

Annual Report & Accounts 2021 for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Luke's Church, Burton

1. AIMS & PURPOSES

In common with the whole Church of England, our aim is 'To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'.

Locally interpreted, St Luke's Mission Statement continues to be ...

Following the example of St Luke, the beloved physician, we are committed to continuing the ministry of Jesus in the world and working for his kingdom. We will endeavour with all our frailty, but in the power of the Holy Spirit, to share his good news and to live his life in the world today.

The PCC is statutorily required by Church Accounting Regulations to issue this Annual Report.

The Reverend Nigel Lacey left St Luke's on 7th June 2021 (just five weeks after the last APCM), **so this report has been compiled against a background of unexpected vacancy, which is also lasting far longer than anticipated.**

The Churchwardens and St Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) have endeavoured to maintain good management of the parish and maintenance of the church & adjacent hall. The PCC is most grateful to everyone who has given their time, energy and skills over the last several months of uncertainty.

2. OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

Our key objectives continue to be set out in the Parish Mission Action Plan (PMAP). This is structured around the Diocesan Strategic Priorities* but these are adapted to serve our community, both locally and those in need worldwide. With the support of the wider congregation, the PCC is committed to deliver against these priorities and reviews the PMAP regularly.

The clergy recruitment process includes preparation of a Parish Profile. This was approved by St Luke's PCC in mid-July 2021, including a draft PMAP for the new incumbent. Further major updates to the PMAP are likely when the pastoral re-organisation is settled and we can finally plan as part of a new Benefice.

3. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT – how we organise ourselves

The 'Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956' defines the functions and powers of the PCC, which include stewardship of both the mission of the church and its resources.

All PCCs are charities; St Luke's PCC is currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission but its members are trustees, acting under guidance issued by the Church of England.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. All church attendees are strongly encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for PCC election.

The following served as PCC members:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Priest in Charge | Revd Nigel Lacey (Chair until May 2021) |
| Church Wardens | Mr B Brooks (Chair from June 2021) and Mrs J Ward |
| Treasurer | Mrs J Ward |
| Deanery Synod Representatives | Mrs B Evans and Ms K Willis |
| Safeguarding Officer | Mrs B Evans |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Mr S Arnold |
| Secretary | Ms K Willis |
| Members: | Mrs G Bethune, Mrs J Colbourne, Mrs R Cook, Mrs T Furnell, Mrs P Hughes, Ms D Packer, Mrs R Siemaszko and Mrs D Wilkinson (Foundation Governor) who is currently serving part time. |

The PCC held eight full meetings and two extraordinary meetings in 2021, with average attendance of over 78%. The PCC was additionally represented at various meetings with both the Deanery and Diocese, aiming to resolve issues over Parish resourcing.

* We grow authentic disciples, We re-imagine the church, We are agents of social transformation, We belong together in Christ.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND PLANS

Like many UK churches, St Luke's has yet to recover fully from the pandemic, with some still understandably wary of renewing social contact and others put off by ongoing Covid restrictions.

This has been compounded by the imposition of a major pastoral re-organisation, which led first to the departure of Revd Nigel and then, a lengthy Diocesan appeal process. Sadly, these discussions have come to an impasse which the Deanery is still working to address, so St Luke's PCC is operating with the added burden of great uncertainty.

Whilst recognising an increasing reliance on lay leaders across the Church of England, St Luke's is a strongly Eucharist-centred church and the loss of weekly Communion has also impacted on attendance. However the efforts of lay leaders have been appreciated by those attending non-Eucharist services.

Yet more seriously, the whole village had benefitted from having a well-liked and highly respected priest living locally, walking the streets and engaging with people regardless of whether they attended church. The positive impact of this ministry cannot be underestimated and its loss is keenly felt by the whole community.

So, progress against PMAP objectives has been mixed. Nevertheless, we have:

- Maintained regular worship, including new lay-led 'Services of the Word'
- Re-imagined Messy Church (see report below)
- Undertaken training in Pastoral Care and BPP (see below)
- Completed an initial Eco-Church survey, which will underpin revisions to our PMAP
- Maintained our community outreach, through another highly successful Christmas Tree Festival & other events, use of social media and support for Christchurch Foodbank (see report below)
- Enabled local support for the people of Ukraine, through generous donations and regular prayer
- Engaged positively with All Saints, Mudeford and with the wider Deanery.

