



**St Luke's
West Kilburn**

St. Luke West Kilburn Annual report 2023



25 years on and still listening to the vicar

The Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's presents its report to members on activities for the year to 31st December 2023, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and statement of recommended practice issued by the Charity Commission.

Legal and Administrative Details

St Luke's Church Centre, Fernhead Road, London W9 3EH

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2011

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1138030

MEMBERS OF THE PCC

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 PCC members, excluding churchwardens and deanery synod representatives who have served for three years should not stand for re-election for at least one year.

<i>Ex Officio members:</i>		<i>Dates</i>
Incumbent	Alastair Thom	from March 2011
Church Wardens	Rosalind Okello	from April 2017
	Carol Knevelman	from April 2022
Associate Vicar	Jackie Barry	from March 2011
Curate	Katy Hirst	from June 2022
Deanery Synod	Alan Tuomey	from April 2017
	Jacqui Newby	from April 2023

Elected members:

Wendy Markland	From April 2012
Christina Morris, Michelle Miller, Gill Umpleby	from April 2021
Michael Akeju, Joan Woodall	from June 2021
Yanki Darling, Kevin Micklewright, Charles Onyekwere	from April 2022
Esten Mastin, Salome Irungu, Judith Thom	From April 2023

Non-member, elected by and reporting to the PCC
Ashley Gunn (PCC Treasurer) from January 2014

The PCC meets as a full council approximately 7 times per year, and 6 times a year for task groups. There is a standing committee comprising Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year to 31 December 2023

The PCC has pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objects of the charity

The charity is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church be it pastoral, evangelistic, social or ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining certain church property situated within the parish, namely St Luke's Church Centre and Flat 1-3, Fernhead Road, London W9 3EH.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

- Offering publicly accessible services of worship according to the liturgy of the Church of England, the main focus being a Sunday morning service each week
- Offering a range of midweek activities for church members and the local community, including parent & toddler drop in; craft & games sessions; a wellbeing café; and a youth club
- Continuing to fund a part time youth worker (12hrs/week)
- Continuing to fund 50% costs of curate.
- Continuing to fund an administrator, 15hrs/week
- Enabling the placement of another volunteer for the year from the Berlin Mission
- Supporting the church's mission partners through financial contributions of approximately £16,000
- Supported asylum seekers and refugees through assisting with funding to attend local support services, and agreeing to host a weekly community meal bringing together local people and refugees
- Supported some parishioners in financial hardship through small grants
- Supported environmental measures to reduce the church's carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption and waste
- Agreed to hold and support a community lunch to celebrate the Coronation and a Christmas Fair which brought together large numbers of local residents
- Supported a 'Parish Weekend' away for members of the congregation
- Continuing to maintain the church centre, church flats and grounds including funding a structural survey to determine the long term viability of the building
- In addition the PCC continued to support St Luke's C of E Primary School through the appointment of school governors and providing church facilities for the school in worship, and events

Most of the charity's activities are undertaken by volunteers and the charity could not operate effectively without their efforts.

In planning the activities the PCC has applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

During the year income increased by £23,700 to £204,588, while expenditure increased by £42,803, to £208,577. Expenditure exceeded income by £3,989. The cash held by the charity fell £3,989 to £117,148, of which £50,962 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Reserves policy

The PCC has determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than one quarter of a year's total expenditure so that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. On 2023 expenditure this Reserves target is £52,144. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £50,962. This is £1,182 below the minimum reserves target. In addition, the PCC aims to hold £20,000 in a designated fund at the end of each year. This fund is to support the costs for a curate over the following two years. At the end of 2023 the PCC had met its aim to hold £20,000 in this designated fund.

Governance

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission and operates under the Charities Act 2011. The governing documents for the charity are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) and the Church Representation Rules 2011.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by, and set out in, the Church Representation Rules. The PCC comprises ex-officio members (which includes clergy and churchwardens), elected members and co-opted members. The PCC organises elections annually before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to fill vacancies. The members of the PCC are the charity's trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Responsibility for setting policy and for determining the parameters within which the charity should operate rests with the PCC which meets regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. Responsibility for the day to day operation of the charity has been delegated to a team led by the incumbent.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (which sets out the PCC's obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults).

