

# **Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Luke the Evangelist, Brislington for 2024.**

## **Aims and Purposes**

St Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. We continued in vacancy until March 2024 when Reverend Sarah Hancox was licensed as Priest-in-Charge.

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Hall at St Luke's.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commissioner's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospels; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missional and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of both the Church and Hall.

## **Achievements and performance**

### ***Worship and prayer***

As at the end of 2024 there were 89 people on the Church Electoral Roll, split almost evenly between those who are resident and not resident within the parish. In March 2024 our new Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend Sarah Hancox, was licensed and installed by Bishop Viv, Bishop of Bristol. This was a very joyous occasion after three years of vacancy for an Incumbent, though we remain grateful to the Reverend Laura Verrall-Kelly for her time as curate-in-charge with us for 8 months. Reverend Sarah has been given a true St Luke's welcome and has been settling into the new position and working with the PCC and LLMs to develop our vision for St Luke's in the coming years, beginning with a Vision Day in June. There has been much prayer about this in 2024 and it will continue.

We have held one Sunday service every week and average normal Sunday attendance was just over 40. We also trialled a new, monthly service at 4.30pm on Sundays, varying between a more contemplative and contemporary worship style. This will be discussed by the PCC in 2025 to determine if we would like to continue and what its main focus and style should be.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

We have continued to work closely with the other three Church of England churches in Brislington and have a joint communion service in one of the churches every Wednesday morning. We also hold a joint service on Sunday afternoon when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month, and have begun a new tradition of joint Palm Sunday services including a walk of witness. The clergy of all three churches, along with retired clergy colleagues, meet regularly together.

### ***Healing Prayer Ministry***

Prayer is offered in the Prayer Corner after communion with any member of the congregation, by two people from the trained team: Barbara Beresford, Linda Hole, Belinda Lloyd, Ro Spada, Sue Thorne, Simon Williams.

This area is also used during school visits, where children are invited to write prayers to hang on the prayer tree or post on to the prayer wall, or to engage in other forms of prayer and reflection. A candle is lit in the prayer corner at the beginning of the service to acknowledge that the Spirit of the living God is with us.

### **Deanery Synod**

This past year at Deanery Synod has been slightly diminished due to various reasons.

However, we have managed to get together 3 times in the past year.

In January 2024 with Acting Area Dean, Tim Godden

In May 2024:- we gathered for a Deanery Brunch to work together with the Diocese to look at a subject called Gathering, to Share and Explore! this was to look at how we can share and work within our churches God's good news.

July 2024:- we met to look at Environmental Sustainability in our churches and also how we can move into outreach in the communities.

Looking ahead to 2025, it was announced at the start of the year that the new Area Dean for Bristol South Deanery would be our own Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend Sarah Hancox.

We are looking forward to a new phase in the life of our Deanery.

### **The Church structures and grounds**

#### ***The Church Building***

General maintenance and repair have been carried out but no structural work has been done this year. However, a great deal of thought was given to potential improvements to the building, including toilet facilities and improved accessibility, aimed at making it safer to access and easier to use both for worship and community activities. A sub-committee of the PCC, the Fabric Committee, has begun working on this, gathering information and undertaking field visits to other churches in Bristol to see how their vision and mission informed their redevelopments of their church and/or hall buildings. This has been a major piece of work in the second half of 2024, and it is envisioned that in 2025, after further information-gathering, the PCC will be able to settle on their joint vision and sense of call for any future development of the church, and be able to brief an architect to draw up initial plans for this work.

#### ***Church cleaners***

Team: Elaine Barton, Lynn Thatcher, Jenny Peacock, Lesley Coppin, Belinda Lloyd, Tessa Wilkinson, Keith Beresford, Richard Tucker, Mike Sims, Guy Wilkinson

Meet in the morning to clean the church on the first Friday of the month.

The pews are polished, the floor swept and washed periodically, carpets vacuumed, spiders' webs dislodged and the brass is cleaned. It should be noted that Richard fashioned and fitted

replacement parts to the lectern which was in need of repair for which we are thankful. Thanks to all the team for their commitment to this task.

