

# St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead



## PARISH BULLETIN, and Annual Report for 2019

**ST. LUKE'S CHURCH MAIDENHEAD**

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

SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

At 11.30am in the Church

- 1 Welcome and prayer
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019, and Matters Arising
- 4 Electoral Roll Officer's Report
- 5 Secretary's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report
- 7 Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens
- 8 Election of PCC Members
- 9 Report on Sidespersons / Welcomers
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- 14 Incumbent' Report
- 15 Any Other Business
- 16 Date of Next Meeting      Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held at 11.30am on  
Sunday 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**

The Reverend Sally Lynch was in the chair and welcomed the 54 people present. She opened the meeting with a Bible reading (Colossians 3.12-17) and reflection, followed by a prayer.

**Election of Churchwardens**

Susan Hinchliffe of 42 Greenfields, Maidenhead

John Salter of 35, Belmont Road, Maidenhead

had been proposed and seconded for the post of Churchwarden and were duly elected.

The retiring churchwardens Johanna Raffan and Dave Sopp were thanked for their work during their terms of office.

This meeting was then closed.

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**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St. Luke's Church,  
Maidenhead held in the church on Sunday 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**

**Apologies for Absence**

Shula Tajima, Jill & Tony Lucas, Reverend Nicola & Ben Hulks, Bill Bowyer, Richard & Ann Burdett, Matthew & Clare Burdett, Andrew Burdett, Adam Went, Gill Curry, Fran Hornby, Rachel Beaumont, Eileen & Peter Goford, Jan Gilchrist, Emma Cameron

**Electoral Roll Officers Report**

The Electoral Roll Officer, Ann Burdett, had submitted the following report to the meeting:

All Anglican churches have to completely revise their Electoral Roll every six years, and 2019 is one of those years.

The new roll has 102 members, which is an overall decrease of 28 compared to the number on the roll last year.

If you are not on the new roll and would like to be, then you can complete an application form and be added to it. In accordance with the rules, you will not be able to vote at today's APCM, but you will be eligible to vote at future meetings.

Ann was thanked, in her absence, for her work in producing the new roll.

Jill Bevitt who had been our Electoral Roll Officer for a number of years was thanked for her work and a presentation was made to her.

**Secretary's Report**

The secretary's report had been published in the Annual Bulletin prior to the meeting. The secretary had nothing further to add to his report.

There were no questions to the secretary in relation to his report and he was thanked for his work during the year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer had sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and had sent the following report:

The full report and accounts were circulated this year as part of the Parish Bulletin, so I do not need to repeat the detail they contain. You will be pleased to know that they were approved by our Independent Examiner on Tuesday evening when I met him at Paddington with the source paperwork so that he could verify their accuracy, and hence the fully signed version is now also available as well as being on the church website.

As far as the General Fund is concerned, the key figures you should be aware of in 20 18 are:

- We were able to report a surplus of £1,961 versus a deficit in 2017 of £450 simply due to the very generous anonymous donation of £10,000. This was a wonderful gift, but you must be aware that had we not received it the deficit would have been £8,039, which would have been by far the largest we would ever have recorded.
- The Christmas Tree festival was a great success, raising near £5,000, which was £2,000 more than in 2017, for the General Fund.
- Lettings and fee income was better than expected.
- •The cost of our church music increased to historic levels as we again had a permanent Director of Music and Organist for the whole year.
- Planned Giving and the Gift Aid Tax refund were essentially unchanged, with some large one-off donations at the time of the November renewal replacing weekly or monthly giving earlier in the year. It is disappointing that there were no completely new givers as a result of the stewardship renewal.

For the other funds, we spent nearly £10,000 on building maintenance from the Fabric Fund compared to an investment income of £6,980, so again we are spending more than we receive.

The final cost of the reordering project can still not be calculated as we have not received the architect's fee invoice. We did though receive £27,394 in 20 18 towards this project mainly from the VAT refund and the Co-Op community fund grant.

Overall, if you add up all the money in our bank accounts and the value of our investments, we did increase our total assets during 2018 by £7,868, but this positive figure is less encouraging if you deduct the exceptional items of the £10,000 gift and the £27,394 grants for the reordering, leaving a fall of about £30,000, or 8.8%, of what we started the year with.

Turning now to the current year, we still need to address the issue of the serious General Fund deficit. If we get another £10,000 donation at the end of the year then we can again defer making any decisions, but if not then we simply have to face up to the fact that our current income is not sufficient to continue to support the current level of expenditure.

Ultimately, the message is simple. If we want St Luke's to continue to exist to serve this community and parish as it has done for the last 152 years, then we all are going to have to give substantially more money through Planned Giving. The alternative is that, via your

representatives on the PCC, you indicate that you want to reduce what we do so that we cut our expenditure to match our income.

A vote of thanks was given to the treasurer, in his absence, for his work during the year. There were no questions in relation to his report.

The Reverend Sally Lynch thanked everyone for their giving to the work of the church and invited all to consider more creative ways of achieving our required income. These included giving up one item of £5 weekly or monthly (e.g. a coffee and cake at a coffee shop, a swim, a pint of beer) and giving that money to the church. She also pointed out that we have a beautiful and large building which offers a good venue for concerts etc and encouraged all to think about how we might best utilise the building for financial benefit.

### **Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens**

Both current Assistant Church Wardens Sue Hinchliffe and John Salter have become our Churchwardens. They were thanked for their service during the year.

The following were appointed as Assistant Churchwardens: - Johanna Raffan, Dave Sopp and Michael Masango.

### **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 terms of office this year are Matthew Burdett, Tony Lane, Emma Shenton, Chris Smith. A further vacancy is created due to John Salter being elected Churchwarden as he becomes an ex-officio member. This therefore leaves us with a total of eight vacancies which are as follows: 4 three- year, 2 two-year and 2 one-year.

Six nominations had been received prior to the meeting, there were no additional nominations received. The following were therefore elected Rachel Beaumont, Eileen Goford, Michelle Lane, Michael Masango Murwisi, Ruth Sheppard and Phyllis Sopp. The two one-year vacancies will remain unfilled.

### **Election of Sidespersons**

Nikola Sorrell was nominated for election as a sidesperson. It was agreed that she should be elected and that all other sidespersons should be elected en bloc. It was noted that a number of children also serve as sidespeople – and do an excellent job.

John Cox and Phyllis Sigsworth have retired from the role of sidesperson and they were thanked for their work in this role over many years. A small presentation was made to Phyllis for her ministry in a number of ways

### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Mr. Robin Clutterham was our independent examiner this year and it was proposed that he be asked to carry out this function next year. This was agreed unanimously.

**Churchwardens 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. The report was approved.

The Reverend Sally Lynch thanked all those who gave of their time to assist in the maintenance and cleaning of the church.

**Parish Life Reports**

These had all been published in the bulletin and there was nothing to add and no questions.

**Incumbent's Report**

The Incumbents report from the Reverend Sally Lynch had been published in the Annual Bulletin.