Relationships with other charities and related parties

As part of the United Benefice of St. Luke West Kilburn and Emmanuel Paddington, the clergy members of the PCC, Alastair Thom, Jackie Barry and Katy Hirst are also members of the PCC of Emmanuel Church, 389E Harrow Road W9 3NA. Alastair Thom is also a trustee of the Nigerian Chaplaincy and the Paddington Charities, both UK registered charities.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on 7 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Carol Knevelman, Church Warden

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Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Parochial Church Council of St Luke's West Kilburn

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Luke's West Kilburn (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

Parochial Church Council of St Luke's West Kilburn
Receipts and Payments Account
For year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Income from:</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	72,776	500	16,008	89,284	89,548
Investment income	3,997	33,950	—	37,947	41,795
Incoming resources from charitable activities	55,945	198	—	56,143	40,907
Other incoming resources	12,292	8,920	—	21,212	8,637
Total incoming resources	145,010	43,568	16,008	204,588	180,888
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Charitable Activities - Grants and Donations					
Grants - Overseas Mission	6,940	—	—	6,940	3,500
Grants - Relief and Secular Charities	1,060	—	—	1,060	2,062
Grants - Home Mission	8,845	—	137	8,982	8,052
Discretionary Fund	474	—	1,100	1,574	2,455
Charitable Activities					
Ministry	111,938	—	—	111,938	105,170
Building	32,821	11,238	—	44,059	24,625
Church Activities	8,104	2,597	9,431	20,134	10,119
Support Costs	12,888	—	—	12,888	8,788
Governance Costs	1,000	—	—	1,000	1,000
Total expenditure	184,072	13,836	10,668	208,577	165,774
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	-39,061	29,732	5,339	-3,989	15,113
<i>Transfers</i>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	44,000	—	318	44,318	35,576
Gross transfers between funds - out	-318	-44,000	—	-44,318	-35,576
Net movement in funds	4,620	-14,268	5,657	-3,989	15,113
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
All assets at 01 January 2023	46,341	47,278	26,317	119,936	104,823
All assets at 31 December 2023	50,961	33,010	31,974	115,947	119,936
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>					

Parochial Church Council of St Luke's West Kilburn
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Investments						
007: Central Bd of FinanceShares/Covell	—	—	5,425.27	—	5,425.27	4,955.02
Total	—	—	5,425.27	—	5,425.27	4,955.02
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
017: Centre Flats Property	—	980,894.00	—	—	980,894.00	952,325.00
Total	—	980,894.00	—	—	980,894.00	952,325.00
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
001: HSBC (Piccadilly) Current a/c	580.28	3009.62	11,636.43	—	15,226.33	19,215.77
002: Tenancy Deposit Scheme	—	—	1,200.00	—	1,200.00	1,200.00
006: Central Bd of Finance Deposit	50,381.70	30,000.00	20,340.00	—	100,721.70	100,721.70
Total	50,961.98	33,009.62	33,176.43	—	117,148.03	121,137.47
Current Assets - Debtors						
Emmanuel Church, Paddington	1540.81	—	—	—	1540.81	—
Gift Aid due to charity	2108.76	—	190.28	—	2299.04	3,353.74
Total	3,649.57	—	190.28	—	3,839.85	3,353.74
Liabilities - Provision for liabilities after one year						
Pastoral Assistant	-1,360.00	—	—	—	-1,360.00	-1,120.00
Independent Examination	-1,000.00	—	—	—	-1,000.00	-1,000.00
Mission Giving: The Word for the World	—	—	-2,500.00	—	-2,500.00	-2,500.00
Christmas Offering - Homeless	—	—	-419.93	—	-419.93	-283.69
Christian Aid	—	—	-10.00	—	-10.00	—
London Diocese - service fees	-450	—	—	—	-450	—
Tenants deposit liability	—	—	-1,200.00	—	-1,200.00	-1,200.00
Bishop of London discretionary fund	—	—	—	—	—	-60.60
Christmas Fair - Rare Dementia Society	—	—	—	—	—	-76.50
Total	-2,810.00	—	-4,129.93	—	-6,939.93	-6,240.79
Net total assets	51,801.55	1,013,903.62	34,662.05	—	1,100,367.22	1,075,530.44

Represented by (these assets include the fixed assets and cash stated above but not the debtors, creditors and TDS deposit)

