

# St Luke's Church Highwoods



**Annual Report**  
and  
**Financial Statements**  
of the  
**Parochial Church Council**  
for the year ended 31 December 2019

**Incumbent:**  
Revd Hannah Cooper

**Bank:**  
CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19  
4JQ

**Registered Charity no:** 1159205

**Independent Examiner:**  
Sarah Large BSc (Hons) CAT  
4 St Clement Road Colchester CO4  
0LN

**St Luke's Church**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2020**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm on Zoom**

*Dear Church member,*  
*We give a very warm invitation to share in our APCM and look forward to seeing you*

**AGENDA**

**Welcome, Opening prayer, bible reading and songs of praise**

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Appointment of Scrutineers**
- 3. Choosing of Churchwardens (2 for 1 year)**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- 1. Elections**  
**Elections for Parochial Church Council (2 members for 3 years)**  
  
**Elections for Deanery Synod (3 members for 3 years)**

**Reports**

- 2. Apologies for absence –**
- 3. Minutes of 2019 APCM** pages 3 – 7
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Administrative Reports**
  - a. Presentation of Electoral Roll** page 19
  - b. Financial Report** pages 9-16  
**(including Independent Examiner's Report)**
  - c. PCC Report** pages 18-21
  - d. Church Property Report** page 22
  - e. Diocesan Synod Report** page 22
  - f. Deanery Synod Report** page 22-23
- 6. LLM's Report** to be delivered verbally at the meeting
- 7. Church life reports** pages 24-36
- 8. Appointments**
  - a. Independent Examiner for 2020**
- 9. Any other business – please email 24 hours in advance**
- 10. Prayer & Blessing**

## **St Luke's Church**

### **Minutes of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2019**

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 10:15am**

**Opening prayer and songs of praise**

#### **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

**1. Welcome**

Revd Hannah Cooper said heartfelt thanks for Mark Russell's dedicated and unique 6 years of services as Churchwarden, gave him a 'Free Hugs' T-shirt and prayed for him.

**2. Appointment of Scrutineers**

Diana Benge-Abbott and Adrian Jones were appointed scrutineers.

**3. Choosing of Churchwardens (1 for 1 year)**

Mark Harris proposed by Diana Benge-Abbott and Lynne Gettings

Lynne Gettings proposed by Mark Russell and Mark Harris

Hannah prayed for Mark and Lynne in their Churchwarden roles that they would have wisdom and discernment and that we would pray for them and support them in their role.

Hannah prayed that God's will be done and for our scrutineers.

#### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**1. Elections**

**Elections for Parochial Church Council** (3 members for 3 years, 1 for 1 year)

6 nominations for the PCC – Nyenye Motsi, Mark Visagie, Cathy Groslin, Sammy Huttley, Stuart Angier, Jennifer Greenley

Hannah prayed that all would be affirmed whatever the outcome of the vote.

**Song of praise** – children to go to own groups

**Reports**

**2. Apologies for absence** – Lesley West, Chris Akehurst, Pearson Nago

**3. Minutes of 2018 APCM**

We need to verify the Minutes of the APCM 2018.

No amendments requested. GH

Hugh Thomas proposed and Susie Shepherd seconded.

#### **4. Matters arising**

None.

#### **5. Administrative Reports**

##### **a. Presentation of Electoral Roll**

##### **b. Independent Examiner's Report**

##### **c. Financial Report**

Cathy asked about Mission Fund – one line mission at top of page 12, the Rollett figures.

The line is there.

##### **d. PCC Report**

No questions about the PCC report.

##### **e. Church Property Report**

No questions.

##### **f. Diocesan Synod Report**

##### **g. Deanery Synod Report**

#### **6. LLMs' Report – delivered verbally**

Hugh explained he is a Licensed Lay Minister. He has to take bread consecrated by a priest. He can also take funerals and services. Diana is our other LLM.

We are now up to Mark 5 in the church. Thanks to Mark 1 (Russell) for all his work and to Mark Harris.

Adrian Jones for being Treasurer.

Alex Podd was succeeded by Sammy Thomas (soon to be Huttley).

The Oak Tree Coffee House – chaplaincy for this began last year and is very successful with many contacts.

Chris and Emma Smith arrived with their family.

Anne Mason chaplains in the Gilbert School. She is at Gt Horkesley along with Janine & Simon Wilde and Gillian Hobbs.

Heather moved on to be a pioneer.

A team preaches monthly at St Andrew's, Wormingford.

MMU (Mission and Ministry Unit) was launched last year.

Priestings.

Evening services revamped and moving along successfully.

Discipleship groups started in 2017 and still doing well.

Hannah behaved us to Grow last year.

This was key highlights of last year.

The LLM role: if anyone wants to consider the role, they can, but it does take a lot of training and discernment.

## **7. Church life reports**

For Hannah this is the most exciting part of our report as it means we are alive showing that we work with old, young and everyone in between.

Please read and pray for the prayer points mentioned.

Hannah commends the reports to us.

## **8. Appointments**

Sarah Large is happy to continue with being Independent Examiner.

Mark Russell proposed and Ordella Sansford seconded, and carried unanimously.

### **a. Independent Examiner for 2019**

## **9. Any other business – please submit items by start of meeting**

We need to appoint someone to cast St Luke's vote at the Annual General Meeting of The Oak Tree Coffee House, which follows the APCM.

Liz Harris proposed and Ali Bell seconded for Lynne Gettings to be our appointee.

## **Song of praise**

Chris and Hannah invited anyone in the congregation to say if they felt the Lord had given them something to share.

Sense of peace; we are called to bring a sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord, if the work is not ordained by and for Him then there is no point in our being here.

What has God given me and we can then be secure in Christ.

We want to do something that will last for eternity. Only through Him can we do this.

Our purpose is in God, not relying on our own strength. He takes us as we are and runs with us.

## **Bible reading**

Phil 1: 1 – 11 read by Chris Smith

## **10. Talk by Priest in Charge, Revd Hannah Cooper**

The Bible reading is a letter by Paul to the people of Philippi.

1<sup>st</sup> part is 'where God who began a good work in you will carry it on unto completion until the day of Christ Jesus ...'.

2<sup>nd</sup> part 'that your love will abound more and more ... to the glory and praise of God'.

In 2017, Hannah invited us to RSVP then in 2018 Hannah invited us to grow.

This year the word is 'CALLED'. It wasn't Hannah that chose God. It was God that chose Hannah and chose you.

'I am not a finisher and completer. I'm glad that within our team there are finishers and completers.' But God is a finisher and completer. He never starts something that He can't finish. He will do so whether we want Him to or not.

Hannah is confident that God's work in St Luke's will continue and complete.

We are each called individually and as St Luke's we are called as a church.

C for Christ-centred. We want to be as Christ-centred as possible. When we take our focus off Christ we go off on a tangent.

A for All in Christ. We cannot each be the same. We each individually bring something unique.

L is for Looking. Be alert. We need to be able to see what's going on. Where is God at work in you today? It's always in the massive. Often it's in the small. God has already started to move, we need to follow.

L is for longing, longing to see God's kingdom come.

E is for Essential. Where are my building blocks? Hannah's hope is that God is changing us continually. How is our prayer life? Have we got someone to whom we can be accountable?

D is for Deeper. There are many people on Highwoods who need Jesus. They need a caring church which can reach out to them. We are probably more than 75% of capacity. There isn't enough space and we need to grow.

God is good. St Luke's is not going to move until God calls us to do so. Hannah feels this isn't the moment yet. But we should be prepared to St Luke's mark 2. We should be preparing ourselves to go deeper. What are our gifts?

Sunday morning is like 'touchdown' when refuelling can take place in order for us to take off again, be sent out.

Hannah's prayer is that we come ready to be sent out by God. When we look back next year, we will be in a different place as we've moved on.

Hannah prayed that the Holy Spirit would come and refresh His people and call people by name.