The Reverend Sally Lynch reviewed our current Mission Action Plan and how she hoped we would progress during the year. She also summarised some of the items in her report.

She thanked the whole church for allowing her to go on sabbatical during the summer and especially her ministry team for the work they had done not only in her absence but during the whole of 2018.

She made presentation to Dave Sopp and Johanna Raffan as retiring churchwardens.

There were no questions in relation to the Incumbents report.

**Any Other Business**

There was none.

**Vote of Thanks**

Barbara Essam proposed that a vote of thanks be given to the Reverend Sally Lynch for her hard work and dedication during the past year. This was agreed.

There being no further business them meeting closed with a prayer and the Grace at 12.30pm.

## ***Parochial Church Council of St. Luke's Parish Church, Maidenhead Annual Report for 2019***

### **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.

### **Objectives and Activities**

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's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve as many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship 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 ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work

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

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.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **Worship and Prayer**

The PCC is keen that the church offers a wide variety of services throughout the year which the community will find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Our main service continues to be a Parish Communion service at 10.00am on Sunday but we also offer quieter and more contemplative service of Holy Communion at 8.00am Sundays, 7.15pm Tuesdays and 10.00am Wednesdays. Also, in partnership with All Saints Boyne Hill and Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green, we offer a variety of evening services through the Sundays at Six programme. We continue to have an All Age Communion service on the first Sunday of the month. Baptisms usually take place either during the main Sunday Communion service, or at midday.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 102 parishioners on the electoral roll of which 48 reside outside the parish. This is 26 less overall than in 2018. The average weekly attendance counted during October was 73, over the whole year this rises to 84. We have conducted 17 baptisms, 3 weddings, 24 funerals. We also had three renewal of wedding vows (1 Ruby and 1 Golden).

### **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.

We also have two members of the PCC who are currently members of the Diocesan Synod.

### **Church Buildings**

The church was visited and blessed by Bishop Steven on 1<sup>st</sup> September, as part of a visit to the Deanery.

The PCC is keen to allow the church to be open as often as possible for prayer and community use.

We have had the new flooring installed over the existing floor in designated areas at the rear of church. This completed the re-ordering process.

The motor on the clock striking mechanism failed in May 2018 and due to the cost of replacement the treasurer recommended that due to our current financial position this matter be put on hold. This was agreed. The clock still chimes by using the calling bell electromagnetic hammer, but not as loudly.

Other general church maintenance continued throughout the year with the boiler being serviced and light bulbs replaced. Church members undertake the continual work of resetting floor tiles, continue to reset floor tiles. A new cooker was donated and installed in the kitchen. A memorial bench for Michael and Helen Poynter was donated by the family and installed on the grass area at the front of church.

### **Pastoral Care**

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The Reverend Sally Lynch and members of the Ministry Team have visited all members who have requested it, to offer them Holy Communion either in their homes or in hospital. Pastoral care is also provided to many people in a wide variety of forms and circumstances, by both members of the ministry team and church contactors.

### **Mission and Evangelism**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. This year our Outward giving was £4,500.00 which was distributed to our three nominated charities: Friends of the Anglican Church in Ethiopia (FACE), the Clewer Initiative and the Maidenhead Homelessness Bus. In addition, the Christmas Trees festival raised £2,629.43 for Ivy's Gifts, the Carol Service £430.00 for Windsor



and Maidenhead Youth Counselling Service and the Crib services £549.50 for the Children's Society, a total of £3,608.93.

We also continue to provide items for Foodshare weekly.

Our Parish Magazine 'Inspire' is published quarterly and is available to purchase in church and is free online. We produce a weekly pew sheet which is given to all who attend church and is circulated via email.

Together with the other churches in our Sundays at Six group we concluded our 'Year of Mission' with Bishop Andrew leading a Day of Prayer at St. Luke's.

We continue to offer alternative fresh expressions of church, including monthly Keeping Company (specifically for those bereaved), Café Church and Messy Church.

We continue to offer some fellowship and outreach activities, such as the monthly Thursday Teas, and weekly interfaith community meal, shared with the Muslim community. A new initiative in 2019 was a monthly Generations Café, bringing together parents with babies, and older people

### **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.

### **Volunteers**

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.

### **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 membership of the PCC consisted of the Incumbent, Associate Priest, Curate in Training (until July 2019), Licensed Lay Minister, Churchwardens, Diocesan Synod representative, 3 Deanery Synod members and 12 members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. 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 2019 consisted of 20 members (19 after July) until 1<sup>st</sup> July, The PCC met on six occasions during the year, with an average attendance of 69% . PCC members also served on various task groups: Christenings, Weddings, Bereavement, Music, Children and Young People, Our Older Members, Social Gospel, ,Social Media. These groups met roughly twice during the year and reported back to the Ministry Team.

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 co-ordinate 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 four 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.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 are:

### **Ex Officio Members**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Incumbent             | The Reverend Sally Lynch (Chair)                            |
| Associate Priest      | The Reverend Terrie Robinson                                |
| Curate in Training    | The Reverend Nicola Hulks (Until 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019) |
| Licensed Lay Minister | Sonya Clarke  |
| Churchwardens         | Johanna Raffan (Until 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019)            |
|                       | Dave Sopp (Until 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019)                 |
|                       | John Salter (Vice Chair) (from 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019)   |
|                       | Sue Hinchliffe (from 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019)             |
| Diocesan Synod Rep.   | Ralph Hinchliffe (Secretary)                                |
| Deanery Synod         | Richard Burdett (Treasurer)                                 |
|                       | Ian Gilchrist   |
|                       | Don Luff  |

## **Elected Members**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Jill Bevitt                                       | Rachel Beaumont (on 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019)           |
| Matthew Burdett (off 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019) | Gill Curry   |
| Eileen Goford (on 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019)    | Michelle Lane (on 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019)             |
| Tony Lane (off 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019)       | Michael Masango (on 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019)           |
| Emma Shenton (off 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019)    | Ruth Sheppard (on 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019) Christopher |
| Smith (off 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019)           | Dorothy Strack – Hankey                                    |
| Phyllis Sopp (on 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019)     | Shula Tajima   |

R. Hinchliffe, PCC Secretary

### ***Churchwardens Fabric Report***

2019 was a year which saw a number of projects being discussed, declined, started and in some cases completed. The beginning of the year saw the installation of the new flooring in the welcome area, finally completing the Reordering Project.

Discussion had taken place at PCC meetings regarding the installation of cycle racks in the church yard. However, after taking advice from the local Police, it was decided that it would not be advisable and so the proposal was dropped.

Richard Burdett has been making enquiries regarding the installation of a projector and screen for the nave area of the church. This is still ongoing, with consultations with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

A new cooker for the kitchen was kindly donated to the church and has been installed.