Unrestricted - General	50,961.98	—	—	—	51,673.84	46,341.28
Designated - MotherUn	—	362.28	—	—	362.28	362.28
Designated - Ythcmp	—	217.14	—	—	217.14	315
Designated - Yw rkcurate	—	20,000.00	—	—	20,000.00	40,000.00
Designated - Reserve	—	—	—	—	—	2,000.00
Designated - BldRsv	—	12,430.20	—	—	12,430.20	3,510.20
Designated - Flats	—	—	—	—	—	1,090.87
Designated - FlatsPrope	—	980,894.00	—	—	980,894.00	952,325.00
Restricted - YouthWork	—	—	27,980.86	—	27,269.00	23,075.00
Restricted - Hardship	—	—	503.42	—	503.42	570.92
Restricted - HomeMissio	—	—	—	—	—	60.6
Restricted - OverseasM	—	—	2,500.00	—	2,500.00	2,500.00
Restricted - Relief	—	—	647.50	—	647.5	—
Restricted - Secular	—	—	344.65	—	344.65	111.32
Restricted - Covell	—	—	5,425.27	—	5,425.27	—
Endowment - Covell	—	—	—	—	—	4,955.02
Total	50,961.98	1,013,903.62	37,401.70	—	1,102,267.30	1,077,217.49

Parochial Church Council Of St Luke's West Kilburn

Notes To The Accounts For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not been prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure.

Investment Assets

Investments Fund Shares are valued at market value at 31 December.

The Centre Flats block has been included at the current insurance rebuilding cost valuation. There is no intention to sell this property, and the PCC has endorsed the recommendation that insurance valuation rather than current market value is appropriate.

Transactions with Related Parties

Disclosure note: the vicar of St Luke's is also a trustee of the Nigerian Chaplaincy, which received a £1,000 Mission Giving donation from St Luke's PCC in 2023.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with CCLA Investment Management (manager of the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England's funds) or at HSBC.

Transfers between Funds

Transfer agreed by the PCC:

- From Centre Flats Fund (Unrestricted Designated) to General Fund (Unrestricted) £23,802 to cover ongoing expenditure

Revaluations

	2023	2022
Gain/loss on revaluation of shares in Covell Memorial Fund (Endowment Fund)	£470	£658-
Balance of Covell Memorial Fund at 31 Dec 2023	£5,425	
Gain on revaluation of property (Centre Flats Property Fund – Unrestricted Designated Fund)	£28,569	£118,409
Balance of Centre Flats Property Fund at 31 Dec 2023	£980,894	

Staff costs declaration

During 2023 the PCC employed a part-time cleaner, a part-time office assistant and a part-time youth worker. None of these posts has an annual salary of more than £25,000. No other members received any salary from the PCC.

Alastair Thom and Katy Hirst, clergy members of the PCC, received a stipend from the Diocese. The cost of these stipends is not included in the staff costs however it should be noted that some of the Parish share is used to help pay Mr Thom's stipend. Ms Hirst as Curate is a 'locally supported minister' and St Luke's is responsible for the housing and stipend costs. There is a grant from National Church which is claimed by the Diocese for 50% of the costs. For Ms Hirst's stipend the Diocese charges St Luke's for 50% of the costs and the London Diocesan Fund uses an element of the grant to cover the other 50%.

Mr Thom and Ms Hirst were provided with accommodation (which is customary for clergy). The Diocese covers the cost of repair for Mr. Thom's accommodation and the PCC covers the cost of decoration. The PCC covers the upkeep and repair costs of Ms Hirst's accommodation. The Diocese pays St Luke's 50% of the costs for the estimate rental income lost on Ms Hirst's housing, council tax and water rates.

Mr Thom incurred expenses whilst serving as clergy of £376 and Ms Hirst of £229.17. The expenses payments were made with the legal authority of the PCC Powers Measure 1956.

Financial Summary, January – December 2023

St Luke's income was £204,588 in 2023, up £23,700 vs 2022. Almost two thirds of this increase is due to the insurance claim for the damage to the boundary wall and the grant from the Diocese towards Curate costs being for a full year rather than six months. The rest came from increases in deposit account interest and in Lettings income (offsetting reduced rental income from the Flats).

Regular giving by St Luke's members was similar to 2022 at £67,870. The Sunday Service offerings total was £4,417, with 16% of this given via the card machine (up from 9% in 2022) and the rest in cash. Gifts towards Youth Work totalled £14,337. All totals include the Gift Aid claimed.

