

**Annual Report & Accounts 2022
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, which has been prepared during a vacancy lasting almost two years. But appointment of new clergy is now progressing, alongside transition to the new River Mude Benefice.

St Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC), especially our sole Churchwarden, has meanwhile 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 year of continuing uncertainty. It has been very difficult at times but we continue to hope, not just for some sense of normality but also for fresh opportunities to grow our faith and ministry to the communities we serve.

2. OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

During vacancy, our key objective was to maintain St Luke's as a place of worship and to serve the people of Burton to the best of our ability. In June 2022, after a long stalemate between the Diocese and the parishes of All Saint's & St Luke's, an additional part-time House for Duty post was agreed and we were finally able to prepare to recruit new clergy.

In parallel, we supported the administration of the Diocesan Scheme to create the new River Mude Benefice. This sadly, but necessarily, means splitting from St Michael & All Angels, Sopley. But that longstanding relationship remains strong in practice.

Other important objectives continue to be set out in our 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.

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.

There are currently two PCC vacancies, one of which is reserved for another Churchwarden. Grateful as we are for Bernie's commitment to managing single-handed, it is important - and only fair - that his responsibilities are shared without further delay.

The following served as PCC members:

Church Warden	Mr B Brooks (Chair)
Treasurer	Mrs J Ward (also Churchwarden until 15 th May 2022)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mrs B Evans and Ms K Willis
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs B Evans
Secretary	Ms K Willis
Members:	Mrs G Bethune, Mrs J Colbourne, Mrs R Cook, Mrs T Furnell, Mrs P Hughes (Vice Chair), Ms D Packer, Mrs R Siemaszko and Mrs D Wilkinson (Foundation Governor) who has contributed remotely whilst unable to attend in person.

The Electoral Roll Officer is Mr S Arnold and the PCC appreciates his ongoing support.

The PCC held eight full meetings in 2022 (one jointly with All Saints' PCC). Average attendance was almost 73%.

* 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

Many additional meetings have been held with representatives from All Saints and the wider Deanery; thankfully, all but one were focused on updating and then, combining All Saints' and St Luke's Parish Profiles into a joint document, including a Role Description for the incoming Vicar of the new River Mude Benefice. We greatly appreciated the support of Sue Lyonette (Lay Chair of Christchurch Deanery). She encouraged us through multiple re-writes and her practical advice about the recruitment process was invaluable.

The advertised role was for a Priest-in-Charge Designate, to become the Incumbent when the new River Mude Benefice is formally established. This has recently been subject to a final public re-consultation, due to the length of time since the original proposal was rejected and then, reformulated with an agreed level of resource.

One priority for the new Vicar, jointly with both PCCs, will be recruitment of an Associate Vicar, who will be resident in Burton. The Diocese and Deanery have repeatedly stressed that both clergy members are expected to minister across the whole Benefice, and both PCCs are committed to working out the most effective means of achieving this.

Safeguarding Report, on behalf of Mrs B Evans, Parish Safeguarding Officer

The PCCs continues to meet the requirement to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is regularly reviewed at PCC meetings and no concerns have been notified.

Parish Mission Action Plan (PMAP)

In September, the PCC decided to re-write our PMAP, focused on activities that were :

- fresh ideas OR which built on, rather than simply continued, previous achievements
- relevant to our future as a new Benefice
- either achievable in vacancy OR important priorities to be addressed with new clergy.

The result was commended by the Deanery; especially the simple 'traffic-light' system we use to track progress and focus PCC attention where most needed.

Six of thirteen actions are deliberately on hold whilst the PCC focuses on the recruitment process. Of the remaining seven actions, four have already been achieved.

The full PMAP is available at <https://www.burtonsopley.com/our-vision.html>.

4.1 Worship and Prayer

St Luke's continues to be blessed by the support of local retired clergy, with Revd Helen Griffiss and Revd Frank Willett committing to regular Eucharists, as well as other services (see below). We are also indebted to Mark Ward (LLM) who, in addition to leading services, produced a bespoke commemoration for Fairtrade Fortnight.