Faculties have been applied for and granted for three memorial gifts. A new legilium was, donated in memory of May Reeve. The family also expressed a wish to donate four new legilium frontals to match existing nave altar frontals. Enquires were made, a quote received and agreed, which was put to the PCC, it agreed a proposal so that a faculty could be applied for. A faculty has also been applied for the installation of two new stools for the dais matching the existing four stools, removing the two red chairs, which will return to the body of the church. These have been donated in memory of Margaret Burrows. A further faculty was applied for and granted for the installation of a bench for the churchyard in memory of Helen and Michael Poynter. The bench was installed and dedicated at the Memorial Service in November.

Safe storage of the altar rails when not in use is being investigated and the DAC has been approached, with no response as yet. The DAC has itself acknowledged to parishes the huge backlog of cases and is seeking to deal with this.

A Fire Risk assessment was carried out in the church, and new evacuation procedures have been put in place.

We also fitted a wireless access point in the body of the church providing Wi-Fi access for the new card payment facility as well as for visitors.

As ever the general maintenance of the church and churchyard have continued throughout the year i.e.; tile repairs, light replacements and boiler maintenance, and our thanks go to all those involved.

As we have enjoyed our refurbished building, it has become evident that the lighting system, being over twenty years old needs investigating with a view to possible upgrade.

Our thanks go to all those involved in the church care days, those on the cleaning rotas or those on the Fabric Group. As ever, church members are warmly encouraged to consider joining one or more of these and help us to care for our church and churchyard for the future.

Sue Hinchliffe and John Salter



## ***Treasurer's Report***

The full PCC accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 are too large to fit in this Parish Bulletin, but they will be presented to the Annual Parish Meeting in March and are available on request to the PCC Secretary or Treasurer. However, a copy of the Statement of Financial Activities (i.e. a summary of all of income and expenditure) is included herein.

### **Financial Review**

In 2019 we returned to a deficit on the General Fund of £1,762 (2018 surplus of £1,961). This is disappointing but it should be remembered that in 2018 we received a very generous anonymous donation of £10,000. Hence the underlying position excluding this item has improved a little.

We also benefited because:

- The Tree Festival raised £5,908 and the Music Festival £2,298, allowing overall Fund Raising to rise from £9,500 to £12,730
- Planned Giving and the associated tax refund rose by about £4,700

The Parish Share increased again to £62,215 (2018:£60,898), and insurance and energy costs also increased. The cost of the curate's housing (rent) fell as Nicola and Ben moved on to Thatcham and we received back the deposit we had paid at the start of the tenancy.

On the income side, open plate collections were essentially unchanged, while fee income fell. Sundry donations fell back as they did not include the large anonymous donation received in 2018.

Interest rates remained at very low levels, but with a little more money on deposit having paid the re-ordering bills generated £16 of interest allocated to the General Fund.

We transferred £2,000 from the Benefactors' Fund to the General Fund as the last annual agreed contributions to office costs. We also transferred a further £824 to cover the final cost of the curacy housing and expenses.

After these transfers, the resulting surplus of £1,762 leaves General Fund Accumulated Reserves of £5,172 at the year end.

### **Designated Funds**

We spent £3,349 from the Fabric Fund on general maintenance, with a dividend income of £7,322 from the Fabric Reserve fund, so for the first time in many years the balance in the Fabric Fund increased slightly.

We again did not purchase any further CBF Investment Fund shares using half the income of Fabric Reserve Fund and instead retained the money on deposit.

We made the fifteenth transfer of £700 from the General Fund to the Fabric Reserve Fund. This is a continuation of the policy that we will over the next five years repay the £18,000 of capital we withdrew from the Fabric Reserve fund in 2004 to pay for the West Window repairs.

### **Restricted Funds**

As in the past we also raised and gave away a substantial amount (£5,758; 2018: £4,589) through a number of Special Collections and the Christmas Tree Festival, in addition to our normal outward charitable giving (£4,595; 2018: £4,529).

In 2019 the final costs of reordering were charged to the Development Fund (the retention payment, architect's fees, and cost of new flooring at the back of church), offset by a grant of £1000 from RBWM and the final Listed Places of Worship VAT refund. The fund also received £1,600 from Jilly Bevitt to be used towards upkeep of the chapel.

Since the balance in the fund at the start of the year was insufficient to meet the costs while honouring donors' wishes that a total of £4,050 is to be retained for the chapel, a final transfer of £7,399 from the Benefactors' Fund was necessary to pay for the reordering works.

The Benefactors' Fund received legacies totalling £21,887 from the estates of Margaret Burrows and C Keene.

### **Balance Sheet (not shown herein)**

The rise of £65,059 in the balance sheet value, from £349,422 to £414,481 is mainly caused by the improvement in the CBF Investment Fund share price and the receipt of the legacies.

### **Conclusion & Treasurer's Comments**

It is clear that we are still struggling to pay our day to day costs out of regular planned giving income, and are relying on the success of fund raising activities such as the Christmas Tree Festival to meet these basic expenses. However the response to the 2019 Generous Giving stewardship renewal was encouraging and we just now pray that people will honour their pledges throughout 2020. Nevertheless, without further increases in this giving it is likely that we will continue to report general fund deficits and therefore continue to have to spend our reserves (savings) to maintain our current activities.

As in the past I would like to extend my thanks to Sonya Clarke for her work counting and banking the weekly Planned Giving envelopes, Ben Darracott for his role as Assistant Treasurer, and Kim Rumble, for submitting the Gift Aid tax reclaims. Without their invaluable assistance my job of Treasurer would be a great deal harder.

