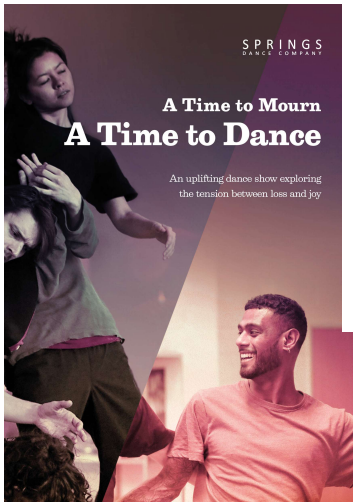


St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

Parish Bulletin and Annual Report 2024



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH MAIDENHEAD

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners
For the
Election of Churchwardens
followed by the
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

Sunday 2nd March 2025

at 11.15am, in the Church, following the 10.00am service of Parish Communion

- 1 Welcome and prayer
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Notification of Any Other Business
- 4 Minutes of meeting held on 21st April 2024, and Matters Arising
- 5 Electoral Roll Officer's Report
- 6 Secretary's Report
- 7 Treasurer's Report
- 8 Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens
- 9 Election of PCC Members
- 10 Report on Welcomers
- 11 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 12 Fabric Report
- 13 Safeguarding Officers Report
- 14 Parish Life Reports
- 15 Incumbent's Report
- 16 Any Other Business
- 17 Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 12th April 2026 (TBC)

**ST LUKE'S CHURCH, MAIDENHEAD
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD AT 11.20 AM ON**

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024

The Reverend Sally Lynch was in the chair and welcomed the 34 people present plus 3 via zoom. She opened the meeting with a prayer.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price had been proposed and seconded for the post of churchwarden and were duly re-elected.

Revd. Sally thanked them for the work they had done over the previous 12 months. This meeting was then closed.

+++++

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, MAIDENHEAD HELD IN THE
CHURCH ON SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024**

Apologies for Absence

Rhidian Jones, Ruth Humphries, Kim Rumble, Lisa Sharp, Rachel Beaumont, Amanda Chandler, Sam Fiordelisi, Bridget Morris, Kate Taylor. Terrie Robinson.

Minutes of meeting held on 30th April 2023 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2023 APCM had been circulated in the Annual Bulletin, these were signed as a true record and there were two matters arising:

- Bev Botting had been co-opted onto the PCC at the meeting in January 2024 and she would be fully elected onto the PCC at this meeting.
- Antonio Shiafkou had been appointed as our independent examiner, in place of the examiner appointed at the APCM.

Electoral Roll Officers Report

The PCC Secretary read out the Electoral Roll Officers Report which had been compiled by the current Electoral Roll Officer, Ruth Humphreys. There are 126 people on the Electoral Roll. Since the 2023 APCM, 1 name had been removed from the roll and 16 names had been added. Revd. Sally thanked Ruth for the work she had done on the Electoral Roll.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report had been published in the Annual Bulletin. Jeanette thanked Ralph for highlighting one inaccuracy which had since been corrected prior to the report being sent to the Charity Commission. There was nothing to add to this report and there were no questions regarding it.

Revd. Sally thanked Jeanette, PCC Secretary for her work towards this report.

Treasurer's Report

The PCC treasurer summarised her report that had been published in the Annual Bulletin. The current state of the accounts were made available to those attending the APCM. Bev highlighted that there was a net loss of just over £12,000 for 2023, largely due to required repairs to the boiler alongside a significant increase in heating costs.

Anne Child raised a question regarding how funds would be raised for the proposed new heating system work. Clare responded by outlining the various grants which might be available, including a current application which had been made to the Oxford Diocese Demonstrator project. Clare informed that meeting that there would also be a need to form a fund-raising committee for both the new heating system work and the required lighting work.

Revd. Sally thanked Clare for the work she had done so far on this project.

Revd. Sally suggested that there might also be an opportunity to invite the local community to become involved as a shared community venture.

There were no other questions to Bev.

Revd Sally thanked Bev for her work over the last 12 months and also thanked Dave Sopp for his support to Bev during the handover of the Treasurer role.

Revd. Sally encouraged all the church family to consider their own personal financial giving, in particular by donating through the Parish Giving Scheme which is automatically gift aided. She also encouraged the congregation to consider the capacity that we have for fundraising activities.

Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Ralph Hinchliffe and Rachel Beaumont had agreed to remain as Assistant Churchwardens for a further 12-month term.

Revd. Sally thanked them both.

Election of PCC Members

Under Canon Law we are entitled to 12 Lay members of the PCC of which a third are elected annually.

Those completing their term of office and therefore not entitled to be re-elected for one year were Jeanette Lock, Kim Rumble, Sally Somerville, and Rita Salter. Jacqueline Lewis had become an ex-officio member as churchwarden. Jeanette Lock had also become an ex-officio member as Deanery Synod rep. Isobelle Davis had retired from the PCC in January 2024.

Revd. Sally thanked them for their contribution to the PCC during their terms of office. This left 4 three-year vacancies and 1 two-year vacancy.

Two nominations had been received prior to the meeting, there were no additional nominations received:

Bev Bottling and Margaret Gibbon were elected for 3 years (until APCM 2027).

Ruth Sheppard, Marc Caporiccio and Jeanette Lock remained as Deanery Synod representatives for another 2 years (until after APCM 2026).

Report on Welcomers

Jaqueline Lewis gave a report on Welcomers. We currently have 14 Welcomers. She thanked them all for their punctuality and reliability during the year.

Revd. Sally also thanked them for all they have done during the year. More welcomers were encouraged to join the team.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Our current independent examiner was Antonio Shiafkou and he had indicated that he would be willing to continue in the role. Revd. Sally suggested that he be re-appointed for next year. This was proposed by Ralph Hincliffe, seconded by Don Luff and carried unanimously. The Chair offered her thanks to Antonio for his swift return of the inspected reports.

Fabric Report

The Churchwardens Fabric report had been published in the Parish Bulletin. The wardens had nothing to add to it, and there were no questions.

Revd. Sally thanked both churchwardens and Simon Bader (Chair of Fabric Committee) together with all those who had served on the Fabric Committee, as they cared for the fabric of the church building. She encouraged people to attend and support the Church Care Mornings. She also thanked those who clean the church.

Safeguarding Officers Report

Barbara Essam, our church Safeguarding Officer had published her report in the Parish Bulletin. Barbara thanked everyone for their contribution to keeping the church a safe place and for showing a good appreciation and understanding of safeguarding. The Chair thanked Barbara for her work as Safeguarding Officer and also thanked Dorothy Strack-Hankey for her administrative support.

Parish Life Reports

These were all published in the Annual Bulletin and there were no questions in relation to them. Revd. Sally mentioned that there was still a need to appoint a Director of Music. She thanked the choir for supporting music during worship. Rev. Sally reported that the Alpha Course had been a success. She thanked those who had helped to lead it as well as those who had taken part.