St Luke's could not operate without your Giving. Regular financial giving by church members continues to be St Luke's largest source of income. In 2023 forty households made named, regular gifts, with the reduction vs 2022 coming mainly in the lower amounts.		Households 2023	Households 2022
	Up to £500	20	25
	£501-£1500	6	6
	£1501-£2,500	7	8
	£2,500-£5,000	4	4
	Over £5,000	3	3
	40	46	

Expenditure was £208,577, up £42,800 vs 2022. A third of this increase was due to having our Curate, Youth Worker and Administrator in post for a full year rather than just part of it. 40% of the increase came from necessary increased spending on the church centre and flats, including major electrical work, repairs to the windows, investigation of the RAAC, survey of the damaged boundary wall and a structural survey of the church building. Other increases included Common Fund payments and Mission Giving plus various inflationary rises in regular bills and costs.

The largest item of St Luke's spend was the £87,775 paid to the Diocese of London's Common Fund. This pays for clergy salaries across London, their housing and other Church of England costs. Other significant costs were running and maintenance costs for the Church Centre & Flats, and salaries.

Introducing behavioural and structural energy efficiency measures in the church centre paid off. Heating and lighting costs were down by a quarter to £3,905 despite St Luke's having to pay increased prices for electricity from October and for gas for a full year (vs 10.5 months in 2022).

Expenditure exceeded income by just under £4,000, with the difference covered by amounts previously set aside as Reserves. The PCC has a target of having Reserves equal to a quarter of that year's spend: £52,144 for 2023. At the year end, the Reserves were £1,182 below target at £50,962. The PCC met its aim to hold a further £20,000 to support the Curate costs over the next two years.

The PCC aims to give 10% of St Luke's general income to Mission. Total Mission Giving was £16,400. This includes supporting an orphanage in Nairobi run by a former St Luke's youth worker, a local organisation focused on youth, and homeless women in Marylebone.	Friends of Tumaini (Ben Muya)	£2,500
	Oxford-Kilburn Youth Trust (OK Club)	£2,500
	Church Army - Marylebone Project	£2,500
	Daniel Hankore – Bible translation	£2,500
	Emmanuel Pantry	£1,500
	Nigerian Chaplaincy	£1,000
	CPAS	£1,000

	Christian Aid Christmas Appeal	£1,840
	Red Cross African Food Appeal	£1,000
	Ripple Effect Garden Twinning - Kenya	£60
	Total	£16,400

Vicar's report 2023

A few months ago someone asked to see me, and I assumed in my glass half empty way that they either wanted some help or to complain about something to do with church. As it turned out they simply wanted to express how much they appreciated coming to St Luke's, how much it had meant to them and how welcoming they had found the community. From my perspective it's easy to see all the things that could be better, and of course there are many of those but it's good to recognise that there is much also to celebrate about our church.

There was plenty to celebrate about 2023, a year when things got busier as the quietness of the pandemic began to recede and activity increased. Our building is now well used by a variety of local groups, classes and community organisations as well as by our own activities. Our midweek activities, the toddler group on Tuesdays, craft and chat on Wednesdays and dominos on Thursdays have attracted larger numbers and generated a sense that the church is providing real benefit to the local community. I am very grateful for the example of dedication of those who give themselves to making those activities happen. Also in 2023 we launched the 'Renew Wellbeing café' on Tuesday afternoons, aiming to provide a safe and welcoming environment where it's 'OK to be not OK'.

Striking a balance in the use of our energy and focus between looking to provide activities that benefit the local community and proclaiming the gospel is tricky. They are of course not alternatives and indeed are both part of the mission of the church. One of my concerns though is that we could do more to build disciples, that is the work of Christian teaching and training that allows the effective handing on of the church to the next generation. While we are not the kind of 'program church' who's model is based on everyone being part of a small group, we could certainly do with a greater proportion of the congregation being engaged with learning and bible study. I hope that in the coming year we can begin to develop some sustainable ways of helping our congregation grow in faith.

Another area of concern that emerged towards the end of the year was the discovery that our building has large amounts of 'RAAC' the type of aerated concrete that caused some panic in schools and which is apparently only present in a very few churches in London. After extensive survey work it turns out that ours is in relatively good condition but will in due course require replacing. This in turn is prompting us to have a review of the whole building and site and work out how we can make things best for the future. We were hoping to fit solar panels under a generous local scheme, but that is now postponed as we review the roof.