4.1 Worship and Prayer

Online Sunday services up to late May 2021 attracted a steady average of 106 'views' each week. But, once in vacancy, we very reluctantly had to discontinue this outreach because visiting clergy & lay ministers could not reasonably be asked to conduct two services (one for video and one physically in church).

'Live' broadcasting is frankly beyond our means, both in terms of expensive equipment and the inadequate local broadband signal. It also seemed unfair on the technically-competent members of the congregation who, during the pandemic and beyond, edited content from multiple sources into high quality videos – every week for fourteen months, without fail. The PCC is most grateful to them both, for all their patience and hard work.

St Luke's has been blessed by the support of local retired clergy, with Revd Helen Griffiss and Revd Frank Willett committing to monthly Eucharists as well as many Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. We are also indebted to Mark Ward (LLM) who has very successfully introduced us to some of the services used in the Avon Valley Partnership. Our thanks to all clergy and lay ministers for their support in maintaining Sunday worship and additional services over Advent & Christmas.

We have also taken steps to grow our own leadership. Rachel Cook, Tricia Hughes (LLW) and Karen Willis took up the challenge of preparing & leading a lay service each month. Whilst initially daunting, we have come to appreciate this opportunity and the experience will hopefully allow us to better support a wider range of services whenever a new priest is appointed.

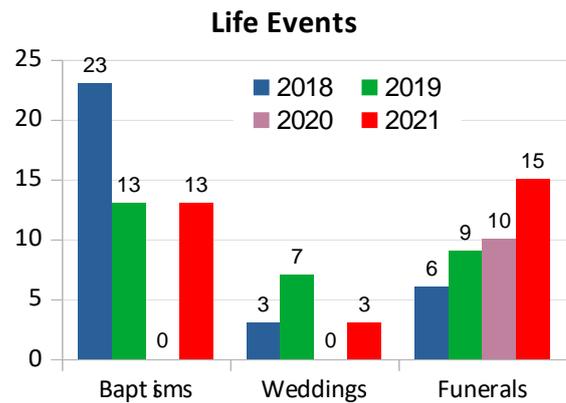
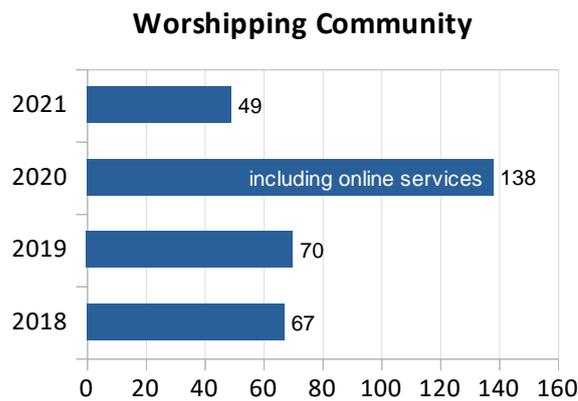
Rachel was also accepted onto the Bishop's Permission to Preach (BPP) 2021/22 course.

Messy Church report, provided by Mrs Hughes

Messy Church has taken a different format since the beginning of the pandemic. Over the months we have produced Messy Church 'Packs in the Porch'. These are bags containing resources for craft activities along with a 'Some Thoughts to Share' sheet for parents/carers and children to read and discuss as they undertake the related activities. We have managed to advertise the availability of these bags on the benefice Facebook website as well as the village website. We produce between 16 and 20 bags each month and some families have posted pictures of the craft work they have enjoyed making. We have covered such themes as Rainbows, Stars, Nativity, Poppies, Light, Friendship etc.

We are looking for ways in which to develop Messy Church and hope in the near future to have face-to-face meetings in some format. For the present we are keeping contact with families through the Facebook pages and we will have a Messy Church table at the proposed Scout Carnival.

At long last, St Luke's has been able to celebrate with those we serve: 13 Baptisms and 2 weddings, plus a Blessing). We have also supported our community through 15 funerals: 6 in church, 3 at a crematorium and 6 burials of ashes by clergy.



79.6% of our congregation is aged 70 or over, and thirteen members (22%) live outside the Parish.

