

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING

ACCOUNTS

31 DECEMBER 2015

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

INCOMING RESOURCES		Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total funds	
			2015	2014			
Incoming resources from donors		2(a)	67,450	-	67,450	60,466	
Other incoming resources		2(b)	7,604	-	7,604	5,346	
Income from charitable and ancillary trading		2(c)	26,409	-	26,409	21,052	
Income from investments		2(d)	390	12	13,581	13,983	14,480
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES			<u>£101,853</u>	<u>£12</u>	<u>£13,581</u>	<u>£115,446</u>	<u>£101,344</u>
RESOURCES USED							
Grants	3(a)	5,570	-	-	5,570	5,070	
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3(b)	83,963	12	13,581	97,556	89,878	
Church governance and administration	3(c)	23,935	-	-	23,935	2,984	
Major Works	3(d)	53,973	-	27,467	81,440	17,529	
TOTAL RESOURCES USED			<u>£167,441</u>	<u>£12</u>	<u>£41,048</u>	<u>£208,501</u>	<u>£115,461</u>
NET (OUTGOING) RESOURCES			(65,588)	-	(27,467)	(93,055)	(14,117)
GAINS AND (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS							
Unrealised		-	-	1,986	1,986	8,916	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			(65,588)	-	(25,481)	(91,069)	(5,201)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2015			138,519	-	332,514	471,033	476,234
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2015			<u>£72,931</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£307,033</u>	<u>£379,964</u>	<u>£471,033</u>

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

2014	2015	Note	FIXED ASSETS	
			Investment assets	4
332,514	307,033			

CURRENT ASSETS	
Short term deposits	33,902
Cash at bank and in hand	51,583
Taxation recoverable	7,432
Other debtors	2,188
	<u>95,105</u>

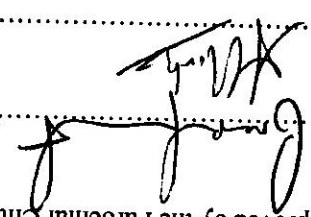
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	
	<u>22,174</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS	
	<u>72,931</u>

NET ASSETS	
	<u>£379,964</u>
	<u>£471,033</u>

FUNDS	
Unrestricted	72,931
Restricted	-
Endowment	307,033
	<u>£379,964</u>
	<u>£471,033</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29th May 2016 and signed on its behalf by:


The notes attached form part of these accounts

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the annual revaluation of listed investments to market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

With the approval of the Church and Charity Commissioners The Nuttall Bequest was closed and the funds used for the alterations to St Bartholomew's Church

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

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources:

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.
- Income Tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.
- Income from fund raising events is accounted for net of incidental expenses.

Other ordinary income:

- Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments:

- Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Resources used

Grants:

- Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church:

- The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings:

- Consecrated and benefited property is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.
- No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefited buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments:

- Investments are stated at market valuation.

Current assets:

- Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

5.

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INCOMING RESOURCES		TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES			
	2(a) Incoming resources from donors:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
		2014	2015	2014	2015
Planned giving	34,569	-	34,569	-	34,569
Income tax recoverable	7,814	-	7,814	-	7,814
Collections	5,857	-	5,857	-	5,857
Legacy	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry donations	19,210	-	19,210	-	19,210
2(b) Other incoming resources:	£67,450	-	£67,450	-	£60,466
Wedding, funeral fees (net)	1,751	-	1,751	-	973
Grant	3,809	-	3,809	-	1,400
Fund raising events	2,044	-	2,044	-	2,973
	£7,604	-	£7,604	-	£5,346
2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading:	10,432	-	10,432	-	3,216
Hire of church	15,877	-	15,877	-	17,185
Hire of hall	100	-	100	-	651
Sundries	£26,409	-	£26,409	-	£21,052
2(d) Income from investments:	390	12	13,581	13,983	14,480
Dividends and interest	£390	£12	£13,581	£13,983	£14,480
	£101,853	£12	£13,581	£115,446	£101,344

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

-continued-

3. RESOURCES USED

3(a) Grants:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	2015	2014
Special collections	-	-	-	-	1,176	1,176
Junior Church	423	-	-	423	423	231
Donations and gifts	5,147	-	-	5,147	5,147	3,663
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church:	£5,570	-	-	-	£5,570	£5,070
Ministry:						
parish share	49,418	-	-	-	49,418	45,692
clergy expenses	-	-	1,915	-	1,915	3,148
Church running expenses	19,746	-	5,401	-	25,147	19,058
Church maintenance and upkeep	-	-	4,420	-	4,420	2,929
General expenses	3,587	-	-	-	3,587	1,058
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	1,845	-	1,845	510
Church hall running costs	10,768	12	-	-	10,780	12,353
Music	444	-	-	-	444	5,130
3(c) Church governance and administration:	£83,963	£12	£13,581	£97,556	£89,878	
Administration	11,596	-	-	-	11,596	1,984
Accountancy	1,100	-	-	-	1,100	-
UPH Repayment	11,239	-	-	-	11,239	-
3(d) Major Work: St Lukes and St Bartholomew Alterations	£53,973	-	£27,467	£81,440	£17,529	
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	£167,441	£12	£41,048	£208,501	£115,461	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

-continued-

4. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Investments held by the Central Board of Finance – Investment units.
Cost at 31 December 2015 was £64,633 (market value £307,033) and at 31 December 2014
£66,792 (market value £332,514).

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Fixed assets and investment	-	307,033	307,033
Current assets	95,105	-	95,105
Current liabilities	(22,174)	-	(22,174)
Fund balance	<u>£72,931</u>	<u>£307,033</u>	<u>£379,964</u>

See note 7 below for identification of funds.

6. LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2015	2014
Accruals and deferred income	<u>£22,174</u>	<u>£3,550</u>

7. FUND DETAILS

The endowment fund comprises the Church School Rooms Fund, Curacy Fund, Lawrence, Cockburn and Bequest.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW, READING

I report on the accounts of the members of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2015 which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the members and examiner

The charity's members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's members consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