### ***The churchyard***

The team of volunteers have once again worked hard and enjoyed a successful season. Through the year we have managed to keep the churchyard looking good and have received many comments from visitors and church members alike. The efforts of one member of the team have produced a display of flowers that greet those coming up the church path, this has been greatly appreciated. The team once again have enjoyed their break time tea and have tackled some of the pressing problems that have baffled world leaders. Thank you to those who have given up Wednesday mornings to take part in this work. All are welcome to join with us on any Wednesday.

### ***St Luke's Church Hall***

Our church hall continues to be well used both during the day and evenings.

We have once again in this past year had some major works carried out. The electrics have been upgraded and lights in the main hall replaced.

The trees in the car park had become dangerous so we had to have them cut right back to make safe.

The roof over the entrance to the Millennium room also needed repair due to a major leak.

We said farewell to Mario our hall caretaker after many years of loyal service. We are very grateful for all his hard work both inside and outside the hall and wish him much love and blessings in his retirement.

### ***Our Churchwardens add:-***

Gwyn and Phil are very grateful to you all for being the loving and warm congregation that you are. It makes our job as Churchwardens much easier. There is a wealth of knowledge among you, and—more importantly—an even greater wealth of prayerful concern and kindness. We are also thankful to Sarah for who she is and all that she has brought to the congregation. Dare I say that our Wardens' meeting with her are actually quite enjoyable!

It has been lovely to see the congregation's interactions with the wider community growing and developing, whether that be through special services like Christmas, Remembrance, Easter, Mothers' Day etc., through new people coming to call St Luke's home, or through opportunities like school visits, summer social events and much more besides. We pray for this momentum to continue in fruitfulness.

It has also been encouraging to see the PCC working well together in providing governance and oversight of the church activities through their meetings and those of the sub-committees. These are being streamlined so that they can function more effectively and already some of them have opted not to meet unless they need to, which must count as important progress!

We are also very pleased to see how Sarah has settled into her ministerial role, and how welcome she has been made to feel over this year. We would like to see once more to both her and Thea that we are very grateful for God's provision of them.

There is always a risk of naming some for thanks people because we can't name everyone, but: thank you to Malc who stepped down as Warden last year, and for his wisdom and advice to Phil as Phil began in the role; thank you to Keith and Liz for their service as Deputy Wardens; thank you to Keith and Chris Kendrick for their wisdom and knowledge; thank you to Belinda for continuing to ensure that the monthly payer sheet is produced to help us all. We know that many more of you also do much and we are grateful to you all for your parts.

The challenges of church life are all too familiar—keeping the place warm, toilets, hall repairs, electrical works, lightning conductor safety checks, endless decisions to be made, emails to be read, heating timers to be understood, money and how much do we have and on what should we be spending it, cleaning, etc.—and these urgent things, if we are not careful, can push out the vital parts of church life. Yet those vital things are what our common life together is really all about: loving our Lord, caring for one another, caring for the wider community and holding out to them the Word of Life that comes in the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let's continue to make sure that the vital role we have together as witnesses to the resurrection remains the most important thing. Thank you for helping us to do that.

## **Pastoral Care**

Some members of our parish are still unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Recordings of our Sunday Service have been delivered on CD to some of them every week. Others have been able to listen to the services via our website. Barbara Beresford also visited church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them.

The weekly Notices and news email is still circulated to around 77 people.

## **Mission and evangelism**

### ***Schools work***

We are blessed to continue to have good links with our 3 local Primary schools – West Town Lane Academy, Broomhill Infants and Holymead Infants, and Oasis Academy. That link involves mostly hosting visits from various year groups and sometimes being invited into school to talk to the children and answer their questions. Dates have already been booked for all 3 year 1 classes to visit St Luke's in 2025, for example. We are blessed with a committed team of volunteers led by Sue Thorne who give their time and expertise so that we can provide lots of interesting activities for the children to engage with, so thanks to all of those folks.

We are working jointly with people from our local churches, so that the work can be developed, which is really good.

Please continue to pray for this outreach / mission work that is done in His name and let us know if you would like to be part of the team.