The number on the Electoral Roll 2020 is 60, with one newcomer but one moved away and sadly, one death. (Last year, a death was reported after the APCM report was finalised, but this report is re-aligned with the ER).

4.2 FABRIC REPORT

Church

No major work was required and all required maintenance has been managed; most obviously, the necessary felling of trees and the installation of up-lighting in front of the church. Small DIY tasks are routinely managed by the PCC, with very welcome assistance from volunteers. A Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2022.

St Luke's Church Hall

Bookings have resumed but, post-Covid, several regular hirers decided not to re-start community classes and events. The PCC is very mindful of the physical and financial impacts of closing the hall for a long time during Covid restrictions.

Substantial improvements (eg. new carpeting, replacement windows) will require significant fundraising.

4.3 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

This report has been issued at Deanery level, thanks to John Dowsett of the Avon Valley Partnership.

The first Synod meeting of 2021 in February was conducted by Zoom given ongoing Covid19 restrictions. Synod was informed that the Diocesan Resilience Plans were being progressed and would result in a reduction of 22 stipendiary posts and the post of Archdeacon of Bournemouth not being filled. Bishop Debbie would be attending an extra Synod Meeting in March to discuss. In a presentation to Synod, Luke Maundrell, Diocesan Stewardship and Resources Advisor, said that the Deanery had managed to contribute 81% of its share of the 2020 Common Mission Fund (CMF). Some parishes which relied on fund raising events had seen their income seriously impacted by the pandemic closures. He showed a new video produced to illustrate and clarify the purpose of the CMF, 80% of which is used to pay clergy stipends. Luke emphasised the importance of legacy giving in parishes. New resources to help parishes encourages people to include the church in their wills would be available in 2021. Synod was also reminded of the resources available via the Diocesan Parishes Resources Website and the Parish Buying Scheme, which also featured how to utilise the 'Give a Little' App. QR codes on posters etc were also useful.

At the meeting in March, held by Zoom, Synod welcomed the Bishop of Southampton, the Right Reverend Debbie Sellin, and the Archdeacon of Winchester, the Venerable Richard Brand. Bishop Debbie, introducing the Resilience Exercise, said that before the pandemic, the Diocese had an unsustainable deficit and then Covid 19 has exacerbated the problem. Cuts in the budget for the Diocesan Office and axing of some central posts, together with the sale of Old Alresford Place would save £0.75 million. The remaining £1.25 million had to be found from clergy posts and housing. This had resulted in the need to cut 22 stipendiary posts throughout the Diocese. Richard Brand commented that the reduction of posts had to be sustainable and carefully worked out. For the Deanery this meant the loss of an associate priest in Ringwood and the formation of 2 new benefices: Mudeford with Burton, and Bransgore and Hinton with Burley and Sopley, resulting in the loss of one post. Bishop Debbie

acknowledged the graciousness with which the proposals had been received. The meeting broke up into smaller groups for further discussion and, after reconvening, Richard Brand responded to questions raised. He made clear that the option for benefices to have local church committees, as sub-committees of a single PCC, had been included in later drafts of papers on the subject. He did not feel that an alternative structure, involving Joint Councils, would result in simplification of structures. It was noted that a question had been submitted to Diocesan Synod querying the loss of the 2 posts from Christchurch Deanery.

At the June Synod Meeting held by Zoom, Professor Victor Humphrey from the Diocesan Environmental Group gave a presentation on caring for God's Creation and addressing climate change. He explained that the problems were current, with increasing loss of biodiversity and a continuing rise in temperatures, making 2020 the second warmest year on record. He talked about ways to raise the profile and encourage tangible action in response to climate change, and challenged Synod members to decide on one thing they could do in their parish to improve their 'Eco church' status.

The final Synod Meeting of the year in September was the first to be held in person for over a year. Matthew Trick gave a thought-provoking presentation – 'Learning from Covid'. He suggested for many it has been an exhausting time navigating through the pandemic, but that there are many points we should be thankful for. He asked Synod to consider what impact the recent changes churches have made might have on our Mission Action Plans. Also at the meeting, Gary Philbrick led a workshop based on music as part of worship. The various roles of music included being an integral part of services in the Coptic Orthodox church an enabler of prayer, as a gift from God to us, and as a way to reflect the church's different seasons.