### **Prayers for our church**

That we would long for the Lord and that this would remain at the heart of our church.

It was a lovely service.

It's not what we want, it's what you want, Lord.

Prayer for those in need.

That we can stand with you in our hearts each day.

We are not perfect but you still call us, just as we are.

Hannah called Adrian to the front. He was our Treasurer at a crucial time last year. He has been a star.

Adrian is also stepping down from being on the Board of The Oak Tree for which we thank him very much.

Adrian has been involved for many years. St Luke's is changing, so Adrian felt it was right to hand over to new people.

Hannah said 3 people are stepping forwards to be our Finance team.

Hannah called Susie to the front and thanked her for what she did leading the worship team and prayed that God will continue to bless her.

Emma Smith has become our new worship co-ordinator.

Results of the election of PCC members. All the candidates are eminently qualified in leadership.

Jennifer and Sammy were called forward as they were not elected. Jennifer is our Assistant Churchwarden and Sammy is our Youth leader. Hannah prayed for them and their willingness to put their names forward. May God's Holy Spirit refresh and revive Jennifer and also Sammy in her Youth leader role.

Congratulations to Stuart, Cathy, Nyenye, Mark V who have now joined our PCC.

### **Songs of praise**

### **Blessing**

## **ST LUKE'S CHURCH REPORT**

### **Welcome to Our 2019 Annual Report**

This is one of the most unusual APCM's I have ever been involved in. Usually, the APCM happens before the end April and focuses on the year before, whilst also giving an opportunity to look forward to the next year.

This year because of the global pandemic of COVID 19, our APCM has had to be delayed until October 2020. It seems odd at this point to be looking back at 2019, but I hope this document will continue to be an inspiration and an encouragement to all the members of St. Luke's.

In May, we knew an APCM couldn't happen, but a night of praying and discussing vision could happen, so this year is the first year where the vision came first and the APCM has followed behind.

Being an active church, which incorporates a multitude of generations, interests and talents, I suspect there are things that have happened in 2019 that you may not be aware of. This is a great opportunity to read all the different reports that have been produced by the individual groups and ministries. I hope the evidence of the wide variety of ministry that has been taking place will inspire and encourage you, but might also act as a reminder to pray for all those involved.

As a family, myself, Simon and the kids really value the love and support that St. Luke's have provided, we love being part of this wonderful fellowship.

In our review of 2016, presented at my first APCM in April 2017, I wrote: 'I believe God has some great plans for St. Luke's and I am so excited to be working for his glory as we discover the path ahead together'. I still believe this is true and I am still very excited to be discovering the path ahead together.

Please do continue to read and to continue praying, there are many activities that we currently are unable to run, but my belief is that even though we are restricted and unable to meet in large groups, God is not restricted – my prayer is that his glory will continue to break through.

Hannah

Rev. Hannah Cooper, Priest in Charge



## **Independent Examiner's report to the PCC Of St Luke's Church Highwoods**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 which are set out on the following pages.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC & the Examiner**

The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(B) of the 2011 Act; &
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

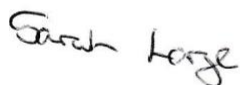
### **Basis of Independent Examiners report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees & a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements & seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, & consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
  - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sarah Large BSc (Hons) CAT  
4 St Clement Road  
Colchester  
Essex CO4 0LN  
25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

# Accounts/Financial Statements 2019

## Colchester St Luke's PCC

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 Dec 2019

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2019	TOTAL 2018
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
<b>Voluntary Receipts:</b>						
Planned giving		£78,574.10			£78,574.10	£68,232.00
Envelopes		£1,180.00			£1,180.00	£2,118.63
Stewardship		£1,800.00			£1,800.00	£1,260.00
Collections and other giving		£1,143.14			£1,143.14	£1,432.58
One off Gift		£5,980.16			£5,980.16	£1,854.00
GiftAid Income Tax recovered		£19,055.88			£19,055.88	£16,961.34
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>£107,733.28</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£107,733.28</b>	<b>£91,858.55</b>
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>						
Special collections	Note 6.1			£17,149.13	£17,149.13	£10,476.81
Donations (Restricted)	Note 6.2			£16,734.95	£16,734.95	£20,262.01
<b>Receipts from activities for generating funds</b>						
Fund raising events	Note 5	£1,845.95			£1,845.95	£1,703.46
<b>Receipts from Church activities</b>						
Wedding fees		£690.00			£690.00	£215.00
Funeral fees		£1,310.00			£1,310.00	£1,031.00
Other Fees/income	Note 6.2	£823.16		£239.86	£1,063.02	£784.51
<b>Receipts from investments</b>						
Bank and deposit interest		£83.53			£83.53	£48.67
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>						
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>£112,485.92</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£34,123.94</b>	<b>£146,609.86</b>	<b>£126,380.01</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
<b>Church activities inside the parish</b>						
The Ministry		£3,519.98			£3,519.98	£2,191.43
Insurance	Paid in Oct	£554.13			£554.13	£413.71
Church Services inc licence		£1,834.21			£1,834.21	£1,380.09
Donations and Grants	Note 6.2			£17,780.56	£17,780.56	£20,578.29
Hire of Buildings		£8,720.07			£8,720.07	£7,630.71
Training - Ministry & General		£0.00			£0.00	£15.00
Training - C & F		£202.50			£202.50	£108.40
Training - Admin		£0.00			£0.00	£0.00
Training - Youthworker		£200.00			£200.00	£0.00
Account Fee - Bank Charges		£60.00			£60.00	£60.00
Office costs inc. Software		£1,760.67			£1,760.67	£1,193.47
Staff & Pension		£32,575.15			£32,575.15	£24,181.10
Expenses - C & F		£292.08			£292.08	£306.82
Expenses - Admin		£0.00			£0.00	£75.00
Expenses - Youthworker		£300.00			£300.00	£0.00
Break Out/Xtra Time Expenses		£394.65			£394.65	£467.94
TLG Fees (Ended July 18)		£0.00			£0.00	£525.00
TLG/Schools		£0.00			£0.00	£144.87
Gilbert Chaplaincy		£311.78			£311.78	£209.46
Miscellaneous	Note 6.2	£140.00		£239.86	£379.86	£150.00
PA	Note 6		£896.77		£896.77	£219.95
Equipment	Note 6		£841.56		£841.56	£705.98
People in Need	Note 6		£1,220.00		£1,220.00	£1,783.00
Funeral Fees		£496.00			£496.00	£770.00
Wedding Fees		£207.00			£207.00	£0.00
Parish Mission		£1,102.42			£1,102.42	£1,229.69
Flair		£133.96			£133.96	£0.00
C&F Ministry Midweek		£44.51			£44.51	£0.00
C&F GForce		£177.19			£177.19	£256.09
C&F First Roots		£36.53			£36.53	£84.00
C&F GForce +		£100.00			£100.00	£105.72
C & F GForce takeaway		£0.00			£0.00	£0.00
<b>Church activities outside the parish</b>						
Diocesan Parish Share		£48,746.64			£48,746.64	£47,703.12
Mission & Mercy		£9,285.50			£9,285.50	£7,360.00
Special collections	Note 6.1			£14,956.41	£14,956.41	£18,368.65
Members' Mission		£105.81			£105.81	£400.00
Church Weekend		£0.00			£0.00	
Cost of Generating Funds	Note 5	£1,779.70			£1,779.70	£1,629.75
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£113,080.48</b>	<b>£2,958.33</b>	<b>£32,976.83</b>	<b>£149,015.64</b>	<b>£140,247.24</b>
Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		£594.56	£2,958.33	£1,147.11	£2,405.78	£13,867.23
Transfer between funds		£600.00	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Adjusted Surplus/(Deficit) for the period</b>		<b>£5.44</b>	<b>£3,558.33</b>	<b>£1,147.11</b>	<b>£2,405.78</b>	<b>£13,867.23</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds Designated Funds Restricted Funds TOTAL</b>						
Cash at bank and in hand at 31-Dec-18		£25,816.30	£9,310.54	£25,718.80	£60,845.64	
Adjusted Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		£5.44	£3,558.33	£1,147.11	£2,405.78	
Cash at bank and in hand at 31-Dec-19		£25,821.74	£5,752.21	£26,865.91	£58,439.86	

