

ST LUKE'S GRAYSHOTT

APCM 2025 BOOKLET



THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

St Luke's Church, Grayshott

To be held

at 7pm on Thursday 8th May 2025

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING 2025

(The Vestry Meeting is open to lay persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll and to persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors)

(The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is open only to lay persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll and to clerks in Holy Orders, unless the Meeting resolves to admit members of the public)

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of the 2024 Vestry Meeting
3. Election of Churchwardens

NOMINATIONS

[Nomination]

Proposer -

THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS FOR
ST LUKE'S CHURCH, GRAYSHOTT
MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING, 2024

(The Vestry Meeting is open to lay persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll and to persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors)

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Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 17th May 2014.

Apologies were received from Graeme Bowerbank, Raymond Daniel, Sheila Daniel, Christopher Grocock, Belle Haswell, Peter Knifton, Susie Millard, Sonia Motley, Jennifer Pimm, Richard Pimm, Anne Preston, Brenda Schwartz, Suzanne Wavre..

Revd Jeremy Haswell chaired the meeting, and 35 people were present.

1. OPENING PRAYER.

Revd Haswell opened the meeting with a general prayer for the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2024 VESTRY MEETING.

Minutes of the 2024 Vestry Meeting were approved by everyone present and signed by the chairman.

3. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.

One nomination had been received for the role of Churchwarden.

Sheila Austin – proposed by Brenda Schwartz, seconded by Michael Lugg.

Approved by all present.

Edward Tobin had not reapplied having served six years as churchwarden and will now be taking on the role of PCC Secretary. The vicar thanked Edward for all his hard work throughout the year. He also thanked the assistant churchwardens who have helped him and will continue to support Sheila as sole churchwarden.

The Chairman signed the Minute Book.

The Meeting closed at 7.14pm.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025

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Closing Prayer

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was opened at 7.15pm on Thursday 16th May 2024 in the Timothy Room by the vicar, Rev Jeremy Haswell, who welcomed the 42 people present. Revd Haswell opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Graeme Bowerbank, Raymond Daniel, Sheila Daniel, Christopher Grocock, Belle Haswell, Peter Knifton, Susie Millard, Sonia Motley, Jennifer Pimm, Richard Pimm, Anne Preston, Brenda Schwartz, Suzanne Wavre.

2. MINUTES OF 2023 APCM

The printed copy of the minutes of the 2023 APCM still had “draft” printed in the heading. This was corrected and signed by the chairman. The minutes (which were included in the 2024 APCM booklet) were approved by all present and signed by the chairman.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL

It was reported that the total number on the Electoral Roll (ER) as of April 2023 was 162. The Electoral Roll Officer (John Haine) informed the meeting that 21 names had been removed from the ER and 10 added, so the figure now was 151. Of those leaving the ER, all except one lived outside the parish boundary.

John reminded the meeting that next year (2025) everyone will have to reapply to go back on the ER – as happens every one year in six.

Revd Haswell thanked John for all the work he had put in.

4. ELECTIONS

4.I. READERS:

Revd Haswell explained that the term “Reader”. Both Susie Millard and Chris Grocock had supplied reports about their work which were included in the APCM booklet.

4.II. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) MEMBERS.

There were three applicants for nomination for the three vacancies. There being only three vacancies, the following were elected:

Anna Lescure –

Proposed by Clive Loder, seconded by Penny Thomas

Graeme Bowerbank –

Proposed by Sheila Austin, seconded by Claire Haswell

Suzanne Wavre –

Proposed by Susan Millard, seconded by Sheila Austin.

Revd Haswell thanked Anna and commended Graeme and Suzanne who had sent their apologies to the meeting.

4.III. DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES.

There was one unfilled vacancy for a Deanery Synod Representative. The vicar commended the Area Dean, Revd Richard Bodle, in his running the Deanery Synod and the most recent meeting in particular.

4.IV. SIDESMEN/WOMEN.

The PCC Secretary read out the following names of Sidesmen/women: as they had agreed to be part of the team:

Sheila Austin, Ros Balfour, Adrian Banwell, Sue Bentley, Shelagh Edwards, Andrea Franklin, Anne Gale-Jones, Angela Haine, Robert Harland, Claire Haswell, Linda Holbrook, Anna Lescure, Nicholas Lescure, Clive Loder, Michael Lugg, Alice Murphy, Richard Pimm, Anne Preston, Clive Purkiss, Christine Richmond, Julia Tarento, Liz Tippet, Jonathan Tippet, Philippa Whitaker.

All were approved unanimously

4.V MINISTERS WITH PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

The vicar informed the meeting of the two “PTO” ministers, Elizabeth Knifton (who was at the meeting) and Chris Oldroyd (whose services had so far not been called upon). He thanked Elizabeth for her ministry with Manna despite having to overcome some health problems.

5. SECRETARY REPORT.

Sheila Austin told the meeting that Edward Tobin had now taken over as PCC Secretary.

The PCC had met 6 times since the last APCM. There had been an extraordinary meeting in October 2023 with the archdeacon and diocesan mission enabler following the PCC’s decision to suspend parish share payments.

PCC meetings will in future start at 7. 00pm rather than 7.30pm.

She commended the church administrator, Anna Gilderson, who has now taken over producing the weekly newsletter. Her office hours

have to change at times but these are always clearly stated in the newsletter.

6. VICARS REPORT.

Revd Haswell thanked the treasurer, churchwardens and other team members for their support in navigating the financial and numerical challenges of the past year. Looking forward in building the church, he drew strength from three scriptures: Psalm 127, Matthew 16 v18 and 1 Corinthians 13. He had been inspired by a former churchwarden, Gill Pain, in saying that we need to build on love.

The Church Development Plan was being put into action with alpha and home groups. Susie Millard is maintaining the link with the school, Hilary and Rhys with youth and Ros with increasing ministry in the nursing homes. The church remains at the heart of the village, but prayer is needed in seeking what God wants us to be.

He thanked all the PCC especially those leaving: Frankie Kelly, Ros Balfour and Penny Thomas.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 ACCOUNTS.

Viv Ward confirmed that the Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31st December 2023 had been scrutinised by the independent examiner, Christopher Kelly, and approved by the PCC.

The net surplus was £5,169 and with the gain on revaluation of investments of £5,899 resulted in a net increase in funds of £11,068. The total of all funds is £142,303.

Although regular giving had decreased over the year, this had been compensated by an increase in other income. Grants were received from The Collier Trust for youth work, Hidden Gardens of Grayshott for Churchyard plants, an energy grant from Guildford Diocese, East Hants DC Supporting Community Fund and Hampshire CC and Grayshott Parish Council supporting the Base youth club. In addition there were many generous donations and a legacy. There have also been a number of fundraising initiatives.

We have reduced our expenses by making our youth minister redundant and replacing our administrator but with reduced hours of employment. Initially it seemed that these measures were not enough and the PCC agreed to stop the monthly payments to the diocese from July 2023. The archdeacon and mission enabler advised the PCC on ways to generate income. By the end of the year the outstanding payments had been made to the diocese.

At present we are paying only £6k / month rather than £8k/ month to the diocese and this will be reviewed by the new PCC.

