

ST LUKE'S GRAYSHOTT APCM 2026 BOOKLET



THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

St Luke's Church, Grayshott

To be held

at 7pm on Thursday 21st May 2026

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING 2026

(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 2025 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, 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)

Revd Jeremy Haswell chaired the meeting, and 31 people were present.

Apologies were received from:

Adrian Banwell, Anne Gale-Jones, Revd Elizabeth Knifton, Sonia Motley, Alice Murphy, Gill Pain, Diana Neat, Anne Preston, Brenda Schwartz, Benjamin Whitaker, Philippa Whitaker, William Windle, June Windle.

1. OPENING PRAYER.

Revd Haswell opened the meeting with a reading from Isaiah 61 v 1-3 and a prayer

2. MINUTES OF THE 2025 VESTRY MEETING.

Minutes of the 2025 Vestry Meeting were approved by everyone present and signed by the chairman.

3. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.

There were 2 nominations:

Jonathan Tippett – proposed by Sheila Austin and seconded by Michael Lugg

Alice Murphy (not present at the meeting) – proposed by Sheila Austin and seconded by Claire Haswell

They were both approved by all eligible attendees at the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7.15pm.

The Vicar thanked the outgoing sole churchwarden, Sheila Austin for all her work.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2026

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<i>(Five vacancies for three years)</i>	
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11. AOB (Previously notified to the PCC Secretary)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was opened at 7.15pm on Thursday 8th May 2025 in the Timothy Room by the Vicar, Rev Jeremy Haswell, who welcomed the 32 people present.

1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Adrian Banwell, Anne Gale-Jones, Revd Elizabeth Knifton, Sonia Motley, Alice Murphy, Gill Pain, Diana Neat, Anne Preston, Brenda Schwartz, Benjamin Whitaker, Philippa Whitaker, William Windle, June Windle.

2. MINUTES OF 2024 APCM

The minutes of the 2024 APCM were approved by all present and signed by the chairman.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll Officer (John Haine) informed the meeting that a total of 57 people had been taken off the Electoral Roll either because they had moved away or the Electoral Roll Officer had been unable to contact them. With a total of 151, this was 38%. This was similar to the percentage in previous years. There were 16 new members, compared to 3 new members in 2019. The ratio of women:men is 2:1 and the ratio of those living within in the parish to those from outside is also 2:1.

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

4. ELECTIONS

4.I. READERS (LICENSED LAY MINISTERS – LLM’S):

Both Susie Millard and Chris Grocock had supplied reports about their work which were included in the APCM booklet. There was unanimous support for both of them to continue in their roles.

4.II. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) LAY REPRESENTATIVES.

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

Ros Balfour – *Proposed by Claire Haswell, seconded by Susie Millard.*

Annette Baker – *Proposed by Liz Tippett, seconded by Edward Tobin.*

June Windle – *Proposed by Revd Jeremy Haswell, seconded by Sheila Austin.*

Philippa Whitaker had asked to continue as a PCC member replacing Graeme Bowerbank for a further 2 years. This was proposed by Ros Balfour and seconded by Sue Wilson.

All these nominations had unanimous approval from all those present.

4.III. DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES.

Clive Loder will be continuing in this role.

There was still one unfilled vacancy for a Deanery Synod Representative.

4.IV. SIDESMEN/WOMEN:

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 Tippett, Jonathan Tippett, Suzanne Wavre, Philippa Whitaker.

All were approved unanimously, and the vicar commended the work they do.

5. PCC SECRETARY REPORT.

The PCC had met 6 times since the last APCM. Over the past year there had been a full complement of 9 lay members but only one churchwarden.

6. VICARS REPORT.

The Vicar summarised his report especially pointing out the good work of many volunteers in the church

7. PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 ACCOUNTS.

Viv Ward confirmed that the Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31st December 2024 had been scrutinised by the independent examiner, Christopher Kelly, and approved by the PCC.

The net surplus was £10,257 and with the gain on revaluation of investments of £1,570 resulted in a net increase in funds of £11,827. The total of all funds is £154,130.