Richard Burdett

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

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2019

|  | Note | Unrestricted Funds |                | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total Funds    |                |
|--|------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  |      | General            | Designated     |                  |                 | 2019           | 2018           |
|  |      | £                  | £              | £                | £               | £              | £              |
| <b>Income and Endowments from:</b>                               |      |                    |                |                  |                 |                |                |
| Donations and legacies   | 2(a) | 85,794             | 25,385         | 9,727            | -               | 120,906        | 141,024        |
| Other trading activities   | 2(b) | -                  | 18,035         | -                | -               | 18,035         | 22,814         |
| Investments  | 2(c) | 16                 | 8,403          | 1,085            | -               | 9,504          | 9,209          |
| Church activities  | 2(d) | 7,715              | 5,069          | 580              | -               | 13,364         | 15,851         |
| Other activities   | 2(e) | -                  | -              | -                | -               | -              | -              |
| <b>Total Income and Endowments</b>                               |      | <b>93,525</b>      | <b>56,892</b>  | <b>11,392</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>161,809</b> | <b>188,899</b> |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>   |      |                    |                |                  |                 |                |                |
| Church activities  | 3(a) | 110,912            | 8,799          | 20,334           | -               | 140,045        | 158,794        |
| Raising funds  | 3(b) | 541                | 4,987          | -                | -               | 5,528          | 12,897         |
| Other activities   | 3(c) | -                  | -              | 260              | -               | 260            | 5,573          |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>   |      | <b>111,453</b>     | <b>13,786</b>  | <b>20,594</b>    | <b>-</b>        | <b>145,833</b> | <b>177,264</b> |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b> |      | <b>(17,928)</b>    | <b>43,106</b>  | <b>(9,202)</b>   | <b>-</b>        | <b>15,976</b>  | <b>11,635</b>  |
| <b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>                         |      | <b>-</b>           | <b>44,200</b>  | <b>4,027</b>     | <b>857</b>      | <b>49,084</b>  | <b>(3,767)</b> |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>                 |      | <b>(17,928)</b>    | <b>87,306</b>  | <b>(5,175)</b>   | <b>857</b>      | <b>65,060</b>  | <b>7,868</b>   |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>                                   |      |                    |                |                  |                 |                |                |
| From 2019 Tree Festival Profit...                                | 4    | -                  | (5,908)        | -                | -               | (5,908)        | (4,984)        |
| ...to Events Fund  |      | -                  | 5,908          | -                | -               | 5,908          | 4,984          |
| From 2018 Parish Holiday   |      | -                  | -              | -                | -               | -              | (444)          |
| ...to Events Fund  |      | -                  | -              | -                | -               | -              | 444            |
| From 2019 Music Festival Profit...                               |      | -                  | 2,298          | -                | -               | 2,298          | -              |
| ...to Events Fund  |      | -                  | (2,298)        | -                | -               | (2,298)        | -              |
| Events Committee to General Fund                                 |      | 12,730             | (12,730)       | -                | -               | -              | -              |
| Year of Mission Church Letting                                   |      | 175                | -              | (175)            | -               | -              | -              |
| Music Festival Print costs                                       |      | 67                 | (67)           | -                | -               | -              | -              |
| Baby & Toddler Group Tree Festival Sponsorship                   |      | -                  | 30             | (30)             | -               | -              | -              |
| Benefactors' Fund to Development Fund - final reordering         |      | -                  | (7,399)        | 7,399            | -               | -              | -              |
| Benefactors' Fund Dividends to General Fund                      |      | 1,011              | (1,011)        | -                | -               | -              | -              |
| Benefactors' Fund Contribution to Curacy Costs                   |      | 824                | (824)          | -                | -               | -              | -              |
| Benefactor's Fund Contribution to Office Costs                   |      | 2,000              | (2,000)        | -                | -               | -              | -              |
| General Fund to Fabric Reserve Fund                              |      | (700)              | 700            | -                | -               | -              | -              |
| General Fund to Vicar's Discretionary Fund                       |      | (4)                | 4              | -                | -               | -              | -              |
| Hick Flower Fund to General Fund                                 |      | 63                 | -              | (63)             | -               | -              | -              |
| From Fabric Fund...  |      | -                  | (3,661)        | -                | -               | (3,661)        | (3,490)        |
| ...to Fabric Reserve Fund  |      | -                  | 3,661          | -                | -               | 3,661          | 3,490          |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>                                     |      | <b>(1,762)</b>     | <b>64,009</b>  | <b>1,956</b>     | <b>857.00</b>   | <b>65,060</b>  | <b>7,868</b>   |
| <b>Total funds brought forward at 1st January 2019</b>           |      | <b>6,934</b>       | <b>272,162</b> | <b>65,738</b>    | <b>4,587</b>    | <b>349,421</b> | <b>341,554</b> |
| <b>Total funds carried forward at 31st December 2019</b>         |      | <b>5,172</b>       | <b>336,171</b> | <b>67,694</b>    | <b>5,444</b>    | <b>414,481</b> | <b>349,422</b> |

## **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.

#### ***Spirituality:***

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

#### ***Hospitality:***

to share fellowship and food as widely as we can.

## **Our plans for development 2018 -21**

### ***Nurturing disciples***

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- Growth in faith and love for God
- Bringing new disciples to faith

How might we do this?

- Develop further our ministry with baptisms, weddings and funerals
- A variety of good quality teaching and nurture programmes
- Offering training to C&YP leaders, Pastoral Team, others

### ***Worship for all***

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- Improved worship experience and accessibility for newcomers
- Enabling people to meet with God
- Encouraging regular attendance at 'Church' activities and worship



- Offering something for different preferred styles

How might we do this?

- Establish a broader pattern of offered worship
- Explore and develop further the use of music in worship

### ***Fellowship and Outreach***

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- A family atmosphere where all are welcome and valued
- A community where new people feel they belong

How might we do this?

- Offering a varied 'Events' programme each year, including social and fund raising as well as spiritual, musical and cultural activities
- Ensuring that all ages are supported
- Developing further our Baptism preparation and follow up

### ***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
- Promote our facility for lettings

### ***Our Parish and Wider Community***

What are we aiming to achieve?:

- More participation in wider activities
- The church is more widely known in the parish and draws people in in a variety of ways

How might we do this?

- Re-examine our Street Prayer letters
- ☑ Encourage the Social Gospel group to input to worship / make presentations more regularly
- Develop further out links with our Primary School and with other faiths, especially Maidenhead Mosque.

### ***A year of Mission***

Throughout 2018/19 we will work with All Saints and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green, to provide special events helping us to deepen and share our faith.

*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.*

## Reports on church life 2019

### *Incumbent's report*

It feels that 2019 was another year of consolidation for us at St. Luke's. We continued to enjoy using our refurbished church and admin area and we had another busy year of worship, activities, Christian learning and fellowship, much of which is reported on below.

The year began with a Burns night social evening which included a haggis supper, ceilidh and Jean TD brandishing a knife and addressing the haggis! We enjoyed many times of fellowship, sharing food and growing together, culminating in the most successful Christmas Tree festival yet with around 3000 visitors over the weekend and 74 beautiful, thoughtfully decorated trees. We have made strong links with our community through this amazing event. 2019 was a year in which we held a Music Festival. We condensed it to ten days but had a wide variety of well attended concerts and added our first Schools Afternoon, which was well received. Some folk joined in another pilgrimage to the Holy Land (see below), this time in warmer weather. It was great to welcome Phyl Sopp as our chaplain on that pilgrimage, and to visit new places. We returned for a fabulous Harvest Supper at which the church looked beautiful - and the food was good too! The ministry team, fuelled by the 'success' of our Christmas 'panto' performed, with others, in a home grown entertainment.

Our ministry to children and young people continues to grow with steady numbers at both Messy Church and Baby and Toddler Group, thanks to the relationships built up by Revd. Nicola – and Ben and Luke too. Coffee, after the Wednesday morning service, is well attended and many people stay on for the monthly Generations Café – a fabulous idea that Dee Davison has initiated, drawing the generations together.

Strong links with our parish schools continue, particularly with St. Luke's and St. Pirans. Our weekly Tuesday evening community meals, shared with our friends at the Mosque, continue to draw regulars, and we would love new people to join us.

Finance continues to be a challenge, but our annual renewal of Generous Giving has been positive, and we continue to explore what it is to live as disciples of Christ 24/7. The LiCC day in June, shared with All Saints and ChOGS supported this, and a number of people took up the opportunity of developing a Personal Discipleship Plan with Revd. Sally or Phyl, who had both been trained as facilitators in this. 'Everyday Faith' matters to us and we will continue to make the national and diocesan resources as widely available as possible.