Throughout 2021, the Deanery continued its support for the Kinkiizi Diocese in Uganda. Whilst it has been very challenging for Kinkiizi dealing with Covid, it also proved to be the best ever year for Deanery fundraising, with over £10,000 raised through the '40 for 40' Lent and Covid appeals.

4.4 ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

St Luke's Church continues to be a member of the Christchurch Fellowship of Churches.

Due to continuing Covid 'spikes', the children and staff at Burton Primary School have not yet resumed Collective Worship. However, St Luke's has been approached about the practicalities of restarting 'Open the Book' visits in the near future. We hope that Burton Green URC will continue to work with us, and we are reviewing the possibility of involving other local churches too.

We continue to enjoy good relationships with Burton URC and All Saint's Mudeford, who both actively supported St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival and our fundraising for the people of Ukraine.

We greatly appreciated the New Forest Edge Benefice's invitations to occasional services, such as Nine Lessons & Carols, which we would not otherwise have been able to celebrate.

School Report, provided by Mrs D Jeffries - Collective Worship Lead & Teacher Governor

BURTON CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL - Foundation Governors Report 2021/22

Our school's Christian Values are: Reverence, Compassion, Friendship

Two years on from the first national lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic the school continues to adapt and develop new rhythms. The amazing staff team persist in working tirelessly to support both the academic and emotional impact of the last two years and that will be an ongoing reality. Children are resilient and have learnt to adjust but all are very glad that 'bubbles' are becoming much larger and doors are slowly being opened to parents and the outside community.

Collective Worship has been taking place throughout this time over 'Zoom', by using online resources within class settings. We have been able to continue using our core Christian Values as weekly themes, wherever possible, using the Beginners and Story Tellers Bible as accessible versions. PACE (Programme for Applied Christian Education) maintain a link with the school sending virtual assemblies to us monthly. As yet we have not met as a whole school in the hall for Collective Worship and that will need to be a carefully planned journey. Just consider that children in EYFS and Year 1 have never experienced sitting in the hall collectively, in rows, listening to real people and not people on a screen! Coupled with the number of children we now have in school there are many practicalities to consider, with staff and pupil wellbeing being paramount. Our pattern of worship moving forward will undoubtedly be a blended one taking the positives of meeting in person and online.

As restrictions lessened and the weather improved, we were also able to meet as a whole school outside on the playground for significant celebrations such as Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. We are so glad that we had invested in a cheap portable PA system with microphones! For this year's Harvest celebrations we welcomed the

Christchurch Food Bank to come and speak to us as part of our service. They were also able to take back with them the donations of food that the families of Burton had given. There was only just room in a large car to fit in all the parcels. The generosity of Burton families is once again overwhelming. For Remembrance this year we had a time of reflection and prayer once more on the playground. We were able to co-ordinate this with the ringing of the bells at St Luke's – super loud so we could hear it! That was a special moment.

The role of Spirituality Champions continues to be pivotal. Two children are chosen, from each class by their teachers, who strongly reflect the school's Christian Values. These children work with me throughout the year leading class prayers and worship as well as services for significant events in the Christian calendar. It is such a privilege to work with these children who are diligent and creative in all they do. Whether it is remembering to light candles as part of our daily call to worship, coming up with ideas for our school reflection area (we currently have a prayer space for Ukraine) or making suggestions for service outlines. Our next project is to create a Spirituality garden within school as a place of quite interactive reflection and prayer for all ages.

Finally for Easter we were able to return to St Luke's for our Easter service. What a joy it was to walk up to the church and once more be in that special building again. The Spirituality Champions led not one but two services as we wanted to spread ourselves out a little more. As it was every pew was full so it looks like we will be following a pattern of two services henceforth. My treasured moment was seeing the children sing, 'Lord I lift your name on high' with all the actions. I must also thank Bernie Brooks, the church warden who has been so kind and accommodating. It's so helpful to have a line of communication between school and church during this time of interregnum.

This academic year we were able to have the Key Stage 1 Christmas production and Year 3 and 4's powerful interpretation of Shakespeare's *Tempest* in school to parent audiences. With multiple performances, limited numbers and mask wearing we were able to carry this out safely for all but plans for a filmed performance still had to be explored just in case. On the final week of the Spring Term we were able to welcome parents back into school for open classrooms under a strict booking system. What delight to hear children talking with such animation and pride about their school and their learning. We hope that moving forward we will be able to invite more visitors into school including the Open The Book Team, PACE and members of the wider Burton community. This will be not just to take part in collective worship but to be part of our school life and contribute to what makes Burton School a very unique and special place.