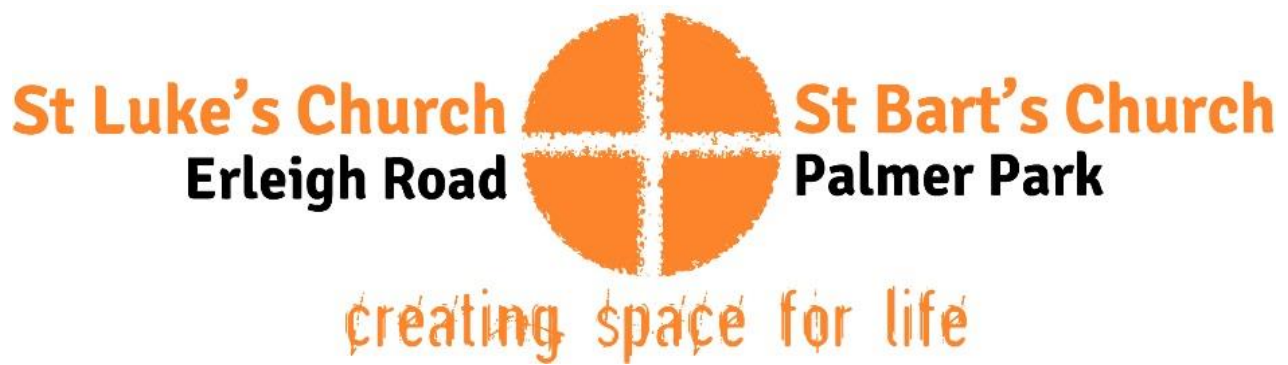
have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J. E. Knowles
34A Chamberlain Gardens
Arboretum Cross
Reading
Berkshire RG2 9QA

Dated 29th May 2016

Accountant



**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Luke with St Bartholomew**

Reading Reg. Charity No. 1,158,694

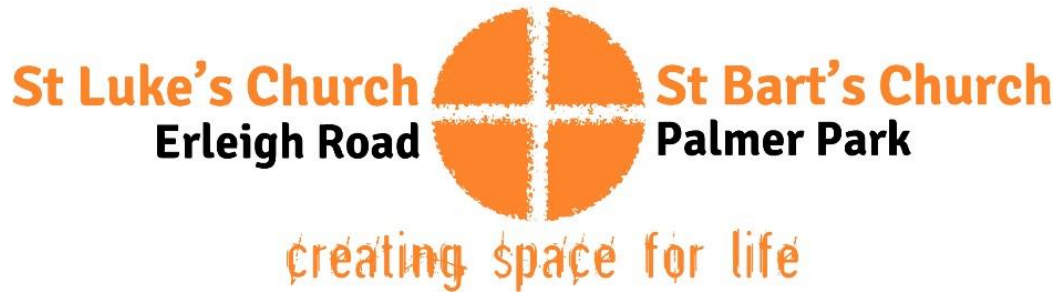
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
24th April 2016**

Agenda

Minutes of 2015 Meeting

Parish Reports

Parish Accounts



THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2016

12 noon Sunday 24th April 2016, Parish Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

(Anyone on the electoral roll of the church, OR resident in the parish may vote in this meeting)

2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**(Only those on the electoral roll of the parish may vote in this meeting.
Others may ask questions and join in discussion at the discretion of the Chairman)**

3. Minutes of the 2015 APCM (see attached papers)
4. Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members
5. Annual Reports:
 - Electoral Roll Update
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Vicar's Report

Lunch is served

6. Ideas and Questions from tables

Dessert is served

7. A.O.B. (to be notified to the secretary by Friday 22nd April 2016)
8. Dates of meetings, to be agreed by the members of the PCC in the Turner Room
9. Closing Prayers

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2015 26th April 2015

Act of Worship

After the Communion Service in St Luke's, the joint congregation moved to the Parish Hall and were welcomed with a drink.

Attendance: 4 clergy, 56 lay members of the joint congregations + their children

Apologies

John and Penny Starr, Emma Pryke, Doreen Smith, Gemma Bagshaw

Meeting of Parishioners for the Choice of Churchwardens

Election of Churchwardens

The following candidates for churchwardens were proposed:

St Bartholomew's Church: Jane Kenyon

St Luke's Church: Alan Tonkyn

There being no other candidates for either post, the above named were elected unopposed.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the 2014 APCM

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting were accepted - proposed by Leslie Green and seconded by Roger Cox, then signed.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

i) Elections of PCC Officers and Ordinary Members

The three Deanery Synod representatives (appointed April 2014) are

Marion Pitman

Sally-Ann McDowell

Leslie Green

and they will serve until May 31st 2017. There is still one more representative required.

There were 9 candidates proposed for ordinary members of the PCC. The following candidates were proposed and duly elected:

Steve Allen

Roger Cox

Mary Evans

David Ewers

Ed Hopper

Simon Peatman

Emma Pryke

Melanie Shrubsall

Libby Stroud

Steve Allen is Deputy Warden at St Luke's, Marion Pitman is Deputy at St Bart's.

ii) Sidespersons

The sidespersons at each church will be (not read out at the meeting)

St Luke's sidespersons:

Steve Allen	Sylvia Allen	Tim Baker
Veronica Cox	Ray Crowie	Mary Evans
Monica Gibson	Bridget Green	Leslie Green
Hilary Jakeman	Gillian Lyne	Anasia Maleko
Everette Marshall	Gwen Richards	Melanie Shrubsall
Jenny Sims	Dianne Tavares	Lynne Webb
Jenny Weller		

St Bartholomew's sidespersons:

Margaret Carter	Bernard Harrington	Marion Pitman
Doreen Smith		

Annual Reports

i) Electoral Roll

At the time of publishing the APCM papers, the results of the new electoral roll were not known. The total number on the combined electoral roll was confirmed as 165; 125 at St Luke's, 23 at St Bart's and 17 from the UPH congregation at St Luke's. The electoral roll was approved.

ii) Treasurer's / Finance Report

The accounts are not complete yet.

In summary – we have spent more than our income. The 2014 accounts (to Dec 2014) include half of the current major building works at St Luke's; the rest will be included in the 2015 accounts. Some reserves have been spent on building works.

The accounts for 2014 are presented as a whole for the Parish, rather than as separate accounts for the two churches and the Hall. This is the form in which they have been submitted to the Diocese.

The accounts, when they have been approved, will be displayed and copies will be available from the treasurer for those who would like them.

The treasurer sought the approval of the meeting:-

'To appoint John Knowles as the independent inspector with the proviso that she could be able to find someone else should it be necessary.'

Proposed by Leslie Green, seconded by Ed Hopper

iii) PCC and other reports – there were some amendments to the reports

p8 - Churchwarden's report- John Starr organizes the monthly Coffee mornings and Wendy Baggley has worked hard for the cake stall and deals with the money.

Rev'd Christine Blackman wished to acknowledge the hard work of Libby Stroud and Ray Townsend before and after the Tuesday evening mass.

p11- Toddler Group- this began in the 1980's (not 1970's)

Lunch was served

Vicar's Presentation

Fr Graeme said that a lot has been going on this year; the reports for the APCM represent only a little of that. Next year is going to be a 'work in progress' for the Vision. It is hoped that by the same time next year we will have a good idea of what is happening and the projects will be ready to go.

It is intended to staff the church 5 days a week, 9am to 5pm; volunteers will be needed to man the church and do administrative tasks. A donor has generously agreed to pay for a part-time administrative assistant to work in the office for two years, who will oversee the volunteers and pull it all together.