Assets	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL
Collection - uncleared BACS credit	£59.62			£59.62
Cash Funds (First Steps)			£10.00	£10.00
Cash Funds-Coffee House	£140.00			£140.00
Bank Current Account	£2,491.10			£2,491.10
Bank Giving Account	£10,221.58			£10,221.58
Bank Reserve Account	£13,865.04	£5,752.21	£26,855.91	£46,473.16
Other monetary assets	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£26,777.34</b>	<b>£5,752.21</b>	<b>£26,865.91</b>	<b>£59,395.46</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Uncleared bank Payment	£955.60			£955.60
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>£955.60</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£955.60</b>
<b>Net Total Assets</b>	<b>£25,821.74</b>	<b>£5,752.21</b>	<b>£26,865.91</b>	<b>£58,439.86</b>

#### Notes

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis overall. As an exception, the costs for PAYE, Employee NI, Employer NI and NEST Pension payments are accounted for on an accrued basis, in order to account for these liabilities in the period incurred (and to reconcile with our SAGE Payroll and SAGE accounting records).

2 The following assets are recognised but not necessarily included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on trust for the PCC which would require a faculty for disposal.

3 The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments were made to PCC members.

4 St Lukes PCC is the majority shareholder in Highwoods Community Interest Company, holding 90% of the share capital at 31 December 2019. It is considered that there is no current market value for the shares.

5 Activities to generate funds	Receipts	Payments	Profit/Loss
Church Weekend	£1,781.70	£1,779.70	£2.00
Mature Oaks	£64.25		£64.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,845.95</b>	<b>£1,779.70</b>	<b>£66.25</b>

6 SUMMARY OF FUNDS HELD	Bfwd Jan 19	Receipts	Payments	Transfers C/Fwd Dec 19
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
General Fund	£25,816.30	£112,485.92	£113,080.48	
General Fund to PIN				-£1,200.00
General Fund to Equipment				-£600.00
General Fund to PA				-£600.00
2016/17 Gift Allocation to General				£3,000.00
General Fund to Youthworker Fund				
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>£25,816.30</b>	<b>£112,485.92</b>	<b>£113,080.48</b>	<b>£600.00</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>				
People in Need	£1,417.00		£1,220.00	£1,200.00
Equipment	£595.14		£841.56	£600.00
PA	£1,298.40		£896.77	£600.00
2016/17 Gift - Deferred Giving	£6,000.00			-£3,000.00
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>£9,310.54</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,958.33</b>	<b>-£600.00</b>

#### 6.1 Restricted Funds - Special Collections

Uganda Fund	£1,709.21	£9,578.50	£7,710.00	
Soup Lunch CYO	£51.00		£51.00	
Soup lunch EI	£0.00	£37.00	£37.00	
Foodbank Christmas Appeal	£207.45		£207.45	
Community Coffee House	£19,143.61	£4,046.27	£5,720.00	
Munch Fund	£0.00	£2,467.90	£211.50	
Church Weekend Donations	£0.00	£1,019.46	£1,019.46	
<b>Total Special Collections</b>	<b>£21,111.27</b>	<b>£17,149.13</b>	<b>£14,956.41</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

#### 6.2 Restricted Funds - Donations and Grants

GForce Club Night	£156.02	£52.00	£88.38	
Equipment	£0.00	£210.50	£210.50	
C & F Midweek Community & Events	£35.74	£30.00	£65.74	
Flair	£64.89	£290.50	£355.39	
Youth Events	£0.00	£155.00	£155.00	
Men Behaving Boldly	£833.66			
Mission Fund Re Rollett	£1,123.75	£7,292.00	£8,415.75	
Solid Fund	£405.73	£1,553.14	£1,958.87	
Youthworker Fund	£1,374.72	£5,930.00	£4,852.22	
Grant received re use of Oak Tree	£0.00	£239.86	£239.86	
First Steps	£613.02	£981.95	£1,438.85	
<b>Total Donations and Grants</b>	<b>£4,607.53</b>	<b>£16,734.95</b>	<b>£17,780.56</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>£25,718.80</b>	<b>£33,884.08</b>	<b>£32,736.97</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£60,845.64</b>	<b>£146,370.00</b>	<b>£148,775.78</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

Approved by the PCC on 8 APRIL 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

H. COOPER Position PRIEST - IN - CHARGE

LAWRY Position CHURCH WARDEN



## **Additional Notes to the Financial Statements 2019**

### **THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LUKE'S, COLCHESTER**

#### **1. Registered Charity Number 1159205**

Additional notes to the Financial Statements for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

#### **2. Accounting Policies**

As stated, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts & Payments (i.e. Cash) basis, including any uncleared bank payments made.

These accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of any church groups or activities that owe their major affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

#### **3. Funds – General & Designated**

General Funds represent the funds of the St Luke's PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use, and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Designated Funds represent the funds that have been designated for a particular purpose by the PCC, but these funds are also unrestricted regards their usage. St Luke's currently operates three designated funds as follows:

People In Need Fund, where the PCC allocated £100 per month in 2019 from St Luke's general funds to this designated fund to provide a reserve for use by the PCC as and when individual situations of serious personal need arise – the fund level is capped at £2000 and funds are transferred as required.

PA Fund, where the PCC allocated £50 per month in 2018 from St Luke's general funds to this designated fund to provide a reserve for use by the PCC to invest in new or replacement PA equipment.

Equipment Fund, where the PCC allocated £50 per month from St Luke's general funds to this designated fund to provide a reserve for use by the PCC to invest in new or replacement general equipment.

#### **4. Funds - Restricted**

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes. St Luke's currently operates restricted funds as follows:

Uganda Fund, where these funds have either been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the activities of the Nsambya Full Gospel Mission Church and/or Children's School(s) and Orphanage(s) in Kampala, Uganda.

CYO - where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the work of CYO (Christian Youth Outreach).

Foodbank - where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the work of the Colchester Foodbank.

Community Coffee House - where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the Oak Tree Community Coffee House.

Keep Cups – where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of purchasing St Luke’s Church “Keep-Cups”

Church Weekend/Assington Fund, where these funds have either been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of resourcing an annual/bi-annual St Luke’s Church away event available to all Church family members.

Children & Family GForce Ministry, where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the St Luke’s Children & Family GForce Ministry.

Equipment, where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of allowing St Luke’s to invest in new or replacement general equipment.

C & F Midweek Community & Events, where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the St Luke’s Children & Families Midweek Community Ministry and/or other Children & Families Community events.

Flair, where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the St Luke’s Flair Community events.

Men Behaving Boldly, where these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the St Luke’s Men Behaving Boldly Missional Community.

Mission Fund, whereby donations have been received, or funds otherwise raised, to support the St Luke’s Church Mission Fund and/or to support David, Tricia and Titus Rollett for their work with Emmanuel International.

First Steps, whereby these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the First Steps Group.

Solid Fund /Youth Events, whereby these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of enabling the St Luke’s young people to attend “Solid” or other similar youth events.

Youthworker Fund, whereby these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the employment of a Youth Intern and/or Youthworker by St Luke’s.

Emmanuel International, whereby these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the work of Emmanuel International.

Munch Fund, whereby these funds have been given or otherwise raised specifically for the purpose of supporting the work of the Munch Initiative.

## **5. Receipts (Incoming Resources)**

Planning Giving receipts and Collections & Other Giving receipts are both recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Income tax recovered (under Gift Aid) is also recognised only when received.

Income that is raised by any special events is accounted for gross, with any associated expenses being separately identified and disclosed - these are included under Note 5.

All other Income is also recognised only when received.