Incumbent's Report

The Incumbents report had been published in the Annual Bulletin and Revd. Sally highlighted some of the salient points in her report:

- Morning Prayer continued Tuesday to Saturday on Zoom.
- The Festivals of Christmas and Easter had been successful with over 100 people attending worship on Easter morning.
- A monthly communion service took place at Swift House and was well attended.

- It had been a joy to welcome Samantha Fiordelisi into the role of Children and Young Families Leader.
- There was a need to offer continued support to the older members of the church family. This would be a focus of the next Deanery Synod meeting where Anna Chaplaincy and its role in the spiritual care of older people would be explored.
- The occasional offices of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals continued to take place.
- We continued to remember, with fondness, all those we have loved and lost over the last 12 months.
- The PCC would be looking at developing the new Mission Action Plan for 2024 to 2027. Areas of priority would include children, young people and families, how we can be a hub at the heart of our local community, development of our churchyard, heating and lighting projects, inclusivity, and the environment.
- Revd. Sally thanked Revd. Phyl for leading the Eco-Church group which had successfully been awarded the Bronze Eco-Church Award.
- Revd. Sally thanked everyone who offered her ongoing help and support in so many ways, both practically and spiritually. In particular she thanked the Ministry Team including Ruth and Catherine in the church office, Jacqueline and Clare as churchwardens, Sam as Children and Young Families Leader, and Revd. Terrie and Revd. Phyl for their ministry support in so many ways.
- Revd. Sally had completed her Spiritual Accompaniment course. She also continued in her role as Associate Area Dean, as a Trustee for WAMCF and leading the Women's WAMCF group, as a Trustee for FACE (Friends of the Anglican Church in Ethiopia), and as a Ministry Development Reviewer.

Revd. Sally gave a gift to Sue Turner who had hung up her Messy Church apron in December 2023.

Any Other Business

Revd. Sally mentioned a new consultation which had just been released which involved a proposed 20mph speed limit in the roads around the church. She would be providing more information in the next weekly sheet.

There was no other business.

Vote of Thanks

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price proposed that a vote of thanks be given to the Revd. Sally for all her hard work and dedication during the last year, for her friendship and for all that she had offered to the St Luke's church family. A small presentation was made to her.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace at 12.30pm.

Date of Next APCM – 2nd March 2025

Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead Annual Report for 2024

Aims and Purposes

St Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Sally Lynch, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of all the church buildings, these all being situated in Norfolk Road, Maidenhead. It is also responsible for safeguarding in all aspects of the church's life.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to become part of the parish community at St. Luke's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish. Our worship and other activities put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music, and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith through:

- Worship, prayer, and nurturing faith; learning about the Gospel; and developing their faith and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care and the occasional offices for people living in the parish and beyond
- Missionary and outreach work, care for the created world.

To facilitate this work, and as part of our stewardship, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church buildings.

Safeguarding continues to be a major consideration for the PCC, with regular reviews taking place during the year. The PCC has also reviewed the church's Safeguarding Policy and has complied with its duty to have due regard with the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. In 2021 the Diocese of Oxford launched the Safeguarding Dashboard for each parish. This parish has complied fully with it and is currently at level 3 of 3. The PCC ensures that all those required to do so undertake the relevant nationally provided safeguarding training.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Our main service continued to be a Parish Communion service at 10.00am on Sunday, also offered on Zoom. A quieter and more contemplative Service of Holy Communion at 8.00am also took place once a month, along with a weekly service at 10.00am on Wednesdays. In partnership with All Saints, Boyne Hill and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green, we offered a variety of evening services through the Sundays at Six programme. These were a mixture of in-person and Zoom worship. We continued to have an All-Age Communion service on the first Sunday of the month. Baptisms took place at midday on Sundays (mainly) and also within the 10am Sunday Communion service.

At the end of January, we ran an 11-week Alpha Course with fifteen people attending, three of whom were subsequently confirmed in July. The course had provided an opportunity for spiritual growth and development for many of the guests.

We continued to offer zoomed Morning Prayer from Tuesday to Saturday, with up to 15 participants and Evening Prayer on Friday.

St Luke's had joined with other churches in the town of the World Day of Prayer on 1st March, and some members took part in the Good Friday Walk of Witness

We held our APCM on 21st April.

Our Lent course used the video series by Pete Greig "Unanswered Prayer" and on Sundays during Lent we watched the videos from the Diocesan course, Come and See: The Way of Love.

In July and November, we enjoyed quiet days at St Katherine's Parmoor and at St Michael's Convent, Gerrards Cross respectively, both led by Revd. Sally.

A series of nurture and learning opportunities took place between May and November including a Bible Study Course exploring Mathew's gospel, a Pastoral Course and a Soup and Psalms Course.

Our Advent and Christmas services were well attended. Our Carol service was held in-person and also on Zoom. On Christmas Eve we held two well attended Crib services. A variety of School Carol services were held during December.

Samantha Fiordelisi continued in her post as Children and Family Leader. Her role included involvement with the Baby and Toddler group, new Pram Service and Messy Church, as well as the development of strategies to enable and support the growth of children and families during Sunday worship.

A permanent Director of Music continued to be sought so our music remained a combination of visiting organists/pianists and recorded music.

Diocesan/Deanery Synod

Three lay members of the PCC sit on Deanery Synod, alongside the clergy. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the church.

Church Buildings

The Fabric Committee, led by Ralph Hinchliffe, continued to ensure that the church building remains in a good condition prioritising and addressing any general church maintenance which is needed, namely church lighting, the church roof, the boiler and the churchyard. Along with a team of volunteers, they held several church working parties to undertake any general church maintenance needed, both inside and outside the church building. The major issue has been an aging boiler alongside rising utility costs, and the need to renew the lighting system with a better quality and more eco-friendly system.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care continued to be vitally important throughout the year. The Pastoral Team continue to support on a weekly basis, those on the pastoral roll who are housebound or frail. The PCC is extremely grateful to these for the time and effort they have put in.

The vicar and Associate Minister have been able to offer Home Communion and pastoral visits and have conducted a number of funerals, more in church this year than at a crematorium.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. This year our Outward Charitable Giving was £3,600 which was distributed to our three nominated faith-based charities: Foodshare, Green Christians/A Roche Ghana and Embrace the Middle East. The fourth quarter of our Charitable Giving was given to New Brainstorm School in Uganda, Inclusive Church and Toilet Twinning in Lors through Kori. The combined collections from the Crib service and Carol service were donated to a children's charity in the Middle East.

The Christmas Tree Festival raised £4900 for the chosen charity, Thames Valley Heartbeat.

We have encouraged our members to donate to Foodshare via local supermarkets and in church.

Two church members are active Street Angels.

Our Parish Magazine 'Inspire' was published twice during the year and we are grateful to Ruth Humphreys for collating the articles. We produce a weekly news sheet which is circulated via email. Weekly deliveries of the newsheet etc have continued for those church members with no IT provision.

Ruth Humphreys and Catherine England continued in their roles as Parish Office Administrators, Sadly, Catherine left her role in December.