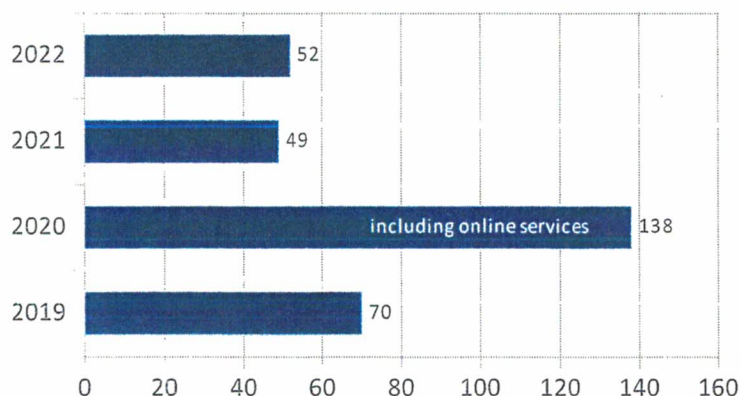
Tricia Hughes (LLW), Rachel Cook and Karen Willis continued to plan and deliver lay services, as needed each month. Rachel successfully completed her Bishop's Permission to Preach (BPP) course and was licensed at Winchester Cathedral in October 2022. Many of St Luke's congregation were proud to witness this online, and will long remember Rachel's beaming smile on that special day.

In September, we mourned the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II - a sad but memorable time for church and nation.

During Lent 2023, Tricia led a new Bible study group which was doubly appreciated, as this was not possible last year.

Many thanks are also due to everyone who has contributed to making services really special, especially our musicians and our team of readers and intercessors. **Anyone willing to join the rota would be both warmly welcomed and given lots of support – it's less scary than you might think, and can be deeply rewarding.**

Worshipping Community

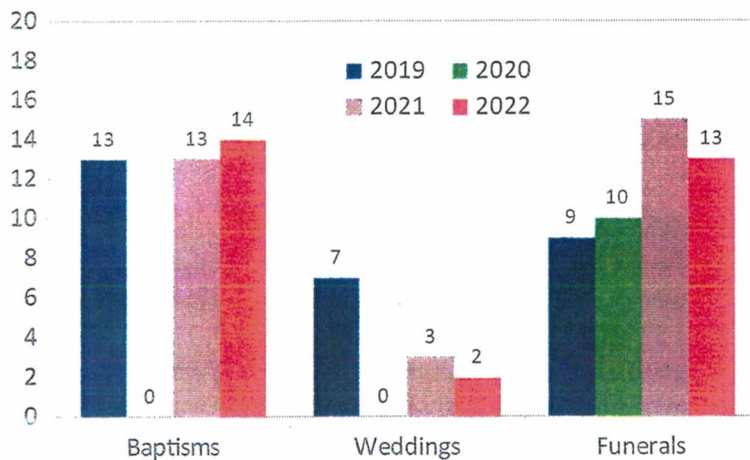


The number on the Electoral Roll is 58, with one member sadly passing in 2022 and one requesting removal from the ER.

Thirteen members (22%) travel to St Luke's from outside the Parish.

76.9 % (down from 79.6%) of our congregation are aged 70 or over. **Collectively, we're getting younger!**

Life Events



With visiting clergy, St Luke's has been able to celebrate with those we serve: 14 Baptisms and 2 weddings.

We have also supported our community through 13 funerals: 6 in church and 7 interments of ashes by clergy.

4.2 FABRIC REPORT

Church

Several attempts to employ regular cleaners have been short-lived, so we have especially appreciated volunteers helping to keeping our church (and hall) clean & tidy. The 2022 Quinquennial Inspection is overdue, but will be prioritised soon.

The 5 year Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) was carried out and the lack of RCDs in some areas was remedied. A new exterior light was fitted, with new wiring to the fuse box, and the old lamppost was refurbished.

The remaining tree in front of the church had to be removed, but replacements were agreed and are growing well. Overgrown trees in the churchyard have also been cut back/taken down and the hedge bordering the road is now sufficiently established that the aged fence could be removed.