The year saw changes in our church family, as ever. We were very sad to say farewell to Revd. Nicola, Ben and Luke as Nicola completed her curacy and moved to the post of Team Vicar in Thatcham, not too far away. A good number of us very much enjoyed her licensing service, being made warmly welcome there. Phyl Sopp has continued her training and is in the last year, to be ordained in July 2020. She will serve her curacy here, under the programme of local training, as a Self - Supporting minister. Her actual hours are yet to be established. Phyl will take two months leave from the ministry team in May and June in order to fully prepare for the changes that lie ahead.

Our Deanery and Diocese continue to be very important in our lives. As Associate Area Dean I am very aware of the support they each offer. 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 now firmly embedded. Over the summer we offered a wide variety of opportunities to ‘go deeper’ into God, and in the autumn a good number of us found Bishop Steven’s Bible Study, Deep Water Fishing, very helpful.

For myself, 2019 was a good year. I began the year in the Holy Land, at Tantur Study Institute, on a programme called ‘Hakimah, the wisdom of Jewish, Christian and Muslim women’. It was a real joy and privilege to have time to study in that special place, and to meet up again with our friend, Canadian Lutheran Pastor Monika Wiesner. I have enjoyed time and space with my Cell group and with family and friends. I continue to serve as a Trustee of the Friends of the Anglican Church of Ethiopia, and a honorary chaplain to the national Association of Anglican Directors of Education and as Berkshire Inter-Faith adviser and trustee of WAMCF, leading the women’s group.

As ever, I would like to give thanks to everyone at St. Luke’s, and to many particular individuals, without whom not only would our church family life be impoverished, it simply would not function!

So, thanks to everyone who assists with our worship – Adam and the Choir, Nicola and her team of acolytes and crucifers, to all who administer the chalice, read the lessons and lead intercessions, all who welcome people and who make coffee (and cake and donuts!) after the service, organised superbly by Dorothy. To those who support behind the scenes – to Sue and those who care for and launder our church linen, to Rita and her team – all amazing flower arrangers.

Thank you too to John and Sue , our churchwardens, ably assisted by Michael, Dave and Johanna, who oversee the care of the church, ensure that rotas are filled, and that everything runs smoothly. To Richard and others who cut the grass and care for our garden – and change light bulbs (we need some people to go up the ladders!). To everyone who provides food – cakes, meals, all sorts of delicious fare, that we all enjoy at various times – I think that probably just about everyone does that! To Sally and the whole team who clean and polish – to Jilly and her team who ensured our brass was sparkling. As Jilly moved away at Christmas, we note the gap that she leaves and we miss her, as we do all those who have moved away, or now find themselves housebound. At least the latter, we can still meet up with by taking church to them.

Thank you to Louisa who edits our lovely colour magazine and to all who contribute to it. Also to Ruth who works tirelessly as both Office and Music Administrator and is on the sharp end of the phone and emails but responds with great grace. Thanks too to all who lead and support our ministry with children and young people – to Emma and all who work with her at Stars and Sparks, Messy Church and the baby and Toddler group. At the other end of the age scale, thank you to Phyllis and Enid and to all who lay on the monthly Thursday teas and lunches which are so well appreciated by our older members. And thanks to all who have served as contactors, keeping people ‘on the fringes’ in touch with God. With changes in technology, especially a long weekly email update database the role of contactor will change

in 2020, watch this space!

Those who support our school have a crucial role to play – thank you to Sally and Ruth – the Open the Book team, and also to Rhidian Jones – Chair of Governors, and to Ben Hulks and Peter Child, foundation governors with myself. We hope to have a replacement for Ben very soon. Our Deanery reps – Don, Richard and Ian, and our CTiM reps – Dorothy, Peter and Enid – all help to link us the wider church. Our thanks goes to them too.

With so many links and a wide variety of ministry, safeguarding has become a crucial issue for all churches. Thanks to Dorothy Strack-Hankey for her work as Safeguarding officer, ensuring that everyone has a valid DBS check and regular training. Thank you to all of you who have undertaken the new CofE training – please keep at it- and see the special article on this issue.

With so much going on and so many people involved, my apologies, as ever, if I have omitted you.

Finally, I want to thank our ministry team for all the hard work that each undertakes and the support that they give to me as incumbent. Ruth, Sue, and John administratively, Adam musically and Sonya, Terrie and, for the first half of 2019 Nicola, liturgically, spiritually and pastorally. I think that every member of my team faced challenges to health or family life in 2019 and yet through God's grace continued to minister. Thank you each for your contribution to the whole life of this church. Thank you too to our PCC officers, to Richard and to Ralph for their wisdom and sheer hard graft in keeping us financially viable and canonically legal!

I am grateful to each member of our team, and our whole church for all that you offer to our shared life. It has been a realm joy this year to welcome new folk into our fellowship. I also continue to give thanks for those on the fringes of the church, and with whom we come into contact, who see this very much as their church (which it is!) and contribute in their own ways. And I thank God, that s/he has called us all to be a part of the family here. May God richly bless you all as we seek together to be his people in this place.

The Revd. Sally Lynch



## **The heart of our life**

### **Our liturgy and worship**

Worship is the very heart of our being; church exists to worship God.

As ever, we have been keen to continue to offer a rich variety of worship experiences to inspire, and to suit all tastes and life circumstances. The 10.00 am service of Holy Communion each Sunday is the main act of family worship as a church. Most Sundays have three services with a quiet 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP every third Sunday) and Sundays at Six, which we continue to share with All Saints and ChOGS, Cox Green. These services continue to be varied and we offer, particularly, a termly International Taize service, and Choral Evensong. Our shared ministry with these two churches is deeply enriching.

Music enriches our worship hugely (see below) and enables us to offer a wider variety. It was great to join our choir with that from St. Luke's Reading to sing at the wedding of the Revd. Serena Hayes (Tajima). The choir received many compliments! Our Carol Service and other special occasions have been blessed by the contribution of our choir. Our organ scholars also enhance all that we can do.

During the year several special services and reflective opportunities were again offered. A highlight of our Harvest worship was the hay bale altar constructed by Rita and her team, a real reminder of the season. The closing service at the Christmas Tree Festival was very well attended and movingly beautiful. We experimented with orange cupcake christingles at Candlemas. We also introduced anointing for healing and wholeness in the main Sunday service, on two Sundays in the year and this proved both meaningful and popular.

We officiated at a good number of baptisms and funerals, although with rather fewer weddings. Our bereavement support continues through the monthly Seeking Solace (re named Keeping Company for 2020) meeting which Sonya and I lead between us and we are keen to see that group grow further in the coming year.

Midweek services (Holy Communion Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning) are well attended with faithful congregations and it is a joy that reading and leading intercessions are shared among all on Wednesdays, with often thought provoking prayers. The monthly prayer meeting continues faithfully and quiet days / evenings are well used.

In 2019 we launched a monthly Café Church at 4pm on Sundays, appropriate for all ages, to offer a more informal worship opportunity for those who do not want a formal morning service. This has had a quiet start and we are keen to develop a team to support this and develop it further.