### ***5<sup>th</sup> St Lukes beavers, cubs and scout group***

We are blessed to continue to have good links with our uniformed organisation groups. They have been involved in various ways in services such as Christmas, Remembrance, Mothering Sunday etc. The cubs and beavers had a session each in church just before Christmas, including signing a carol, an angel hunt, finding treasure boxes that were hidden around the church plus a tour of the tower. They all seemed to have a good time doing various activities that we were able to provide. I think it is so brilliant to have so many children and young people coming into our church building whether it's for a visit or as part of a service.

Please continue to pray for these links, and for the leaders who give up their time voluntarily to provide so many things for children and young people to be involved in.

Sue Thorne was asked to become a Trustee for this organisation, and has completed the relevant training in order to be able to do this. What a privilege to be asked, so hopefully this will enable our links to be further developed.

### ***Mother's Union***

February was the AGM and then in March an afternoon was spent learning how to decorate wax candles led by Tessa Wilkinson. Cards and flowers were given out at the Mothering Sunday service. In April the Reverend Sarah was invited to speak at our Lady Day service, and also inducted two new members into our Branch at the following Sunday morning service.

We enjoyed sessions hearing short stories and listening to music that was meaningful to members and in the summer we held a very successful strawberry cream tea to raise funds with 48 people attending, (which is the maximum we can accommodate). In September we observed the Wave of Prayer and in October we held a coffee morning to celebrate St Luke's Day and raised funds for Spring of Hope night shelter. This was followed by a second craft afternoon in November where we made small individual packages of soaps to take to the Spring of Hope at Christmas. Then to crown the year we held a Deanery Advent Service where Reverend Sarah led the reflection, and we welcomed guests from the Deanery.

We gave out Bible Society booklets as usual and throughout the year we sent birthday cards to all members and arranged for the In House members to receive communion; a big thank you to Barbara Beresford. Sadly, we report the death of Phyllis Bull who had been a member here for the last 42 years. Her funeral was supported by the MU as we supplied flowers and refreshments, and I took the funeral with Reverend Sarah's support.

During the year we sent £48 for Safe Spaces in loving memory of Hazel Roden;

£25 for the Friends of Parents at the Children's Hospital and £25 for the Prison Visitors.

We raised £363 for the Mary Sumner House Appeal and in December we sent £60 to the Spring of Hope Night Shelter.

### **Church Music**

The worship group continues to grow and develop both in terms of a new member, and also what they sing, when they sing and where they sing!

They now sing during most communion services, which many people have reported that they find it helpful, which is encouraging. The repertoire continues to expand now we have a vicar who is also a guitarist and a drummer. We also have another pianist so that it is not Peter or myself playing, which is good. The group is blessed with much talent.

They were asked to sing at Wicklea Academy Christmas Fayre again, which is always jolly as people are wandering around as you would expect at a school Christmas Fayre.

They were also privileged to be asked to sing at Ron Bevan's funeral, and may be singing at a wedding in July.

Instead of us singing a 'standard' anthem at Carols by Candlelight, they sang with the hand chimes as accompaniment. It is good to try new things, and work together with other groups. One body – many parts.

There is always room for new folks to be singing with them, and we continue to encourage new members. There's no need to be able to read music – just to be enthusiastic and love Jesus.

We thank everyone for their support and feedback.

### **Tower Captain's Report**

Last year seems to have been a busy year. We are getting a good turnout on practice nights and have rung for service on most Sundays. Our less experienced ringers are making progress and will soon be plain hunting without help or learning the numbers. On the fifth Monday in the month we practice at Holy Nativity Church, Knowle, for the experience of ringing much lighter bells.

In February, the Gloucester and Bristol branch Belfry Advisor, Matthew Johnson, came and carried out a full tower inspection, including the bells, the bell frame, bell fittings and the bell chamber. There were a few recommendations for things to be done but nothing major. We plan to do these on an extra tower workday, perhaps when the weather is a bit warmer.

In March, some of us attended a handbell talk that gave us the idea to try and buy some hand chimes. Well that certainly took off, didn't it! I did a bit of research and asked the PCC if we could use some of the money left by our friend Kate Hardy for music to buy 3 complete octaves of hand chimes. We have had great fun playing them at Easter, Bell Sunday, Harvest, Patronal Festival, at Christmas and once again at Easter this year. Hopefully, we will continue to challenge ourselves and improve our performances.