Aside from the ongoing activities and routines, 2023 saw some enjoyable moments of celebration. There was the coronation weekend where we hosted a community lunch; we celebrated Katy Hirst's priesting with a barbecue, we had another excellent Christmas fair organised by Katy, and there was also a party to celebrate 25 years since my installation here, something that still feels hard to believe. We also had for the first time in four years a parish weekend away at High Leigh. It was good to be back and enjoy some quality time together with the help of our speaker Tim Ditchfield from Kings College. Those kind of moments remind me of the generosity and warmth contained in our community and of the value of being together not just for church on Sundays.

Every year sees comings and goings and among the more notable ones in 2023, were Gill Hooper who sadly died early in the year and who's life we celebrated in church in a manner that I hope fitted her unique taste and style. In her generosity she has left a substantial legacy to the church, which the PCC will need to consider how best to use. At the end of the year we also said goodbye to Margaret Devereux who has moved to Oxfordshire and who has made a huge contribution to the life of the church over the past forty years. On the coming side we welcomed another volunteer from the Berlin Mission, Oscar Kramer and his enthusiastic participation in the life of the church has been an encouragement to many.

In the end, as I say to my curates, it's always about the people, and one of the great truths about the church is that we are all given by God as gifts to one another. Discovering those gifts is one of the joys of ministry and as ever I am grateful, not just to those like staff members, treasury team, music group and churchwardens who work hard for all of us but for so many from whom I and others have received so much.

Alastair Thom

Wardens' Report 2023

2023 was a good year at St Luke's.

More people attended church in person and the projection team continued to do a great job ensuring those who were unable to attend in person remained connected virtually.

More people were recruited to the welcome team and they provided a warm welcome to the congregation and to visitors.

This year, we ran quite a few events.

June was a very busy month at St Luke's. We celebrated our curate, Katy's priesting with a BBQ in the garden. This was very well attended. Additionally, we celebrated King Charles' coronation with a picnic in the church garden which was attended by church members and members of the community.

Lastly, we went on a parish weekend which received good feedback from those who attended.

In July 2023 we held a silver jubilee celebration for our vicar Rev. Alastair Thom. Many members of the church, past and present, joined the celebration.

In December the church held another Christmas fair following the success of the previous year. It was organised by Katy our curate, working together with the community, this was also very well attended. People from the community hired tables to sell their merchandise. It was great seeing people from the community working together with the church.

Thanks to everyone who supported the numerous activities carried out over the year.

Rosalind and Carol

Toddler Drop-in

Our Toddler drop-in continues to go well. Meeting every Tuesday morning in term time, we get on average 16 children a week accompanied by their responsible adult, over 50% of which are child-minders/nannys. Each week we have free play (including in the garden if nice), snack time and a story and song session in the worship area, ending with a blessing. Occasionally we have a craft - this term Mothers Day and Easter cards were very popular! At Christmas and Easter the children are all sent home with a book telling the Christian story of these seasons in an age-appropriate way. The drop-in is facilitated by our amazing volunteers Gill Umpleby and Elaine Webber, as well as Oscar, our Berlin Mission volunteer and Katy the curate.

Sunday Groups

Annual Report for 2023

The children's Sunday Groups were working so well in 2022 that we saw no need to change anything. Our regular teachers, Gill, Alice, Cheryl and YanKi have continued in 2023, as have the valuable team of helpers.

We now have twelve children on the register and we also welcome one-off visitors from time to time.

After a short 'together time' the children split into their groups, Key Stage 1 (infants) and Key Stage 2 (juniors), for age related teaching. The children are keen and enthusiastic, especially when we have craft activities. We use Scripture Union teaching material and have now got enough lessons for a three year syllabus covering a large part of the Bible.

Our hope is that, as these children grow, they will develop a love for the Bible and a desire to follow Jesus.

Thank you to all who give of their time and energy to serve in this way.

Thank you, too, to the people who help to set up and put away our chairs and tables each week – very much appreciated!

Worship Group Report

Music at St Luke's 2023-24

In the words of Psalm 33: "*Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.*" The much-missed Sinead O'Connor in her song "33" translated the last part of this as "*Sing to [Jehovah] with your guitar; turn up your bass amp; whack it up all the way to save him!*". We did once whack the bass up all the way, but were politely requested not to ...