Revd. Sally Lynch

## Music

Our strong musical tradition continues at St Luke's, both within and outside of our Worship. Each Sunday we use a variety of different music styles to enhance and support our relationship with God.

During the year, we had a very successful music festival, bringing together people both from within and outside of our Church family, to enjoy different styles of music to suit everyone's taste. We are blessed to continue our relationship with Eton College, with Organ Scholars accompanying our services at least once a month. For our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols, we were honoured to have David Goode accompany this beautiful traditional service. David is Organist and Head of Keyboards at Eton College, which he combines with a concert career that takes him around the world.

Our choir continues to thrive and sing at each Sunday service, and other Holy days around the year. It has been lovely to welcome a couple of members back to the choir in recent months, and we are always looking for more! We practice every Friday evening at 8pm and again immediately before each service. I would like to thank the choir for their commitment, fellowship and friendship – and for the many laughs that we have together.

For the year ahead, I am focusing on how our music will contribute towards our mission and vision of improving our worship experience, accessibility for newcomers and meeting the needs of our whole community. Therefore; we are in the process of forming a music group to lead our All Age Services, on the first Sunday of each month. If members of the church, or anyone that they know, plays a musical instrument, they are encouraged to get in touch with me!

Many thanks, as always, to our Music Team, who work so hard, often behind the scenes, to ensure that things run smoothly – and to keep me in order! So, thank you to Sue Maclean (choir secretary), Barbara Essam (social secretary) and Ruth Humphries (music administrator).

Adam Went, Director of Music



## **Fellowship and Social Life**

The fellowship area at the back of church has been a continuing success. People are increasingly happy to enjoy each other's company and to include newcomers with the easy flow from service to coffee. We have had two very successful suppers. Harvest felt particularly appropriate with the celebration in the church. There was a real sense of a family gathering. Our January 2020 event welcomed a number of new faces and it was a bright spot in a long month. Fund raising has been well supported throughout the year. The Summer Fair was a great success and the August Garden Party given by the Sopp family was exceptionally enjoyable for all the guests, as in spite of the very hot afternoon, they sat shaded and comfortable in the vicarage garden. There was a generous supply of produce for the Charities Fair and the Christmas Tree Festival saw a record number of trees in the church. The contribution of food and time from the congregation was an amazing feat of generosity. In addition to these events we have the on-going social gatherings of the Community meals and Messy church and our Generations Café. All these enrich the life of the church as they reach out to the community.

Sally Somerville



## **Special items**

### **Safeguarding**

People are at the heart of the Church's mission and clearly also the very centre of God's heart. The dignity, protection and safeguarding of all people should be at the heart of all that churches do, in order that all people are enabled to live the 'life in all its fulness' that Jesus offers (John 10.10b). Sadly, churches do not have a good record of this and a number of recent high-profile cases have rocked the Church of England (and other churches). The House of Bishops of the Church of England has responded quickly in updating its 'Safeguarding and Training Development Practice (2019)', and participating in the Independent Inquiry Into Child Sexual Abuse. Safeguarding practices apply to children, vulnerable adults, in fact to ALL people, and include safer recruitment practices.

All Anglican churches are expected to follow the guidelines and ALL church officers and clergy are expected to undertake training every three years. This diocese has taken on the national training modules and all ministers and a number of lay people have undertaken modules of training. For 2020 these have been modified. Details can be found at: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/>

The Safeguarding Team in this diocese also recommends a number of national resources to support churches in their ministry and ensure excellent safeguarding practices. This includes guidelines on running activities, social media, photography, transport and hire of premises. Details can be found at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church/policy-practice-guidance>

Keeping the children and vulnerable adults around us safe is an important part of who we are here at St Luke's. Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of our community. Various members in positions of trust in our community (church officers, e.g. PCC members, children's leaders) undergo specific safeguarding training, as above. Clear records are kept of all training undertaken by all people. This training comes either by online sessions or in face-to-face sessions. The topics include physical safety of those in our care and with helpful guidelines for online safety for avoiding online scams as well as the well published "grooming issues" for sexual exploitation. Domestic Abuse is another topic that is becoming discussed more openly. There are guidelines for reporting concerns.

A more recent topic of safety for those in our community is what to look for in Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery, both of which are serious crimes and grave violation of human rights. The Clewer Institute has put together a lot of information on this issue, with explanations of the kind of things to look for in their "We See You" campaign.

Dorothy Strack-Hankey, Safeguarding Officer  
and Revd. Sally Lynch

### **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, September 2019**

This trip was a first for me and very eagerly anticipated!

In Jerusalem we visited all the important biblical sites. The Mount of Olives with the view over the walled City of Jerusalem and beyond was breathtaking. The city itself was very busy with narrow walkways, colourful bazaars and people of all different faiths together.

Every day started with a prayer and a song on the bus! We celebrated Holy Communion or Evening Compline each day, all Pilgrims took turns to read from the Bible at our stops. The many Churches are so different, the architecture, stained glass and artifacts so beautiful and very spiritual and especially the original steps at Gallicantu that Jesus would have walked on Holy Thursday.

The Western Wall in the Jewish quarter was an experience, full of people of all ages praying, reading and putting slips of paper in the cracks in the walls and noisy Bar Mitvahs in the men's section!

Following the Stations of the Cross was an emotional prayer walk along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and our Lord's tomb.



We crossed into Palestine to visit Herodium and Bethlehem and celebrated Communion in a cave on the Shepherd's Fields. The separation wall is a sad reminder of the ongoing divisions and hostilities in this land.

Then it was north to Galilee through the Jordan Valley - a beautiful journey. After the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem, Tiberias is quiet and peaceful and calming.

Over several days we visited many sites around the Sea of Galilee where Jesus would have preached and performed miracles, including Cana, Nazareth, Magdala and Capernaum. Then Eucharist at Tabgha by the Church of the Loaves and Fishes and back to Tiberias across the lake by boat which was a wonderful experience.

A truly powerful and life enhancing journey that brought the Gospels to life.

Lisa Sharp



I wondered how I would feel returning to the Holy Land for the third time in September 2019. We saw my favourites from previous visits, such as the 'Jesus Steps', the Garden of Gethsemane, the Sea of Galilee and Tabgha but I was pleasantly surprised at how different this visit felt. Apart from the intense heat (37 degrees +), making some days difficult for me, I gained a lot more in the spiritual sense, especially in Jerusalem, when I was able to put aside the overwhelming feeling of crowding on the streets and think more about the time Jesus spent there.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre contains, according to tradition, the two holiest sites in Christianity. I was pleased at last to see the shrine housing the site of the empty tomb and to see the site of Golgotha, also in the Church. Phyl led us along the Via Dolorosa, stopping at the Stations of the Cross with a short meditation each time. Many of us found this particularly moving. The streets of Old Jerusalem are constantly bustling, which would have been the case in the time of Jesus, and He would have been heckled, as were we.

