



## Annual Parish Report 2022/23

### Letter from the Vicar

Dear friends

As I write my fourth letter to you as your Vicar, I am led to reflect how grateful I continue to be for you all. I read through the annual report and am struck by the creativity and enthusiasm that you engender throughout this community and parish.

There are many personal highlights for me, but one that will live long in my memory was the Sunday of Oliver's thanksgiving. The church was full to bursting as we were joined by many from Dan and Emily's friends and family as well as Christian Climate Action (CCA) campaigners who were using the church as their base for the weekend. Ruth who leads the Iona Community was our speaker and we had a fantastic church lunch: so much happiness and so much fun, with plenty of laughter and God's Spirit free to enjoy and help us do likewise - a great place to be!

It was super also when these close friends, CCA, the Iona Community and St Luke's joined forces once more at The Big One climate protest. It was great to see so many St Lukers both in the choir and on the streets on the Sunday but also throughout the weekend. A special thank you to Jif and Rhian who led the service at St Luke's church so we could go to Parliament Square.

I also have loved participating in The Grand Scheme- enjoying all, ranging from a salsa party, birdwatching, hallmark understanding and a biblical exposition! I know there were plenty of other events too - thank you all who offered events, all who attended and a special thanks to Be for organising an outstanding event that reminded us that socialising together is great fun and helps create a great spirit!

The Grand Scheme also raised money for the church - which was very welcome! As you will see from our accounts we operated in a deficit position once again - this is obviously not something that we can continue to do year on year. I would ask you to review what you are able to give to the community of St Luke's. I know that times are hard for us all with rising interest rates and rising costs - the same is true for the church. If you are not already giving please click here for a standing order form or pick one up from church. If you are already giving - a big Thank you! - and if you are able to increase your giving, then please consider doing so.

On the subject of money - a big thank you to Mike for all his work as our Treasurer. Our finance team, under the leadership of Dan and Liz have worked hard with Caroline - our independent examiner - to pull these accounts together this year, a real team effort!

I am always grateful to the team that supports me the closest - our wonderful Wardens- Jacqui and Joy as well as my clergy colleagues- Lizzie and Martin - your support and encouragement have been invaluable particularly in difficult times.

I have felt a real shift in the outlook of our church community in recent months - it has been great seeing new people arriving and new faces supporting the established. This shift has been underpinned by a couple of projects that have been spoken about for a few years approaching their fulfilment- our heat pump and roof repairs with solar panels are about to start - meaning that by the autumn our carbon usage will have reduced by around 80% - a truly magnificent number - both for our finances and for our planet. We are about to walk the talk of climate action!!

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Thank you to Cloudesley for your amazing support and to our super building team - especially Jonathan and Joy for ensuring this gets done to the highest standard we can afford!

My hope for this year is that we continue to be an attractive, inclusive, artistic community with a distinctive voice within the Church of England and that we can pay our way! I aspire for a time when we are not relying on our reserves or the income from renting our buildings, but actually cover our costs through our monthly giving. It might take longer than a year to achieve this but it is good to aim high and start somewhere!

It is an honour to be your vicar and to have been with you on this journey through a post pandemic landscape. It might take some time to fully come out the other side but as we continue to be gentle with each other we will emerge together as a new and vibrant community that learns from the past and moves forward boldly as we make a difference to those around us - and allow them to make a difference to us!

Much love



Revd John MacKenzie

# ST LUKE'S

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### Building Group

The past year has been very busy for the building committee. A Victorian building like ours requires a lot of expensive maintenance.

We are very grateful to Federico for his ongoing programme of minor repairs, which has saved us considerable amounts of money over the past 12 months.

Last year we learned that the church needed £8000 worth of urgent electrical repairs, which Cloudesley very generously funded in an emergency grant award. You will notice that the main lights are now all working!

A leak in the roof of the small hall in the autumn caused extensive damage to the floor and ceiling. Fortunately our insurance covered the costs of repairing the roof, replacing the floor and redecorating the small hall and the entrance lobby. These works meant that the small hall was not available for use for about three months.

The major project we have been progressing this year has been the heat pump, roof repairs and solar pv panels. We hope that work will start in June. Again, this project has been generously funded by Cloudesley with a contribution from the diocese and nearly £20K from the congregation. We are grateful to everybody who has donated to the Go Green project. Getting this project to the point where we can start work has been an enormous effort. Jonathan has shouldered most of the work and we would like to record our thanks to him.

Cloudesley also funded an accessibility survey of the church building and will be funding work to improve accessibility.

You may have noticed that a section of the chancel is cordoned off. Unfortunately further roof repairs are needed, beyond those which begin in June. We have applied for funding so that we can undertake these essential repairs as well as repairs to the kitchen.