## **6. Expenditures (Resources Used)**

**Diocesan Quota** - The Diocesan Quota or Parish Share is accounted for only when paid, but with any amounts still unpaid as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December being provided for as an operational liability, and shown as a Creditor in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

There is no outstanding amount payable with relation to the 2019 St Luke's Parish Share as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**Employment Costs** - Salaries and associated PAYE and National Insurance costs payable to HMRC are accounted for only when paid, but with any amounts still unpaid as at 31<sup>st</sup> December being provided for as an operational liability, and shown as a Creditor in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

There are no amounts outstanding as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**Grants/Donations** - Grants and donations made by the PCC are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

There are no such outstanding binding awards as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**Other Expense Items** - All other expenditures are accounted for only when paid, unless any particular expense item incurred but not paid represents a material operational liability as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, and thus shown as a Creditor in the Balance Sheet.

## **7. Fixed Assets**

**Church Furnishings** - Moveable 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, and are listed in the Church's Inventory.

For inalienable property that was already in existence as at the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012, there is insufficient cost information available (such assets having been originally acquired by St John's PCC, Colchester), and thus are not valued in these accounts.

There have been no such items acquired in the period 1 January 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**PA Equipment, Office Equipment & other Sundry Assets** - Individual items with a purchase price of less than £1,500 are expensed in full at the time of original purchase.

## **8. Investments**

**General Investments** – General investments held are valued at Market value as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

There are no general investments held as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**Subsidiary Companies** – Investments in Subsidiary Companies are stated at cost less any provision necessary for permanent diminution in value.

St Luke's PCC holds 90% of the ordinary share equity of the Highwoods Community Interest Company (HCIC)

The PCC considers that the investment in HCIC has no realisable value at present and thus, whilst noted, is not shown as an asset within the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

**9. Current Assets**

No debtor amounts are shown in respect of any fees or other amounts due at 31<sup>st</sup> December, as all income is accounted for only when received and there are no material amounts outstanding as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

End



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL**  
**PARISH OF ST LUKE, COLCHESTER**  
**STATEMENT OF PCC RESPONSIBILITIES**

The PCC are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the PCC for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The PCC are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## St Luke's Church, Colchester – PCC Report for 2019

### Introduction

St Luke's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting, within the parish, the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It oversees and directs the mission and work of the church of St Luke's, Colchester, meeting at St John's & Highwoods Community Centre on Highwoods. The report of the PCC which follows, along with the Church Life Reports of the various ministry streams of the church, illustrate how the PCC fulfils its obligations to benefit the public ~ mainly to the worshipping congregation and to the local community, but also beyond.

### PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest in Charge: The Revd. Hannah Cooper

Curate: Revd Chris. Smith

Curate: Revd Anne Mason

Associate Priest: Revd. Paul Mann

Church Wardens

Mark Harris

Lynne Gettings

Deputy Church

Wardens

Jennifer Greenley

Mark Visage

PCC Treasurer

Colin Smith

Licensed Lay Ministers

Diana Bengé-Abbott

Hugh Thomas

Deanery Synod Representatives

Petra Dean

Julia Thomas

Jo Russell

#### *PCC Elected Members*

Janine Wilde

Pearson Nago

Cathy Groslin

Mark Visagie

Stuart Angier

Nyenye Motsi

#### *Standing Committee*

Hannah Cooper

Lynne Gettings

Stuart Angier

Mark Harris

Julia Thomas

Diana Bengé-Abbott

## **PCC Committees**

The PCC operates through a number of groups, which meet between the full meetings of the PCC:

### **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to the directions given by the Council.

### **Finance Group**

The general financial dimension of the work of St Luke's is accomplished by monitoring income and expenditure, setting budgets, maintaining financial controls and co-ordinating the annual accounts. This work is overseen on the PCC's behalf by the Finance Group, led by the PCC Treasurer.

### **Mission and Mercy Giving Away**

The Mission and Mercy budget is apportioned to support mission and charities at home and abroad, including regular reviews of the 'agencies' to which St Luke's gives.

### **Uganda Fund**

This fund exists to support the Nsambya School, Orphanage and Clinic in Kampala, Uganda that St Luke's has links with, mainly through child sponsorship but also through occasional gifts for other purposes.

### **Church Attendance**

After the annual update of the Electoral Roll in 2019 there were 127 people on the Roll, 58 of these being resident in the parish, 69 being non-resident.

The average weekly attendance for our main morning service, counted during October, was 70 adults and 27 children and young people, though we also conducted one early morning Holy Communion service and three evening services when attendance was lower. Numbers increased at baptism services and major festivals, especially Christmas and Easter. During the whole of 2019, 6 persons were baptised. There was 1 service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child. There were 4 confirmations and 3 weddings, one at St. Johns, one at St. Mary's Langham and one at St. Peter's Boxted. There were 6 funerals.

## Review of the Year 2019

The PCC met 8 times during 2019. The Finance Group met as necessary and reported back to the PCC via the Treasurer. The Standing Committee did not meet formally during 2019 but Standing Committee members made urgent decisions on behalf of the PCC by e- mail, on a small number of occasions.

In 2019, St Luke's PCC sought to advance the Christian religion and benefit the public in the following ways:

- Weekly Sunday public worship services held at St John's and Highwoods Community Centre, on Highwoods, including activities for children and young people, and monthly quiet Holy Communion services held at the Oak Tree Coffee House
- Our Midweek discipleship groups have continued to meet and grow. These groups have enabled church members to grow in their faith, show friendship and support to one another, and to connect with members of the wider community.
- Running monthly Men's breakfasts at a local pub.
- Supporting CYO in the running of prayer spaces in local schools, to enable children to have an experience of prayer.
- Running a variety of community events and children's activities
- Running a weekly term-time parent and toddler group.
- Running a weekend away at Assington for church members to explore the Christian faith together and spend time building relationships.
- Providing an e-mail-based 'PrayerNet' enabling church members and others the opportunity to share needs and concerns with church members, who then pray for the situations shared.
- Supporting church members trained as Street Pastors who offer a listening ear, help and friendship to the youth culture in Colchester town centre on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Supporting Colchester Foodbank which provides emergency food parcels to families and individuals in crisis, and Beacon House, which supports people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or in insecure accommodation in Colchester.
- Giving 10% of our annual income away to a range of local, national and international charities and Christian ministries.
- Running a child sponsorship scheme for children attending Nsambya School in Kampala, Uganda.
- We sent a small team to visit the project in Uganda in Feb 2019.
- Continuing our support to Dave and Trish in Tanzania, encouraging our church family to support them both financially and in prayer.
- Running a community coffee shop - 'The Oak Tree Coffee House' - in Highwoods Shopping Centre. As well as being a pleasant venue in which local residents can enjoy a range of good

quality beverages and snacks, and purchase local crafts and 'TraidCraft' products, the Oak Tree is also used as a meeting venue by St Luke's for various groups outside business hours and is available for hire by other community groups. The Oak Tree has been established under a separate legal entity, Highwoods Community Interest Company, in which St Luke's PCC is the majority shareholder.

- Set up the Oak Tree Chaplains, who offer a listening ear and an opportunity to talk at the Oak Tree Coffee House on a Wednesday morning.
- Reports have been received from Deanery Synod.
- Links with schools in the parish have continued to develop, including being involved in assemblies, lessons, church visits, mentoring and prayer space.
- We continue to provide a Chaplain for the Gilberd School in a joint partnership with St. Luke's, CYO and the Gilberd School.
- We renewed the contract of our part time youth worker, who now has a fixed term contract until summer 2021.
- Welcomed Revd. Anne Mason as a self-supporting Curate, sharing her between St. Luke's and 3 rural neighbouring parishes.
- We celebrated the priesting of our Curate Revd. Chris Smith, with a large church BBQ.

On behalf of the PCC

Revd Hannah Cooper  
Chair of PCC

## Church Property Report 2019

There were no major items of expenditure in 2019.