St Bart's has had an offer from a theatre school. The work that Michael Johnson and Jane Kenyon have done has created phenomenal interest. Exciting meetings are coming up. It is hoped by September to have something more concrete to announce.

Questions on the projects were invited:

Sheila Cox asked "How is the garden project?"

Fr Graeme replied that a committee has met and they are going to talk to potential partners; they want to work with community allotments associations.

In response to a question from Rev'd Francis Jakeman about who was on the committee, Fr Graeme replied Erica Townend, Margaret Haines, Maryon Halliwell and Helen Usher (a local resident).

A.O.B.

Alan Tonkyn made three points:-

He wished to reiterate the theme that Fr Graeme had used in his sermon 'we need to put hands to the plough'. That a donor is willing to pay for a part-time administrator should make us consider what we give to the church, especially as the Treasurer has shown that we are running at a deficit.

He wished to express thanks to the Buildings Committee for their hard work – to Leslie Green for dealing with the paper work – to Roger Cox, who it was suggested needed a camp bed in the church for all the time he has spent working there. What has been achieved is wonderful.

On behalf of the whole congregation he wished to give a vote of thanks to the Vicar. We are richly blessed to have someone with so much passion for the Church, our church and the Gospel.

Dessert was served: while this was happening the new PCC met in the Turner room to arrange the dates for forthcoming meetings.

Dates of meetings.

May 2015	No Standing Com.	PCC Tues 2 nd June 7.45pm St Bart's
July 2015	e mail Standing Com	PCC Wed 29 th July 7.45pm St Bart's
Standing Com.	Tues 8 th Sept 2015	PCC Tues 22 nd Sept 7.45pm St Bart's

The formal part of the meeting ended at 1.40pm

Melanie Shrubsall
PCC Secretary

PARISH OF ST LUKE WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2016

Vicar's Report

Dear friends,

As we enter our third year of Creating Space For Life, it is exciting to see our shared ministry developing. The St Luke's and St Bart's building projects are completed and are enabling both places to be used by the community in various ways; Sarah is in place as a very effective manager of administration and communication across the Parish, and bookings at the hall are bringing in an income stream that will enable further ministry. The care group are able to offer pastoral ministry across the parish, the garden is almost ready to be launched as a community allotment, and we are beginning to get a better idea of how St Bart's can be used as a community theatre. Furthermore, Sunday numbers are very slowly rising across all ages, and we have had the largest attendance at Christmas and Easter on any of our records. There is much, then, for which we can be thankful and about which we can be hopeful.

To help all of this flourish, the PCC and I have needed to ask how we can best structure our life together in order to create the right kind of space for this new life. Until recently, the PCC have dealt with every single decision the Churches needed to make on every single issue. This has sometimes led to long meetings as people try to develop a parish vision alongside managing the detail of various ministries. This naturally creates a bottleneck, and limits what the Parish can offer. It also limits the number of people who can get involved in take a role in leading and managing the Parish vision and projects.

From May 2016, the PCC will operate in a new way. The PCC will continue to work with myself, the Wardens, and the clergy in developing the vision of the Parish, and ensuring that ministry is being carried out effectively. Small groups will be formed to oversee and develop areas of our life together that the PCC have recognised as being important. They are: worship, hospitality, communication, resources, and budget. Each small group will be headed by someone who is experienced in that area, and they will pull a team together (with at least one PCC member) to develop that area. (I will explain this in more detail at the APCM.) By devolving responsibility in this way, the PCC and I are hoping to see more people being empowered to share in our ministry in this Parish, and hopefully bringing more people outside of our Churches closer to the Kingdom of God.

There are still many challenges ahead, but with Christ at the centre, and praying hearts and enquiring minds, I believe we will begin to see the growth in spirit and numbers that we all long to see as we continue creating space for life.

With my best wishes,
Graeme.

Administrative information

St Luke's and St Bartholomew's are two churches joined into one parish, situated in Reading, Berkshire. They are part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 50 London Road, Reading, RG1 5AS.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity which is registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from the last APCM (26th April 2015) until the date this report was approved are:

Rev'd Dr Graeme Fancourt	Vicar, chairman
Rev'd Christine Blackman	Associate Priest
Rev'd Brian Blackman	Associate Priest (retired)
Alan Tonkyn	Church Warden, St Luke's
Jane Kenyon	Church Warden, St Bart's
Steve Allen	Deputy Warden, St Luke's
<i>Deanery Synod representatives (until 31st May 2017):</i>	
Marion Pitman	Deputy Warden, St Bart's
Sally-Ann McDowell	Treasurer
Leslie Green	
<i>Elected members:</i>	
Roger Cox	
Mary Evans	
David Ewers	
Helen Ewers	
Ed Hopper	
Simon Peatman	Secretary (from September 2015)
Emma Pryke	
Melanie Shrubsall	<i>Formerly secretary; stepped down in September 2015</i>
Libby Stroud	
*until 31 st May 2017	

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election on the PCC. Changes to the structure of the PCC have been approved, to be implemented after the APCM – more details are to be found in the Vicar's report.

Objectives and activities

St Luke with St Bartholomew's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Churches of St Luke's, Erleigh Road, Reading; St Bartholomew's, London Road, Reading; and the Parish Hall, Erleigh Road, Reading.

Church attendance

The number on the Electoral Roll is not known at the time of preparing the Annual Report; however, the number last year was 165. The number for this year will be announced at the APCM. The average weekly attendance in October was 79 (of which 12 under the age of 16) at St Luke's and 15 (of which two under the age of 16) at St Bart's. Numbers for our Christmas services at St Luke's have continued to rise and at St Bart's have held steady.

Review of the year

The PCC has met formally six times since the last APCM (plus one extra meeting to approve the APCM report). The average attendance at the formal meetings was 71%.

The decision was taken that the Standing Committee should no longer meet formally, unless required to in urgent circumstances. (Agenda for PCC meetings are put together by email.)

After several discussions in PCC meetings over the last year, a plan to restructure the PCC, with a series of groups taking on certain responsibilities, has been agreed and is described in the Vicar's report below. Please also find below the reports of the treasurer, church wardens and those in charge of other groups active in the parish.