The magazine, Grayshott Today, has reported a surplus of £2,178. The weathervane appeal has raised £9,000 of the £12,000 to repair the weathervane on the spire.

The Youth Club (the Base) has received funding from East Hants District Council and Grayshott Parish Council in addition to a generous donation of £10,000.

The Designated and Restricted funds have shown an increase of £21,434 but the unrestricted funds (which cover the day to day running of the church) have shown a deficit of £(9,956). Overall income has reduced by 22,102. In particular, the regular giving has reduced by £4,461. Offsetting this loss, expenses have reduced by £4,953.

For 2025, a deficit budget has once again been set focussing on increasing income rather than cutting expenditure further.

The Vicar's Discretionary Fund started the year with £6,073. Donations were received totalling £1,465 and £1,349 was paid out to those in need, leaving a remaining balance of £6,189.

Viv thanked Anna Gilderson, Adrian Banwell and Barbara Johnston for the help he received.

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

7A. STEWARDSHIP REPORT.

Viv presented the report by the Stewardship Recorder, Barbara Johnston.

David Williams observed that not only was there a reduction in the number of people giving but the average amount they were giving has also gone down.

John Haine commented that, when he was stewardship recorder ten years ago, there was a considerable variation in the amounts parishioners were giving.

8. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER.

Revd Haswell said that Christopher Kelly needed to be formally appointed (once again) by this meeting. The Vicar proposed that he be reappointed. This was seconded by the treasurer and he was unanimously approved by those at the meeting.

9. CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS & ORNAMENTS

Sheila Austin commented on her report. She thanked the churchyard team and the volunteers who repainted the Timothy Room.

Fundraising to repair the weathervane was underway. The link between St. Luke's and the Ukrainian Church was going well and had included a special bilingual service with all the hosts, sponsors and volunteers helping the Ukrainians in the wider community at the end of February.

Sheila was especially grateful to the Assistant Churchwardens (Patrick Johnston, Clive Loder and Richard Pimm) and could not have done without them.

10. OTHER REPORTS

The Vicar thanked Liz Tippett for her report on Babies and Toddlers.

He thanked team members Annette and Rika. Rika continues to update the (restricted) Facebook page that Julia Hedger started. Liz thanked the vicar for his musical input to the group.

The Vicar thanked Hilary Loder for her report on WAFFFL services at 4.00 pm on Third Sundays in the month (Worship and Family Fellowship at Four at St. Luke's). He said how important these services were to some of those attending.

He also thanked Hilary for her report on the school holidays/half terms Children's Workshops. They are for children aged 4 – 10 years and thirty places are offered at each workshop which run from 10.00 to 14.30 which include stories, craft activities and two games sessions. The youth worker's time was funded by grants. No charge was made but donations were gratefully received. There was therefore no cost to church funds.

The Vicar was grateful to Rhys McLaren (the youth worker) who had prepared a report on the Summer Holiday Club. Planning is underway for this summer and the dates are 19th to 22nd August. The vicar emphasised the need for volunteer helpers.

The Vicar commended Susie Millard's report on Grayshott School and introduced Linda Holbrook, Chairman of the Board of Governors, who was at the meeting. He reminded the meeting of the close relationship the church has with the school and the Head Teacher, Richard Austen. He thanked Susie for her regular input at school assemblies and taking church services with the school. He pointed out that Alice Murphy and he are Foundation Governors.

Rhys McLaren had prepared a report on the Base Youth Club which meets on Friday evenings with two ninety minute sessions – one for 11-14year olds followed by one for 14-17year olds. His time as youth worker comes to an end in August 2025 and he was very grateful to the parish and the team of volunteers who have supported him. Hilary Loder commended the group which is not specifically a Christian group but is led by Christian leaders. She said how pleasant and well behaved the youngsters are.

The Vicar said how proud he is of the state of the Churchyard and the team of volunteers led by David Williams who had provided a report.

He thanked Alice Murphy for the work of Oasis and for providing a report.

The Vicar explained the work of the Fircroft Trust led by David Williams and its fundraising for Grayshott School.