Lynne Gettings and Mark Harris

## Diocesan Synod Report 2019

**Chelmsford Diocesan Synod** is the body who make the decisions about the Anglican church in Essex and East London. They meet three times a year, for a whole day on a Saturday.

The meeting in **March 2019** was in the Cathedral. The Bishop spoke about the need for sustainability and mutual support. There were presentations about how the **Mission and Ministry Units** (MMUs) were providing mutual support in different ways and the motion was passed for the forming of the remaining MMUs by the end of 2021. Joel Gowan gave a presentation about the **new Christian communities** around the diocese.

In **June 2019**, the Synod met at All Saints, West Ham. The main topic was about **building constructive relationships with those of other faiths**, to be able to work together for the good of our communities. There were presentations from a group called “Faithful Friends” in Forest Gate. The motion was passed: *In the Diocese of Chelmsford we commit ourselves to a confident engagement with the world rooted in our understanding of the revelation of God in Christ, and call upon all parishes to reach out in friendship, neighbourliness and witness to people of all faith traditions.*

In **November 2019**, there was a debate about **finances** and the need to **move from a position of subsidy to one of sustainability** (our diocese has historically been supported by the national church). Our aim is to resource ministry in a sustainable manner across all MMUs, so that Christ’s church might be a Transforming Presence across Essex and East London. The new proposal will mean that when looking to fill vacancies, the ability to financially support ministry will be sought from the parish, or a parish with its MMU. This will have come before Synod again in March 2020.

The **Rev'd Ade Eleyae**, the new Bishop’s Equality Adviser, gave a presentation on the booklet from the Pastoral Advisory Group for the House of Bishops: **‘Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together’**. The Bishops’ hope and prayer is that they will be used in all churches to help us think through our welcome and our pastoral care.

## Deanery Synod Report 2019

Lay representatives plus clergy from all the Colchester Anglican churches meet three times a year, to hear what’s going on in the Diocese and nationally, and to discuss and share ideas about how we can work together more effectively across Colchester.

### 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at St. Stephen’s Church, Colchester

- A number of presentations were given on Pioneer Ministry and activities within the Deanery.
- Ruth Patten is our new Archdeacon and she will be collated on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Chelmsford Cathedral.
- Beks Korniej is standing down so we need a Deanery Youth Champion (or perhaps one for each MMU)
- After yet another murder & stabbing, there is fear & concern on the streets of Colchester, and fewer people sleeping out. Street Pastors have asked for prayer for peace.
- Mary Durlacher – General Synod was evangelism focussed.

**20th June 2019 at St. Andrew's Church, Wormingford**

- Dave Cornell, St. John's Church, spoke about mission trips to Romania. He had just returned from the first of 3 trips from St. John's this year.
- Hugh Thomas, St. Luke's, Highwoods spoke about the CCS (Course in Christian Studies) and gave information regarding the course starting in September.
- Presentation from Reverend Janet Nicholls (Diocesan Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain), regarding her role and rural ministry.
- Dot Salmon gave a report on Youth Ministry and thanked Beks Korniej for the work she has done.
- Youth Synod has had its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting this year. it is really encouraging to see young people's voices being heard at Diocesan level.
- The Area Dean reported that a number of clergy will be leaving this year.

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at St. John's Church, Colchester**

- Election of DSPC and Diocesan Lay Members. Diana Benge-Abbott spoke about the vacancies for 1 lay person for Diocesan synod and for the Deanery Standing & Pastoral Committee.
- Tim Abbot from Christian Youth Outreach (CYO) gave a presentation about the work of CYO, in particular regarding their chaplaincy work in local schools.
- Presentation from Joel Gowen (Diocesan CEO), on some of the significant challenges we are facing in the Diocese and the areas of focus over the next 3 years.
- Paul Norrington gave a progress report on the Deanery Vision Plan. Work is still ongoing but he hopes that the document will be ready by the spring synod.

**LLMs' Report 2019 – to be delivered verbally at the meeting**

## CHURCH LIFE REPORTS

### Mission & Ministry – Colchester

#### Ministry Team 2019

We believe that every person who has been baptised into the body of Christ has been commissioned by Jesus for ministry in his church. This belief is lived out by encouraging and equipping every member of St Luke's Church to fulfil their part in Father God's mission of love to the whole of humanity.

Included in our ministry team are a team of paid and licensed staff who encourage and guide the ministry of St Luke's Church.

#### Paid Staff

Administrator	Guy Giraudeau
Children's and Families Worker	Karen Cakebread
Youth Worker	Sammy Thomas

#### Licensed Staff

Priest-in-Charge	Rev. Hannah Cooper
Associate Priest	Rev. Paul Mann
Curate	Rev. Christopher Smith
Curate	Rev. Anne Mason
Licensed Lay Minister	Diana Bengel-Abbott
Licensed Lay Minister	Hugh Thomas

Chris Smith, Curate

#### Evening Services 2019

Highlights of 2019: Each Evening Service has continued to develop a distinct identity and purpose as reflected in the following:

- Week 1 - Revelation
- Week 2 - Refresh
- Week 3 - Rest
- Week 4 - Remember (Holy Communion)
- Week 5 - Healing

- There are some members of St Luke's for whom the evening is their St Luke's congregation

#### Future Plans

- Growth of an evening congregation

#### Prayer Points for 2020

- All those involved in serving in the Evening Service in any way
- Growth

Revd Hannah Cooper, Priest in Charge



## Midweek Discipleship Groups 2019

Mid-week discipleship groups were launched during 2017, and have incorporated some of the continuing missional communities such as Men Behaving Boldly, Mum's the Word and Mature Oaks.

We encourage everyone within St. Luke's to belong to a mid-week group, either missional community or discipleship group. To give you a flavour:

**During 2019, we have the following discipleship groups lead by:**

### **Tuesday**

Jennifer Greenley  
Sarah Adcock and Julie Allston  
Chris and Emma Smith

### **Wednesday**

Janine Wilde & Si Cooper  
Paul and Lorraine Mann

### **Thursday**

Hugh Thomas (Mature Oaks)  
Diana Abbott  
Tim Ford and Diana (Thursday church)  
Mark Russell (Men behaving Boldly)

### **Friday**

Susie Sanderson & Karen Cakebread (Mum's the word)  
Hugh Thomas & Adrian Jones

Please pray for the leaders of each of these groups, and for the members that are meeting regularly to study the bible and pray together. If you are currently not within a missional community or a discipleship group, please do get in contact with me, and I can attempt to match your requirements with a group!

Revd Hannah Cooper, Priest in Charge

## Flair Report 2019

Flair was St Luke's monthly craft event for Highwoods families. After running for more than two years and having been enjoyed by a good number of local families, the final Flair took place on April 13 2019. We would like to express our thanks to everyone in the church and community who gave up their time and energy to make Flair happen. We know that many families were sad to see it go but unfortunately the core team members were unable to sustain it any longer. We believe that seeds were planted through Flair and will bring fruit at the right time. During the lockdown in March and April 2020 Sam was able to use all the remaining Flair materials to make craft bags for distribution to children in the local community and beyond. This was an unexpected blessing for the community almost a year after the event ended! Praise the Lord.

Sam and Ryan Huttley, Julia and Hugh Thomas

## Mature Oaks 2019

The Mature Oaks group exists to support those who are "of riper years."

Our aims are:-

- ✓ to help us to get to know one another better and
- ✓ to help one another in our Christian walk and offer practical support as and when we need it.

- ✓ to fulfil the church's vision statement – Rooted in the Father's love, growing in the power of the Spirit, reaching out with the love of Jesus.
- ✓ to reach out to others in the community.

### **Highlights:**

As with previous years, a major feature this year has been the support offered by the fitter, more mobile members to those who have been unwell. In a number of cases, those in hospital or house-bound have been visited regularly. I have been really encouraged by this aspect of our community life. We have met weekly on Thursdays to share a meal as in previous years, with alternate weeks sharing coffee and chat with our brothers and sisters at Great Horkesley.