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was free from the scaffolding seen on previous visits so we could see the stunning murals and sections of ancient pavements, as well as the probable site of the Nativity, There is a star encircling a hole in the floor where you can look

down on the actual site. (they sell wonderful ice cream in Bethlehem, as Lisa and I found out after our long, hot wait in the Church!).

The Shepherds Fields near Bethlehem was special this time as my good friend David Coulton from Tewkesbury Abbey, was able to celebrate communion in the chapel in a cave there. His wife, Sue has been my friend since we trained as teachers. They renewed their wedding vows when we visited Cana.

An unscheduled stop by the Separation Wall in Bethlehem was sobering. As well as the murals there are some very poignant stories of the isolation suffered by families there.

Herodium, one of Herod the Great's fortresses, was new to me, as was Magdala the birthplace of Mary Magdalene. This is a hugely impressive place with the recently excavated oldest synagogue in the Galilee. Its Magdala Stone has a seven-branched menorah carved into it. Duc in Altum has been described as the most unique spiritual centre in the Holy Land. It houses various chapels including the Encounter Chapel. This has the beautiful painting of the encounter of Jesus with the haemorrhaging woman who is depicted touching the hem of His robe, all shown at the level of the feet.

So my third trip was even more thought-provoking this time proving that on each visit, you can extract more from this wonderful experience.

(One final bonus was that the swimming pool at the hotel in Tiberias had water in it this time, which was a life-saver in that heat!)

Ruth Sheppard

## Parish Life

### Supporting our worship

Many people support our weekly and daily worship and make it possible, helping us to ensure that we offer high quality acts of worship, which are our offering to God, and which draw people in. There are those who read the Bible and who lead intercessions (on Wednesdays as well as Sundays). Others help to care for the church linen and altar frontals, and order consumables. We have a dedicated team who serve at the altar as crucifers and acolytes, and a fabulous team of flower arrangers, and many people who make coffee and other refreshments. Teams of people serve as welcomers at the door – inside and out – in all weathers! All these are supported by people who arrange rotas for a wide variety of worship activities. In addition, several teams of hard-working people keep the church clean, and the brass shiny for worship, while others ensure that the whole fabric is kept in good order. At the end of 2019 Jill Bevitt left us for pastures new. Jill had masterminded the brass cleaning rota for many years, for which we are most grateful.

Highlights of the year were:

- A Harvest altar made of hay bales
- The World day of prayer service, held here (formerly Women's day)
- Church family baptisms – including Isabella and Fred
- The Prayer Day with Bishop Andrew and members of ChoGs and All Saints.
- A committed band of cleaners, who ensure that the church is well cared for

In 2020 we hope to:

- Add a few more to the cleaning rota to reduce pressure on all
- Develop further Café church, especially to those 'on the fringes'
- Develop a Music Group to lead at All Age Communion services

**With thanks to:**

|                       |                              |                  |          |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Sue Hinchliffe        | Sacristy                     |                  |          |
| Nicola Buckland       | Head Crucifer                |                  |          |
| Rita Salter           | Flowers                      |                  |          |
| Jill Bevitt           | Brass                        | Sally Somerville | Cleaning |
| Roger Clarke          | Reading and intercessor rota |                  |          |
| Sue Maclean           | Elements rota                |                  |          |
| Churchwardens         | Welcomers rota               |                  |          |
| Dorothy Strack-Hankey | Coffee rota                  |                  |          |
| Gerry Knight          | Verger                       |                  |          |

**Children and Young People**

We have a thriving ministry for children and young people, especially the very young. Our Baby and Toddler group meets weekly (Thursdays 9.30 – 11.15 am) in the community hall. Messy Church is held on the first Friday of every month from 3.30 – 5.30 pm, offering crafts and games on a religious theme, with a simple act of worship and two course meal for all ages. Stars and Sparks, our young people's group, meets during the main Sunday service, joining us for communion. The first Sunday of each month is an All Age Communion service which they help to lead.



Highlights of the year were:

- We continue to be thankful for significant growth in the number of people joining Messy Church and Baby and Toddler Group this year. We have made many new relationships with local families and built stronger relationships with our baptism families.
- Seeing a developing culture of hospitality and warmth in our groups, where everyone is welcome.
- Seeing our Stars and Sparks children delve deeper into their faith, often surprising and challenging us with their thoughts.

In 2020 we hope to:

- Consider summer holiday spiritual provision for our children
- Empower people to broaden our team of volunteers

**With thanks to:**

Revd. Nicola                      Baby and Toddler group, Messy Church (until July)  
    Mary Pennington, Bridget Morris and Sonya Clarke  
Emma Cameron                Stars and Sparks leader  
    James Ellins, Roger Clarke, Nikola Sorrell, Ann Burdett, Eileen Goford,  
    Rachel Harris, Daniel Harris

**Discipleship and Christian nurture and pastoral support**

We are keen to support everyone in their Christian discipleship and offer a variety of activities and opportunities. A monthly Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) group meets to think further about the BRF notes and a monthly prayer meeting enables a small group to intercede on behalf of those in need. Our prayer area offers the opportunity to light a candle in prayer and / or leave a prayer card (prayed at all services of Evening Prayer). We offer one or two mini teaching series each year. In 2019 we focussed on the Bible, using Bishop Steven's studies on Acts (Deep Water Fishing) and a short study session on The Last Things. The popular Lent groups draw many people in to think about their faith. We used a course on Faith on the Frontline, from the LiCC. We have quiet days and evenings throughout the year.

Highlights of the year were:

- Deep Water Fishing Bible study series
- Another quiet day at Goosebury Hall quiet garden in Essex
- regular use of the prayer request cards.

In 2020 we hope to:

- re-establish our prayer letter, ensuring that every residence and business within the Parish receives a letter regularly.
- encourage more people to come along to share in the mini teaching / Bible study courses.
- Have another LiCC day with ChOGS and All Saints
- Run a week of accompanied prayer in the autumn

**With thanks to:**

Sonya Clarke                      BRF, Seeking Solace, Prayer meeting  
Ministry team                    Teaching series  
Revd. Joan at ChOGS and Fr. Jeremy at All Saints

**Outreach and community involvement**

There are a variety of opportunities for local people to be drawn into the life of the church, and in which we serve our community. We have a monthly tea for local elderly people, as well as luncheons together at a pub/ restaurant. A group meets to knit and make blankets

for the Kori Project in Sierra Leone. Many of our church members are very involved in Maidenhead Care, either as duty officers, who work with clients to find people to help them, or as drivers and helpers who deliver the service.

In 2019 one of our church members started Generations café, a monthly get together for young mums and their babies, with older people. This has proved a real joy in drawing the ages together, and drawing people into church.

We enjoy working with our brothers and sisters at Maidenhead mosque to offer a weekly meal for the whole community and many of our members join in with the Interfaith dialogues and Women's group run by WAMCF. We seek to offer welcome pack to people moving to new homes in the parish. Inspire, our occasional parish magazine is a full colour publication which draws contributions from across the church.