Our tower outing in June saw us visiting some pretty villages and some rather interesting towers on our outing to Wiltshire and the South Cotswolds where we rang (or attempted to ring) some rather challenging bells, especially those at our last vicar, Debbie's new church at Cricklade. It does make you appreciate our own tower and bells here at St Luke's. All we need is a toilet in the church - and that is a work in progress.

Once again, we opened up the church and the tower for the National Heritage Open Days. People seem to really appreciate the chance to go up the tower and see the bells and to learn a little more about the history of bell ring in this country. The vast majority of the people visiting St. Luke's for this event go up the tower. Thank you to everyone who helped out with this event. From October onwards we practiced hard with the hand chimes with a view to ringing them with the music group once again during the Carol service. We rang a Carol Lukins version of Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells mixed with Ding Dong Merrily on High and I thought we did very well, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. I think hand chime practice is going to become a much more regular thing this year as we increase our skills and expand our repertoire.

And finally, in December, we welcomed visits from the Cubs and Beavers to church and up the tower. They were all assisted in chiming a few bongs on our smallest bell which they all enjoyed.

## **Volunteers**

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the caring community it is. Without volunteers, there would be no St Luke's Church in Brislington. Our very special thanks go to our Church Wardens, Phil Thomas and Gwyn Williams, to our local retired clergy, particularly Revd Guy Wilkinson, and to all our office holders.

## **Financial review**

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £37,147 of which £32,449 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £4,698 was from Gift Aid.

Income from regular standing order donations decreased a little from the previous year, but Free Will Giving increased and loose cash given in church collections was double the sum in 2023. Thank you for your continued faithful giving in every way. The Church Hall continues to be a useful resource for our parish income.

Our mission giving was higher than in 2024, which is a lovely testimony to the gospel's fruitfulness. Less evangelistically exciting, but no less important, our expenditure on maintenance and fabric repair was double what was spent in 2023.

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 the church held £47,318 in bank accounts, and a further £294,450 in investments. Of this investment amount, £164,854 is an endowment, the interest from which is designated as being for church repair and maintenance. We remain grateful for the generosity of Cyril Palmer in bequeathing this sum to us.

Total cash and bank balances at 31 December 2024 were £414,589.

At the end of 2024 the PCC agreed to move our finances from HSBC to Unity Bank, a more ethical bank. This was done in January 2025 has gone smoothly (for the most part!) and it now allows us to make use of Online banking facilities for accounting and making payments, which means that it is much easier to keep track of our spending.

If anyone has any questions about our accounts, please present them by email or letter to Philip Thomas, the Acting Treasurer, who will endeavour to answer them.

### **Reserves policy**

Whilst the PCC has no formal policy on reserves it holds sufficient balances to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

No current commitments exist against the Fabric Fund or the Outreach Fund.

### **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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Luke's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC met on 11 occasions during 2024: all in person in church. In addition the PCC communicate by email to receive regular updates from sub-committees and individuals.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include the Standing Committee, Fabric and Hall Committee, Mission Committee and Finance Committee are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly, reports of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

### **Safeguarding**

We continue to work towards building a safer community for everyone. Safeguarding remains an important and constant concern in this parish. To this end a report is given at each PCC Meeting by the safeguarding officer Rosemary Spada.

Our training is up to date with the Bell Ringers in the process of updating their Basic Awareness training. It's hard to realise that it is three years since they first did it. New employees, PCC Members and helpers are required to have DBS checks in place (where this is relevant). All PCC members have completed the on-line training on the Diocesan website at basic or foundation level.

All PCC Members are required to complete a Confidential Declaration Form following the ACPM each year. When new appointments are made, the PCC follow safer recruitment guidelines.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). All members are aware of their obligations under this Act as evidenced by undertaking training, agreeing to DBS scrutiny and signing a disclaimer regarding any previous convictions or cautions. These were inspected by the Archdeacon at the Triennial visit in December 2023. All safeguarding information is displayed on the church notice board and our policy is available on our website.

## Administrative information

St Luke's Church is part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

### Church Officials 2024:

Priest-in-Charge	Reverend Sarah Hancox (from March 2024)
Licensed Lay Ministers	Rosemary Spada, Sue Thorne, Simon Williams
Organist	Peter Saunders
Church Wardens	Phil Thomas Gwyn Williams
Deputy Church wardens	Keith Beresford, Liz Pritchard
Deanery Synod Representatives	Simon Williams, Liz Pritchard

The PCC is chaired by the Reverend Sarah Hancox, and can have up to 9 elected members, with the Church Wardens and Deanery Synod Representatives serving as ex officio members.