The building group has identified a list of works to be carried out, including making improvements to the main church entrance, improving toilet facilities,

redecorating the main church space and replacing the gas heaters in the small hall with modern eco-infrared heaters. However, these projects depend on funding being available and no further major repairs being required.

Joy Hinson  
*Chair of Building Group &  
Churchwarden*

### Charitable Giving

It's been a longstanding aim of the PCC to donate around 10% of St Luke's congregational giving to charity, and in 2022, we achieved this by giving away £6,550, being 9.6% of unrestricted donations.

St Luke's gave grants to: The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Union Chapel and Housing Justice who are all working with people experiencing homelessness; Islington Foodbank; Copenhagen Youth Project; Centre 404 (supporting people with learning disabilities); The Bike Project (reconditioning bikes for refugees); Freedom from Torture (supporting those fleeing torture) and St Mary Magdalene's Academy (for their new mental health room). Further afield, we also donated (and additional money totalling £2,193 was also given directly from the congregation) to Ukraine and Sierra Leone (for children orphaned by Ebola). The full details are listed in Note 3a) on page 12 of the attached Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

It's been a privilege to receive their lovely replies and news of the progress of the work achieved.

If you would like to suggest a charity which supports St Luke's ethos in the local, wider and global sphere, please contact me via Tina on: [admin@saintlukeschurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@saintlukeschurch.org.uk).

Rosie Sheldon

### Children & Sunday School

Things have changed very much since our last report. Very sadly,

in July 2022, Susie Holland stepped down from her roles as Children's Champion and Sunday School organiser/teacher. We thank her hugely for her many years of service and miss her input and experience very much.

As our previous report, the number of children attending St Luke's has continued to drop as our children get too old for Sunday School/Seniors or their families move away. Many of our Sunday school teachers have also decided to take a break after many years of helping out - they also have our thanks for all their help and support.

Currently, we have 3 Sunday school teachers (including me) and I am not running a formal weekly rota/plan, as many weeks there are no children. However, we always have some activities planned, ready to go if some children attend!

Our Nativity looked very different this year as we did not have enough children attending to do it in our usual way. However, our "Scratch Nativity", where many of the congregation (of all ages!) dressed up and took part as we told the Christmas story, was equally as wonderful and moving.

We hope that the number of children and young people will grow over the next year. Please do spread the word locally that we have a Sunday School at St Luke's and all are welcome. I am always happy to meet with/chat on phone to any parents/carers of prospective Sunday school attendees.

Ceri Humm

### Choir & Music

*When griping griefs the heart would wound,  
And doleful dumps the mind oppress,  
Then Music with her silver sound  
Is wont with speed to give redress:  
Of troubled mind for every sore  
Sweet Music hath a salve therefore.*

*In joy it makes our mirth abound,  
In grief it cheers our heavy sprites,  
The careful head relief hath found  
By Music's pleasant sweet delights:  
Our senses, what should I say more,  
Are subject unto Music's lore.*

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In other words, music is central to the soul-life of a community of faith. Our faithful band of singers has held the line and kept the faith, week by week, over this past year, with great generosity, good humour, talent and commitment, conspiring to create beautiful, soulful music for the seasons of life and faith, to a high standard. We've turned up the volume and hung out the flags for the big festivals, supported by cherished music collaborators Rick, Angela, Harvey and others, with particular highlights at Christmas and Easter, and welcomed several new choir members to our ranks.

We were shocked and deeply saddened to lose our very dear friend and fellow choir member Matthew Evan Smith, who died very suddenly on 28th October last year. Matt had celebrated his 60th birthday just a couple of weeks before with a wonderful party & concert at St Luke's, which he often said he had come to regard as his home, his church, his community and his family. I invited him to become involved with St Luke's first in 2010, with one of the first Vox Holloway projects, and thereafter he became increasingly involved, and of course became a pillar of VH, training the bass section and organising all aspects of stage management for the concerts, and hence he also became a cherished member of St Luke's Choir. He has been an immensely loyal and supportive friend and musical collaborator over the years, and I'm happy that, at a time in his life when, by his own admission, he had become quite isolated and reclusive, he developed a great community of friends at St Luke's and in Vox Holloway. I thank you each for all the myriad ways in which you contributed to his sense of home, his sense of welcome in a community of faith and creativity.

And, working with our very good friend Jane Hodges, on first Sundays over the last six months, I've taken a group of singing volunteers into HMP Pentonville to sing for the prison chapel services, which has been an incredibly moving and enriching experience. It was a privilege to sing for Christian Climate Action's act of worship at The Big One recently in Westminster. I'm proud and grateful to lead the music at St Luke's.