Since the large deficit of £(39,192) in 2021 and the smaller deficit of £(5,449) in 2022 there is the small surplus of £5,169 in 2023. At present the forecast for 2024 is still a deficit budget but hope that, with various initiatives, we can be more optimistic.

The Vicar's Discretionary fund began the year at £6,107, received £1,616 and paid out £1,650 to those in need. The closing balance was £6,073.

The accounts were adopted by meeting. The vicar thanked Viv for all his work.

7A. STEWARDSHIP REPORT.

Viv presented the report on behalf of the Stewardship Recorder, Barbara Johnston. He emphasised the importance of regular giving which helped budget future expenses. He thanked Shelagh Edwards for the work she has done as Stewardship Recorder over many years. He welcomed Barbara Johnston (formerly Vicar's PA) to the job.

8. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER.

Revd Haswell said that Christopher Kelly needed to be formally appointed (once again) by this meeting. He was unanimously approved.

9. CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

Edward Tobin (outgoing churchwarden) referred to his report. He thanked the volunteers who did so much for the church including cleaning and gardening but requested that more volunteers come forward.

Revd Haswell commented on the need to repair the weathervane at the top of the church spire and said this will be considered in the ongoing maintenance schedule. Gordon Sanderson recommended putting a fundraising campaign in place similar to an organ repair fund in the past.

10A. BABES AND TODDLERS REPORT.

The vicar thanked Liz and Rika for their work on Monday mornings. He enjoyed providing music.

10B. YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S REPORT

Hilary Loder pointed out that funding was not just for the regular Base sessions but also for the workshops run during the school holidays. The vicar thanked Hilary for her work and for presenting a talk to the village parish assembly outlining all that was going on.

10C. CHURCH YARD TEAM

The vicar thanked all the volunteers and found it lovely when talking to visitors to the churchyard that it was kept tidy.

10D. OASIS

The vicar thanked Alice Murphy for her report and the welcome given to new people.

10E. THE FIRCROFT TRUST

The vicar had provided a report

10F. FUNDRAISING TEAM

The vicar thanked Jonathan Tippet for his input and to the team for all their fundraising efforts

10G. WAFFFL

The vicar commended these monthly services on a Sunday afternoon which had just started up for children and families.

10H GRAYSHOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Susie Millard had provided a report in which she commended the support from the headmaster, Mr Austin and the RE Coordinator, Mrs Tenant. The headmaster and vicar meet twice a term

In her report Susie was asking for more volunteers to help with “Open the Book” assemblies on Tuesday mornings.

The vicar said that St. Luke’s was giving support to the school following the recent deaths of three of the mothers at the school.

10I GRAYSHOTT TODAY MAGAZINE

The vicar thanked the editor, Helen Williams and her husband, David who is the advertising manager.

10J GRAYSHOTT CONCERTS

Andy Crocker had provided a report and Peter Harrison was at the meeting. In his report Andy outlined the concerts and also the efforts by the London Mozart Players introducing music into the school. The vicar thanked Grayshott Concerts for the donation to the church from the Friends’ evening and also their contribution to the school.

10K HOSPITALITY.

The vicar thanked Anne Gale-Jones for all her work.

There were also reports from the Summer Holiday Club 2023, Men’s Breakfast, Outward Giving, Outreach to the village, Grayshott Community Lunch and the Grayshott Bell ringers.

Ros mentioned the pastoral team. Unfortunately her report had not been included in the booklet. The vicar said that St.Luke's Church was now going into Moorlands Lodge, Huntington House, Langham Court and Green Gables Nursing Home.

10L SAFEGUARDING

Penny Thomas had submitted a report but it had not been included in the booklet. Hilary talked through the items in the report. She emphasised that we are fully supporting the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. Penny explained that safeguarding is aiming to take away the worry of children and vulnerable people in church activities.

11. AOB

The vicar then expounded on how the church is moving forward and invited comments from the floor.

John Haine reminded the meeting that there had been financial difficulties in the early 2000's. He said they had seen it through with the power of prayer.

New members on the electoral roll June and Bill who live in Churt were able to introduce themselves. They had looked at other churches but found that St. Luke's felt right for them.

Peter Harrison thanked the vicar and PCC for a sense that things are now moving ahead at St. Luke's including looking at the figures.

The vicar finished the meeting at 8.58pm with the grace and the blessing.

PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – JOHN HAINE

16th May 2024 to 8th May 2025

Recorded members on the Electoral Roll at the 2024 APCM was 151.

The changes since April 2024 have been

Moved away from the Parish	3
Deceased	1
Requested to be removed	9
Removed as non-contactable	5
Did not renew	39

New members 16

Roll entry total for 2025 APCM 110

ELECTIONS

ELECTIONS OF READERS TO PCC

ELECTION OF PCC LAY REPRESENTATIVES

ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

ELECTIONS OF SIDESMEN – SHEILA AUSTIN

The role of Sidesmen/women is very important and a key part of our vision to be a welcoming church to all. This is a voluntary service,

indeed a ministry of service, which is much valued by everyone coming into the church.

The welcoming element of the Sidesmen/women role is the first thing new and regular people see and this can make a huge difference to how they feel. There are practical things that also fall to this team: fire safety, counting the congregation and being on hand to help when needed.

The following have offered to be part of this team:

Sheila Austin, Ros Balfour, Adrian Banwell, Shelagh Edwards, Andrea Franklin, Anne Gale-Jones, Angela Haine, Robert Harland, Anna Lescure, Clive Loder, Alice Murphy, Richard Pimm, Anne Preston, Clive Purkiss, Christine Richmond, Julia Tarento, Liz Tippet, Jonathan Tippet, Suzanne Wavre, Philippa Whitaker.

There is always need for extra people so please consider encouraging others to join us and be part of this essential part of our ministry here at St Luke's.

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT – EDWARD TOBIN

The PCC has met on 6 occasions since the last APCM and has had a full complement of 9 lay members, Treasurer, one licensed Lay Minister, but only one Churchwarden and one Deanery Synod Representative. The Chairman is the Vicar.

There are vacancies for 4 lay members of the PCC, one Deanery Synod Representative and both Churchwardens.

If you would like to stand for election for any of these offices, please inform the vicar or the church office.

VICAR'S REPORT – REV. JEREMY HASWELL

BEING CHURCH

The headline is that I am encouraged this year that we have come through some difficult times to see new life, a symbol of this was the St Luke's Festival on the late May Bank Holiday, when creative people in and out of the church came together and contributed to the colourful exhibition, and enjoyed the hospitality of cream teas. It was hard work to put on, but brought the community together, and joy to everyone who came.

The Great Commission: Mt.28:18

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

continues to be Jesus' apostolic instruction to his whole church, and we take Jesus' manifesto from Luke 4 (quoting Isaiah 61) and pray that the Lord himself will guide us, prepare us, anoint us with the Holy Spirit to send us into the community bringing healing and hope.