He thanked Jonathan Tippett for his work as Secretary to the Fundraising and Events Committee – called the “Happy Team” – and for providing a report. The committee meets quarterly and had initiated several fundraising events in 2024 and now in 2025. Jonathan said how much outreach was achieved through the events. He thanked Sheila Austin for all her input.

Helen Williams presented her report on Grayshott Today Magazine. The Vicar thanked her and David Williams who has increased the advertising revenue and also Robert Harland. Helen reminded the meeting of the recent sudden loss of John Hill who had been a regular contributor and researcher for the magazine.

The Vicar thanked the contributors of other reports in the APCM Booklet:

Grayshott Concerts (Andy Crocker)

Hospitality (Anne Gale-Jones)

Licensed Lay Ministers (Chris Grocock and Susie Millard)

Men's Breakfast (Rhys McLaren)

Outreach to the Village (Claire Haswell)

Grayshott Community Lunch (Angela Haine)

Grayshott Bell Ringers (Stu Aitken)

Church Choir (Jane Tobin)

Pastoral Team (Ros Balfour)

Safeguarding (Penny Thomas and Hilary Loder)

The Vicar had provided a report for Outward Giving and thanked the advisory group.

The Vicar concluded the meeting in prayer followed by the Grace.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.

PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – JOHN HAINE

8th May 2025 – 21st May 2026

Recorded members on the Electoral Roll at the 2025 APCM was 110.

The changes since April 2025 have been

Moved away from the Parish	0
Deceased	2
Requested to be removed	0
Removed as non-contactable	0
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

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT – EDWARD TOBIN

The PCC has met on 7 occasions since the last APCM (with one extra meeting last July to consider the Church Development Plan).

The PCC has had a full complement of 2 churchwardens, 8 lay members, Treasurer, and one licensed Lay Minister. We have had one Deanery Synod Representative whose period in office comes to an end at this APCM. The Diocese has informed us our parish is to elect 5 Deanery Synod Representatives at our 2026 APCM.

Three of our Lay Representatives complete their term of office this APCM so there are vacancies for 3 new PCC members.

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

This year we continue to see fresh life coming to our church community. Some aspects of our church life have grown, become more established and are thriving.

The fact that we appointed two Church Wardens, Alice and Jonathan has made a significant difference to the general running of everything. Edward did an excellent job on his own, but with two coming on, we can push on. This year we saw our Youthworker Rhys move on to develop his career, in September last year we appointed Alice as our part time Youth and Families worker, with the brief to grow the work and connect up children at all stages.

Probably the single item that has affected the life of St Luke's has been the medical treatment that I have received: 6 months of Chemotherapy from August to January. Although I didn't stop working completely through the treatment, my low immunity meant that I was

unable to take the Christmas Services. I am enormously grateful for all those who stepped up, particularly in leading services, which is Rev. Elizabeth, Chris and Susie, and continue to do so. Everyone has been very supportive in the aftermath of the treatment which for the record was completely successful.

St Luke's continues to provide significant public benefit by having a presence in the community, in person through the Vicar's role, the provision of weddings and funerals, and the baptism of infants, all helping to build our relationship with individuals and families. The many hospitality events run by members of the church build cohesion. Our production and distribution of an excellent free village wide parish magazine (Grayshott Today) to most houses in the parish informs the whole parish of events of all groups whether church related or not. Support is given to all ages from babies and young families to those in their last stage of life, including those with dementia. All services are open to all and the Church building is open during the week for private prayer in daylight hours, and the Church Rooms continue to be available for hire for community events and private parties and receptions. St Luke's is appreciated by many for the concerts we host through our Fundraising Committee, but also the Grayshott Concerts programme which is always excellent. The Vicar's Relief Fund continues to support individuals struggling financially.

We have continued to help people to become Connected, Committed, and Confident in their faith and understanding. The number of volunteers helping to run the Church buildings, Churchyard, Administration. Plus members of the Church who lead a small team supporting Village Square Events, through whom we support the

community with Christmas Carols in the square, and consider other opportunities to bring the local community together. Anna's commitment in the office is magnificent.