We continue to offer alternative fresh expressions of church, including monthly Messy Church.

We continue to offer our in-person fellowship and outreach activities, such as the monthly Thursday Teas, monthly Keeping Company bereavement group and weekly Baby and Toddler group, which now meets in church and is very popular plus a new monthly Pram Service.

We have continued the Gaynor's Gift group, a Prayer Shawl ministry to knit, crochet or sew shawls or blankets which, once blessed, are distributed to those in any kind of pastoral need. This is held monthly either in church or via Zoom.

Activities through the year

Church Breakfasts were held throughout the year. On 3rd February Ruth Humphreys talked about her role as a Storyteller, on 18th May Jacqueline Lewis talked about the charity Children Reachout Uganda and on 21st September Revd. Sally unpacked some of the mystery of the Church of England.

Lent Lunches were held on 18th February and 3rd and 17th March with £355 raised for Christian Aid.

Following the installation of a Public Access Defibrillator last December, Thames Valley Heartbeat led a defibrillator and resuscitation training on Saturday 20th April.

Revd. Carol Dunk joined us on secondment from January to March before moving to a new role in Slough Deanery.

A useful PCC Away Morning was held on Saturday 11th May to update the St. Luke's Church Mission Action Plan 2024-2027.

A 'Not the Summer Fair' collection took place on 23rd June raising around £1200

In June and July Revd. Sally offered training opportunities to prepare children for Holy Communion before Confirmation. These took place during the All-Age Services with the whole church congregation included in both trainings.

Revd. Phyl Sopp completed her curacy in July and became an Associate Minister in this parish.

We held our Summer All-Age Arts Project, More Than Sparrows from 20th to 24th August with 40 people (of all ages) attending each day.

A Garden Party was held in the Vicarage Garden on Saturday 7th September.
A monthly Pram Service started in October.

Our Harvest Festival and Lunch took place on Sunday 7th October.

Having achieved the Bronze Eco-Church award in July 2023, in October 2024 we have now fulfilled the requirements to apply for the Silver Award.

On Friday 18th October Springs Dance Company performed A Time to Mourn, A Time To Dance.

The second Johanna Raffan Memorial event, this year a lecture, took place on Sunday 20th October with a talk from Dr. Matt Price.

On 24th November Revd. Sally and some of the congregation joined Mitzvah Day, along with people from faiths across the town, for practical community service at the synagogue.

In December we joined other churches in Maidenhead in the Love Christmas initiative where luxury Christmas treats were packed into bags of kindness and distributed to those needing a little bit of love.

Our Christmas Tree Festival took place in December with 73 beautifully decorated Christmas trees in church, sponsored by a variety of people and organisations. We welcomed several hundred people into church each day. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the whole event which raised over £4900 for Thames Valley Heartbeat as well as much needed church funds.

Ecumenical Relationships

We are a member of Churches Together in Maidenhead and, as a Presence and Engagement parish, church members also participate in the activities of Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum and Women's Interfaith Group. We have shared the concerns of our Jewish and Muslim neighbours for the conflict in the Holy Land.

Volunteers and Others

The PCC would like to express its thanks to all the volunteers who contribute to the running of St. Luke's Church. Many of these people work quietly in the background, doing all the little and not so little jobs that go to the smooth running and upkeep of the church. Too many to mention by name, we thank everyone for their contribution no matter how small.

2024 has been another challenging year for all of us and the PCC would particularly like to thank the Reverend Canon Terrie Robinson, and our curate/now Associate Minister the Reverend Phyl Sopp. Also, Dave Sopp for both his work in editing and broadcasting services, assisted by Simon Bader and Raja Mani. We are greatly indebted to churchwardens, Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price, and their team of helpers who have welcomed people into the church.

The Reverend Sally Lynch has worked tirelessly to keep the church running and safe. This has always been done with good humour and a ready smile. She has provided encouragement when needed as well as empathy and has always been available if help is required. This she has done as well as carrying out her function as Associate Area Dean.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Luke's the current membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, Curate, two Churchwardens, three Deanery Synod members and up to twelve members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church (four elected annually for a three-year term). All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of mission and of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are spent and safeguarding. New members receive initial training.

The full PCC of St. Luke's Church in 2024 consisted of 16 members. The PCC met on five occasions during the year, with an average attendance of 75%. There are two committees to which some members of the PCC belong.

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law and has limited powers to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It seeks to promote the effective working of the PCC and coordinate the activities of the various planning groups. Its membership consists of the Incumbent, two Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC secretary and two lay members of the PCC, elected annually. It also acts as the Finance Committee overseeing the financial situation and planning the stewardship renewal. The Standing Committee has met on three occasions during the year.

Fabric Committee:

This committee is responsible to the PCC for all matters in relation to the fabric of the building and churchyard. At the October 2023 meeting of the PCC the Heat & Light (subsequently renamed the Net Zero Carbon Project sub-Committee) and Churchyard groups were made official sub-committees of the PCC.

Administrative Information

St. Luke's Church is situated in Norfolk Road, Maidenhead. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford (and Archdeaconry of Berkshire) within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St. Luke's Church, The Vicarage, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7AX. Registered charity number 1129951

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 are:

Ex Officio Members

Incumbent	The Reverend Sally Lynch (Chair)
Curate/Associate Minister	The Reverend Phyllis Sopp
Churchwardens	Jacqueline Lewis (Vice Chair), Clare Price

Deanery Synod	Ruth Sheppard (until APCM 26)
	Marc Caporiccio (until APCM 26)
	Jeanette Lock (until APCM 26)

Elected Members

Simon Bader (3 year-term until APCM 2025)
Anne Child (3 year-term until APCM 2025)
Barbara Essam (3 year-term until APCM 2025)
Rachel Beaumont (2 year-term until APCM 2025)
Isobelle Davies (3 year-term until APCM 2026)-retired January 2024
Katty King- Coulling (3 year-term until APCM 2026)
Ralph Hindcliffe (3 year-term until APCM 2026)
Pam Bader (3 year-term until APCM 2026)
Bev Botting (3 year-term until APCM 2027)
Margaret Gibbon (3 year-term until APCM 2027)

Jeanette Lock PCC Secretary

Churchwardens Fabric Report

The Fabric Working Group met several times during the year, discussions concerning roof leaks, lighting and heating replacement have been most prevalent.

The main work this year was repairs to the roof, which included work to remedy leaks to the chancel, south aisle, wc and tower/nave roof junction. The contractors also repaired loose flashing to the west end of the nave roof and cleared the north aisle gutters. It is anticipated that further work will be required in 2025 to resolve the intermittent south aisle leak.

The boiler continues to function and a new contractor has been commissioned to undertake routine servicing and maintenance after the retirement of our previous contractor.

All the PAT testing and electrical reports have been carried out.

Working Parties throughout the year have kept the front of the Church and Churchyard in good repair. During the summer project the new bench was fixed in place and a number of eco-project additions were made to the church yard such as two bug hotels. An application for faculty for the churchyard path was submitted for approval.