The greatest commandment: 'Love God, and love our neighbour' requires that we know and understand our neighbour, and good communication requires that we speak in a language and manner that will be heard. How to reach our community will continue to depend on this understanding, and a knowledge of the ways available, and praying for spiritual discernment listening to the Lord's instructions, who told his disciples to cast their net on the other side of their boat to make a miraculous catch, despite a fruitless night. We are all called to pray, and to engage in this mission wholeheartedly.

Last year I wrote about new wine and new wineskins, flexible and receptive to adapt to the new thing that God is doing. I see signs of new things emerging, and fresh ways of connecting with our neighbours helping us to become committed, and through encouragement and training to become confident to share our faith, and engage in God's Kingdom work of multiplication, growing the Kingdom of God here and now.

CHALLENGES

Our financial challenges have continued, and we have had to pare our expenditure down to the bare minimum again, but we have been able to pay the Parish Share in full, and through careful management of resources and the grant finance, to sustain our Youth work within tight budgets. Everyone has taken responsibility in their own area. Once again, the Lord has enabled us to get through. Viv W's relentless work to provide reports and projections, re-forecasting and tracking budgets has been superb, thanks to him.

I repeat, my call to us all is still to grow in prayer, and to look to the Lord to guide our activities and outreach, and to ask the Lord to open our eyes to the real needs around us, looking for his inspiration in how we reach the community with his love and mercy.

WORSHIP

Kler M and Emanuel M and José B have provided live band music in our 10.30 services and Edward T has played the Organ when Simon C has not been available due to ill health. I am grateful to those working on rotas and serving in all our services giving them consistency. I continue to work to broaden our leadership of the services so that it is all less dependent on one person, and am looking forward to seeing this grow further. I have been supported by Chris G and Susie M in leading services and by Elizabeth K supporting the preaching team.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Our CDP continues to have three main strands:

1. Addressing our financial position
2. Growing our outreach to the community
3. Growing our personal discipleship through home groups and courses.

Actions have been taken to address these but they remain ongoing in our practical priorities. One of the developments of this year has been to engage positively with the Diocesan mission enabler team, and look at how we communicate our mission, and develop how we communicate vision to help us to remain positive and focused. The

Church Development Plan is a live document, and we will be revisiting this through a series of meetings over the next few months.

FINANCES

Again I thank Viv W for all his work on the accounting and financial planning over the last year. His consistent rigour and foresight have meant that we can plan ahead with a clear picture of the trends. We have saved significantly on utilities and recently moved from two electricity meters being consolidated to one supplying the two sides of the Church Rooms saving us one of the standing charges.

Our members have been generous in giving both in one-off donations, and increasing their regular giving, but we are still under pressure to build the church up numerically and financially, and have some way to go before we can say we are in a healthy position. Particularly I would like to increase the administrative provision in the office. Anna G is working at capacity, and there is more to do, and some of our technical infrastructure and fixed assets are coming to the end of their life.

UKRAINIAN FELLOWSHIP

I am delighted to say that the Ukrainian fellowship led by Pastor Andriy Kopylash, has been thriving, and continues to run two services a month, running Ukrainian Alpha meetings in the Church rooms on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We have some local Ukrainian members at our 10.30 services, and a team of volunteers help them with transport.

DIVERSITY

One of the Diocesan priorities is growing diversity, and I am pleased to say that we have a diverse congregation.

GRAYSHOTT SCHOOL

Susie Millard has maintained our link with the school through running 'Open the Book' assembly, sometimes visiting the church for assemblies, and holding their well-established end of term services in church. We provide foundation governors to the Governing body, and our influence and contributions have been significant in the life of the school.

FIRCROFT TRUST

We provide the trustees for Fircroft Trust, which manages two affordable flats in School Road, this exists to provide much appreciated extra funds to support the education at Grayshott School, this is an independent charity, so details of this can be found on the Charity Website.

SAFEGUARDING

Penny T and Hilary L now lead on Safeguarding, a key area in our governance and life, keeping the protection of the congregation, and our visitors a major priority. They have done a superb job, following the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard levels 1,2 and 3, always seeking to implement improvements.

THANKS

I am enormously indebted to so many, but particularly our Church Warden, Sheila Austin who has continued as a sole Warden, our treasurer Viv Ward, our PCC team, the assistant Church Wardens, our Licensed Lay Ministers Susie Millard and Chris Grocock, our administrator Anna Gilderson, our Youth Worker Rhys McLaren and our Children Youth overseer Hilary Loder, who have all worked very hard to bring us to where we are, assisted by many volunteers helping in many ways large and small. I want to particularly thank Retiring PCC members, Philippa Whitaker, Penny Thomas who retired during the year, Jeremy Hassell, Alice Murphy, Clive Purkiss, who has supported us with Employment administration, who have served their terms on PCC after the APCM in May. Graeme Bowerbank has moved abroad for work, so is leaving the PCC, but wants to remain involved in church life as much as he can from a distance. They have all contributed significantly in different ways, and I am grateful for their support.

The work of fulfilling our vision and potential is a matter for us all, and my prayer is to see St Luke's continuing to flourish, shine and grow as a light for Christ in our community.

Report written by Rev. Jeremy Haswell

PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 ACCOUNTS – VIV WARD

Finance report on the accounts to 31 December 2024.

The Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2024 have been scrutinised by our independent Examiner and approved by the PCC. They are 26 pages long which I commend as a good read and they describe what has happened during the year in St Luke's.

However, as it is so long, I am only showing the income and expenditure report and balance sheet below which summarise all of these figures. If you would like a full copy of the report we can send you one by email or you can get a hard copy from the office. I am also available to answer questions or go through the accounts if you would prefer.

The net surplus is £10,257 to which is added the gain on revaluation of investments of £1,570 resulting in a net increase in funds of £11,827 for the year. After all the year's movement the total of all funds is £154,130.

In the current climate, where churches are facing declining attendance and reduced income, these results are commendable, and we are grateful for these results. The magazine, Grayshott today, has reported a surplus of £2,178 and we have raised £5,689 towards our target of £12,000 to repair the church spire's weathervane. The Youth club, known as "The Base" has managed its finances with funding from East Hants District Council and Grayshott Parish Council. Additionally, the church has received a generous donation of £10,000 towards its work with young people. These transactions, and others, have led to an increase of £21,434 in the Designated and Restricted funds.

However, the unrestricted funds, which cover the general income and expenses for day-to-day running of the church, has resulted in a deficit of £ (9,956). Overall income has reduced by £22,102 over nearly all areas. The most significant drop has been in regular giving which is the mainstay of any churches income, has again decreased by £4,461. To offset this loss, expenses have been reduced by £4,953, partly due to

lower utility costs but also the careful management of available funds during a time of high inflation.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have once again set a deficit budget, recognising the need to focus on increasing income rather than further cutting expenses.

The Vicar's Discretionary fund started the year with £ 6,073. It received £ 1,465 in donations and paid out £ 1,349 to those in need, leaving a remaining balance of £6,189.