The 'Church Grounds Working Parties' have become regular events and really make a noticeable difference to the appearance of St Luke's.

St Luke's Church Hall

The hall is back in regular use, by the congregation (including All Saints) and by our local community.

Targeted fundraising, and generous donations, will soon allow replacement windows to be installed and then, new flooring. This will make our hall even more attractive for community hire.

4.3 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

This report has been issued at Deanery level, with thanks to Mrs Gill Tybjerg.

Deanery Synod is a link between our PCCs and the Diocesan Synod. Its role is mainly to look after mission and pastoral matters in the Deanery, help parishes deliver the Diocesan strategic priorities and to monitor and support the allocation of Parish Share across the Deanery to the Common Mission Fund.

Christchurch Deanery Synod met four times in 2022, in February, June, September and November.

The year began with a February Zoom meeting, when Rev Dr Jason Roach gave a thought-provoking presentation about God's vision for racial unity and justice.

In June, St Mark's Highcliffe hosted an evening where Synod welcomed Rev Canon Charles Stewart (Vicar of Christchurch Priory) as the new Assistant Area Dean. A presentation was also given inviting exploration of mental wellbeing and reconciliation.

The annual Saturday Synod was held on the morning of 24th September at St Mary's, New Milton. As well as breakfast and worship, some excellent workshops were provided for participants to learn more about church planting and re-vitalization.

An additional meeting was held in November to explore the book 'How Clergy Thrive' (postponed from the June meeting) and those attending were treated to an informative talk by Archdeacon Richard Brand.

The Deanery overseas companion link with Kinkiizi Diocese Uganda continues to operate. More help was sent for their recovery from the extensive covid lockdown endured by all of Uganda. Our support was particularly focussed on helping the schools return to normal. The Health Centre asked for help equipping their new Maternity Unit and some funds were provided towards that. Our regular support for ordinands' training and priests' pensions was also sent. In total we gave £8037 to Kinkiizi in 2022 from across the Deanery.

The Deanery has launched a support group for churchwardens, particularly aimed at those new to the role.

It also now provides opportunities for those working with children and families to benefit from sessions run by Lighthouse Ministries led by Andy Saunders.

Deanery Synod meetings are now all open meetings for anyone to attend should they so wish. (Only if a vote is called are restrictions in place for elected members only to cast such a vote.) I would encourage everyone to consider coming along to hear interesting speakers, have a chance to meet other people from across the Deanery, and to share experiences for mutual support.

4.4 ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

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

Once again, St Luke's 'Open the Book' team has partnered with the United Reformed Church - and now, with St Michael's & All Angels at Sopley as well. So, there is now a viable regular team, with two former team members as 'back-ups' when needed.

Due to pandemic-related restrictions on visitors to Burton Primary School, we were only able to resume our Bible story-telling in September 2022. Rather than meeting with the whole school, we now work with Key Stage 1 & Reception only, and in a classroom setting. This does allow for greater engagement with the children, which the team values - just as much as the children enjoy the stories.

For Good Friday 2023, Tricia worked with the URC on a joint 'Raising the Cross' service on Burton Green, with refreshments afterwards.

Relationships with All Saint's Mudeford have deepened significantly, partly through Deanery-facilitated efforts to draft and agree a joint Benefice Profile. Following the tragic destruction of the church at Mudeford, we have worshipped together fairly regularly on Sundays and enjoyed fellowship after the services.

St Luke's has an open invitation to All Saint's monthly 'Church in the Round' at High Cross church, and to Lenten Bible studies at St John's, Purewell. Both proved to be thought-provoking and fun!

During Lent 2023, we shared the hosting of frugal lunches to raise funds for Christian Aid and all three events were well-attended (including by members of St Joseph's Catholic Church in Christchurch, who had responded to invitations from All Saint's).