Highlights of the year were:

- the Summer Fair, held in church due to bad weather, drew people in
- Generations café
- Our most successful Christmas Tree Festival ever, with 74 decorated trees, over 3500 people visiting the church, and £6000 raised for church funds.
- A change in our outward giving so that fewer charities benefitted more fully.
- Many people staying for coffee after the Wednesday morning service.

In 2020 we hope to:

- Celebrate our tenth Tree Festival in style
- Develop Generations Café with more older people coming along
- Be more involved outside the church walls



Our general Outward Giving for 2019 amounted to £4500. In 2019 we moved away from giving to twenty charities, to just three – a national, local and international charity. As usual, we calculated our giving by taking 5% of all giving in the previous year, plus the retiring collection on first Sundays. Each charity received £1515.00. the three chosen charities were:  
International: FACE (Friends of the Anglican Church in Ethiopia)  
Local: the Homeless Bus (The Brett Foundation)  
National: The Clewer Initiative (an anti- modern day slavery movement).

The collection from the voting "pots" at the Tree Festival, together with a tax refund we are able to claim, allowed us to send a total of £2629.43 to the Ivy's Gifts appeal.

The collection at the Carol Service on 22nd December in aid of Windsor and Maidenhead Youth Counselling Agency totalled £430.00, while the collections at the two Crib Services on Christmas Eve for the Children's Society totalled £549.50

This gives a total raised by St Luke's for these three charities over the Christmas period of £3,608.93.

**With thanks to:**

|                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Phyllis Sigsworth, et al           | Thursday teas and lunches          |
| Gill Curry                         | Stitch Up                          |
| Dorothy Strack Hankey and Don Luff | Community meals                    |
| Gill Lucas and Richard Burdett     | Maidenhead Care <b>check names</b> |
| Louisa Ellins                      | Inspire editor                     |
| Dee Davison                        | Generations Cafe                   |

**St. Luke's School**

It is our great joy to be closely links to St. Luke's Primary School, a Voluntary Controlled Academy in ODST (the Oxford Schools Diocesan Trust). In 2017 the school was judged as outstanding by both Ofsted and SIAMS. A small team leads Open the Book assemblies every Wednesday, working with children at OTB Club to prepare and jointly lead them. Revd. Nicola lead a Godly Play group after school on Mondays (until July) and members of the ministry team assist in RE lessons, especially during the annual Theology Week. There are four foundation governors, including the vicar.

Highlights of the year were:

- Open the Book Club children have gained even more confidence in leading thoughtful assemblies and are learning 'lines' well.
- Some meaningful services for the school in church.
- A fully subscribed Nursery.
- Further reflection on what our 'Christian distinctiveness'.

In 2020 we hope to:

- Encourage even more children to take part in Open the book Club, encouraging younger children as Year 6 move on.
- Continue our two years' work with the New Brainstorm School in Uganda. We support them learning materials, by sending and receiving pen pal letters, and by sending sports clothes and shoes.

**With thanks to:**

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Ruth Humphris, Sally Somerville, Revd.s Nicola and Sally | OTB Team                |
| Amanda Hough,  | Headteacher             |
| Rhidian Jones,   | Chair of Governors      |
| Revd. Sally Lynch,                                       | Vice Chair of Governors |

### **Town, Deanery and Diocese**

As just one part of the Body of Christ in Maidenhead, we enjoy our shared ministry and fellowship with other Christians, especially through Churches Together in Maidenhead and Windsor and Maidenhead Deanery. Representatives of the PCC attend CTiM and Synod meetings, reporting back regularly.

### **Churches Together in Maidenhead**

CTiM works with other Christian churches in Maidenhead for joint sponsorship of activities including:

- Walk of Witness on Good Friday,
- Christmas cards announcing Christmas worship services distributed to majority of homes in Maidenhead,
- Christmas Day meal for lonely people at Sports Able on Braywick Road,
- “Love in Action” Christians around Maidenhead serving the community, like: Food Share, Maidenhead Care, Street Angels, Re:Charge and Maidenhead Child Contact Centre.
- Speakers this past year included: Christian Aid [focusing on maternal health and ebola in West Africa], Christian Connections in Schools [in Slough and Maidenhead], Police with liaison in Community Hubs], the involvement of churches in planning new housing developments, Street Angels [support on the streets], RE:charge R&R [helping vulnerable families], Windsor and Maidenhead Charitable Trust [which gives grants to local charities supporting local people].
- St. Edmund Campion hosted combined service for Week of Christian Unity on the theme of “Unusual Kindness”, planned by churches of Malta and Gozo, taking as example the kindness shown to St Paul and fellow prisoners following their shipwreck by the people of Malta; and asking where it would be needed today.

With thanks to:

Dorothy Strack-Hankey, Peter Goford, Enid Barber                      CTiM reps

### **Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod, Annual report for 2019**

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. Elections were last held in 2017, and 2020 APCMs will need to elect or re-elect parish representatives. There are currently 73 members of the Synod.

The Deanery Synod met informally on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Altwood School, Maidenhead to say goodbye to Bishop Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading. A buffet meal was enjoyed by those present and several representatives from the Deanery recounted some of the occasions they had shared with Bishop Andrew and gave thanks for his work and contributions to our Deanery.

There were two formal meetings of the Synod during 2019, both focusing on the Diocese of Oxford’s Common Vision of being a Christ-like church for the sake of God’s world:

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at All Saints, Dedworth:**

- Members of our own Deanery introduced and explained aspects of the diocese's Common Vision, including the seven working groups to provide resources to help individual parishes relating to certain areas. More details about common vision and these working groups are available on the diocese's website. The Synod watched a talk by Bishop Steven encouraging us to be courageous.
- Jim Tucker was elected as the new Deanery Lay Chair. John Sykes stepped down after being elected Diocesan Lay Chair.
- The Synod was alerted to a consultation relating to term limits for Deanery Synod members.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 at St Peter's, Furze Platt:**

- Andrew Anderson-Gear, Director of Mission at the Diocese of Oxford, gave a presentation about and explanation of the new Parish Planning Tool which has been produced to support the mission of individual churches to become more Christ-like. The Synod was given a chance to look at the tool and ask questions.
- Details of how the deanery is planning to manage the parish share increase for 2020 were shared.

Thanks to hard work by parishes and their generosity, the Deanery paid its parish share of £ 986,103 for 2019 in full and on time. Deanery Share reserve stands at £ 54,165 and some of this will be used to delay part of the 3.89% increase requested from our Deanery for 2020. (The overall increase in the diocese for 2020 stands at 1.75%; we anticipate a significantly reduced increase for our Deanery for 2021.)

The Deanery is currently looking for a new treasurer and would welcome interest from someone with suitable skills in this area.

Parish inspections on behalf of the Archdeacon were carried out by the Deanery officers during the year, as part of an ongoing three-yearly cycle. The Deanery also engaged with various parishes, considering how best to support them, both pastorally and financially.

**With thanks to:**

Thomas Walton,  
Richard Burdett, Ian Gilchrist, Don Luff

Deanery Secretary  
Deanery Synod Reps



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.

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