	2024 £'000's	2023 £,000's
Income and Expenditure		
Incoming resources		
Voluntary income	140	153
Activities for generating fund	6	8
Investment income	4	4
Income from charitable activities	35	35
Other	--	-
	185	200
Resources used		
Cost of generating funds	1	1
Charitable activities	174	194
Other costs	--	--
	175	195
Net income	10	5
Gain / (Loss) on investment assets	2	6
Net income	12	11
Funds brought forward	142	131
Funds carried forward	154	142

Balance Sheet		
For the year to 31 December 2024		
Fixed assets	70	69
Current assets	114	116
Current liabilities	(30)	(43)
Net current assets	84	73
Net assets less liabilities	154	142
Funds of Church	154	142

Report written by Viv Ward

7A. STEWARDSHIP REPORT

May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your contributions and for sharing God's love within the church family. In this way you have continued to support the church providing funds to pay for the necessary expenses.

The figures below show a decrease in the giving during the year

	Total Income £	Donations Gift Aid Claimable £	Donations Gift Aid Not Claimable	Gift Aid Claimed
2024 (Jan-Dec)	67,673	58,486	9,187	20,275
2023 (Jan-Dec)	95,576	63,728	9,886	21,962
2022 (Jan-Dec)	117,619	79,159	15,954	22,506
2021 (Jan-Dec)	122,653	89,769	9,790	23,094
2020 (Jan-Dec)	137,360	101,911	7,043	28,406

2019 (Jan-Dec)	141,374	103,731	5,277	32,366
2018 (Jan-Dec)	167,208	124,255	8,675	34,278

The numbers involved are:

	Total Donors	Donors who use Gift Aid	Donors who do not Gift Aid
2024 (Jan-Dec)	86	69	17
2023 (Jan-Dec)	105	90	15
2022 (Jan-Dec)	106	92	14
2021 (Jan-Dec)	96	84	12
2020 (Jan-Dec)	114	99	15
2019 (Jan-Dec)	123	107	16
2018 (Jan-Dec)	132	116	16

The reduction in Stewardship income this year needs to be dealt with and we need to renew growth over the coming years. Let me encourage everyone who is reading this to consider the biblical principle of tithing if you are not already doing so. I'm led by our Lord to Luke 21:1-14.

'As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Report prepared by Barbara Johnston.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE PCC

Christopher Kelly has agreed to continue in this role.

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS –
SHEILA AUSTIN

This last year has been a relatively uneventful one for me as churchwarden, no major building problems or fabric difficulties. St Luke's continues to be a beautiful peaceful place for our congregation and visitors. Another contribution to this is the churchyard which is maintained by a faithful team of volunteers who regularly keep the whole area tidy and somewhere people can come and relax and find peace. I want to record my thanks to the churchyard team for all their work and faithfulness.

It has been a joy to continue and be part of our relationship with the Ukrainian community. I consider it an important aspect of our ministry in Grayshott that we maintain this relationship, so vital with no end in sight for the conflict.

In early 2025 a team of volunteers, including Tony Thomas and Peter Jones, painted the church room, giving the area a much needed freshen up – to every users benefit. Thank you to all involved.

The Weathervane is leaning and needs attention, after over 100 years. A village wide appeal for the restoration of the Weathervane was launched at the end of 2024. The cost is expected to be in the region of £12,000, possibly more when full access is obtained. At the time of writing the appeal has reached £7,500. A faculty application will be submitted when the funds have been received.

The Terrior and Inventory Record and the Log Book have been checked and updated where necessary and signed by the Vicar. These will be checked at the Archdeacon's visitation later in the year.

In 2026 the next Quinquennial will take place. Only one main item remains to be completed but this is in hand, the bargeboard on the front porch.

My report would not be complete without recording my huge thanks for the support I have received from the three Assistant Churchwardens, Patrick Johnston, Clive Loder and Richard Pimm. Their combined wisdom and experience has been invaluable to me, indeed I could not have done without them.

It is widely known that I will be standing down at this APCM and taking a break for a short time. It has been a privilege for me to serve God and this community of St Luke's in the position of Churchwarden.

OTHER REPORTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

BABIES AND TODDLERS

The Babes & Toddlers group continue to meet regularly with the children and their Mums/ Dads/ Grandparents/ Carers. There is a lovely atmosphere.

Former members and helpers of the group are invited to our Christmas service. It is a good opportunity for the children to enjoy the lovely atmosphere of St Luke's at this special time of the year.

Jeremy and his guitar are always appreciated during the morning and we all join in with the actions and singing along to familiar songs.

Thanks to Rika for her continued support on the administration and communication. We are thrilled and delighted to welcome Annette to our team who brings an array of ideas and skills for craft to brighten up the children's mornings. She was instrumental in creating our new notice board that cheers up everyone who sees it.

We are lucky to have use of Lyndon Green in the warmer weather when the group makes use of the play area. This is by kind permission of the Parish Council.

Report prepared by Liz Tippett.

WAFFFL

The WAFFFL (Worship and Family Fellowship at Four at (St) Luke's) services were started as an experiment in May 2024 and have been held monthly since.

These services are aimed at young families who want to explore faith, worship together or whose children may make it tricky for them to attend and benefit from a normal service.

The church is set up in café style with tables around which families can sit. The service is very informal, totally child friendly and open to anyone who wants to attend.

At each service there is a story with a detailed model to illustrate and help the children to picture what the story is about; an activity for the

children with sticking or cutting and colouring etc; a simple tea with refreshments and appealing food for children and their grownups alike. While the families eat this meal there are questions on the table to help to bring the story to each family in a meaningful way and the team of helpers facilitate and promote these conversations. Jeremy Haswell provides simple memorable songs for the children to learn and enjoy and Susie Millard leads the service with a welcome and simple prayers related to the story.

We have not attracted large numbers to each service but overall, we have touched many families who report that they have enjoyed and valued the opportunity to come to WAFFFL.

Following a review of the year, it was decided that WAFFFL would continue to be offered as a service at St Lukes and that its value is worthwhile.

We would like to thank the faithful team of people who set up the church, engage with the families and make the teas at each WAFFFL service, without this team the whole thing would be impossible.

Report prepared by Hilary Loder.

WORKSHOPS

Between April 2024 and April 2025 six Community workshops have been run in each school holiday for children between the ages of 4 and 10 years. Thirty places are offered at each workshop.

These workshops take place in the middle of half term and end of term school holidays and average attendance across the year has been 28

(not counting some older children who come as helpers). There is no charge to attend but we welcome voluntary contributions towards the cost of materials used in the crafts / cooking activities. The time given by the Youth Worker as a member of the team has been funded by a Local Council grant and supported by the Parish Council.

Each workshop runs from 10:00 until 14:30 and includes a story in four parts that is reinforced and enhanced by four craft activities (sometimes including a cooking activity) and two games sessions.

We try to provide a meaningful focus for each workshop with themes such as Earth Heroes (where children were thinking about saving our planet), Caring for others (where the importance of thoughtful and considerate relationships with family and friends was reinforced), the Real Meaning of Christmas and the Easter story. These workshops are intended for all eligible aged children from the local community, and we welcome children of all faiths and no faith on the understanding that the Easter and Christmas workshops will have a clear Christian theme.

The workshops are run by a dedicated team of volunteers from St Lukes who plan, resource, prepare and supervise the workshops alongside the Youth Worker.

These workshops come at no cost to the church. The voluntary contributions of parents and others at St Lukes ensures that all costs (including use of the church rooms) are covered.