Simon Peatman
Secretary

Churchwarden's report (St Luke's)

This year has been one of consolidation of elements of the parish strategies initiated in 2014/5, but also of interesting new developments, which I outline briefly below

Vision and projects

The five key areas of activity for the Parish Vision and Strategy promulgated in 2015 continue to form important foci for the life of our churches. In our **Worship**, the Family Services at St Luke's have been renamed 'Messy Mass', and appear to be encouraging some new families with young children to attend church more frequently. The exciting **Garden** project, under the energetic leadership of Erica Townend, supported by helpers from inside and outside the congregation, has made great strides, and the ground has been cleared for planting. **Pastoral care** continues to be manifested in the work of Sheila Cox's group, with special attention to the needs of the elderly, though new group members (especially male!) are urgently needed. Organised **Dialogue** outside church services also continues, principally in the form of the Vicar's pub discussion group 'After Eights', which has dealt with such provocative topics as St Paul's view of the role of women and gay marriage, and the House Group in Eastern Avenue, which in Lent considered evangelism in the light of the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation 'The Joy of the Gospel'. (For a discussion of the **Theatre**, see Jane Kenyon's churchwarden's report for St Bartholomew's.)

In addition to these continuing foci for our mission, the Vicar has initiated a discussion in the PCC of how we **engage with young people** in our Parish to make our congregations a more genuinely all-age community, building on work in our existing Mother and Toddler group, the Sunday School and our small discussion group for teenagers. We aim, amongst other things, to have a presence at the University's Fresher's Fair. Plans for alternative types of service are currently on hold.

Another important initiative by the Vicar has been the proposal, approved by the PCC, to **restructure church governance** with the aim of focusing the PCC's work on broader strategy, whilst involving more people outside the PCC in the detailed implementation of that strategy through the creation of groups. See the Vicar's report for further details.

People

We continue to benefit greatly from the vision and energy of our Vicar, and from the valuable support he gets from our NSM, Rev. Christine Blackman, and, on various occasions, from Rev. Francis Jakeman (retired and living in our Parish).

A major advance has been the appointment of Sarah Collins as our Parish Administrator, relieving the Vicar of many of the routine administrative tasks associated with running the Parish. Sarah is very experienced, having performed a similar role at St John's, Woodley, and has already made her presence felt in areas such as Hall management and support for our church services

We were sorry to lose the services of our excellent PCC Secretary, Melanie Shrubbsall, who resigned from the post in September, but have been very fortunate to secure a worthy successor in Simon Peatman, who also acts as one of our Servers at Communion services.

I would like to record our sincere thanks to Janet Davies, who retired from the position of Hall Manager this year. We owe her a great debt of gratitude for her many, many years of faithful service in this role.

We are very fortunate in having a number of other committed people in the congregation who 'keep the show on the road' in all sorts of ways. They are too numerous to mention by name here, but without them we would not have – amongst other things - music, technology-based aids or flowers at our services, refreshments after services and on special occasions, and rotas for various duties at services and people to perform them.

Buildings

A more detailed report on developments at St Luke's can be found in the report of the Chairman of the Buildings Committee. As will be seen from that report, much has been done to make the interior of St Luke's a less cluttered and more attractive space.

Church finances

The church's financial situation is described in detail in the Treasurer's Report, which combines good news (e.g. buildings rents up, modest increase in Parish Share) with not-so-good (St Luke's giving down, and income still lagging behind expenditure).

'Ride and Stride' and Heritage Open Day.

As before, the churches were both open for the annual 'Ride and Stride' event in September, which raises funds for Berkshire's churches, and which coincided with Reading's Heritage Open Day. We received a small number of visitors in connection with both of these events, but this year were able to make a small contribution to the Berkshire Churches Trust, and to our own church, as a result of the sponsorship of stewards manning St Luke's.

Alan Tonkyn
Church Warden

Church Warden's report (St Bart's Church and Theatre)

Barts has seen a dramatic transformation since last year's report. No longer is it just a place of worship, used only one day a week by a few, now it is alive with students from Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, 36 weeks a year. Read Dance and Theatre College have arrived. Over



the summer months, the building was adapted to accommodate our new residents, with a huge sprung dancefloor in the nave, an office room over the porch and brand new toilets, which have now been twinned with a school block of toilets in Uganda! Since September, the weekdays have been filled with music, singing, dancing and acting while the weekends have been filled with an

intense programme of professional touring shows, dance workshops and theatre rehearsals all using the space, with Jamie and Helen Read as Directors of Read College and Michael Johnson as Theatre Director of St Barts Theatre.

Those four months, until the end of 2015, have been a steep learning curve for St Barts as a venue. It has highlighted, on the one hand, what a great venue it can be, and indeed, St Barts Theatre has been nominated as Best Venue of the Year in Alt Reading Awards 2016! On the other hand, it has also become apparent how under-resourced the theatre project is, both in terms of finance and in manpower. As a consequence, the programming has been scaled down to a minimum and the role of Theatre Director is no longer needed at this time. More involvement is needed from within the Parish!

Sunday still has the 9.15 am Eucharist service and since our Greek Orthodox friends left in the summer, having found a new home in St Mark's church in West Reading, we are enjoying using the beautiful, intimate space of the sanctuary, behind the Rood screen, up the steps, towards the High Altar. The figure of St Bartholomew has joined us there.



The growing friendship with Read College saw the creation of a new joint event over the Christmas period, namely, our first Carol-Oke! It was a lovely evening of mulled wine and mince pies with carols played on one of the college's pianos, by request! A fun evening, hopefully to be repeated yearly, involving both college and church. The Christingle service was held on the dance floor, in the round, and this beautiful service culminated in the candlelit procession around the church, to the usual delight of one and all. The crib service was a glorious opportunity to use the High Altar, as the service was held up in the Sanctuary. The crib scene was hidden under a black cloth beneath the altar, until the children had gone off around the main body of the church looking for Mary and Joseph and the stable and then it was revealed!



Pancake Day saw outrageous competitiveness by the college students as they raced around the church tossing pancakes in the vain hope of getting the coveted Parish Pancake Trophy. It was eventually won by Jamie Read's son, Thom, in just over 10 seconds! Another great evening enjoyed by everyone.

Jane Kenyon
Church Warden

Marion Pitman
Deputy Church Warden

Buildings Committee

Once again we owe a huge thank you to Roger Cox for project managing and in many cases undertaking the many tasks involved in maintaining and refurbishing our three properties.

The statutory inspections and annual maintenance contracts on all three properties are up to date.

Parish hall – Routine repairs, maintenance and replacements of expired equipment have been carried out as the need required. Last year we hoped to install a broadband network and electronic locks on the main door but this is still to be actioned.



The plan to use the garden as a community allotment is taking shape and the buildings group have assisted by arranging for a new boundary fence and secure entrance gate.



St Luke's church – As the year began the final work to reorder the entrance lobby, toilet area, install an office and inner glass doors to Nave, provide a crèche area at the east end on Nave, return the organ console to its original position in the Chancel and replace the choir pews with chairs and free-standing music stands was successfully completed.



We revisited the question of replacing the pews and renewing the Nave floor and have decided that the expense could not be justified at present.



Roger Cox was commissioned to construct a new altar for the Nave and this was dedicated at Christmastide.