Thank you, John, Martin, Jacqui, Joy and the PCC and my dear colleagues Tina and Federico and all of you for continuing to support me in this role.

Justin Butcher  
*Director of Music*

### Community Outreach

This new group has looked at ways that St Luke's can have a more active role in our local community- especially since the collapse of Caris who were the charity that organised the winter night shelter and a new realisation of our vulnerability following the pandemic.

A number of things have been discussed, including running a Death Cafe, employing a Parish Nurse, joining with the council to host play streets. There is further work and volunteers required to continue with schemes such as these.

We did run a successful pancake party this year - together with building an Easter garden and egg hunt.

This year we hope to begin at least one of these larger schemes.

Revd John MacKenzie

### Deanery Synod

Meetings of the Islington Deanery Synod are led and excellently Chaired by the Area Dean, Tamsin Merchant. Each meeting is hosted by a different church so we have the pleasure of visiting other churches and seeing how unique we all are. We visited Hope Church in February, St Mark's Myddelton Square in June and St Saviour's Hanley Road in November. We welcomed some great guest speakers including Melanie Griffiths, the Director of Cloudesley; Mohammed Kozbar from Finsbury Park Mosque, and Andy Rider who is the Dean of Mission. We discussed matters of common interest to us including environmental matters, how to support people through the cold winter and the cost of living crisis, and the Diocesan Vision.

Liz Curran & Mike Dark

### Finance Report

The Financial Statements for St Luke's for the year ended 31 December 2022 are attached. These include a narrative report on the results for the year on pages 4-5 and the report of the Independent Examiner on page 7. The accounts were reviewed and approved by PCC at their meeting on 26 April 2023 and are presented here so that they can be formally received by the APCM.

Liz Curran  
*Co-Chair Finance Group*

### Foodbank

St Luke's has made five deliveries this year to the Andover Estate food bank. Sue an employee of Islington Council and her brother Robert run the foodbank are extremely grateful for all our contributions. Some deliveries have had more items than others. We'd like to aim for about 60 litres of items, this fills both of our clear plastic boxes.

Our donations have dramatically declined over recent weeks. The families we support are in desperate need. All their funds are allocated for the day to day essentials, gas, water, electric etc. The one of the biggest bills they can't say no to is school uniform. So, they rarely have spare money for those little luxury items i.e. birthday cake and presents, colouring books, pens, pencils.

So, when you're doing your shopping please pick up one extra NON-PERISHABLE item please. Just a quick reminder of what the food bank accepts: shampoo, pasta, long life milk, cat food, coffee, dog food, tea bags, sugar, soap, toothpaste, tinned vegetables, toothbrush, tinned fish, pens, tinned fruit, long life custard, herbs, salt, pepper.

Just place your items in the brown bin next to the font on a Sunday morning. Every little helps folks, thank you.

Tara Willson



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### Garden Group

Meeting once a month, our committed group of volunteers, usually between six and ten people come together to keep our church gardens looking loved. We are a very jolly group, who have fun whilst often doing some challenging work. This year we see our new Remembering our Loved Ones Rose Garden doing well, and we have established a wildflower meadow in front of the small hall.

I want to thank my volunteers for all their hard work and commitment to the church gardens. Thanks also to those of you who regularly donate plants or cash for the garden, this is very much appreciated.

At any time, we always welcome new people to join our group, no experience necessary. We meet on the first Saturday of every month between 11 – 2 pm.

Jean Willson

### Legacy Report

The church has gone through some exceedingly difficult years financially with the pandemic, so now a donation to the church would be very welcome.

In addition, here at St. Luke's, we welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish.

A lasting gift to St. Luke's church could help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment, or staff.

Will you think about leaving us a gift in your will? It is quite a straightforward process using our Legacy Leaflet which you can pick up at the church or contact me for more details.

Jean Willson  
Legacy Contact  
0780 189 5295  
jean@willsonfamily.co.uk

### Safeguarding

At St Luke's we are committed to nurturing, protecting, and safeguarding all our members, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

I am pleased to report that no matters of concern have been raised over the last year.

Safeguarding is a regular item on the PCC's agenda, and all those who are required to have a relevant DBS check in place for their work at St Luke's, have one. Refreshment of DBS checks and safeguarding training continues to be carried out on a rolling programme.

Safeguarding information posters, along with our Safeguarding Policy Statement, are displayed on noticeboards around the building.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Sheena Cruse  
Church Safeguarding Officer

### St Mary Magdalene's Academy

SMMA has had another great year and is still a very popular choice for families across the borough, being yet again the most over-subscribed school in Islington.