We don't have harps or ten-stringed lyres but do our best with alternatives. And, thanks mostly to Charles and Katy, we've been singing quite a few new songs, although hopefully keeping a balance with older ones in the St Luke's tradition. Many thanks, as always, to everyone who turns up and makes a joyful noise. Thanks also to those who encourage us when we do well and are understanding when we don't.

We're aware that the music coming through on Zoom and service recordings has sounded a little 'avant-garde' for a while (catering for those who like underwater worship). We're trying to figure out a solution, and if you know anything about mixing desks and computer audio do speak up. On a brighter note, the impromptu band that has self-assembled from time to time at church social events looks like it might be pulling itself together for some more regular outings – if you're interested in contributing, you'd be very welcome.

More generally, do please let us or the clergy know if there are any songs/hymns you've heard (old or new) that you'd like to be included in worship. And do think about joining us if you'd like to sing or play – any age, any stage – particularly if you happen to have a ten-stringed lyre.

Rob

Building / garden report

Hello. Not much to report really. Just the usual, trying to make sure that things are working properly, fixing stuff that gets broken, endeavouring to keep the building fit for your purpose. There was a new toilet fitted in the ladies and a basketball hoop was installed in the hall, though I'm not sure that counts. The electrical system is a bit safer now and the water system is a bit leaky and most of the lighting is LEB but that's about it.

The garden wasn't brilliant though we did get some fruits and vegetables. The roses, as ever, were beautiful. Maby thanks to the roses team and to Laura for taking care of the lawn.

Maybe next year will be better.

Kevin

Craft 'n' Chat



It's been a busy year at Craft 'n' Chat, with 15- 20 people attending each week - mostly ladies but a couple of gentlemen too (all are welcome!)

We have enjoyed making a variety of projects - socks, bags, oven gloves, teddies, balaclavas, blankets, trousers etc. It's been lovely to see people developing their skills over the past year - chatting, supporting and encouraging each other.

In October, to mark World Mental Health Day, we had a 24 hour knitathon to raise funds for Camden Psychotherapy Unit. We were joined by members of St.Luke's, local people and several dogs! We made 2 cosy blankets with all the squares that were knitted and these went to the Marylebone Project, one of St. Luke's mission partners.

At the Christmas fair we raised money for the Marylebone Project, with our craft stall and with Gill running a very popular children's activity making Christmas decorations from ice lolly sticks. Plans are already afoot for this year's fair!

You will have noticed the 'There is Hope' banner appearing on the church railings on Easter Sunday morning again. Thanks to Katy for rejuvenating our project from last year.

A big thank you to all those who make the tea and coffee and wash up each week. Special thanks to Katy, my second-in-command. Her help makes all the difference.
Angela Stewart

Environmental Working Group - Report for APCM April 2024

The members of the EWG continue to be Tina, Rose, Yanki, Jackie and Walter. We met regularly during 2023 and provided written and oral reports to the PCC.

During the year we:

- developed a Rubbish and Recycling Proposal to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- joined up with other Westminster Churches to work towards Net Zero.
- benefited from a free comprehensive energy audit, and this has led to us being put forward for funding for various energy saving projects
- Promoted Plastic Free July and Christian Aid Week - and their work on the effects of climate change
- Took part in the Advent Fair and focused on "Grow your Own"
- Started planning ahead to undertake the Eco church silver award, and to develop a procurement proposal.

If you are interested in finding out more, helping, or contributing any ideas, then please do contact one of us.

Tina, Rose, Jackie, Yanki, and Walter

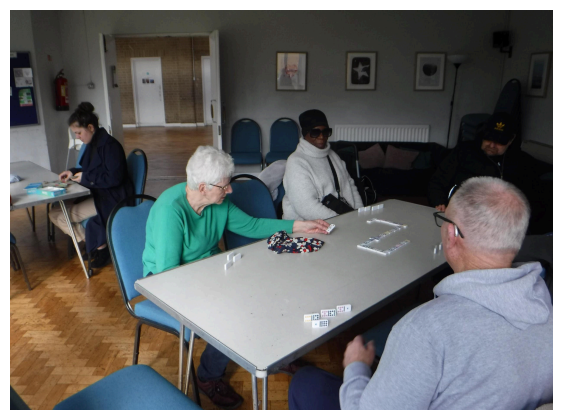
Dominoes & Doughnuts

Dominoes & Doughnuts is thriving! On Thursdays, from 11 am to about 12:20 pm, up to 12 of us turn up in the church lounge to play double nine dominoes. Recently we have also expanded into playing the highly addictive Skyjo!