The Vicar's vestry was also refurbished and is now fit for purpose.

< Before

After >



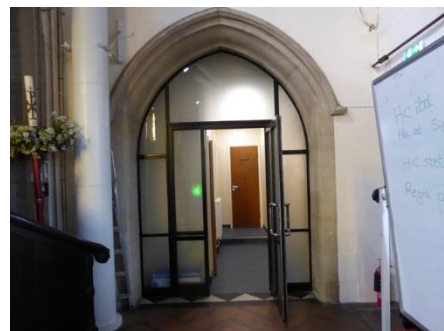
This year we will continue to progress the replacement of the main entrance door and to undertake essential pointing. Both projects are estimated to cost approximately £8,500 each.

St Bartholomew's church – Due to finances only essential repairs and maintenance were carried out on the outside of the building. The outstanding works identified in the 2009 and 2014 Quinquennial inspections on the roof, gutters, downpipes, windows and brickwork have been costed. The total to carry out the work is approximately £250,000. We continue to monitor the state of these items.

As identified last year, a feasibility study to use the church as the base for a Theatre Project was carried out and the results are now being analysed.

In April Read School of Theatre and Dance expressed interest in leasing the space at St Bart's as the venue for their school (36 weeks p.a. term time only). In May it was identified that to enable this to happen we had to install new toilets for the students and if the school were to start operations in 2015 the work had to be completed by 1 September.

We met the architect on 11 May, and the DAC on 21st May. In June we finalised our plans to install 4 toilet cubicles in what had been St John's chapel, met with contractors, and obtained costs and a commitment for the work to be completed by the end of August. We applied for the Faculty for the work and Lease and this was granted at the end of July. The contractors started work in August and all work was completed so that Read School started their new term on time.





This Summer we will arrange a major Spring clean of the inside of the church and carry out some redecoration.

May I conclude this report by thanking all members of the congregation who have assisted the buildings group in maintaining the fabric of our three buildings.

Leslie Green

Music Director's report 2015/16

The choir is starting to settle into a routine of practices and services and has begun to explore new repertoire this year. We enjoyed a very successful Christmas period, carol service and Christmas Day with added instrumentalists, something we hope to continue. The layout of stands and chairs has become comfortable and the sound of the choir continues to improve. Over the next year we would like to organise the removal of our music from the organ loft to downstairs to make it more accessible.

We continue to be affiliate members of The Royal School of Church Music and many choir members have completed their first 'Voice for Life' medals and many are now working on the next stage. We have been using the new edition of 'Ancient and Modern' hymn books for the choir, and have started introducing and exploring new hymns. This year I plan to invest in a new anthem book to supplement our current Music for Communion. We are also getting much more familiar with the new psalm settings and new members of the choir have been taking the opportunity to sing solos or as a small group. The choir continues to rehearse on Sunday mornings at St. Luke's at 9.45am and now on the last Friday of each month, juniors 7-8pm and adults 7.30-8.30pm. We also now have a theory session on the first Friday of each month 7.30-8.30pm for members who want to work on something specific. Sadly, a couple of members of the choir have left us to move to new areas this year. We wish Emma and Quentin well, and we are keen to recruit more members, of any voice part and juniors aged 7 or above in school year 3 or above.

As ever, thank you to those who assist with the other musical aspects; the band for family services, Gordon for accompanying and Timothy for leading the music at St. Bartholomew's. Also thanks to Sarah who ensures all the words and music are prepared for us.

Gemma Bagshaw

Coffee Mornings

The history of the Coffee Mornings goes back a long way; over 20 years ago Ray and Pat Townsend and a team of helpers were running a morning sale of bric-a-brac, cakes and second-hand clothes in the Parish Rooms. On the sale of the Parish Rooms, the Coffee Morning, still extending over 3 hours, moved to the Parish Hall; then with the refurbishment and consequent reduction in storage space, the event took up its present form: 1 hour of cakes, marmalade, bric-a-brac, books, raffle and, latterly, TraidCraft (and home-made candles) and the all-important coffee and muffins! Seated at some half-dozen tables, 'customers' enjoy a good old 'chin-wag' over their coffee!

Whereas, in times past, money raised went to the Parish, we contribute, not just to Parish Funds, but we support local and sometimes international charities as 'the committee' sees fit. Charities benefiting recently were the Mothers' Union 'Away From It All' holiday scheme, 'Chocolatada' (traditional small Christmas treats for the poor children of Pilcamayo, Peru,) and 'Embrace' - support for Middle Eastern Refugees. Our contributions are modest, of the order £100 to £150, and, for example, the contribution from the Cakes stand comes from the pockets of the bakers.

I shall be there at 08:30 on the first Saturday in the month, up the ladder come rain or shine to fix the 'Coffee Morning' banner and pennants; then Ray Townsend and I haul tables and chairs about, awaiting the first arrivals with their cakes and marmalade. It seems that, nowadays, we have nearly as many stall-holders as visitors!! Then at midday tables and chairs are stacked away, and banners and pennants taken down, until next month - if we continue. Might see you there at the Parish Hall, 11:00 - midday, first Saturday in the month??

The following loyal band make the Coffee Morning possible: Ray (Bric-a-brac), Penny, Pat, Dianne, Melanie (cakes), Mary (marmalade), Sally-Ann and Mum (coffee), Hilary (TraidCraft), Libby and Margaret (raffle), John (books). Until recently Wendy has been, not only a cake maker, but a key team member.

John Starr

Deanery Synod

A deanery is the way all of the Anglican Churches in Reading minister together.

We welcomed a new Area Dean, Rev Stephen Pullin.

Synod meetings have been more discursive, engaging all the members in discussion and debate, and focussed on what different churches are doing and can do, separately and together. There is a slot at each meeting for sharing goings-on at one Church in the deanery, which we kicked off at one meeting talking about our hopes for St Bart's. This has made the synod more personal and encouraging, with everyone taking part.

We have taken time to explore a better way to work together as a deanery, developing a mission action plan, and a more collaborative way of paying for parish share. This has involved a detailed mapping exercise of what all parishes currently do and hope to do, and how the deanery might best support that.

Our team of Leslie, Sally-Ann, and Marion has a space for one more to join in during this exciting time for the deanery: speak to us for more information.

Garden Report

Our friends from Berkshire Conservation spent two days in October and November digging up the garden and getting it to the point where we can plant. They came in teams of 15 and 20 on two days. Mary Evans kindly provided plenty of soup and those amazing rolls for the 'workers'. Berkshire Conservation members are really well organised and come with tools, health and safety talk, hot water for teas and coffee, biscuits. They are all volunteers who like gardening. Before the recent works, the garden was lovely in its time, but it's surprising how quickly plants can get out of control. That's why after removing all the weeds, we covered the ground with permeable matting. This allows the water in, but restricts weeds, because it deprives them of daylight. We tried to conserve some plants but it proved not possible. The only trees remaining are the damson tree which Mary Evans has adopted. She will maintain it and use the damsons for jam for church events/sales. The other tree is called a 'ghost tree' (I think) because of its beautiful and unusual foliage. The tree is lopsided but we didn't have the heart to take it out.