Smaller jobs within the Church have been carried out, when required, by members of the Fabric committee.

Contractors were employed to replace the high level light bulbs in the nave and a number of low level spotlights that had failed. The next proposed step is to obtain quotes to replace the existing fittings with those that are compatible with LED bulbs and this will be progressed in early 2025.

Having considered the report on replacing the heating and lighting, the Net Carbon Zero Group along with the Fabric committee (and with PCC approval) has resolved to concentrate resources on the lighting in the short term and to postpone further investigation of a new low carbon heating solution until after the lighting situation is resolved.

Jacqueline Lewis and Clare Price

Financial Review

During 2024 the PCC adopted a finance policy. The church accounts are now held on an online platform provided by Xero, and the various documents we use are held on Microsoft Teams. This enables multiple people, including the treasurer and two assistant treasurers, to have access to the accounts with varying levels of authority/access.

This year's biggest expenditure after our share payment to the diocese, were the costs of heating and lighting, and the repairs to the church roof. The PCC has worked with urgency to find a more cost-effective heating solution, but the PCC agreed to postpone a decision while new technologies are developed and installed elsewhere so we will be in a better position to review the right solution for our church.

The Benefactors fund benefited in 2022 by an extremely generous legacy from the late Johanna Raffan MBE. Revd. Sally and the PCC agreed that given Johanna's lifelong commitment to children's education, a major spend from this legacy would be a part-time 'Children and Families Leader' for a fixed term of 3 years (approx. cost of £45,000). Samantha Fiordelisi has been with us since September 2023 and her salary and training has been funded from this legacy. We have also used some money from this fund for the Alpha Course and refreshments, and we plan to use some of this legacy to improve the lighting in the church.

Investigations continue about installing more efficient lighting. These works along with the £14,050 earmarked for Chapel improvements and the potential replacing of our church heating system, mean we will not be short of project work over the coming years. These are exciting opportunities to grow our church and further develop our Outreach in Maidenhead and beyond.

However, a serious concern is our levels of giving. Several members of our congregation who were generous givers, have died during 2024, and others have or will soon move away from the area. This means our giving levels have fallen and not been met by new givers. Increasing levels of giving must be a priority for the incoming PCC.

Balance Sheet

Our income in 2024 was £135,317 and our expenditure was £168,325 giving a net spend over income before investment income of £33008. With investment gains plus depreciation of assets (projector, screen and camera) and value of share holdings, gives total funds at 31 December 2024 of £663,115 – a loss of £32,771 compared with 31 December 2023.

Reserves Policy

The PCC's current policy on holding reserves are as follows: -

Restricted Funds

The PCC is advised on an annual basis of significant unspent balances in these funds where it is apparent that plans are not in hand to spend the money within a reasonable time.

Unrestricted & Designated Funds

Benefactors' Fund: (i.e., accumulated legacies for the general purposes of the PCC). Our policy is that the money should normally only be spent on the capital cost of items, or on repairs/restoration work that would not normally be required more than once every ten years. Alternatively, it can be used to fund support for church personnel development. Hence the reserve level will vary and there is no target level. In 2010 the PCC decided that the dividend income from the part of this fund held as CBF Investment Fund shares should be treated as General Fund income.

Johanna's legacy is reported on separately within the benefactors fund was spent on the children and families leader, and Alpha course costs.

Fabric Reserve Fund: The policy is to hold reserves of between £210,000 and £300,000, so that:

- The income from the investment is sufficient to cover the cost of day-to-day maintenance of the building's fabric (dividend income from the Fabric Reserve CBF shares account will continue to be paid into the Fabric Fund) and
- To allow us, if necessary, to fund major building repair projects without needing to immediately raise funds to do so.

The remaining reserves (i.e., all excluding the Benefactors' and Fabric Reserve funds) should be sufficient to fund three months of ordinary expenditure.

Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Designated Funds		Endowment Funds	Total Funds		Total Funds		
		2024		2023			2024			2023	
		£	£	£	£		£	£		£	£
Income and Endowments from:											
Donations and legacies	2(a)	76,988	1,525	8,428	0	0	86,942	86,327	86,327		
Other trading activities	2(b)	0	11,844	0	0	0	11,844	9,275	9,275		
Investments	2(c)	1,471	22,885	2,724	178	178	27,259	18,227	18,227		
Church activities	2(d)	4,359	3,643	1,271	0	0	9,273	13,835	13,835		
Other activities	2(e)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total Income and Endowments		82,819	39,897	12,423	178	178	135,317	127,665	127,665		
Expenditure on:											
Church activities	3(a)	132,955	18,683	11,312	0	0	162,950	158,708	158,708		
Raising funds	3(b)	851	3,649	0	0	0	4,500	4,363	4,363		
Other activities	3(c)	0	0	875	0	0	875	344	344		
Total Expenditure		133,806	22,332	12,187	0	0	168,325	163,415	163,415		
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(50,988)	17,565	236	178	178	(33,008)	(35,750)	(35,750)		
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	7,571	690	147	147	8,408	31,588	31,588		
Depreciation on assets		-	(8,170)	-	-	-	(8,170)	(8,170)	(8,170)		
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(50,988)	16,966	926	325	325	(32,771)	(12,332)	(12,332)		

ort for the year ended 31st December 2024

Transfers between funds	4								
Events Committee to General Fund		8,195	(8,195)	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Fund to Catering		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benefactors' Fund to General Fund		45,000	(45,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baby and toddler to General		1,000							
Fabric Reserve to Fabric Fund		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fabric Reserve to General Fund		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hick Flower Fund to General Fund			73	0	(73)	0	0	0	0
General Fund to Flower Fund		(127)	127	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		3,080	(36,029)	926	252	(32,771)	(12,332)		
Total funds brought forward at 1st January 2024		(3,732)	620,707	72,283	6,627	695,886	708,218		
Total funds carried forward at 31st December 2024		(652)	584,678	73,209	6,879	663,115	695,886		

Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets			
Screen, projector and camera	7a)	16,340	24,511
Investments		0	0
Parochial Church Council Property	7b)	374,264	365,890
Trust funds administered by the PCC	7c)	1,480	1,447
		392,085	391,847

Current Assets			
Stock	0	0	0
Investments	0	0	0
Debtors	0	0	0
CBF Deposit Accounts - held by the PCC			
CBF No. 1 (General)	5,401	3,979	
CBF No. 2 (Fabric)	23,160	14,029	
CBF No. 3 (Trusts)	12,924	11,958	
CBF No. 5 (Development)	4	4	
CBF No. 6 (Organ)	9,271	7,899	
CBF No. 7 (Benefactors')	191,158	222,404	
CBF No. 9 (School)	9,168	8,604	
Lloyds Bank Deposit Account (Development Fund)	4,144	4,095	
Lloyds Bank Current Account	11,627	26,621	
RBS Current Account	12,078	18,527	
	<u>278,936</u>	<u>318,120</u>	
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors for goods and services	7,185	13,834	
Cheques written off as not presented in more than one year	720	247	
Advanced payments received	0	0	
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	<u>271,030</u>	<u>304,038</u>	
Total Net Assets	<u>663,115</u>	<u>695,886</u>	
represented by:-			
Parish Funds	8		
Unrestricted	8a)	616,975	
Restricted	8b)	72,283	
Endowment	8c)	6,627	
	<u>663,115</u>	<u>695,886</u>	

Our Agreed Vision and Mission statements, and Values (MAP)

Our Vision:

Our vision is to be an inclusive church which is 'In Faith, Out There', bringing Jesus' healing and wholeness to people around us. With the whole Diocese of Oxford, we seek to become more Christ-like as we live out his teaching and example.