Through these workshops we have built relationships with over 45 local families whose feedback is very positive in terms of the benefit to

the children attending, to working families and to families who find occupying their youngsters during the school holidays exhausting.

We know that a high proportion of these 45 families attended the Candle service on Christmas Eve.

Report prepared by Hilary Loder.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Last summer's Holiday Club was a big hit, attracting lots of children who were new to the church. It gave them a great chance to get a feel for what we're all about, and we'd love to build on that success this year.

With the end of external funding, we're planning a fresh focus with a more Christian-centred theme, still keeping it accessible for newcomers. This year's proposed theme is "Time Travel with a Christian Transformation Focus"—featuring Bible stories about people whose lives were transformed by Jesus, like Zacchaeus and Saul. Including a story about a woman from the Bible is a priority, and I'm working on finding the right one that's both inspiring and understandable for young children.

One vital element for the Club's success is having plenty of volunteers. After Easter, I'll contact last year's team to start planning, but we'll need as many hands on deck as possible this time around. If you can help or know anyone who might be willing to get involved, it would make a huge difference.

We're aiming for a clear plan early on, using the structured approach from last year as a foundation. The dates are confirmed as the 19th to the 22nd August with Setup and Pack down running the days either side. There will also be a family BBQ on the Thursday evening.

The Holiday Club has proven to be a wonderful opportunity for outreach and engagement, and with the right support, this year's event can be even better.

Report prepared by Rhys McLaren.

GRAYSHOTT SCHOOL

We continue to enjoy a good relationship with Grayshott primary school. Head Teacher Mr Austen and the RE Co-ord, Mrs Tennant, are welcoming and supportive of various initiatives in the school. I lead a weekly assembly, usually Open the Book style with children acting out a narrated bible story, followed by a short reflection and prayer. Once each half term the assembly takes place in church, to help the children get used to being in church. In October the church assembly was a simple school harvest service, and in November it was a Remembrance Assembly. We also plan for each class to come to church once during the year to find out more about their main Christian RE theme for the term, from a church perspective, such as festivals, religious buildings, ritual.

During the year I was able to continue with seasonal special sessions for different year groups – at the end of the summer term a session for year 6 on moving on, with the gift of the Scripture Union moving-on booklet addressing some 'moving-on to secondary school' anxieties in

a fun and helpful way. At the End of Year school service in July, we were able to present each year 6 child with their own Good News Bible, thanks to the generosity of St Luke's congregations in funding this through specific donations. Appeal for this year's bibles will start shortly!

In the second half of the Autumn Term the popular Key stage 2 after school Nativity club ran after school on Wednesdays, to prepare a Nativity service for St Luke's, which took place on?? The service was well attended by parents and families as well as the St Luke's congregation. Many thanks to all those who helped on the day, especially to those who provided pre-service refreshments for parents. Special thanks go to Carol Tinegate-Smith for helping with each holiday club session, costumes and the service.

I was also able to do the special advent session for year 1 at the end of November and to give each Year 1 child a gift from St Luke's of a 'Real Advent Calendar' which includes a 24- page Christmas story activity book – a part of the Christmas story to be read with a parent or carer each day. (The chocolates are Fair Trade, and packaging is recyclable). This is another popular session!! Again, thanks to all who donated to make this possible.

At the end of each term the school runs an End of Term service in the church, which Rev Jeremy and I support. This service is open to parents and each class participates.

NEEDS

Are you interested in occasionally helping with the OTB Assembly? It involves being in school from 10-11 on a Tuesday morning; it could be just helping children (usually about 4 children) to get into costumes and practice their words, and/ or helping to read the story, or dressing up and acting!! Volunteers don't have to be available on a weekly basis, occasional availability would be good. Just one helper, different each week, would be a great help. If interested to find out more or to volunteer contact Susie at susie@stlukes-grayshott.org.

We are hoping to run a school prayer space in the second half of the summer term. To do this we will need support in preparing the activities for the prayer stations. It will involve much cutting out as well as other craft skills. Do let me know if this is something you could help with.

I will soon be starting the appeal for donations towards a bible for each child in Year 6 this year. We will need to raise between £300-350, depending on the bulk sale prices nearer the time.

Please pray for the right initiative to include parents in our outreach and support, many parents are facing difficulties.

Thank you to everyone who supports our outreach to the school and school families.

Report prepared by Susie Millard.

THE BASE YOUTH CLUB

The Base Youth Club has continued to thrive, offering a safe and engaging space for young people every Friday evening. Attendance

remains strong, with an average of 20 young people each week, and a total membership of 35 drawn from eight different schools. The club provides an essential local connection for young people in Grayshott, fostering friendships, leadership, and community involvement.

We currently run two sessions:

- 11-14 year olds: 18:00 - 19:30
- 14-17 year olds: 19:30 - 21:00

The club is supported by a dedicated team of DBS-checked volunteers, each bringing unique skills and interests to enhance the experience for our members.

Several young people have undertaken leadership roles through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, contributing to planning activities and leading games. Their progress has been impressive, and they are gaining invaluable experience in teamwork and leadership.

Additionally, some of our members have led charitable initiatives, raising funds for causes such as the local Scout group, Cancer Relief, Ukrainian refugees in Poland, and the Headley Down Food Bank. These efforts reflect the spirit of compassion and responsibility that we aim to instil in our young people.

A significant aspect of The Base is its commitment to inclusivity and mental well-being. We support members with complex learning and mental health needs, and our team has provided additional care to two bereaved families this year. The club remains a safe, welcoming environment where young people feel a sense of belonging and ownership.

The Base has seen continued development in how it is resourced, organised, and structured. Previously, I have provided personal property to resource the youth group, but we are now actively assessing our church resources and exploring how to purchase and collect further equipment and activities. This initiative is being funded solely through the income raised from the tuck shop, ensuring that we can offer more opportunities for our young people.

Volunteering is absolutely vital to the continuation of the youth work. While we have recently had one parent who is currently supporting us each week, it is crucial that we prioritise outreach for more volunteers. Expanding our team will help sustain and develop the work we have built. Providing clear support and guidance on how to get involved will be key in ensuring we maintain a strong and capable team moving forward.

Our ongoing funding from EHDC requires bi-annual monitoring, which we have successfully completed. We have also submitted an application to the Parish Council for additional financial support, which will be considered in April. Looking ahead, we remain optimistic about securing funding to ensure the continuation of The Base beyond September 2025.

A PERSONAL NOTE OF THANKS:

As my time as Youth Worker comes to an end in August 2025, I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the parish and the incredible team who have supported me throughout my time. It has been an absolute privilege to work with such a dedicated and

passionate group of people, committed to providing a safe and enriching space for our young people.

A special thanks must go to Hilary and Alice, whose unwavering dedication has been the lifeblood of this youth work. Their support, enthusiasm, and commitment have been paramount to the club's success and longevity. Their truth, honesty (however brutal at times!) and their laughter (whether at or with me!) have been fundamental to the success we have seen in creating and developing youth work to where it is today. I am deeply grateful for their partnership and the impact they have had on both the young people and myself.

Thank you all for your continued support of youth work at St Luke's. It has been an honour to be part of this journey.

