign Language) some of the hymns & songs this year. We are now focusing on the songs rather than the first hymn, as they tend to have less words! We are not experts and learn the songs from a BSL dictionary & You-tube. If anyone else would like to join us they would be very welcome – no experience necessary, all ages welcome. We practice briefly before the morning service from 10am each Sunday & on the first Wednesday every month at 8pm for an hour.

Sue, Michelle, Margaret, Karen & Lucy
April 2016

Music

Many thanks once again to everyone who contributes to music at St Lukes - not just to my wonderful and infinitely talented Sunday morning colleagues, but also to those who support the other services and events, and particularly to all of our budding young percussionists who keep various rhythms going when the rest of us have stopped. It has been a good year, I think. We've learned a few new songs and revived a few older ones, the wind and strings sections of the 'orchestra' are going from strength to strength, and it's great when we have two drummers on the go. Music-related highlights at St Lukes for me have been the summer talent show (and not just the Archangels), a chilly but fun attempt at outdoor performance in Queens Park just before Christmas, and the opportunity to have a bash at jazz and Caledonian fast-stuff for Denise's party in the autumn. My plan this year is to persuade the Falcon to invest in a stage so that we can have a residency like Elvis in Las Vegas. Or not ...

As always, do please think about joining us if you have an instrument or any semblance of a voice. It's all very informal and enthusiasm is much more important than talent. Plus there's enough of us most of the time for you to play/sing along in the background without feeling conspicuous. If you like the idea of practising in advance (rather than winging it on the day), a few of us try to meet at the church between 8-9pm on Thursdays to go through the songs for the following Sunday. Alternatively or additionally, if you're happier remaining in your seat but are the sort of person who notices when singers/instruments are too loud or too soft, do consider getting to know how to work the sound desk - it really isn't particularly complicated to adjust levels and for obvious reasons we can't make that judgement ourselves. Finally, we're always on the look-out for new things to sing (not necessarily newly written - could be an old song or hymn that we've forgotten about). The clergy need to have the final say on the programme, but welcome suggestions. Variety and informality have been characteristics of music at St Lukes for as long as I can remember, which is getting to be a scary number of years. It's definitely a tradition worth maintaining.

Rob
April 2016