Our Mission:

At St Luke's we aim to grow in faith and encourage each other along the way. As Christian people, strengthened and enthused by our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are committed to spreading the light of the Gospel into our community, our nation and our world. We are responding to the vision of the Diocese of Oxford to live out the Beatitudes (Matthew 5. 1-10) by trying to be more compassionate, contemplative and courageous disciples of Jesus, becoming more Christ-like for the sake of God's world.

Our Values:

Inclusivity:

to be a church that welcomes all people and cares for the good of all.

Creativity:

to use our God given gifts in creating stimulating and varied worship and learning activities and to celebrate creativity in all its forms.

Generosity:

to use our building, time, talents and money for the growth of God's Kingdom and the benefit of other people, and to care for creation.

Wholeness:

to seek to deepen our own faith and spirituality through worship, study, prayer and silence; and to encourage others to explore faith in God, and to promote wellbeing for all.

Hospitality:

to share fellowship and food as widely as we can, and enable others to meet with God.

Our plans for development 2024 - 27

Nurturing disciples

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- Growth in faith and love for God
- Bringing new disciples (of all ages) to faith

How might we do this?

- Establish a more effective welcome ministry (tea, visit, pack)
- Be more intentional in the discipleship of all ages.
- Offer a second Alpha course.
- Offer a wide variety of nurture activities at different times.
- Have Bibles available to give people enquiring.

Worship for all

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- Improved worship experience and accessibility for newcomers
- Enabling people to meet with God
- Offering something for different preferred styles

How might we do this?

- Continue to explore a broader pattern of offered worship and service structure, e.g., develop a 'Pram service' mid week, or Sunday afternoon family service.

Environment and justice

What are we aiming to achieve:

- A more environmentally aware and friendly community
- An ability to live out the Beatitudes

How might we do this?

- Attain the Silver Eco Church award

Buildings and Grounds

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- A peaceful and beautiful space for reflection, to meet with God
- A well used building, which is financially secure

How might we do this?

- Intensive work on the churchyard to create a sustainable open reflective space
- Create an external path around the church
- Renew our lighting
- Replace our aging boiler with a heat source one.

Fellowship, Outreach and Wider Community

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- More participation in wider activities
- The church community as a place of healing and wholeness
- A community where new people feel they belong

How might we do this?

- Re-examine our Street Prayer letters and other materials
- Promote good mental health and well being
- Run an all age Arts Project in the school summer holidays.
- Take a part full in Heritage weekend (September)

These developments build on our existing ministry and seek to further what we already offer - with a re-focus on 'being' good news and growing faith, going back to the basics of prayer and Bible reading. Revised May 2024

Reports on church life 2024

Incumbent's report

In many respects, 2024 was a quiet year as we consolidated changes since the pandemic and sought to grow together in faith. We welcomed new people to our fellowship, and we lost others through death, or moving on.

The secretary's report sums up the life of the church in 2024 in superb detail.

Some of the highlights for me are:

- Weekday ministry with children has flourished under the ministry of our Children Family leader, Sam; but Sundays remain a challenge, with few families attending together on a regular basis, making planning a sustained weekly children's ministry difficult.
- Ministry with our older members has been fruitful, supporting a thriving Thursday Teas fellowship and well attended Keeping Company sessions (valued by attendees). The monthly communion service at Swift House is much appreciated.
- Our first Alpha course was a resounding success although it is fair to say that the leadership team were not comfortable with all of material.
- Our fourteenth Christmas Tree Festival was a joy as we welcomed over 3000 people through the church and raised most ever for charity – as well as boosting our own funds. This also impacted on good attendance at Christmas services, and continued to foster really strong links with our wider community. We have also got the organisation well - tuned so that all can enjoy it – though more helpers would avoid the tiring overload!
- It was good to welcome Revd. Carol Dunk to share a term with us. She was able to contribute in some key areas and was a good colleague on the team.
- Our Summer All Age Arts Project was a joy, drawing in a variety of people and ages to have creative fun together and end with reflective Space Makers exercises.
- Maintaining streamed services through Zoom has been invaluable. We have been able to support the housebound and when folk are sick they have still been able to worship. Most of all, the almost daily sharing of Morning Prayer by Zoom offers the perfect start to each day, enhanced by the incorporation of the Daily Reflections book.
- Our shared ministry with the churches of All Saint Boyne Hill and the Good Shepherd, Cox Green, has not just supported us as clergy but enabled us to undertake bigger projects. The beautiful production by Springs Dance company is one example of this.
- Despite our continued lack of a Director of Music, at key points in the church year we have been able to enjoy some meaningful and, at times, spine tingling worship under the guest leadership of Richard Harker and David Pether, and also, before his residentiary year at Guildford Cathedral began, George Baldwin.
- A final highlight must be the visit to St. Luke's of Canon Mary Gregory, a first stop on her tour of Berkshire Archdeaconry, on the day her appointment as Bishop Designate of Reading was announced. Pride may be a sin, be we still bear that!

As usual, as well as joys throughout the year, we have been saddened by the deaths of church members – it felt that we said farewell to too many beloved friends last year. In our last annual report we paid tribute to Julienne Grobler, a long-time member of church. Janet Whitlock had been with us for a much shorter time but was a valued member of the Wednesday service community and 'sacristan' at Swift House services. She is much missed.

Phyllis Sigsworth contributed a huge amount to the life of St. Luke's for almost fifty years. She was the first woman churchwarden here and gave wholly of herself to the church through a strong faith, which had sustained her through an amazing career in the Police Force. Her example lives on for all of us. Ann Hockham had also been a longstanding church member and, like Phyllis, had served in the wider community too, both of them through Maidenhead Care. Ann was a gentle soul with a deep faith and love of all of God's creation. For many years she supported my own ministry by caring for my (now late) dog, Lily, freeing me to care for all of you!

Pat Botting and Roy Wakelin were members of our parish whom I knew well through various ministries. Each brought humour and their own life to the wide community. And at the end of the year, we said farewell to Tony Barber, our very close neighbour and good friend of the church. He enjoyed fellowship with many of us, whilst missing too his late wife Enid, a stalwart of St. Luke's. Several eras ended in 2024.

In December we also said goodbye to Catherine England, one of our two Admin Officers, as she left to work on pastures new. We will miss her easy-to-work-with manner and the way she just got with what needed doing.