Report prepared by Rhys McLaren.

CHURCHYARD TEAM

The team, now of three men, continue to maintain the churchyard cutting the grass throughout the growing season and tidying up in the dryer and colder months.

The collection of autumn leaves with the Billy Goat and mulching in the compost bins behind the mound continues to be a success, saving significant amounts of money that was spent few years ago. The mulched leaves have improved the soil conditions in the front beds and there is even sufficient mulch for parishioners to have some if they wish to collect it.

The plants purchased by Grayshott Hidden Gardens in Autumn 2023 continue to thrive and the daffodil bulbs planted in the mound give a lovely spring bloom.

Apart from petrol the maintenance of the machinery continues to be the most significant cost in the budget with the John Deere requiring a large repair. The Billy Goat needed a service as it does work hard for a short period often picking up wet leaves.

If anyone would like to help the churchyard team, we roughly spend 2 hours per week on a Tuesday morning throughout the spring, summer and autumn. Contact Edward Tobin if you can help.

Report prepared by David Williams.

OASIS – ALICE MURPHY

Oasis is a wellbeing group which aims to create safe quiet spaces where it is ok to not be ok! We aim to create a space where even the most anxious can come and feel safe. We will share drinks and biscuits along with people coming and sharing their hobbies. Its a place to have a chat or to just sit quietly, whatever a quests needs may be on that day. The focus is on promoting wellness and wholeness.

We have a core group of members who we see most weeks. Others who drop in occasionally. We are even blessed in the school holidays by a group of students, making meaningful and significate connections across generations. Friendships have been made.

Our aim is to ultimately partner with local groups, GPs and mental health practitioners so that they can socially prescribe to our group, for the marginalised and lonely to have someone call them by name.

Report prepared by Alice Murphy.

FIRCROFT TRUST

The Vicar and Churchwardens administer separately a Trust (“the Fircroft Trust”) set up in 1930 to benefit Grayshott Church of England Primary School, through the profit on rental received from the house “Fircroft” belonging to the Trust.

In late 2005 the Trustees took over the administration which previously had been administered by the Diocese. During the year to 31st December 2023 the Trust contributed £11,980 towards a computer server, a health course, sculpture workshop and staff Christmas and end of term meals. After this contribution the Trust showed a profit of £6,932 which will be carried forward for new school projects planned for 2024.

Report prepared by David Williams.

FUNDRAISING ‘HAPPY’ TEAM – JONATHAN TIPPETT

The Fundraising committee, otherwise known as the “Happy committee”, looks at the opportunities for promoting events that raise funds for St Luke’s and also bring people into the church from the wider community.

The committee meets quarterly and in 2024 initiated the Winter Warmer in February, The St Luke’s Festival in May and the Harvest Supper in October.

A programme of events has been assembled for 2025 to raise funds for the Weather Vane Appeal and the General Fund and plans are being put in place for 2026.

The committee are grateful to everyone already involved with the whole range of fundraising events being held at St Luke's. If you have an idea for a fundraising event or would like to join the committee and help with its work, we would be delighted to hear from you. We can be contacted through Anna in the church office.

Report prepared by Jonathon Tippet, Secretary to the Fundraising committee.

GRAYSHOTT TODAY – HELEN WILLIAMS

The magazine had a challenging year financially but, after receiving a grant from the Parish Council and after securing more advertising, managed to end the financial year with a small surplus.

We continue to receive amazing support in terms of written contributions, photographs, and artwork from members of our community. This year, as well as from our regular contributors, we also started receiving articles from the Local National Trust Warden. The magazine continues to try and serve and inform the local community and to strengthen links between the community and St Luke's. We showcase local talent and encourage submissions from diverse age groups and from differing sections of our community.

Aware of the problems that our old system of distribution was generating, we have now stopped using a delivery company and have opted for a new system in which we employ local people to deliver to their specified areas. This, we hope, should really improve things.

Report prepared by Helen Williams.

GRAYSHOTT CONCERTS – ANDREW CROCKER

"World-class performances – on your doorstep!"

We are so grateful to the St Luke's Church community for allowing us to use the Church and the Timothy Rooms to produce our concerts and provide facilities for our performers. We have heard many positive comments about the lovely acoustics.

2024 was a remarkable year for Grayshott Concerts:

We celebrated through music our 20th-anniversary and our 100th concert, the 75th anniversary of the London Mozart Players, and finally the 80th birthday of our former Patron, Sir Karl Jenkins. Our year of celebration included these remarkable and varied programmes featuring top artists:

- **"Viva LMP!** A celebration of Mozart. The LMP's 75th Anniversary Concert, (and our 100th concert) replicated the programme Mozart curated himself for a concert at the Burgtheater in Vienna in 1783.
- **Howard Shelley's concert masterpieces"** which included Grieg's iconic Piano Concerto played by Howard Shelley for a final time in public.
- A wonderful evening of **chamber music** exclusively for our Friends.
- **Our gala concert** to celebrate the 80th birthday of Sir Karl Jenkins, with the LMP, Excelsis and some outstanding soloists.
- **Viola Virtuosity with Tim Ridout and Ruth Rogers** – such a wonderful treat to hear the viola played so brilliantly.

We are excited to have launched our Outreach Programme to bring music to children and those in need. We fund a full term's worth of

lessons for a class at Grayshott Primary and schools in Bordon. The pupils get an opportunity to try out plastic woodwind instruments (so called Toots and Doods) or plastic brass instruments (pBones and pTrumpets). We have also funded a number of concerts in care homes and are supporting a concert in Bordon featuring the Surrey Youth Jazz Orchestra which will be free to a large number of those attending.

Thank you to all at St Luke's – with special thanks to Jeremy and Claire, Edward Tobin, Sheila Austin, Viv Ward and Anna Gilderson. We couldn't have done it without you!

Report Prepared by Grayshott Concerts.

HOSPITALITY – ANNE GALE-JONES

Hospitality in St Luke's has been happening very well recently.

The March Parish Breakfast served 26 people despite only catering for 24!

Our cook Sheila Edwards performed a miracle and 2 more were fed.

After the 10.30 service on Sunday mornings hot drinks and biscuits are served.

This is very popular. Maybe because Amalya cooks ample pancakes for us all to satisfy our sweet cravings.

In January Ros Balfour and Philippa Whitaker organised a very successful Bridge Day in the Village Hall. A light lunch was served before the afternoon of Bridge. Many helpers were mustered who along with the players had a stimulating time.

This benefitted St Luke's funds considerably.

Another evening on 22nd February was also enjoyed by many from the Village as well as the Church. Gill Purkiss organised a Winter Warmer meal for 40 guests. There was a choice of the hot menu followed by sticky toffee pudding. She had a team of 5 helpers to prepare, cook, serve and clear in time for the Concert to follow. Many more tickets were sold for this which turned out to be a great success. Lots of music by participants playing various instruments with others reciting poems and singing songs. The whole evening was wonderful and such a memorable time for all. Also it helped to boost our Church funds and the Weather Vane Appeal.

Report prepared by Anne Gale-Jones.