### **Prayer points:**

Please pray -

- a) that we will continue to grow in our Christian faith as we get to know each other, and Jesus, better.
- b) for strength and continued good health for us, and
- c) that our new pattern "Out for Lunch Thursdays" from 12.30 till 2.30 alternating with coffee mornings from 10.00 till 12.00 will prove popular and workable.

Thanks to all our "matures" for their continued support and enthusiasm which has made the group such fun.

Since this was written, some 6 months ago, there has been major disruption, so that these Prayer points need modifying! c) should now read that our new pattern of meeting for virtual coffee on Zoom, should continue to serve the needs of our group, with continuing mutual support for those of our number who do not have the internet.

- d) That we will be able to continue to meet face-to-face in safety at church meetings.

Hugh Thomas

## **Oak Tree Coffee House 2019**

This team is outstanding as is made up of so many people, not just those that serve on the shop floor. I am thankful and grateful for each one.

We finished our second year in a row in the black. All the work Adrian and I put into our spreadsheets has paid off. Coupled with an exceptional Finance Director and an outstanding Assistant Manager, we are continuing on the right track.

We continue to pass our Food Safety Inspection with the highest marks possible. A wonderful remark made about our attention to detail regarding allergens delighted us. We go above what is required to ensure we are providing all information necessary to keep those with allergies safe. Huge thanks to Glenda Shereni for all her hard work.

We are constantly adapting and changing to match the environment in which we serve.

We were a part of the Big Picture Charity Films Quiz nights and this was a tremendous success. The team performed admirably. It is a privilege to work with BPCF.

I was again invited to judge the Bake Off at the local school. I love our links with our community, especially those which allow me to eat cake!!!

We also hosted the Arts Centre for a Christmas Carol Recital. This was such a lovely evening. We also hosted an Open Mic Night to help Sarah Noles raise funds to go Tanzania. Lots of fabulous people came and took part, we even had a debut comedy stand up routine from Jeremy Noles!!

I consider myself blessed to be in this job, to be surrounded by some many incredible people who freely give up their time to bless our community. My job would be impossible without them. What we have achieved here at the Oak Tree is down to my team as much as it is to my Directors and my contribution. This job is a vocation, I know and believe that I am exactly where Father God wants me. He is the reason why I serve in the way I do and the cause of everything that is good.

Susie

## **Men's Ministry 2019**

### **Men Behaving Boldly – Missional Community**

Men Behaving Boldly are a group of Men who believe the message of Jesus is true, relevant and much needed in the UK today. It exists to engage men in every aspect of their lives and is accessible to men from every background, church and culture. MBB is a Missional Group belonging to St Luke's Church, Colchester.

### **MBB – Going Deeper - Bible Studies**

We have continued to meet twice a month in the Oak Tree Coffee House - as it says, going deeper. A chance for us to dig into the bible and see what it says and also how it relates to our lives. We also spend time praying for each other - yes men do pray!

### **Men's Beer and Prayer – at the Rovers Tye**

We continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month for manly discussion, a beer or two (other drinks are available) and prayer.

### **Men's Breakfast**

This monthly meeting continues to attract not only men from St Luke's (and other Churches) but non-Christian men as well. This is well attended and recognised by The Balcerne Gate as a great event where they welcome us. We just chat and eat saturated fat - what more could a man ask for?!!

**The Gathering for Men** During the year a Good group of us attended the 'Gathering' held in a field near Swindon with 2000+ other men. We had 14 Men attend this year and already have 13 booked in for this year! Room for more if you want to join us.

2000+ men meeting together in one big top to worship, pray, learn and have loads of manly banter together! It's a site to behold! Again, our catering Chef, Chris Akehurst excelled in his culinary skills and kept us fed!

**Men's Practical Support** – support for those in the community and Church who need practical help, from gardening to decorating and anything else men can put their hands to. Just ask if you need any help!

**Points for prayer:** more involvement by the men in St Luke's in MBB activities. Come on men - you know you want to!!

Mark Russell

## **Women's Breakfast 2019**

The Women's Breakfast began in 2014 as part of the Mission events in partnership with The Ark Methodist Church and the Salvation Army.

We continued to meet on the fourth Saturday each month from January to June in 2019 with an informal gathering in The Oak Tree for food and fellowship. However, whilst those attending enjoyed the group, it became apparent during this time that perhaps the season for this group was finishing. During the Summer I felt it was right to lay down the organisation for the group and the monthly meetings came to a natural end – although I am sure that many more informal meetings have happened due to the friendships formed within the group.

We thank God for all the seeds sown and lives touched during the 5 years of this ministry.

Jo Russell

## **Colchester Deaf Church 2019**

**Colchester Deaf Church** started in 2004, meeting one Sunday afternoon a month. The service is in British Sign Language, providing for those people who have no other access to church services or ministry. In the summer of 2019, there were a lot of changes and we faced the possibility of the church having to close.

**Colchester Deaf Church needed new vision, a new venue, new leadership, new oversight and new support.**

**New vision:** There was a picture given at Assington of an old well which had become dry and blocked; then striking on the rock like Moses, and a new well of living water springing up.

Two members of the church, Diana Bengel-Abbott and David Spayne, started the Mission Shaped Ministry course in September 2019, finding support from others involved in pioneer ministry around the town.

**New oversight and support:** In September 2019, St Luke's PCC agreed for the Colchester Deaf Church to come under the umbrella of St Luke's, allowing the possibility of stronger links in the future. Some members of St Luke's provided practical help such as baking cakes and IT support, and some came to join our services.

**New venue:** In October 2019, the church started meeting at The Oak Tree Coffee House, providing a welcome space for us. Please continue to pray for us as we reach out to those who are isolated by their deafness, with the love of Jesus presented in their own language.

Diana Bengel-Abbott

## **Children's Ministry (0-10yr olds) 2019**

### **Highlights:**

- This year we started a new community project called MUNCH (working with The Ark Methodist Church and volunteers from St Luke's Church). We provide hot meals for families during the school holidays. We ran 6 MUNCH lunches last year meeting 10 different families (who attended at varying times) and finished the year off with an amazing Christmas Party where all the children left with a present (all kindly donated).

- G Force and First Roots have been trialling something called ‘Godly Play’ on a monthly basis during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Service. Godly Play is an interactive story telling tool developed to ignite children’s spiritual styles and bring them closer to God. It has been amazing watching the children grow through these sessions.

#### **Plans:**

- Having completed the training for Bethsozo (a tool for prayer ministry which offers inner healing and seeks to deepen one’s relationship with God) my plan is to build confidence in using the tools that I might be able to use these with adults I support pastorally and in the future, to use it with our children.
- That I would attend a 3 Day Training Course to enhance our Godly Play experiences with a focus to using this in our local schools.

#### **Prayers:**

- That we would see spiritual growth in our children as their relationship with Father God deepens through the use of Godly Play.
- That we would see a real blessing and outpouring of the Holy Spirit during our MUNCH lunches and that strong relationships would be made with these families.
- That God would continue to bless all that we are a part of through this role which includes our schools work (RE workshops, prayer spaces, yr 6 transition workshops, assemblies, church visits), toddler group, Sunday groups (First Roots, G FORCE), Midweek groups (GF+, GF takeaway), MUNCH and Community events (Easter, Summer, Light Parties, Christmas).

Karen Cakebread

## **Youth 2019**

### **Break Out**

During 2019, St Luke’s youth continued to meet on a Sunday morning as Break Out – meeting weekly in the Oak Tree Coffee Shop - growing in faith and fellowship. We had put together a small team of volunteers who were happy to help out with the youth – blessing the youth with their faith, sharing their life experiences and understanding of the Bible. The Sunday Break Out sessions continued to be Bible based – combining games, crafts, videos and much more to deepen the youths understanding of the Bible and we saw real excitement from many of the youth and a real longing for a continued (or in some cases, new) commitment to Christ.