As in past years, many people continue make up our church community and have helped us to rebuild and re-establish over the past year. So thank you to:

- The Choir and our locum organists - Richard Harker, David Pether, Simon Dinsdale, George Baldwin and Edgar Hakobyan.
- Nicola Buckland, for her work as crucifer, and Emily Kershaw who has joined her.
- All who read the lessons and lead intercessions.
- All who welcome people.
- Dave for masterminding our Zoom on Sundays and keeping an ear on the sound, ably assisted by Rachel, Simon and Raja.
- Sally and Lisa, Gill, Colette, Howard and Angie, the catering and cleaning teams.
- Sue and those who care for and launder our church linen.
- The whole team of flower arrangers, and Fiona Leonard as she takes over co-ordinating this work.
- The Thursday tea (Fran and Sue T) and lunch arrangers (Jean TD).
- The Messy Church team.
- All who set up for Baby and Toddler group, serve coffee and help clear away (Kath, Lucy, Don, Julie, Bridget, Louisa, Barbara, Jenny and Kim... and others)
- The developing Pram service team (Sam, Jacqueline, Ruth, Isobel and Angela)
- Our children for keeping on keeping on when they are small in number at times.
- Don for keeping the Bible Reading Fellowship notes going .
- All who care for the church gardens, especially Sue and Neil.
- Everyone who looks after our buildings, and Ralph as Chair of Fabric.
- Sue, Ralph and John who serve as wedding and funeral vergers.
- The fabulous Christmas Tree Festival team.
- Ruth for putting together Inspire magazine.
- Sally, Sam and Ruth, the school assembly Team.
- Rhidan, our Chair of Governors and Peter, school governor.

- Sam and Chayleen and all the staff of our amazing school.
- Ruth, Jeanette and Marc, Deanery Synod reps.
- Bev, Ben, Kim and the developing finance team, advised by Dave.
- Jacqueline and Clare, our churchwardens, ably assisted by Rachel and Ralph.
- The small team of committed pastoral contactors and deliverers, who have kept people in touch with church life.
- Jeanette, outgoing PCC Secretary, and Smita as she takes up the pen.

Safeguarding remains a crucial aspect of church life, and especially so across the whole, church this year. Thank to everyone who has taken time to undertake safeguarding training and especially to Barbara Essam, our Parish Safeguarding Officer who is deeply committed to ensure we do this well. Thanks too to Dorothy for her admin support.

Our Deanery and Diocese have both continued to support parish life throughout this year. As Associate Area Dean, I have valued regular input and Chapter meetings. The Diocesan vision that we may each grow in our discipleship and become more Christ like - courageous, contemplative and compassionate – for the sake of God’s world, is very firmly embedded and more resources to support mission are available. The diocesan focus on children, young people and families is challenging but vital.

We have also continued our strong links with our sisters and brothers of faiths of other than our own, as a number of our congregation have supported a variety of WAMCF activities over the year. It was sad to say farewell to Rabbi Jonathan Romain in the summer, but good to welcome Rabbi Rene Pfertzel, who has already visited St. Luke’s. It is a real joy that WAMCF decorates a tree at the CTF.

As a whole church we have continued to work together to further the ministry and work of God in this place where He has set us.

Above all the Ministry Team has continued to work incredibly hard and demonstrated a deep love for God and the church family, and been a great support to me as I have sought to lead us on.

Ruth and Catherine supported our administration with joy and offer a cheerful voice on the end of the phone. They have really lightened the load for us. Jacqueline and Clare have worked hard to support the whole life of the church, and myself, as wardens. They complement each other and work together so well.

Terrie and Phyl have both continued to enrich our worship – from leading Zoom Morning Prayer, to presiding and preaching and being fully immersed in leading the whole life of the church. Our whole ministry team works together so well and is wholly supportive and keen to see God’s kingdom grow here.

As we say goodbye too to Phyl and Dave, who leave us in February to move to Harrogate, we give thanks for the rich ministry that each has brought to the church family. Dave has been a huge support in our technical needs and guided as us interim treasurer. It has been pure joy to see Phyl called from the congregation to discernment, training and then ordination as deacon and priest, leaving us as Associate Minister. She has served in ways that many have not seen and been a gentle and

supportive presence as well as spearheading our Eco church work. Their departure, and that of Rachel, who has served brilliantly as an assistant warden, seeing what is needed and just doing it, will leave a huge hole in our church life, but they go with our blessing, our love and our thanks.

So we face another year with fewer resources, as we find that some people are less mobile and others more time-poor, with the ongoing need to increase our finances, and perhaps most of all, a need for commitment from us all to the whole, life of the church. It is challenging, but we are reminded of God's words in Jeremiah 29.11, 'for surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you future, with hope'. To which, we might respond, in prayer, 'bring it on'!

Thank you, every one of you, for all that you do to grow God's kingdom in this place, to help each other and those around us to live life to the full - as Jesus offered. May we continue to minister together, in His name and for His sake.

The Revd. Sally Lynch

Safeguarding Report

I would like to begin my report by thanking all the volunteers at St Luke's who have responded to requests to fulfil safeguarding training and DBS requirements. All volunteers are expected now to complete at least Basic Safeguarding Awareness, so we plan to arrange a group training session this Spring for all those who have not completed this module.

The publication of the report from the Makin review, along with publicity surrounding incidents of domestic and spiritual abuse within parishes in our diocese, have meant that Safeguarding in our church communities has become very newsworthy. The findings have no doubt affected us all, leaving us and most parishes feeling upset, angry and disappointed by the failures to protect vulnerable children and adults. Oxford diocese has responded through Bishop Steven and the Safeguarding team, who have always been very supportive and conscientious in responding to concerns.

Whilst it is difficult to see a positive outcome for the victims, I share my Parish Safeguarding Officer colleagues' view that awareness and understanding of the need for a strong commitment to Safeguarding and the required training has risen, for which we are grateful. The Oxford Diocese is committed to ongoing improvement of their procedures and support, and it is good to know that the Safeguarding leads have been given greater authority to ensure good practice and accountability.

The Oxford Diocese Parish Safeguarding Dashboard continues to be a valuable asset to our work, and at the time of writing we remain over 90% compliant with policies, procedures and training. The main reason for us not being fully compliant remains overdue training, so I would urge all volunteers to respond promptly to requests to complete or renew their training and/or DBS. Thanks to Revd. Sally, almost all of our current volunteer and employee role descriptions have been completed, distributed and signed off this year. We currently have 25 active roles so this was a considerable amount of work for her.

We continue to comply with the Diocesan requirements for Safer Recruitment. We are compliant with GDPR, thanks to Ralph Hinchcliffe.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do get in touch with me, with Revd. Sally or with Dorothy Strack-Hankey, our Safeguarding Administrator. Finally, I would like to thank Dorothy for all her hard work in ensuring training and DBS requirements are kept up to date.