4.5 BURTON CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL - Report on behalf of the Governing Body 2022/23, provided by Mrs D Jeffries - Collective Worship Lead & Teacher Governor

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

"Burton CE Primary School is a village school serving the local community by providing a happy, safe, caring and stimulating learning-environment based on Christian values. We provide a distinctively Christian environment within which children feel safe and happy and where faith, respect, honesty, trust and love are valued and actively promoted within everyday learning opportunities. Our desire is that everyone within the school community achieves the highest possible standards of which they are capable through fun and active teaching and learning. By celebrating children's individuality, effort and achievement we foster positive attitudes towards self-esteem, learning and worship; we work together with parents, the Diocese of Winchester, our local village community and the Local Authority to provide excellence in education for all."

SIAMS SEF 2020

These words beautifully encapsulate our School and, despite the rollercoaster of the last few years, these values remain a constant.

Collective Worship takes place in person either as a whole school, within Key Stage teams or within classes. We continue to follow our core Christian Values as weekly themes, wherever possible using the NIV and the Story Tellers Bible as accessible versions. We also use the online resource [Assemblies.org.uk](https://www.assemblies.org.uk).

We are thrilled to welcome the *Open The Book* team back into school in person. Since September the team have taken worship for the children in the lower school every fortnight. The children are transfixed by the simple retelling of the Bible through stories that the team do so well. The wonder on their faces as they see and hear different faces and voices is a joy to behold. One little boy, when asked what career he would like in the future, replied that he wanted to be in the *Open The Book* team! They can be no clearer illustration of the power of storytelling from within God's Word. Thank you so much to all the team for the sacrificial time that they give up for the children. It has also been great to welcome Keith Jewell from PACE (Programme for Applied Christian Education) back into school again to lead worship for children in Key Stage 2. Please continue to pray for both Keith and the *Open The Book* team.

We have been able to meet as a whole school to celebrate significant celebrations such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter. Some celebrations were held in school and some at St Luke's Church. Despite the lifting of restrictions we still can be impacted by COVID. One spike hit the school over Christmas when we had to reschedule our Christmas carol service from the Church to the school because, due to staff illness, we did not have enough adults to safely walk the children down to the village - just one small example of post pandemic life changes.

For this year's Harvest celebrations we once again welcomed the Christchurch Food Bank to come and speak to us as part of our service. Our theme was 'colours of the harvest' and, as part of the service, the children had learnt how to sign the colours of the rainbow song which was fabulous. The Food Bank was able to take away the donations of food, and they were overwhelmed once again by the generosity of the families at Burton School.

For Easter this year we finally made it to St Luke's Church having had to reschedule to the school hall because of the weather so many times before. It felt like a wonderful gift as the rain stopped and the strong winds died down for that window of time. The whole school was able to walk to the church, have our service and walk back again before the heavens opened for the rest of the day! The service was led by the children and we celebrated the events of Palm Sunday, there was even a visit from the donkey that had a lot to say about that amazing day from her perspective! Once again I must thank Bernie Brooks, the church warden, who has been so kind in accommodating us as a school at St Luke's. It's so helpful to have a line of communication between school and church during the continued interregnum.

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 compassionate in all they do. Whether it is remembering to light candles as part of our daily call to worship, making suggestions for service outlines or putting forward designs of our new Spirituality garden as a place of quite interactive reflection and prayer for all ages. We are very excited that our Spirituality garden construction has begun. We are working in partnership with Phil Johns from the Men's Hub project in Southbourne. They are busy building four giant planters and an enormous cross that will form the centre of our garden. We can't wait to start adding planting in the Summer Term. **Please get in touch with the school if you might be able help with this stage in any way.**

Did you know that Burton School started 120 years ago on 5th December 1902? We held a special worship where we used the letters from the words BURTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL to share some amazing memories about our school. We were delighted to invite some former staff members back to celebrate with us and Joyce Colbourne, a special friend of our school, shared this blessing.

Dear God, Here is our school.

Let it be filled with Your peace.

Let every room be full of happiness and respect for each other.

Let love, kindness and compassion for all be in our hearts:

As we celebrate 120 years of Burton CE Primary School, let us remember that in learning together, we grow together and succeed together. **Amen**

We want it to be a 'year of remembering' and we are going to be gathering memories from parents, grandparents and even great grandparents about our amazing school.