Every now and again the wind moves the matting around, so we've been in to sort it out when this happens. Also, there are a couple of stumps remaining, which we hope to remove in the next few weeks.

Also, excellent news, Oxford Diocese has approved funds for the garden. This paid for the new fence that's been put up, thanks to Roger organising this and making sure it's sturdy enough to counteract the weight of the rather crumbly brick wall. Special thanks to Helen Garforth for her work with the funding documentation and liaison. This is a marvellous outcome for us as a community.

Going forward, the plan is for the garden to be put to use to provide food, gardening skills and community for local people. Fr Graeme's in touch with some Reading students who are keen to garden and use the produce for providing communal lunches once a month. We are also thinking of a lock-up shed to put some tools in and usual garden paraphernalia. The vegetable planting season is from February to May, so the next months will be crucial to getting plants in and caring for them, weeding, watering, etc.

The important thing is to make sure the garden is maintained. Like most things, it's one thing to start something, but it's the maintenance that will keep the garden looking lovely and ensure its longevity as a useful and productive community asset.

The core garden team, Helen, Maryon, Margaret and Erica, are excited that the garden has come to this stage in such a short time. We are looking forward to the next stage, when it gets planted up and maintained for the benefit of the community. For more information please contact Erica at Erica.townend@Martinco.com

Erica Townend

Lent House Group

The house group which normally meets once a month on a Monday has been meeting every Monday in Lent. We are using material written by the theologian Paula Gooder, based on the "Apostolic exhortation" of Pope Francis, called "The Joy of the Gospel". It is very good material and has led to some thoughtful and helpful discussions, especially on the subject of evangelism.

Sunday School St Bart's

Sunday School at St Bart's has moved to a more "on demand" service to allow for variable numbers of children. On non-Sunday school days we now involve the children more in services and they take part in interactive sermons and also help by doing the collection and sometimes assist with serving. This has allowed them to become more familiar with the act of worship.

St Luke's Sunday School Report

The Sunday School at St Luke's has continued with a steady group of children attending and a small group of leaders. Numbers of children vary from two to about ten. Non-Choir children have an average age of about 5 or 6 and the Choir children averaging about 10. Our Summer outing was to Bucklebury Farm Park and we had a Christmas party after the messy mass in December.

Sally-Ann McDowell

St Luke's Toddler Group

Following on from last year's Easter time report, in which a steady increase in membership was recorded, our Toddler group continued to flourish with an average mid-twenties attendance every term-time Wednesday morning. Individual sessions varied between 20 - relaxed and peaceful - to 30+ - which could be a little crowded and noisy, especially on a hot July day!

So 'good-bye' at the end of the school year to all the big 4 year-olds who were off to nursery or primary school in September! - but, to our surprise - and dismay - not much of a 'hello' 2 months later to the expected influx of little newcomers!

September was a very quiet month indeed, with weekly attendance of under 10! Enquiries at other local groups showed that we were not alone in experiencing reduced attendance. We never found out the reason, it appeared to be a 'blip,' caused maybe by a combination of colds, chicken pox and unusually warm weather! We had never advertised ourselves, 'word of mouth' recommendations having always been a very satisfactory means of recruitment! However, Pembroke Surgery just across the road kindly agreed to put up a small poster in their waiting room, and the two local primary schools were requested to do the same, and soon numbers were on the up again!

Twenty-nine little ones enjoyed our Christmas Party, with most of them coming into Church afterwards to 'see Baby Jesus in his Crib', and now in March 2016 we have quite a few small babies, including two sets of twins, kicking on the mat, and others at all stages of babyhood from learning to crawl, to learning to ride a trike. There are plenty of other things to do! - drawing, colouring, playing with 'playdoh', puzzles, going down the slide, setting out the train track, playing with cars and the garage, sorting out the farm animals, wriggling through a long blue tunnel ... all for just £1 per week! - a drink and biscuit and a finale of 'Action Songs' included!

Our weekly income has enabled us to buy or to replace: floor mat for the train set, new books for the book box, a new seesaw, a new 'ride-on,' farm buildings, and small cars to go with the garage; to make a termly contribution of £50 to the Parish towards heating the Hall on

Wednesday mornings; and we have recently made a contribution to the Mothers' Union to help them with their finances: we feel privileged to have been able to support these ladies, several of whom have told me how they themselves used to spend one morning of each week in 'our' Hall with their own toddlers, 50 to 60 years ago!!

We are glad that we changed the name of our group two years ago from 'MumsandTots' to 'Toddler Group'! For nowadays we have many Mums - AND quite a few Dads AND some Grannies and Granddads too, and some carers - a true reflection of modern family life, with fathers so much more involved in childcare than they used to be and grandparents playing a big part as well. It all makes for a friendly, happy group with children learning to play together and adults enjoying conversation between the generations!

Many thanks to our loyal band of volunteer helpers (Melanie, Hilary, Francis, John S.) and occasional 'stand-ins' (Janet D. and Jenny W.) for their unfailingly regular support - and to Father Graeme who comes along every first Wednesday of the month to lead the final sing-song!

Penny Starr (Volunteer Leader, St Luke's Toddler Group)

Traidcraft

The Traidcraft stall is in St Luke's church generally once a month on a Sunday, after the Messy Mass, and every first Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall, at the parish coffee morning.

Goods from the Christmas catalogue were very attractive, and sold well. There is a steady demand for the top quality groceries and the excellent cleaning products, especially the washing up liquid and the laundry liquid. All sales produce a profit which I send to Traidcraft Exchange, their development charity, which helps producers to get started in business and work their way out of poverty.

The Lent housegroup was challenged by the words of Pope Francis, reminding us that Jesus commanded us to care for the poor and give them something to eat. We agreed to try and fill the box in church for the Reading Food Bank. We invited the congregation to join us, and there was a wonderful response, with many items being purchased from Traidcraft and given to the Food Bank.

A few of us have also responded to the Christian Aid "Count Your Blessings 2016" leaflet, issued with February's copy of "The Door". The leaflet inspires us with daily opportunities to give, act and pray for communities in need. On 29 February, the first day of this year's Fair Trade Fortnight, we were invited to swap 5 items in our week's shopping for Fairtrade versions. I sold a number of items on 6 March to people who were doing just this swap.

There is still plenty to be done, of course, in the movement towards trade justice. I look forward to an invitation to attend a PCC meeting, so as to explore what more our 2 churches can do as we try to "do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God".