Barbara Essam
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Our Musical Life

For a second year without a Director of Music or regular Organist choir members continued to help lead worship from the choir stalls on Sunday mornings throughout 2024 (other than All-Age HC Services each first Sunday of the month). Monthly self-led Choir Practices to recorded music accompaniment were introduced and thank you to Rev'd Sally for controlling the sound system for us. It has been good for the choir to get together one Friday evening each month.

Compared with 2023 we had to rely more frequently on recorded music with its occasional speed variations and other little surprises. However, when our respective visiting Organists were available, we had some great organ playing from George Baldwin, Richard Harker, David Pether and Simon Dinsdale. We were sorry to lose George in July when he left to take up the position of Organ Scholar at Guildford Cathedral for 2024/2025.

We were also able to provide some additional choral music during Holy Week and Easter, a Sung Compline in May, and at our Christmas Carol Service - particular thanks to Richard Harker for his work with the choir for these.

For the third year running the choir was invited to sing at the public Carol Service in the Chapel of Christ the Redeemer at Culham, which we were pleased to accept.

We continue to hope and pray that the Director of Music/Organist vacancy will be filled.

Sue Maclean
Choir Member

Report on Ministry with children and young people

It's a really exciting time at St. Luke's, as we are able to offer a variety of activities for families and children to join in on!

On Sundays our Children and Family leader (Sam) provides an activity for the children and together they learn about the bible story/lesson that's relevant to the activity. We also have our all-age services on the first Sunday of every month, where the children are able to get involved in the service itself with Revd. Sally. We normally have anywhere between 3-7 children each Sunday and are hoping to grow this number by plugging our services during all our family events and being active on social media, and of course praying for more families.

Our most popular activity is our baby and toddler group, which takes place every Thursday (term time) between 9:30-11am. We are often told that we run the most popular local playgroup and it's

loved by many and always growing! We usually have roughly 30 parents/grandparents/carers join us that bring roughly 35-40 children along with them (sometimes more!). During our playgroup we offer a wide range of toys to play with, a different craft each week, healthy snacks, tea/coffee for the adults, and end with lots of fun songs/some Christian songs and a story. We've been able to keep this at only £1.50 per family, making it affordable for everyone in the community. We also have a fantastic team of very hard-working volunteers who help us setup and take down the toys each week – if it wasn't for them this wouldn't be possible!

Another popular activity we offer is Messy Church, which takes place on the first Friday of every month from 4-5:30-pm. This is aimed for older children (age 4+), but we do often have younger siblings who come along as well – who either also get involved, or are happy to play in the baby toy area. There is a theme each year for Messy Church (last year was Old Testament stories and this year will be New Testament stories), so every month they will learn about somebody different and based upon that person/story, Sam then begins by telling them the story, then presents a slideshow with some videos for them to watch (as we've found this engages them in this modern world of ours) in which they also sing and dance to some songs together, then a variety of relevant crafts are offered for them to get involved in (always involving some fun messy crafts), we then gather back together for our worship and then end with a 2-course meal sitting and chatting together. It's always a great way to teach the children about the bible and to bring the community together! We've also been able to keep this very affordable at only £2 per child. Again, we have a wonderful team of volunteers who work very hard in helping to setup and tidy up afterwards, help with the crafts, serve food and keep everybody happy and engaged!

We have also started running Pram service sessions the second Friday of each month in October 2024 – tailored for children 0-4 years of age from 9:30-10:30am. It doesn't cost anything for families to attend. We think of a different theme each month (we will next be doing Epiphany) and then we start the service by singing some songs, and our amazing pram service team then dresses up and gets out props to act out the story for the children, we end with worship and a fun craft for the children and tea/coffee for the adults. The number of children attending is still very small as we've only just started, but are hoping this grows by plugging it at all our activities and being active on social media. It's a great way to get younger families involved in worship and to meet new people.

Lastly, St Luke's has close ties with St. Luke's Primary School (and other local schools in our area!) – we have a lovely team of "Open the Book" volunteers who attends St. Luke's school every Wednesday morning from 8:45-9:30am and bring props/dress up and tell/act out a different bible story each week for the school at their Open the Book assembly. It's a great way for the church to be involved in teaching the children and getting to know them (and plugging our other fun activities we offer at the church). We also often have the local schools come to the church and hold assemblies for their end of term, carol services, etc.

We are always keeping very busy and looking to grow our number of families and children, and know by having close ties with the community we will get there! Thank you again to all our fantastic volunteers who help make any of this possible – you are greatly appreciated!

Sam Fiordelisi, Children and Family Leader

Eco Church Report

As Christians we are called

“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”

Anglican consultative council 5th Mark of Mission

The Eco group was formed with objective of looking at ways of making St Luke’s church more environmentally aware and to provide information to both the congregation and wider community so that they may make environmentally friendly and sustainable choices.

To guide us on this journey we are using the A Rocha Eco Church framework and we were delighted to receive the Bronze Eco Church award in 2023. This year we have been working towards the requirements to gain the silver award. We are now at the point where we can submit our application for this.

Working in conjunction with other groups in church some of the changes we have implemented to reach this point are:

- Installation of bird boxes and bug houses in the churchyard – to encourage biodiversity
- Plans to make the churchyard more accessible
- Development of a parish sustainability policy
- Encouraging less waste, by thinking about what we use.
- Use of recycled, recyclable and environmentally friendly products
- The long-term projects for our heating and lighting

It is an ongoing process of learning what we can collectively and individually do to live more sustainably and protect God’s wonderful creation, our world, for generations to come . If you have any suggestions or questions please don’t hesitate to speak to a member of the group.

Rev. Phyl Sopp

Pastoral team

The Contactors are part of the Pastoral Care Team. We each have a list of members of the congregation who we contact frequently and offer support where we can. This could be just a chat on the phone or an occasional meet up for coffee or indeed an email. Occasionally practical help might be needed. Of course there are some people who we see most weeks in Church enabling a chat and catch up after the service. All of us are Enhanced DBS screened and we meet as a team a few times in the year to check the lists are up to date and to discuss procedures. This service is particularly important with new members of the congregation, to make sure they feel welcome and part of our community.

There is also Keeping Company which is a group who meet every third Thursday in the month. People who have been bereaved either recently or some time in the past have the opportunity to meet over tea and home made cake for a social afternoon. Tea is followed by a reflection given by either Sally or Phyl and then there is the chance to light a candle in memory of a loved one. This is an increasingly popular group which has grown considerably in the last few months and it is lovely to see friendships developing as a result of this very rewarding ministry. Anyone is welcome to come along and can contact either Sally, Phyl, Don, myself or Sue Curley. Sue rings people each month to remind them of the date of the meeting.

Ruth Sheppard

Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF)

WAMCF is the interfaith group in this borough. WAMCF comprises nine faiths and beliefs – Hinduism, Sikhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Brahma Kumaris and Humanism. Over the last four decades it has consistently organised a stream of activities including sporting events, conferences, workshops, youth concerts, faith walks, diversity dinners and interfaith dialogues. It participates in the annual UK Interfaith Week and has a strong Women's Group. The Revd. Sally Lynch is a trustee of WAMCF and leads the Women's group.