We have a tea break midway through for tea & coffee with doughnuts.

Do come & join us - new participants are always welcome.

Sue



St Luke's Youth

What's our aim? To offer a regular safe session to all youth (Age 11+) living in and around St Luke's parish regardless of faith .

How do we do this? We try to offer a varied session with sports activities as well as drawing, board games, quiz sessions and movie and gaming also. (the latter two are offered less frequently)

Weekly regular helpers: All volunteers need to obtain a DBS check. Current weekly regular volunteers are Charles, Oscar, Melissa (youth helper), Rob (who helps in the kitchen only) and Chi who volunteers every other week or when she is able. Adult weekly volunteers who take part in supervising youth activities every week are currently only 3.

This does make it hard to adequately monitor all the young people who attend so I have to make adjustments to sessions on a weekly basis . I want to offer activities that they want to take part in every week (we have a lot of boys who attend who want a sport to take part in like football) but due to the lack of volunteers we can't always do this.

Monthly volunteers : Gemma comes in to cook the meal that we provide on the first week of every month. Michelle also comes in to help roughly every 3 weeks and tends to stay in the kitchen and look after that area.

Location and meet up time:

Church, every Friday between 7-9pm term time. Currently we have use of the whole building except we only have the Hall from 7.30

Numbers of young people in attendance: (approx) 10 -27 people attendance seems to increase with the warmer months.

Cost to attend : none

Cost to run a Friday session: We provide a sit down meal once a month and snacks every week. The weekly cost of this is roughly £ 25.00 - £ 30.00.

Cost of equipment and consumables: equipment for regular and specific activities like footballs are replaced as and when needed; other equipment like the basketball hoop are a one off purchase and are not rebought unless damaged. The cost for the year for equipment and consumables is approximately in the region of £100 - 250.00

Going forward , what does youth Friday want to do? It has been apparent to me for some time that the girls who attend our session need more activities for them. Most attendees are male and sessions have become mainly sport based to fill the need that they have to run around and let off steam. Though the girls join in with some sports activities it is mainly the boys who take full advantage of the sports activities on offer and though we provide board games and quiet activities like drawing these take place in the lounge which is in the middle of our used space and is not a quiet area. I often find the ladies in the group trying to find a quiet area just to talk and hang out and though we have other areas that we can use like the youth room, the fact that it's so far from the hall means it's not ideal because it's hard to monitor more than one area unless you are guaranteed a certain amount of volunteers (which we are not)

Building trust and relationships with them is sometimes easiest done by simply talking, sometimes with no agenda in particular, but just seeing where conversation takes you and allowing, hopefully, for a formation of trust.

What I would like to do is offer an hour before the main Friday youth group starts, for the ladies to come and simply hang out with me and chat before the main session at 7pm. This would of course mean another person present which may be hard to obtain given low volunteer numbers but I don't want to give up just yet as I feel this is an important issue that needs to be addressed.

Suzy El Fassi

Renew Wellbeing Cafe

In October 2023 we launched our new Wellbeing Cafe, meeting every Tuesday afternoon in the church worship area. The cafe is open to anyone, but is particularly seeking to serve those who might be living with mental health challenges, low mood, isolation or social anxiety. The chairs are cleared from the central area and four tables are set up cafe-style, each with various activities on them: newspapers/cross words/puzzles, colouring/art, scrabble and a jigsaw. Guests are welcome to take part in an activity or just sit and chat or sit in quiet. There are two times of guided prayer each week, which guests are invited but in no way obliged to participate in - the format of these prayers is designed to help people pray themselves, using the same words from a psalm and the Lords Prayer each week to provide familiarity. We have signed up to be part of the 'Renew Wellbeing' network of cafes, who provided us with the format, resources, training and support as we set up. The cafe is run by Katy the curate and a team of 7 volunteers, who set up tables, make tea & coffee, move chairs and most importantly spend time with guests- thank you to this team of people who have made this cafe happen. Our attendance has grown from about 3-4 in our early weeks to an average of 8 in more recent months - our highest attendance week saw 13 guests! Guests hear about the cafe in a variety of ways, from seeing the signs outside to word of mouth and we are encouraged that we have a number of regular guests and a good atmosphere each week.