There are currently 6 elected members of the PCC:

Jos Clark, Belinda Lloyd, Ilse Lademann, Ben Mason, Rosemary Spada, Malcolm Thorne

The post of treasurer is vacant since August 2024, and Church Warden Phil Thomas has been serving as Acting Treasurer in the interim. We are very grateful to the outgoing Treasurer, Kathy Pedrazzini, for all her hard work and dedication to the role over these last few years.



## 2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	unrestricted funds £	restricted funds £	endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	Total funds 2023
2(a) Voluntary income (direct giving)					
Planned giving:					
Gift Aid donations	23,383			23,383	24,614
Income Tax recoverable	4,698			4,698	5,606
Other planned giving (Free Will)	3,529			3,529	2,818
Church Collections (Loose Cash)	3,628			3,628	1,807
Sundry donations	1,909			1,909	1,535
	37,147	0	0	37,147	36,380
2(b) Other voluntary income					
Donations, appeals etc.				0	
Legacies	2,119	0		2,119	55,500
	2,119	0	0	2,119	55,500
2(c) Income from charitable trading					
Church hall lettings	32,688			32,688	34,487
Fees	456			456	2,052
	33,144	0	0	33,144	36,539
2(e) Income from investments					
Investments	1,472	4,985	0	6,457	4,690
Bank Interest	104			104	1,532
	1,576	4,985	0	6,562	6,222
2(f) Special funds					
Fabric - general		2,660		2,660	4,690
- roof fund		0		0	0
- Tower		0		0	0
Flowers		0		0	0
Choir		0		0	0
Friendship Lunches				0	0
	0	2,660	0	2,660	4,690
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	73,987	7,646	0	81,633	139,330

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST LUKE'S CHURCH, BRISLINGTON

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2024

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED		unrestricted funds £	restricted funds £	endowment funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2024 £	Total Funds 2023
3(a) Grants						
	Overseas missions	2,000			2,000	3,020
	Home missions	1,680			1,680	1,744
	Other Mission evangelism	1,698			1,698	
		0			0	0
		5,378	0	0	5,378	4,764
3(b) Directly Relating to the work of the Church						
	Parsh Share	40,370			40,370	40,851
	Clergy expenses				0	549
	LLM Expenses	495			495	0
	Church - Upkeep of services				0	6,615
	Churchyard	1,307			1,307	
	Church Utilities Bills	3,367			3,367	
	Insurance on church buildings	4,138			4,138	3,904
	Bank Charges	204			204	145
	Church Hall running costs	15,525			15,525	12,043
	Bellringers	155			155	
	Refreshments	142			142	
	Organist	0			0	1,645
		65,703	0	0	65,703	65,752
3(c) Fund-raising and publicity						
3(d) Church management and administration						
	Printing and stationery	2,506			2,506	489
	Welfare	0				2,545
	Unspecified Expenses	1,617			1,617	0
		4,123	0	0	4,123	3,035
3(e) Special Funds						
	Fabric - General		31,980	0	31,980	14,712
	- roof fund				0	0
	- tower		0		0	180
	Flowers		243		243	86
	Choir				0	8
	Choir		2,354			
	Organist		2110			
	Services		4,108			
	Friendship Lunches				0	0
		0	40,795	0	40,795	14,986
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		75,204	40,795	0	115,999	88,536
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		-1,217	-33,149	0	-34,366	50,794
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
	- realised			0	0	0
	- unrealised	1,214	3,798	1,214	6,226	18,208
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-3	-29,351	1,214	-28,141	69,001
BALANCES B/F AT 1 Jan 2024		164,349	114,741	163,640	442,730	373,729
BALANCES C/F AT 31 Dec 2024		164,346	85,390	164,854	414,589	442,730
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	

**Independent examiner's report**  
**to the Parochial Church Council of St Lukes Church, Brislington, Bristol**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**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.



Chris Johnson ACMA

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5th April 2025