Hilary Jakeman

Cell of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Over the past year, the Cell of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has continued to meet once a month at the Tuesday evening Mass, to offer thanksgivings and intercessions, particularly for those sick in any way, for the needy, and for our Parish, just as if we were on pilgrimage at the Shrine (in north Norfolk) itself. Thus we have been part of the work of the Shrine, which, since its foundation in the Middle Ages, has been a great place of healing, blessings and answers to prayer.

In 2015, we had the pleasure of welcoming to our Cell Masses (and to Tuesday Masses in general) Peter [surname not given for confidentiality reasons], a psychologist from Yorkshire, who was working temporarily in our area and staying during the week with friends in Reading. He was very appreciative of the Cell's prayers and support in his very demanding role, which at one point entailed visiting West Africa during the Ebola crisis, to train and offer counselling to the Ebola workers.

As always, we are very grateful to The Revd Christine, who has taken most of the Cell Services this year, and Fr Brian, our Cell Superior. Thanksgivings and intercessions to be offered at our Cell Service are welcome from *anyone* (whether a Cell member or not): at St Luke's, via the 'Walsingham Intercessions' book, which is on the table by the entrance to the Lady Chapel, or at either Church, through the Clergy, or any Cell member.

Libby Stroud
Cell Secretary

Youth Group

The Youth Group at St Luke's has met roughly every other week in term time since September 2014. We have three young people – Cait, Daniel and Millie – who were confirmed together and now attend Youth Group for further learning and fellowship, as a progression from Sunday School. The group was run by Edda Wolff and Simon Peatman until last summer when Edda departed Reading to train for ordination, and this academic year Simon has continued as a leader along with Emma Pryke.

Alternating between teaching weeks and social weeks, our activities have included watching films, playing board games, making candles (with thanks to Hilary Jakeman) and baking for Mothering Sunday. We have studied the liturgy of our Sunday morning services, prayed the Stations of the Cross and had a whistle-stop tour of the Book of Genesis in pictorial form (from Millie's Creation, to the striking minimalism of Daniel's depiction of Isaac nearly being sacrificed, to the extraordinary hairstyles of Abraham, Hagar and Sarah, as imagined by Cait).

We hope that the group will continue to be a success for our young people through their teenage years, and that we see them continue to grow in friendship and faith.

Simon Peatman

Administrator's report

The new Parish Office along with an Administrator opened for business on 1 September 2015. The Administrator was employed to act as Church receptionist, to market and manage bookings for St Luke's Hall and Church, to function as a PA to the Vicar and to provide general administrative support for services and church led groups.

Early work was on developing and implementing office systems and thanks go to Steve Allen and Roger Cook who gave, and continue to give, significant time and support to this venture. The office has been well received by most people and having the doors open during the mornings has led to many positive opportunities to engage with a huge variety of people.

Visitors to the office have become frequent and made up of Church and non-Church members. There are a number of people who do not worship elsewhere who are visiting St Luke's on a regular basis. Some to pick up the news sheet and events leaflets, some to look around the church and find out more about its history and an increasing number to spend time in the Church sitting quietly/praying.

Alongside the regular weekly admin associated with producing newsletters and service powerpoints, and printing of intercessions, readings and music for the choir, there has been involvement in a broad range of activities. These have included liaising with REInspired who use the church as part of their work with local schools, organising food for the St Bart's Theatre Launch and a small amount of involvement in the Christmas Fair and Parish Weekend. There have been a number of activities associated with Occasional Offices (weddings, baptisms and funerals) and St Luke's has accommodated one wedding, a blessing and a number of baptisms already this year with a number more already in the diary. There have also been four funerals held at the church.

Work planned for the coming year includes producing a contact list, developing the Parish Website and increased use of Social Media to improve both our internal and external communications, and developing a comprehensive system of files for all necessary paperwork and choir music to improve access to information.

At the moment the Church does not have a letterbox so post is currently directed either to the Vicarage or does not arrive. This also prevents hand delivery of forms, cheques and information and return of hall keys. It is hoped that if the new doors are approved this situation will be rectified.

Janet Davies handed over the administration of the hall bookings and has been very supportive to ensure that we did not cause disruption or upset to the long standing relationship she had developed with our users. New booking forms and a computerised booking system have been implemented and invoicing is moving to payment by bank transfer wherever possible.

The hall is now being used on a daily basis with a very wide range of activities taking place. Regular evening bookings have continued – two Tango classes (one of which also regularly holds additional weekend classes), Capoeira, Karate and 5 Rhythms Dance group plus WI meetings (monthly), Yoga (twice monthly). The Church Coffee morning and book sale continues on the 1st Saturday of the month with Zumba on the other weeks. One client

offering a weekly guitar lessons in the Turner Room ceased at Christmas as he was finding it difficult to attract sufficient pupils.

St Luke's Toddler Group continues successfully on Wednesday mornings, the Mothers' Union meet monthly and local councillor surgeries run throughout the year in the Turner Room. Sunday School, Youth Group and the Asian Christian Community make use of the hall on Sundays very kindly accommodating Baptism and Birthday parties some weekends.

The NHS Holiday Club continues to make full use of the hall during school holidays which brings in useful income but does impact on our other users many of whom are unable to run their classes during this period. Family Aid use the whole building for one week in December for their annual Tots and Teens Toy Sort which, again, excludes other users but it is an event which supports a large number of families in need in our community. Family Aid make a donation to the church annually to help with fuel costs during their usage.

Some new clients have started with us: botanical illustration classes ran Tuesday mornings through February and further classes have been booked for May and June, and Boxercise and general fitness classes are being run on Friday and Sunday evenings. The Ladies Book Club is restarting in April and birthday parties run regularly over the weekends. This year has already seen a wedding reception, an engagement party and hosted an exchange of rings celebration dinner.

One of the most significant changes in hall use has been the acquisition of a one year contract with an NHS Therapy Group potentially running until November this year. The group makes use of the hall from 9am to 4pm Monday, Thursday and Friday. When the NHS holiday group/Reading Family Aid are using the hall the Therapy Group use the back of the church and the Vestry for their meetings. This new contract has not been without its challenges. Twenty five people, additional furniture and equipment and food preparation have put some strain on hall use, storage and cleanliness and led to the restriction of access for others.

Work is being undertaken with the group to improve hygiene and Gabriela has been doing an incredible job of restoring the hall and church to full cleanliness each week. Storage is to be addressed with a major clear-out of unnecessary items planned and a deep clean will be undertaken of the kitchen.

The hall offers a fantastic facility both for church use and for the local community. There will always be a challenge to balance securing much needed income but ensuring the facility is able to support all the work of the church as we engage with the community around us.