The purpose of church is to be the people of God in our community, I am increasingly aware that due to geopolitical uncertainty, there is a shift in individuals' openness to spiritual things, and believe that there will be a significant move of God to bring many to faith in our generation. We have set out a Church Development plan to be ready for this by addressing three key areas: Fellowship, Outreach and Governance, representing: our closeness to each other including home groups, Reaching out to the community, the schools, the care homes, and finally establishing our financial base, and legal governance to ensure our ability to grow and meet the needs of our community both spiritually and practically with the love of God.

I particularly want to single out Viv who has been so diligent in tracking our expenditure and providing management reports to show trends and projections to help the PCC with our decision making.

The heart of financial sustainability for churches is always the regular giving, and while I am extremely grateful for all those who do give, our trend with this is down. This is a challenge we need to address. We can do this in two ways, having an outward view of connecting with and inviting our friends and neighbours to come and commit to build up our worshipping community, and then by letting people know that financial support of the church, is not 'paying for attendance' but an 'investment in the Kingdom of God'. Matthew 6:33 says if we put his kingdom first, God will provide all the things we need. Also the parable

of the Talents suggests that we are all entrepreneurs, seeking to make profit for the Kingdom of God, see lives saved and transformed, brought from darkness to light.

I am committed to seeing St Luke's thrive as a Spiritual Community growing in their faith and knowledge of God, living the resurrection life now, walking in the Spirit, and loving God and our neighbours. I appreciate all the support I get from so many in doing that, be assured of my prayers, and let us all commit to praying that we accomplish everything that God has prepared for us to do.

Report written by Rev. Jeremy Haswell

PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 ACCOUNTS – VIV WARD

Finance report on the accounts to 31 December 2025.

The Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2025 have been thoroughly reviewed by our independent Examiner and approved by the PCC. The full report spans 26 pages, providing a comprehensive overview of the year's activities at St Luke's. For brevity, this summary focuses on the income and expenditure report and balance sheet. Copies of the full report are available upon request by email or from the church office. I am also available to answer questions or go through the accounts if you would prefer.

The year ended with a net surplus of £1,401 to which is deducted the loss on revaluation of investments of £2,805 resulting in a

net decrease in funds of £1,404 for the year. After all the year's movement the total of all funds is £152,726.

During the last year we have levelled out on attendances and overall income and are grateful for these results. The magazine, Grayshott today, has reported a healthy surplus and increased its pages and we have raised the balance of our target of 12,000 to repair the church spire's weathervane. The Youth club, known as "The Base" was funded until August by a three-year grant from East Hants District Council and the continued annual grant of £3,000 from Grayshott Parish Council. Future funding is covered by generous donations that have built up within the church. The Vicar's Discretionary fund started the year with £ 6,189. It received £ 1,811 in donations and paid out £ 800 to those in need, leaving a remaining balance of £7,200.

These transactions, and others, have led to an increase of £11,791 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 £ (13,195).

Unrestricted income increased by £2,278. While regular giving remained at the same level, the donations reduced, possibly redirected to the weathervane appeal, but were compensated for by an increase in weddings and funerals and by parishioners enjoying more fundraising events.

Unrestricted expenses increased by £3,522, similar to the increase in income. For some years we have been struggling with finances and have spent only what is strictly necessary. We have still paid our outward giving to charities of £11,912 and maintained a minimum level of staff. The Parish Share of £95,259 paid to the Diocese for our Vicar and more represents 74% of our unrestricted income and we still have not paid £11,629 of this.

It is the policy of our church to hold unrestricted reserves of three months general running costs, including salaries, this amounts to £35,226. Our balance is £36,776 remaining in the unrestricted reserves so we are at the minimum level we should have.

For 2026 we have set a deficit budget of £ (24,150). Efforts are under way to reduce this deficit and achieve a break-even position to ensure financial stability.