Results for last year's GCSEs and A levels were strong, the first 'real' exams sat since the pandemic. Children achieving a pass in GCSE English and Maths at 4+ was at 82% - the best ever achieved at the school. At A level 40% of the grades were A or A\*. A number of pupils took up places at Oxbridge colleges. The school is on course to achieve a similar set of results this year.

The Primary school is thriving under the leadership of their new head teacher with standards improving in all the areas where children are currently measured; reading, writing, grammar and maths.

The sixth formers continue to enjoy their home at the former Clerkenwell Parochial School building in Angel, there are plans to improve the site there now we have a longer lease arranged through the London Diocesan Schools Board. We are entering into a loose partnership with Elizabeth Garrett Anderson school around 6<sup>th</sup> form teaching and provision as they do not have their own.

There have been some notable successes in basketball and football and some wonderful musical performances over the last year, including very recently Jesus Christ Superstar.

The school continues to offer masterclasses to pupils from barristers, to TV producers and political commentators, and to enjoy a strong relationship with Deloitte's. We have pupils, governors and staff who are part of the SMMA family and the school continues to be hugely grateful to the church for all its support over the years.

Rhian Roberts  
Chair of Trustees

### SoulFood

It has been a great year for SoulFood. We have continued to host dinner and discussion evenings fortnightly for 21-35 year olds. People have come from the St Luke's congregation, the local area, and the extended network of hosts/attendees. It has been heartening to see so many people from all walks of life open to the idea and touched in some way by the St Luke's community.

We've explored various themes such as identity, transition and perseverance, all with a very open mind about what that might mean! Highlights have been a barbecue in the St Luke's Garden, a film screening night, and a summer social on Hampstead Heath. We were also lucky enough to take the concept to Greenbelt festival last summer.

We are very grateful to those who have supported the work logistically, pastorally - or by tolerating the smell of cooking while other events go on!!!

Megan Pengelly & George Mayfield



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### The Grand Scheme

2023 saw the return of The Grand Scheme.

Over the past couple of months we have quizzed a Bible Scholar, been Serenaded by Song, learned to Salsa, workshopped Climate Change, discussed Menopause Matters, discovered how to date the church Silver from its Hallmarks, Spotted over 90 Birds and revealed the fascinating story of Reverend Henry Hampton the first vicar of St Luke's - so full of drama, it really could be made into a TV mini-series!

The objective was to put the fun into fundraising and bank a Grand for St Luke's. We smashed our target and raised approx. £2,400 for the Go Green Project.

Thank you to all hosts, helpers and participants for your support.

Bernadette Cagnoni  
PCC Secretary

### Voices Singing Workshop

Voices Singing Workshop has met weekly in term-time during the past year, with a gap in the autumn while I was a Visiting Fellow at St John's College, Durham. Voices Workshop helps people to find and develop their voice in a safe, non-judgemental space, and to enjoy harmony singing. The pandemic continued to affect the numbers attending in summer 2022, but this year several new people have joined, and have been welcomed by the established members who continue to be very committed.

Angela Reith  
Musician/Music Therapist

### Vox Holloway

Summer 2022 saw us perform **Brazilian Promise**, a feast of Brazilian music, new and old, led by the great Monica Vasconcelos.

Our premiere of **The Sun Does Shine\*** last February was so well received that we gave a repeat performance in October. The Vox Chamber Choir also

visited Coldingley Prison to sing extracts for the inmates, as part of their Black History month activities.

For Christmas, we performed **Britten's Ceremony of Carols** and **Rejoice in the Lamb**, and a new piece - **Now we are () Six** (based on Winnie the Pooh) - by Harvey.

Our Easter Concert, **Lost and Found\*\*\*** included pieces by Handel, Purcell and Brough. Performed at St James's Piccadilly, a new venue for us, we successfully raised £1,750 for Safe Passage.

We are looking forward to performing a new arrangement of The Beatles **Revolver\*\*** and a reprise singalong of **Sgt Pepper** in July - with a garden party vibe.

We are also very pleased to have shown the premiere our documentary film about the making of **The Sun Does Shine**, on Palm Sunday, at the Finsbury Park Picture House, and there are plans to show it again for our many supporters who were unable to attend.

Despite the many difficulties caused by Covid we have managed to maintain our principles of being a community choir, open to all, and to support other charities. Many thanks to St Luke's for continuing to support Vox which is, I think, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year.