Activities in 2024 include:

- Three Dialogues (at Thames Hospice, the Synagogue and Taplow Court)
- The Oxford Foundation Inter-faith leaders meeting
- A Summer Reception at the Long Barn, Norden Farm
- Sporting events – Golf and Cricket tournaments
- A Faith panel at Desborough School
- Participation in Mitzvah Day Maidenhead Synagogue

The Women's Group

The Ladies Group continues to meet in a variety of venues. At each meeting we have enjoyed the company of between 15 and 30 ladies from across faiths and traditions. We certainly represent a breadth of beliefs in our area

Our What's App group has been invaluable; it enables us to stay in touch with each other and share spiritual, and other, encouragement (and remind each other about meetings!)

We enjoyed refreshments and crafting as well as speakers and discussions.

We have been joined at one meeting by ladies from the Reading interfaith group and also often by Peach Hoyle, she is a PhD student at the University of Cambridge looking for women to interview about their experiences of participating in interfaith initiatives. Her focus is particularly on women's initiatives and interfaith activities which integrate food, textiles or crafting. She has interviewed myself, Nimi and Barbara.

Our meetings this year have been:

At Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, talk and tours

Revd. Joan Hicks on Guatemala

At St. Edmund Campion, 'we are women', talk and discussion cards

At Maidenhead Synagogue, food theme – shared 'faith' food

At the Gurdwara, Community Rehabilitation Support Worker, Angela Miller, on good mental health

Making decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival and a wreath demonstration

Our meetings continue to be open to ladies of all faiths and none.

Revd. Sally Lynch

Our Outward Giving...

... for 2024 amounted to £3530 . Our three main chosen charities were, as in 2023 (when we agreed to support for two years):

- International: Embrace the Middle East.
- Local: Maidenhead Foodshare.
- National: A Rocha. Each received £882.50

We also gave £294 each to

- New Brainstorm School in Uganda
- Toilet twinning through the Kori Development Fund, in Sierra Leone
- Inclusive Church

On addition, special collections also gave:

- £300 to Embrace the Middle East (Carol Service collection)
- £240 to UNICEF
- £4,900 to Thames Valley Heartbeat (Christmas Tree Festival)
- £355 to Christian Aid (Lent lunches)
- £170 to Love Christmas
- £1,545 to Thames Hospice (Recital)
- £450 To the Children's Society (Crib services and Christingle)

St. Luke's School

We continue to enjoy close links with our church Primary School: St. Luke's Primary School, a Voluntary Controlled Academy in ODST (the Oxford Schools Diocesan Trust).

Over the year we continued to lead 'Open the Book' style assemblies in school and were involved in Theology Week, including the usual interfaith panel, answering deep questions from Year 5 and 6 pupils.

Pupils came to church for services, at Christmas and for the Year 6 Leavers, who were presented with a copy of Luke's gospel as usual – a gift from church, and dictionary from Spoores Merry and Rixman. The school also came to church for Harvest and Patronal services, with a good number of parents present too. Three productions of the Early Years Nativity were held in church, which enhanced the experience for everyone.

We welcomed Mrs Samantha Stevenson as our new Head teacher in January 2024, and Mrs Chayleen Payne as Deputy Head in September. They lead a strong team of talented staff and ensure that the school vision. 'Life in all its fullness' is made possible for all children.

Governors, led by Rhidian Jones, continue to play a major role in the school, visiting, undertaking learning walks and meeting with staff as well as termly formal business meetings.

We are all encouraged to pray regularly for our school and its staff and families.

We also continue to have strong links with St. Piran's Prep. School, where Revd. Sally is a governor and serves as chaplain. Some senior staff, and the Chair of Governors are church members.

Churches Together in Maidenhead

CTiM changed its format in 2024, with general meetings ceasing and an agreement that town centre ministers would meet together bi-monthly for prayer and fellowship. Different churches would head up shared activities. St. Mary's planned the Walk of Witness of Good Friday, which has a very good attendance. St. Peter's led the very successful Love Christmas project, taking packages of goodies to families through schools and older people through participating churches.

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod Annual report for 2024

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium runs from 2023 to 2026. At the end of 2023 the Synod had 67 members. Attendance varied from 30 to 42 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2024:

Wednesday 7th February 2024 at All Saints Church, Dedworth:

- The Synod heard from Rev Jo Ellington, chaplain at Altwood School, Maidenhead, about her experiences and learnings there, including highlights and challenges.
- Rev Paul Walker (All Saints Dedworth) shared about the chaplaincy team currently visiting Windsor Girls' School, including how it works and what activities they run.
- Rev Charlie Kerr (Diocese Chaplaincy Advisor) shared about prayer spaces and the use of Space Makers in primary schools.
- General Synod member Daniel Matovu gave a report on the November 2023 General Synod sessions.

Thursday 16th May 2024 at St Luke's Church, Maidenhead:

- The Synod heard an introduction to Anna Chaplaincy, which is a way of providing spiritual care for older people, including how that works and what it involves.
- The Synod heard about some of the safeguarding issues involved when supporting older adults.
- General Synod member Gracy Crane gave a report on the February 2024 General Synod sessions.
- Deanery Lay Chair Jim Tucker gave a brief report on the Deanery Morning held on 27th April alongside Bracknell Deanery, thinking about how we can help with Children and young people.

Wednesday 16th October 2024 at St Stephen and St Agnes Church, Windsor:

- A small update to the Parish Share allocation formula was approved to stay consistent with the Diocese's formula.
- Several parishes shared some of their learnings around working with children and young people:
 - St Andrew's Clewer: Wild Worship, worshipping with children outside in nature
 - St Mary's Maidenhead: three aspects of and three reflections on work with secondary school age children

- St Mary's White Waltham: how to put youth work at the heart of church life, gradually growing a bigger team, and teaching children creatively
- General Synod member Daniel Matovu reported on the range of topics discussed at the July 2024 General Synod sessions.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, the Deanery paid £ 925,871 of parish share in 2024, against an allocation of £ 1,031,299, which was 89.8% of the requested amount from the diocese. The diocesan average was 93.6%. This was a reduction from the £ 931,978 paid in 2023.

The PCCs of Windsor Parish Church, Clewer St Stephen & St Agnes, and Windsor Holy Trinity, have all voted to replace New Windsor Team Ministry with one Parish of Central Windsor. With the support of Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Archdeaconry of Berkshire this change was approved by the Church Commissioners and came into effect on 1 January 2025, with Reverend Canon Sally Lodge continuing as Rector.

***Thomas Walton, Secretary
Deanery Secretary***

Thank you to all who have both contributed reports to this Annual Bulletin, and also participated in, helped with or led the various services and activities.

Full contact details can be found in the annual year book, updated and available after the APCM.

St. Luke's Church, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7AX
Office: 01628 622733
www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

Vicar: The Revd. Sally Lynch, 26 Norfolk Road, Maidenhead
01628 783033 sally514@btinternet.com