If you have any memories or photos, please write them down and share them with us.

Burton School continues to be a very unique and special place; full of caring staff, supportive parents and above all, amazing children.

4.5 MISSION & EVANGELISM

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

We were delighted to be able to resume our customary Lent lunches in support of Christian Aid. These events raised valuable funds, as we enjoyed socialising over simple food. Thanks to all who contributed, in any way.

St Luke's continues to support Christchurch Deanery's link with the Kinkiizi Diocese in Uganda. Two Deanery representatives will be visiting this year, to explore how best we can work together again after being unable to meet for so long, due to Covid-19 restrictions on travel - and an outbreak of Ebola.

St Luke's successfully renewed its commitment as a Fairtrade Church on March 7th 2023. This certification will be valid for two years.

Christchurch Food Bank Report, provided by Mrs R Siemaszko

St Luke's has continued to support the Christchurch Foodbank in what has been a very challenging year for them. A rota of 7 have collected donations, sorted them checking for usability, and delivered them to the newly refurbished premises at St Joseph's Church. I am very grateful to all those volunteers especially those who do not regularly worship at St Luke's.

Most weeks several bags and/or boxes are donated and a number of people supplement donations with cash contributions or regular giving. The latter enables the foodbank to supplement food parcels with fresh produce or fill gaps emerging on their shelves.

It is fair to say that our donations have fallen off somewhat this year as we all face the same financial challenges as others in the community but I am pleased that we have still been able to make a real contribution to the work of the Foodbank. They have really struggled this year and at times their shelves were alarmingly empty and they made a television appeal for donations.

In addition to providing food parcels to those in need, the Foodbank also has other projects including a furniture bank, debt advice and budget coaching, cooking on a budget workshops, homeless assistance, help with form filling, and their Meal in a Bag scheme which provides all the ingredients plus a recipe for a good wholesome meal. In 2022 Summer holidays they provided food for over 1000 children and gave out 3716 bags of fresh fruit and veg and 900 bottles of ketchup! In 2022 they issued 6840 boxes of cereal, 300 blocks of cheese and 7400 toilet rolls. Over 12000 cans of vegetables have been added to food parcels. The café area there provides a warm and welcoming space where help and support can be provided. The Foodbank themselves operate with 36 volunteers, 2 full time and 2 part time staff across all its activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions do speak to me and if you would like to consider taking on my co-ordinating role I should be more than happy to talk you through what is involved and hand over the reins.

Sunday Coffee Report, provided by Mrs R Siemaszko

We have had a rota of 8 delivering teas and coffees after church having restarted this post COVID. It has proved to be a popular opportunity for fellowship after the service. This has also provided a wonderful opportunity to meet members of All Saints and get to know them better following our joint services. Thank you to all who have helped with this, it is much appreciated.

Warm Community Space Report, provided by Mrs R Siemaszko

This year we decided on a new venture responding to a general call to provide warm spaces offering a welcome place with a hot meal and/or drinks for people who were struggling with increased heating and food costs or loneliness. We registered with the national Warm Space initiative and agreed to provide teas, coffees, biscuits, homemade cake, and/or homemade soup with a roll and butter. We did this once a week on a Thursday from 10-2 from February 2 to 27 April. We were very fortunate that Burton Parish Council made a generous donation to support this and also we were given other cash donations. We had a rota of volunteers and ensured that there were always 3 available. Attendance was mainly people who came for company and conversation, numbers varying between 6 and 22. A big thankyou to all those who helped make this a success. All those who came seemed to enjoy it, asking if we could consider doing something like this again in future. If you would like to know more, or want to be involved in future, or even better take this on please let me know.

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.

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:

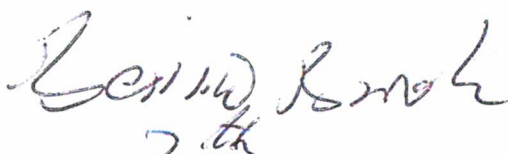
Mr Bernie Brooks 01425 673753 or email to berniebpc@gmail.com

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.



2th May 2023