Sheena Cruse  
Secretary & PCC Liaison

\* words - Justin Butcher,  
music - Harvey Brough  
\*\* arrangement, Harvey Brough  
\*\*\* Brough, Purcell

### Worship Group

The Worship Group has continued to meet throughout the year to discuss plans for services and make sure the many people who take part in St Luke's services understand how everything comes together. We've produced a template to guide leaders and participants through how a service works and who's responsible for what. The 11am Sunday service has been the main focus of our attention the group has also discussed the Iona service, Evensong and Daily Prayers. We've decided to wind up the

Worship Group in its current form and do something different next year. Rhian is standing down from chairing it, and after 10 years she's also giving up organising the leader's rota.

Rhian Roberts

### Yoga with Vikki

*"Yoga is a very important part of my life, it gives me strength, balance, and energy. Doing it regularly gives me a space where I can nourish and replenish myself. Vikki is an excellent teacher."*

*"Having osteoporosis, I find Vikki's yoga class friendly and very beneficial as it helps to keep my back pain at bay. Yoga also helps with my balance and the breathing exercises helps with my insomnia."*

*"The hour of yoga on Thursday mornings is like a peaceful oasis in my very busy life. The class is small, with a calm, friendly atmosphere, and I feel that we all appreciate the venue and our teacher."*

*"Vikki's yoga class literally keeps my body moving from week to week."*

*"Vikki's Thursday wellbeing yoga class is wonderful I feel regenerated and grounded after my session. It's really helped me re-engage with exercise after several decades of abstinence."*

*"Vikki's yoga class at St Luke's is challenging but also calming and life-affirming."*

I love the Thursday morning group, most of whom are non-church goers. They are very inspiring given most of them are post retirement age. It's developed into a really nice supportive community class, if everyone came all together there would be a cohort of 12.

I feel we could do better with marketing these community events either via social media or posters in libraries, schools and other public places. If you can help or have links to such spaces please do get in touch.

For more information: [vikkiyoga.com](http://vikkiyoga.com)

Vikki Poole



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### Vicar & Churchwardens' Summary

The PCC met six times in the year and received regular reports from safeguarding, finance, worship, community outreach and buildings groups.

#### **PCC Objectives and Activities**

The PCC continued to pursue these objectives from the Mission Action Plan (MAP):

1. Reaching out to those feeling lonely and isolated
2. Running activities to promote good health and well being
3. Extending our work with Children and young people
4. Ensure that every aspect of our common life is considered through an environmental/sustainability lens.

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

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance:

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

- Worship and prayer
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Through outreach work, engaging with people in our local community.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Luke.

#### **St Francis**

The PCC led a review and renewal of the lease between Gower Nursery and the Diocese of London Board of Finance. This incurred significant expenditure on professional fees but resulted in the PCC recommending for agreement a new 15 year lease (backdated to June 2021). The PCC has agreed to monitor the lease so that important dates for review are not missed in the future.

#### **Worship and Prayer**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, evening Iona services provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in more spiritual exploration such as that provided by Soul Food within our parish.

This year we have introduced a series of Lent talks around the theme of inclusion featuring speakers from within the church family and visitors. The visitors included Dr Naomi Jacobs (talking on disabilities), Revd Ruth Harvey (the leader of the Iona Community) and Revd Jane Hodges (Chaplain from Pentonville Prison).

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 175 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 138 of whom are not resident within the parish. Five names were added during the year and two were removed either through death



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or because they moved away from the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 85, with increased attendance at festivals.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 14 baptisms and four weddings. We have held three funerals in our church this year as well as services at the crematorium.

The PCC spent time agreeing a new contract between the PCC and the Director of Music. This has now been signed by all parties and brings the total number of church employees to three.

### **Cloudesley**

The PCC have raised with the generous grants from Cloudesley and donations from the church family £185,000 (approx) for the repairs to the south aisle roof and installation of PV panels and the installation of an air source heat pump. This has been led through our building team and has been a major piece of work for the PCC that should benefit the church and the planet for many years to come. Cloudesley also generously gave us an emergency repair grant to make our electricals safe and to turn the lights back on.

### **Deanery Synod**

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

### **Curate**

The PCC benefited from the ministry of Revd Lizzie Campbell, especially in her work with young people, her concern for the environment, her desire to become involved in reaching out to the lonely and isolated and of course her imaginative preaching and leading worship. Lizzie was ordained a priest in 2022, she moved to another parish to continue her experience and training on December 3rd 2022.

St Luke's Church is situated on the corner of Hillmarton Road and Penn Road, London. It is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Luke's Vicarage, Penn Road, London N7 9RE. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006).

**St Luke's Church** Hillmarton Road, London N7 9JE

[www.saintlukeschurch.org.uk](http://www.saintlukeschurch.org.uk)