The youth undertook several sponsored events, a car wash and an auction to raise money for a summer weekend trip away to Solid, where we saw a real excitement from the young people – engaging in both the physical and spiritual in order to bond not only with each other but really spend some time with Jesus, singing, dancing, praying and much more whilst exploring their faith and journeying with God.

### **Mentoring**

Those who already had mentors in place from the year before continued with their meetings, but those who came up into Break Out and those who weren’t currently in the mentoring program unfortunately remained without – Existing mentors/ mentees were contacted to ensure all was running smoothly, and those without were contacted to see if this is something they would be interested in, in a bid to move the scheme forward and include all the youth that felt this is something they would benefit from.

## **Mid-Week Group**

The Mid week group continued, running on a Friday night for those who wanted to attend. For most of the year this ran in the Highwoods Youth Centre but had to move to the Oak Tree as the Essex Youth Service had a policy that required a higher age average to the group than we were currently seeing. During these sessions the youth spent time building positive friendships with each other, played many games to engage them and looked at both the Youth Alpha course before moving on to “life topics” such as bullying, how to deal with stress, internet safety etc. The Midweek group saw several youth social events – where youth were encouraged to bring friends along. The included activities such as: Laser tag, roller skating, team building at Go Bananas and movie nights.

## **Prayer points:**

- That the youth would continue to grow in their faith, feeling loved and encouraged as part of the St Luke’s family.
- That we are able to get the mentoring scheme fully up and running – with youth and mentors meeting monthly to check in and discuss life and faith.
- That God really speaks those who feel a calling to work with the youth, leading them to come forward, expanding the team of volunteers who work within Break Out.

Sammy Huttley

## **Chaplaincy at The Gilberd 2019**

This was my third year as School Chaplain, through a 3-way partnership with St Luke’s, CYO, and the Gilberd. There are 3 parts to the role:

### Pastoral Support

- I provided weekly mentoring sessions, along with Tim Abbott, for students referred to us through the school Pastoral team.

### Spiritual Development

- I led assemblies for each year group on the topic of Lent and Easter, and in conjunction with the RE department offered the year 7s the 40Acts Challenge (Easter egg prizes!)
- I supported the Gideons who came in for an assembly and to offer Bibles containing NT and Psalms which the majority of students took.
- I prepared and taught a lesson on The Bible to 12 year 7 classes.
- The lunchtime Big Questions club has continued to enable discussions about life and faith.
- I supported the Sanctum project run over 2 weeks by CYO.

### Being Available

- I have provided mediation sessions for pairs and groups of students who have experienced serious fallings-out to help move them on from what seemed to be irreconcilable situations.
- Once again, I supported St Luke’s transition day for two groups of Highwoods School year 6 students, taking along 4 year 7 students from the Gilberd to offer advice and answer questions.

### Training and Support

- Support and supervision is provided by Tim Abbott (CYO), and Revd Hannah Cooper (St Luke’s).
- Gilberd Safeguarding update training.
- St Luke’s Prayer Support: I have developed a ‘virtual’ prayer group, sending Gilberd prayer requests by text.

- Provided a gift of mince-pies at Christmas, hot-cross buns at Easter, and strawberries and cream in the summer for the Gilberd staff.

Please Pray for:

- Wisdom as I discern whether to continue in this Chaplaincy role.
- Additional people to support chaplaincy and mentoring.
- Continued good relationships with the school.

Revd. Anne Mason

## **Pastoral Care Team 2019**

The Pastoral Care Team seeks to oversee the pastoral care that is exercised within the fellowship of St Luke's. This important ministry is undertaken **by our members for our members**. This is an important principle, as we are all part of this ministry. For every act of loving kindness that wells up from the compassion set within us is part of the fulfilment of St Paul's charge to the church in Rome when he writes about 'Love in Action' (see Romans 12:9-21).

The outworking of this has been providing practical care and support, meeting short term needs for folk within our fellowship. We continue to provide this care in accordance with appropriate guidelines, especially when this involves the needs of children and young people and those who are 'vulnerable adults'.

A small team has met regularly over the past 18 months and in our meetings we both pray over and review our pastoral care provision. This is always undertaken in such a way that confidences are maintained and respected. Our main areas of focus have been:

- What pastoral care have we been able to offer?
- Have there been any 'missed opportunities'?
- Where do we focus our effort in the future?

Our most recent meetings have additionally included a review of the pastoral care that has been offered through the 'St Luke's Helping Hands' initiative that has reached out to those who have needed support during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The Pastoral Care Team is connected into the overall ministry of St Luke's through the Ministry Leadership Team.

Pastoral Care Team: Paul & Lorraine Mann, Hannah Cooper, Chris Smith, Diana Benge-Abbott, Karen Cakebread, Janet Jones, Hugh Thomas and Jo Russell.

If you know of a pastoral need please do ensure you pass this information on to a member of the pastoral team.

## **Prayer for 2020 and into 2021:**

- That Father God would continue to guide and inspire all of us to look with care, concern and compassion on those around us during these unprecedented times.
- That we would continue to make a difference and be aware of the different pastoral needs of both the congregation and the local community.

May Father God continue to bless us **all** in all we do.

Paul & Lorraine Mann – Pastoral Care Co-ordinators

## Assington 2019

### Highlights

The St Luke's Church weekend away at Assington is always a high point of the year. 2019 was another success; from a new welcome tent to really enjoyable team sports and a sun-soaked outdoor baptism – the whole church family was engaged in a great time of fun, fellowship and worship.

The weekend's teaching was on the theme of 'counting the cost' and the home team presented this in three sessions; looking at St Luke's past, present and future. Each session finished with a powerful time of prayer ministry where we could all see God at work amongst us.

### Future Plans

Assington has been booked for the weekend 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for another weekend of worship and fun.

### Prayer Points

For another safe and engaging weekend of growing in faith and friendship.

For a great leadership team to work together and deliver the weekend without burden or stress.

Chris Smith

## Prayer at St Luke's 2019

James 5: 6 says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Sometimes it can be hard to hold on to this, especially in difficult times, yet it is a fundamental truth to grasp. Furthermore, prayer needs to underpin all of what we do at St Luke's and this report aims to sum up the ways we have been seeking the Lord in prayer this year.

- **Corporate Prayer** At present we do not have a regular corporate prayer meeting, though prayer in different forms is a definite element in all our services – morning and evening. Recently prayer has been done differently in our morning services, experimenting with people praying individually or in small groups on a particular theme within the service.
- **Prayer events:** St Luke's and people in it have helped the Community to engage with prayer through the Good Friday prayer event, Flair and prayer spaces in our schools. Last year we had a "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer room over Pentecost and, as always, there was a prayer room at our weekend away at Assington where people could go and engage with God in a way that was helpful to them. *(Please talk to Sarah Adcock if helping with prayer rooms at church is something you might like to do in the future.)*
- **Prayer net:** Prayer net has continued – communicating prayer requests for specific needs to those who are on the mailing list. It is always encouraging being able to pray both for those inside and outside the church and seeing answers to prayer. *(If anyone else would like to be put on the list to pray for needs as they occur, please contact Anne Mayne who organises this.)*
- **Small groups:** As always, our discipleship groups (including our children and young people from First Roots age up) have supported each other in prayer. They have also prayed for other issues as the need arose. A number of groups have followed the online course by Pete Greig on how to pray.
- **Prayer Ministry:** Prayer ministry continues to be an important part of Sundays and there have been several ministry training sessions to equip us further for this. New members have also been welcomed to the team. It is a massive privilege to minister to each other this way



and to experience how God can work through His transforming touch even as we pray. We'd like to thank those who have given feedback and would encourage people to go for prayer or ask someone on the team for prayer after the service. Ministry has also taken place at other times in the week for those who feel they need longer or have ongoing needs. *(If anyone else would be interested in joining the prayer ministry team, please speak to Janet Jones, our prayer ministry coordinator.)*

- **Growing in the Holy Spirit:** At St Luke's we have had several Holy Spirit mornings/evenings where we have prayed more of the Holy Spirit on each other and ministry in the holy spirit is something we are hoping to grow in as a church.