4.5 MISSION & EVANGELISM

Charitable fund-raising is detailed in the accounts – see section 5.

Despite some easing of the lockdown, we were once again unable to host Lent lunches in support of Christian Aid during 2021. However, in May, several volunteers delivered 1000 Christian Aid Week envelopes around the village, as well as the CAW envelopes in church. Huge thanks are due to all who helped, and also to the store on Burton Green who kindly agreed to receive donations on our behalf. Each envelope also had details of how to donate online, by phone or by Freepost, so there may have been far more raised than we will ever know. However we are planning to try out the less labour-intensive e-Envelopes in future!

We continued to support Christchurch Deanery's link with the Kinkiizi Diocese in Uganda, through our third – and most successful to date - Lenten '40 for 40' appeal. This made a significant contribution towards completion of housing for staff at the Nyakatere Medical Centre.

In September 2021, lay service leaders took the opportunity to join the coalition of churches across the UK in celebrating Climate Sunday. The congregation wrote their own environmental pledges on paper boats and these were all sent, via Christian Aid, to be displayed at the COP26 conference in Glasgow.

St Luke's continues to be recognised as a Fairtrade Church and, in February 2022, we were able to promote Fairtrade Fortnight through our internally-led lay service.

Christchurch Food Bank Report, provided by Mrs R Siemaszko

St Luke's has continued to support The Christchurch Food Bank providing several boxes and/or bags of contributions most weeks. Quite often this has been supplemented by generous cash donations from members of the congregation. In addition some people pay by regular standing order directly to The Food Bank. The collection box in the porch has provided a collection point for the village as a whole. The new rota is working well although new members are always welcome! For more details please speak to Ruth.

The Food Bank greatly appreciates all that we do. It is a sad reflection that so many people have needed such support but uplifting to know that we are able to help in a meaningful way. This year has seen a full refurbishment of the Food Bank. St Joseph's Church having gifted them the chapel and with local businesses, grant funders and

trusts funding the transformation. And what a transformation! It is a light, warm, safe and welcoming facility. Formally opening on March 25th they are now able to offer space for coffee, refreshment, and provision of opportunities to engage with The Community Money Advice Team.

In 2021 over 10,000 food parcels were issued, support was given to 84 individuals or families from the hardship funds, 838 parcels fed 2,244 people through the school holiday hunger packs, 647 (268 adults 379 children) were helped through the home equip scheme plus homes were furnished for 9 families escaping domestic violence. Additionally 11 people facing homelessness were supported 7 of which are now in their own homes and employment. Other activities have included Community Suppers. All a real achievement in difficult times. Copies of their Annual Report giving more details of all they do are available in church.

Just one negative note. Too often our collection box contains out of date items (sometimes by several years) these simply cannot be taken to The Food Bank. There have also been opened packets and jars again simply not usable! By all means check your cupboards for items you could donate but be aware for it to go on the Food Bank shelves an item must be well with date. Thank you for your ongoing support. Lastly should anyone like to take on the co-ordinating role from me please do speak to me. I have been doing it from its inception and am more than happy to hand over the reins!

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW – see separate report, provided by Mrs J Ward

The PCC is extremely grateful to Mrs Ward for managing to keep our finances in order, in addition to her duties as Churchwarden.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

St Luke's Church is situated in Salisbury Road, Burton, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 7JN.
It is part of the Diocese of Winchester, within the Church of England.

During the current vacancy, St Luke's may be contacted on:

Mr Bernie Brooks 01425 673753 or email to berniebpc@gmail.com

Mrs Judy Ward 01202 483219 or email to judith.ward@sky.com.

Alternatively, there is a contact form on the website for the Benefice of Burton & Sopley <http://burtonsopley.com>.
Or Twitter - @BurtonSopley

On behalf of the PCC and with thanks for the inputs identified above, this report was compiled by the Secretary, approved and signed by Churchwarden & PCC Chair during vacancy, Mr B Brooks.

----- April 2022