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

CHRIS GROCOCK

Retirement arrives but slowly! My work as a teacher has much reduced, I am glad to say, and has freed me up to do more work in the two St Luke's where I am an LLM, mostly expanding in Grayshott (though the rector in Milland has other ideas!) we will see! It still involves a daily commute to Petersfield but it by no means as onerous as it was.

Leading services – and preparing for them – has been the core of what I have done in 2024 – 2025. In St Luke's Grayshott in 2024 I have taken Evensong on the first and third Sunday of each month, leading the service 20 times and preaching 20 times. At Milland I help out with

11.00am Matins on the third Sunday of the month and with occasional services on the fifth Sunday. Here I led services 14 times and preached 13 times (one service being 9 lessons and carols – no sermon needed).

During 2024 I took on the role ‘Spiritual Director’ to our Youth Worker Rhys McLaren, and began meeting with him on a weekly basis as far as possible. This has lapsed in recent months and needs to be re-established (i.e writing in my diary!).

From January 2025 I started what was intended to be a post-Alpha study group (open to all, not just Alpha candidates) looking at some challenging aspects of the faith. I have used Kris Kandiah’s book *Paradoxology*, which I encountered during a LLMs Theological Book Group session, as the basis for this. There have been no takers from (?) last year’s Alpha course but three regulars have found it useful and I think stimulating – and a place to ask awkward questions which don’t get a space to be aired elsewhere. The comment from one participant who did Alpha several years ago is that the material is at a higher level than post-Alpha and we need to think again to find suitable material for that level – and then persuade people to explore a little deeper post-Alpha! It would also be useful to plan and implement another Alpha course, involving more course tutors/ deliverers.

What took me by surprise was the interest shown in a beginner’s group in New Testament Greek which also started at the beginning of 2025. I offered this to anyone who cared to come, within and without the parish, committed Christian or not, and expecting two or three. Seventeen people signed up to begin with; the main motivation expressed for attending was ‘to stretch our grey matter’. Language-

learning is a challenge for many so I have not been surprised to see numbers dwindle, but we have a committed core of eight students who keep me on my toes – so the course is good for stretching my grey matter, too, and it has sent me back to reading the New Testament with a greater scrutiny than I think I have ever done before!

Over this period I have done ad-hoc CPD with the LLMs Theological Study group, which meets four times a year, at the LLMs AGM and licensing sessions, through private study, and using some courses provided by the Diocese of Chichester.

Report prepared by Chris Grocock.

SUSIE MILLARD

Within St Luke's one of the things I focus on is outreach to the children and families of Grayshott Primary school, for which see the separate report on Grayshott Primary school.

Within church, my main focus is preaching and leading at the 10.30 service, both contemporary worship and Communion Services, occasionally at the 08.30 service and Choral Evensong, including very occasional communion by extension, and also support to our Youth worker, particularly with the main summer Holiday Club.

We had a well-attended Nativity service, followed on Christmas Eve by the Family Candle Service. On Palm Sunday we had a fun Palm Sunday service with an interactive travelling story around the churchyard, with our favourite donkey – Mr Moon, who was able to join us this year – and was not put off by the enthusiastic cheering and flag waving as we

entered Jerusalem in our story! The morning included crafts and activities and amazing refreshments. These 'one-off' services are aimed for families with school age children but are open to all to enjoy.

An exciting development in our outreach to families is Hilary's initiative to trial a short family service called WAFFLE, once a month at 4pm on Sundays. This is relaxed 'café-style', seated around tables in church, and aims to help families explore, worship and pray together while enjoying drinks and cake. We are currently thinking and praying how to take this forward. Big thanks to Alice and Darren who move the pews and set up the tables, and then put it all back as it was in time for Evensong! Thanks also to all the cake-makers and tea providers.

Remembrance and St Georges Day provide opportunities to work with the Grayshott Scout group. Last year I was delighted to be invited to say a few words and lead prayers at the District St Georges Day event held at Grayshott.

As we approached Easter this year, I led a church Lent Course over 5 weeks reflecting on the Christ in the Wilderness paintings of Stanley Spencer, and joint led with Rev Jeremy, a creative meditation afternoon on 'Approaching the Cross'.

A big 'thank you' to all who have helped with various unusual and practical tasks in our family services. They wouldn't work without you!

My employment as the Prayer and Comms Lead for Military Ministries International continues to be busy. Thank you to St Luke's prayer groups and individuals who support in prayer.

If you would like to be involved in the school or family services do please contact me at susie@stlukes-grayshott.org.

Report prepared by Susie Millard.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast group has been meeting regularly, offering a welcoming space for people to enjoy a meal and some good conversation. While attendance has been occasional, the group's consistency remains strong. We've also shifted the start time to 9 a.m. to make it easier for more people to join.

To help the group grow and thrive, we'd love support in raising its profile within the local community and church congregation. We're also on the lookout for someone to take over running the group from September, so any help with this would be hugely appreciated.

Report prepared by Rhys McLaren.

OUTWARD GIVING REPORT APCM 2025

I am delighted to say that St Luke's has maintained its commitment to tithing 10% of the annual income for many years. This principle is found in Malachi 4, and picks up the teaching of Jesus promising that if we give, God will provide. Luke 6, the grants, are referred to as our 'outward giving' and are considered by a subcommittee of the PCC, and submitted each year for approval. The criteria used in making the grants are given below. This year, we have sought to include the PCC in the grant decisions, and the PCC decided to give some un-allocated money to give to the St Martin's in the Field Appeal, on the basis of wanting to give to needs in the UK.

- Being faithful and generous in our support (and give enough to make a difference) rather than to spread our support too thinly.
- Supporting organisations rather than individuals.
- Supporting organisations with which we have personal links through members of St Luke's, so a relationship can be maintained.
- Focusing on life enhancement by education and training or humanitarian support for those on the margins of their societies who have no other means of support.
- Focusing on the spread of the good news in areas hostile to the gospel.
- Trying to give to different areas in the world, rather than just home or away.

We gave this year to the following organisations:

1. **School for the Handicapped, Ibadan, Nigeria.** Support and education for children who otherwise would be abandoned in their culture, overseen by the Diocese of Ibadan. (£2,800).
2. **Testimony of Faith Homes, Eldoret, Kenya.** Homes for destitute and orphaned children. (£2,500).
3. **Harriet Memorial Fund for Teacher & Nurse Training in Yei, South Sudan** Training nurses. (£2394).
4. **Great Mission Kenya / Dolphin Academy Kamwaura, Kenya** A school helping to build a classroom. (£1000).
5. **Elam Ministries, Iran.** Supporting the ministry to Iranian Christians, and exiles with the Gospel. (£1000).

6. **Dohnavur Fellowship, Tamil Nadu, India.** A Christian community established by Amy Carmichael, in South India, supporting, housing, educating and employing the needy in their area. (£2000).
7. **World Vision** (One child in Uganda sponsored by Sunday school) (£228)
8. **St Martin-in-the -Field's Appeal** - supporting the homeless (£800)

In these straightened times when we are working hard to maintain our own mission, and ask for people to give to support the work of the church, it has been asked if the giving portion is necessary. My response, and the decision of the majority of the PCC is that giving is a part of us being the worldwide body of Christ, and while we have the capacity to give, we should. Despite operating a deficit budget, and having to tighten our own spending, we have decided that the principle of giving is more important than the instinct to protect and close our hands to others. I believe that the Lord is able to help us, and has blessed us with unexpected provision from unexpected sources. While we are able to keep going, my belief is that we should continue this course, trusting the Lord to bring us through.