**Please pray:**

- Thanking God for all He has been doing at St Luke's and thanking Him too for the many people who serve in any of the ways mentioned above.
- For our corporate prayer at St Luke's and in particular how we fit it into the fabric of church life given that most of us are pressed for time and have very different schedules.
- For all of us, both collectively and as individuals, that we may experience the power of prayer, be motivated to pray and see the difference it makes!

Sarah Adcock

## **Worship Ministry 2019**

Worship at St Luke's has continued to grow and develop over the past year.

In January 2019, the role of worship co-ordinator was passed on from Susie Shepherd to Emma Smith. The church thanked Susie for her passion and enthusiasm while she led the team. Susie has continued to be an active member of the team, leading worship at both morning and evening services.

As well as a new co-ordinator, we welcomed some new musicians and singers to the team and have been blessed with the continued commitment and skills of our longstanding team members.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed some African-style worship in our morning services, led by Glenda Shereni. This is now a regular feature on our rota, combined with mainstream and traditional worship songs. The encouragement to worship freely in our collective languages is something we look forward to developing.

There have been requests from other churches within our MMU for musical support and in some of these cases, members of our team have been able to lead worship in other places, including at a Deanery event in the summer.

In October 2019, our very own Rhi Haag ran a vocal workshop and shared her expertise and lots of helpful tips about how we can look after our voices and use them to the best of our abilities. This has helped encourage us to make warming-up a priority before singing and is something worth refreshing from time to time.

Making good use of our vocal training, some of the team led carol-singing at a new venture outside the Oak Tree Coffee House. This was in addition to the many other musical opportunities over the Christmas period; family services, community carols and a Christmas morning celebration.

One focus for 2020 is to seek God's direction for what we need to be singing about and how, as we worship together, we can be stirring up the atmosphere and raising the spiritual temperature through our declarations of praise and thanksgiving.

Emma Smith

## **Mission & Ministry – Beyond Colchester**

### **Great Horkesley Mission 'Graft' 2019**

The small team from St Luke's continued to encourage and support ministry and mission in All Saint's with St John's churches in Great Horkesley, and completed their year's commitment in June 2019. Tim and Anne Mason have continued to worship at Great Horkesley, and Anne was licensed in September as Assistant Curate to the parishes of St Luke's Highwoods, West Bergholt and Great Horkesley, and Langham with Boxted.

#### Highlights of the year:

- Strengthening leadership and preaching in both churches; and Focus groups growing in confidence and action.
- Helping to start a regular monthly i-gen (intergenerational) Sunday service with increased numbers of worshippers, interesting activities, and attendance by younger people.
- Opening the 'Take a Break' community Café in St John's church room on Thursday mornings.
- Receiving help from the 'Bats in Churches' project, funding an in-depth survey at All Saints' church, and then taking action to enable us to co-exist healthily, and to mitigate the mess they make!

#### Prayer Points:

- Continued prayerful discernment of God's plans following the year's mission commitment.
- For more people from the village to come to the Café.
- Connecting with people who come only to Festival or Parade Services at All Saints -(115 people came to the Remembrance Sunday service).

Revd. Anne Mason

### **Tanzania 2019**

For a number of years, we have been supporting our dear friends Dave, Trish and their children Titus and Caspian, who were sent as missionaries to Tanzania. We, as a church, have continued supporting their efforts, which is enabled further through Emmanuel International. Late June 2018, after Caspian's birth, the family returned back to Tanzania. During 2019, the family began to sense a call to return to the UK. Dave applied for a job working for a church in Leicester, he was successful and has become an Associate Minister at St. John's church, Hinckley. In September, the family returned to the UK.

The projects they were involved with in Tanzania have continued under the leadership of Emmanuel International.

This will be the last report on Tanzania, but a big thank you to those who financially and prayerfully supported Dave and Trish in their calling to Tanzania, and then their transition back into the UK.

Revd. Hannah Cooper

## **Uganda 2019**

We continue to run a child sponsorship scheme for children attending Nsambya School or local secondary schools in Kampala, Uganda.

In Feb 2019, Revd. Hannah, Jennifer Greenley, Steph Jones and Jo Russell all went out to visit Uganda. Following our visit, I made a request to the PCC to change the way we supported the school. The changes were needed to bring the focus and support back to the primary school.

We have continued sponsoring all the children already in our previous scheme, but for new opportunities we have created a hardship fund, which can be more flexibly used by the school to support students as required.

We have also set up a teacher development fund, which we hope will enable the teacher's opportunities to increase their standards of teaching, give them access to courses etc.

Both of these funds are still running and available and if you would like to give towards either of them please do let me know.

Thank you to all those who have sponsored and who currently sponsor children in Nsambya – it truly transforms the lives of these children.

Revd. Hannah Cooper

## **Mission and Mercy 2019**

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?  
Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.  
(1 Chronicles 29:14)

David in the Bible recognised the importance of generous giving as a response to what God has done for us. He was also fully aware that what we do have, in fact belongs to our loving God and we are stewards of it. As a church, and in that spirit, we aim to give away 10% of our income each year to organisations and good causes outside of St Luke's. The giving group was set up to this end in order to discern prayerfully where this money should go. It meets several times a year, and for this financial year it has comprised Michael Allen, Sarah Adcock, Mark Visagie and Graham Stringer. The group is accountable to the PCC who have the final say on the recommendations made.

Below is the table of our spending this current year and the groups we have given to. Sometimes our giving is influenced by an emergency we feel the need to respond to, but generally it is more planned and regular. Given that there are so many good causes, we put our emphasis on supporting Christian ones. Within that, our organisations tend to fall into one or more of the following categories.

- Organisations with a Colchester focus (e.g. Beacon House, Foodbank, Korban Project (dealing with young homeless) and Friends' International (ministering to overseas students at the university) CYO (schools' work) CAP (Christians against poverty.)
- Organisations which St Luke's members are involved in personally (e.g. VFC - which supports disadvantaged youngsters in China) and the Nsambya church and school in Uganda.
- Organisations which address a more universal need nationally or internationally (such as Tearfund) and CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide – helping all those facing persecution because of their faith.)

- People in Need – a fund administered to assist those in need within our church and our local community.

Ideally, we have a St Luke's advocate for each organisation we support – someone who particularly has a heart for that work and will keep informed about what is happening. Periodically we also have slots during Sunday services where we highlight one of the causes we support.

If anyone wants to know more, please do talk to one of the group and do let us know of any causes or needs you feel we might want to support as a church.

Please pray:

- For generous giving!
- For wisdom for the giving group as it discerns where the money will be best used.
- For the charities and organisations which will receive our money – asking that God will use it mightily to really make a difference to people's lives

Our giving in 2019 was as follows:

<b><u>International</u></b>	
Bishop's Lent Appeal	400.00
Christian Solidarity Worldwide	400.00
Emmanuel International	140.00
Mission Aviation Fellowship	400.00
Open Doors	400.00
Tear Fund - Rohingya Appeal	300.00
Tear Fund (General)	400.00
Tearfund Cyclone Appeal	555.50
Traidcraft Exchange	230.00
Vision for China	350.00
<b><u>National</u></b>	
The Gideons (Bibles for The Gilbert)	300.00
Yorkshire Floods (Flood Disaster Appeal)	500.00
<b><u>Local/Colchester</u></b>	
Beacon House (standing order)	1,002.00
CAP Colchester (standing order)	504.00
CYO (standing order)	2,004.00
Essex Integration	300.00
Friends International	200.00
Night Shelter	300.00
Street pastors	200.00
Treetops (Liveability)	400.00
Total given	9,285.50

Sarah Adcock and Jo Russell on behalf of the Giving Group