The office is becoming a busy hub for activities at both churches and the hall. I should like to thank everyone for the very warm welcome and all the support and guidance I have received since I have joined. It is a real pleasure to be part of the team at St Luke's and St Bart's and I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the coming year.

Sarah Collins
Parish Administrator

Treasurer's Report

This report is based on draft figures as the independent examiner has not yet confirmed them. However, even the draft figures are helpful in giving us a broad picture of where we stand. If by the time of the APCM the confirmed figures are found to differ significantly, I will provide a verbal comment at the meeting.

At the summary level, in 2015 we did spend more than our income. This was known at least for St Lukes as we had started major building works. However, we also undertook major building works at St Barts due to the arrival of Read College. We hope their arrival will however be mutually beneficial for both parties. Additionally as has been mentioned earlier in these reports, all UPH funds held by the PCC have now been given back to UPH which amounted to over £11,000 after the deduction of the donation to the PCC of £5,000 for the use of the church since the congregation formed. UPH will now pay rent when services are held in St Lukes as any other congregation would.

One other point of note is that the Charity Commission gave permission for the PCC to close one of our endowment funds (the Nutt Bequest) and so this money was used to fund part of the building work at St Barts to enable us to meet the needs of Read College.

INCOME

Total Income was about £121,900.

Income from donors

In 2015, this was about £65,690 (compared with £60,000 in 2014). Both churches giving is lower than 2014, St Lukes Giving was about £31,535 (compared to £38,388 in 2014) and St Barts Giving was about £5,535 (compared to £7,092 in 2014) , and UPH Giving was about £1,990 (compared to £4,349 in 2014 but UPH ceased to have their funds paid into the PCC accounts mid-way through 2015). Other income came from donations for various items (including the parish administrator and the vestry refit as well as some for St Barts theatre project) throughout the year of about £19,200. The remainder is the expected gift aid refund.

Income from buildings rent:

In 2015, income from buildings rent was about £26,309 (compared with £20,401 in 2014). The increase is due to Read College now renting St Barts for 36 weeks of the year. This only started in September 2015, so we anticipate income in 2016 will be even more. We also anticipate an increase on hall/St Lukes rent in 2016 – see below.

Investment income:

Unfortunately our investment income in 2015 was significantly lower than in 2014 about £13,580 compared to about £21,703 in 2014. This was due to poor returns which were general, plus the sale of the Nutt Bequest to enable us to do the major works in St Barts as the St Barts deposit account did not contain sufficient funds.

Other income:

There was £25,411 in other income during 2015. This included, for example, coffee mornings, weddings, funerals and Christmas Fair. However there was also £6117 generated from St Barts ticket sales or theatre space rental.

EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure was about £211,685.

Utilities and insurance (excluding water)

St Barts spent about £8,945 in 2015 (compared with £7,800 in 2014). This is comprised of gas £3,460, electricity about £1,145 and insurance about £4,340.

St Lukes spent about £12,690 in 2015 (compared with £8,298 in 2014). This is comprised of gas £4,630, electricity about £4,130 and insurance £4,630. As anticipated both gas and electricity were much higher than in 2014 but this was due to costs shifting to 2015.

The hall spent about £6,220 in 2015 (compared with £5,636 in 2014). This is comprised of about gas £3,525, electricity £1,075 and insurance £1,620.

Assistant Staff costs including administrator:

As we show this for the charities commission and church accounts, I thought we would start to show this here too. This is for organists, administrator, music director, assistant clergy expenses etc. Costs in 2015 were about £7,630. Our administrator started in September 2015, but her salary is being paid for by a very generous donation for the first year. We hope she will bring in sufficient funds to more than cover her costs. It does so far look this way as she has negotiated for an NHS group to use the hall (or the church when the hall is in use) during the day 3 days a week for much of the year. This will generate a potential £22,000 in rental income.

Charitable giving:

As in 2014, we did not give 10% of our planned giving to charities in 2015. Our plan is to continue to donate to some local charities regularly and then do one off fund raising for others throughout the year. We did, however, still manage to give £3,163 to charities, which is about £800 lower than in 2014.

Parish Share:

Our Parish share increased from £45,550 in 2014 to £49,420 in 2015. We pay by direct debit so we do get a 1% discount, plus if the deanery pay the full share we also get a rebate. We had intended to not pay in full if we did not have sufficient funds, however we continued as we did indeed have the funds.

Clergy expenses:

Our clergy expenses reduced from £2,638 in 2014 to £1,640 in 2015.

Major works:

As can be seen from the previous reports for this year, plus the report last year, we have completed the major works in St Lukes in 2015 in addition to doing major works at St Barts in order to be able to accommodate Read College. The major works in St Lukes cost about £47,270 in 2015 and those in St Barts cost about £32,940. As stated in last year's report the work at St Lukes was done with money from Mary Turner plus a donation for the vestry refit, and as stated above the work at St Barts was in part done by the sale of the Nutt bequest plus using some of the reserves at St Barts. It is hoped the reserves can be replenished by additional rent to be collected over the next few years.

Other expenditure:

There was about £41,667 in other expenditure during 2015. This included, for example, routine maintenance, cleaning, phones and broadband, printing, gardening, water, vestry supplies, Sunday School/youth work and independent inspection fees. Additionally in 2015 we repaid UPH their funds that had been in the accounts and this was about £11,240. Additionally, it had been hoped the St Barts theatre project would generate income, however, this was not the case and in fact so far we appear to have lost money as the artist's fees were higher than the ticket sales. A final reconciliation has not quite been completed as there is one outstanding invoice, plus the bar costs need sorting out as well as two performance venue hire costs are outstanding. Until this is sorted out I am unable to say exactly how much has been lost but it is in the region of £2,500-£3,000. As such as you will have read in earlier reports, we have put the project on hold for the time being other than for local projects.

BALANCE OF FUNDS

Our usable funds have decreased in value from £144,594 in 2014 to £95,818 in 2015 due to the major works.

We do also have some untouchable funds, which have overall reduced due to the sale of the Nutt bequest plus some reduction in value from £332,515 in 2014 to £307,033 in 2015. These are the Lawrence Bequest, the Nutt Bequest (now sold), the Curacy fund, the Schoolrooms fund, and the Cockburn Bequest.

Reserves Policy

The usable funds that we hold in reserve have been reduced, as we used some of the money for the major building works. The reserves policy was not discussed in 2015, however our accounts show that we still meet the reserves policy as set in 2011.

The reserves policy is still to maintain reserves of at least £5,000 per building for emergency maintenance to the buildings. The maximum amount to be held in reserves was agreed to be £100,000, although we could potentially hold more if the PCC determined there was a valid reason for doing so.

All reserves are held as funds invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England for the time being.

Sally-Ann McDowell
Treasurer