Report prepared by Jeremy Haswell

OUTREACH TO THE VILLAGE

Throughout the New Year, hospitality events have been continuing with good effect. The warmth of the welcome and the quality of the hospitality is consistently high. Friendship Teas and Lunches are particularly popular, providing comfort particularly to the bereaved, and lonely. Oasis and other events such as Lent Lunches have provided

an opportunity to invite, but we observe that the key to people actually coming is direct invitation on a one to one basis.

A mother who started by coming to Babies and Toddlers has started coming to our Sunday 10.30 services and went to WAFFFL. This seems to be a breakthrough and she invited friends to join her and her husband at WAFFFL and they loved both the service and the welcome. Also this mother has expressed her appreciation of our welcome and provision on the Village Facebook Account. It is a real highlight.

We have secured a table representing the work and presence of St Luke's in the Village. It would be very good to have PCC representation at this on Friday 25th April. The Parish Council recognises how much St Luke's provides in the life of the Village. Our relationship with the businesses in the village continues to be positive, Christmas cards were sent to the businesses to build this connection. We are planning a 'Welcome to Grayshott' tea on the 1st June, at which it would be good to have a good number of PCC members, representing different activities. We have held these twice before, and have been very well received.

We hope to start a new Alpha course, but also to run a 'Hymns We Love' course. This has been highly successful as a way of providing a context for people to discuss their faith, through the words of hymns. The format is: Videos and renditions of the hymns reflecting on the key ideas explored in the verses of the well-known hymns.

The Winter Warmer Event and other fundraising events have been extremely well received. Everyone present at the concert felt the

warmth of the welcome and left feeling that they had a delightful evening, While these are not directly a spiritual outreach, it is building confidence in who we are, and the relationships that could lead to invitations to the services, with the purpose of introducing people to Christ. We can all be grateful to the Coffee teams and Parish Breakfast teams who provide hospitality around our services. The Men's Breakfast has had new attenders occasionally beyond church members. Oasis continues to be a blessing to those who attend, including some teenagers during the holiday periods. To increase our outreach I would like to see every member confident to invite friends and neighbours both to church, and also to the additional events we host. The values of the church are that people are connected, committed and confident. Confidence in faith, and confidence to invite.

Report prepared by Claire Haswell.

GRAYSHOTT COMMUNITY LUNCH

We meet every Thursday in Timothy Room at St. Luke's Church. Some of our members arrive by bus at about 10:30 – depending on the traffic – for coffee, a chat and possibly a game of Dominoes. We have some demon Domino players amongst our members. Everyone else comes for lunch at about 12 noon. We now have a membership of about 25 people. The food is freshly cooked on the premises and to a very high standard.

One of our greatest strengths is that apart from our paid helper, who nobly cleans the kitchen and the bathrooms, we are totally run by

volunteers. It is great fun and gives a lot of happiness to an awful lot of people.

This year we will have been functioning for forty years – an incredible achievement and one for which we are justly proud. We hope to celebrate this on 31st July – just before our summer break – with all our members, and the many people who have helped us over the years.

Report prepared by Angela Haine.

GRAYSHOTT BELL RINGERS – STU AITKIN

The bells have been silent on a Sunday since Covid due to a lack of numbers - those who are no longer with us, working abroad and illness have conspired against us.

We have managed to keep the bells ringing on two Thursdays a month, on the 4th Thursday the ringers from Binsted hold their practice at Grayshott, and on the 2nd Thursday I have been organising ringing by inviting other ringers from the southern end of the Diocese. In this way, we keep the village used to at least some bell ringing.

We have rung very occasionally before a Sunday evening service.

There have been fewer weddings, but where the bells have been requested, we are grateful to our ringing neighbours from Bramshott and Frensham for helping out.

We have welcomed a number of visiting bands in the last 12 months (about normal), some on a Saturday morning and some on a weekday.

The bells themselves are generally in good order, and no specific maintenance is planned for the next 12 months. I have asked the Guildford Bell ringing Guild bell advisor to come and inspect the clappers as a couple of them appear a little loose, this is not urgent and there is no immediate danger.

There are 8 ringing bells at Grayshott, and we have four spare ropes (each rope is a different length and fits a specific bell), which means we have no ready-made replacements for the other four bells. We will consider rope replacement in 2025. The designated bell fund is sufficient for this.

We have just started teaching 4 young members of the hub, and with the imminent return of the tower captain from abroad, and a new ringer from Haslemere, I believe we will be in a position to start up a regular practice and limited Sunday ringing soon.

Report prepared by Stu Aitkin.

CHURCH CHOIR

The Choir has had a difficult year since losing our dear organist and choirmaster, Malcolm, but we continue to sing at our two regular evensong services each month and at festival services.

We are fortunate in having Chris and Susie to lead us and Simon or Edward to be our organist, with the occasional help from a visiting organist for festival services.

We were joined by several extra choristers for the Nine Lessons and Carols service which was greatly appreciated.

We usually practice just before the evensong services at 5.40pm in the vestry. If you would like to sing with us, please contact Jane Tobin janetobin@talktalk.net

Report prepared by Jane Tobin.

PASTORAL

Pastoral team continue to help and support those people who are isolated and in need of company and friendship.

We carry this out by visiting people as requested or by telephoning people to keep in touch.

Hospitality is a very important way of keeping in touch with people and assessing their needs. There are regular lunch clubs, tea parties and coffee mornings for those people able to attend. Sadly there are an increasing number of people who are housebound. I have concerns for an increasing number of people who were regular members of the congregation who are now unable to attend services

We monthly visit Huntington house and Moorlands lodge with Holy Communion and Jeremy visits Green Gables regularly. These are well attended and appreciated.

Report prepared by Ros Balfour.

SAFEGUARDING

Anglican Church Services are open to everyone and at St Luke's we ensure that whoever comes to worship or to join in any of the activities of the church is welcomed. We have many different meetings and clubs mostly organised and run by volunteers. It is essential that

everyone feels safe and comfortable and so safeguarding is at the heart of all we do as a church.

The PCC is responsible for the management of safeguarding at St Luke's and it has appointed Hilary Loder and Penny Thomas, to be its safeguarding officers. Our role is ensure that all the requirements determined by the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy are met. Some of the duties include DBS checks for all those running groups or having close involvement with children and vulnerable people, training for PCC members and other leaders and generally raising awareness of safeguarding in every aspect of church life through the use of risk assessments and role requirements.

The PCC are provided with progress reports at every meeting based on the Action Plan generated by the Parish Dashboard tool as required by Guildford Diocese. Our aim is make sure everyone feels comfortable in whatever they are doing in church.

We are pleased to report that all the safeguards the Diocese requires of us are in place and that as far as we are aware St Luke's is a safe and supportive place in which to worship, learn, work, volunteer, share and belong.

Report prepared by Penny Thomas and Hilary Loder.

AOB