	2025 £'000's	2024 £,000's
Income and Expenditure		
Incoming resources		
Voluntary income	128	140
Activities for generating fund	11	6
Investment income	5	4
Income from charitable activities	42	35
Other	--	-
	186	185
Resources used		
Cost of generating funds	2	1
Charitable activities	182	174

Other costs	--	--
	184	175
Net income	2	10
Gain / (Loss) on investment assets	(3)	2
Net income	(1)	12
Funds brought forward	154	142
Funds carried forward	153	154
Balance Sheet		
For the year to 31 December 2025		
Fixed assets	67	70
Current assets	106	114
Current liabilities	(20)	(30)
Net current assets	86	84
Net assets less liabilities	153	154
Funds of Church	153	154

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 £
2025 (Jan-Dec)	84,408	55,119	10,635	18,654
2024 (Jan-Dec)	87,948	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
2025 (Jan-Dec)	85	69	16
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

Report prepared by Barbara Johnston.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE PCC

Clare David has agreed to continue in this role.

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT ON FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS –
JONATHAN TIPPETT AND ALICE MURPHY

We were appointed Church Wardens at the 2025 APCM. The whole of St Luke's and successive PCCs owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Sheila Lugg who retired at the meeting after many years of selfless devotion to the role of Church Warden. Thank you Sheila for everything you have done and we wish you a long and happy retirement.

The first months were spent finding our feet although early on the matter of the leaning weathervane was addressed. It was brought down in July and was sent away to be refurbished by specialists. We and the PCC are grateful to everyone who has donated to the appeal and the initial target of £12,000 for the work has been achieved. At the time of writing this report the PCC is considering the work required to complete the project. More news on this will follow as events unfold.

Also in July we had the Archdeacon's visitation, this time by Richard Bodle, our Area Dean. Everything was found to be in order.

The churchyard continues to be maintained by a team of volunteers led by David Williams who meet on Tuesdays and keep the whole area tidy and somewhere people can come and relax and find peace. We want to record our thanks to the churchyard team for all their work.

Timothy Room and the toilets were redecorated in 2025 and thanks to everyone involved with that. Plans are being developed to refurbish the ground floor toilets.

The Terrier and Inventory Record and the Log Book have been checked and updated where necessary and signed by the Vicar.

In 2026 the next Quinquennial will have taken place by the time of the APCM.

Our report would not be complete without recording our gratitude for the support we have received from the three Assistant Churchwardens, Patrick Johnston, Clive Loder and Richard Pimm who keep an eye on the church and the church rooms and step in to make the essential repairs when they are needed.

OTHER REPORTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES – ALICE MURPHY

Since taking over from Rhys in September, I have been finding my feet. I took on a streamlined and simple system of record keeping.

THE BASE

This is our community youth group which runs on Friday evenings during term time. Since September the age range has been extended to include slightly younger children. We are now open to Year 5-8 from 18.00-19.30 and Year 8-12 from 19.30-21.00. We have approximately 20 children who attend regularly and more than 40 on role since September. On an average evening the members are offered table tennis, air hockey and pool tables; on dry and light evenings we offer football and hockey outside; art and crafts are available for quieter activities. We also have a Nintendo Switch console that enables 4 players to engage in all sort of electronic games from Super Mario races to Dance contests. The Club is manned by myself and two volunteers (always room for more) who also offer friendship and provide opportunities for conversation. We continue to offer a tuck

shop and hot food for the members each week this was done to discourage them from wanting to leave the club to go into the village during the evening, which is a change that has been successfully implemented. Once booked into a club session young people may only leave with parental permission. This has enabled us to safely open the group to younger members.

WAFFFL

Our fun cafe style family service has continued to run with inconsistent attendance. The format as it stands is under review.

WORKSHOPS

During half term we have been running one day craft workshops. These are well received. At the time of writing this we have run 4 of our scheduled 5 workshops covering a wide range of Bible stories in an accessible fun fashion. We have regular attendees who go home discussing the stories and asking questions about the characters we introduce them to.

TIDDLERS BREAKFAST

We have attempted a relaunch of the Babies and toddlers breakfast, offering a more continental coffee and croissant offering. This has been poorly attended and the general feedback is that this is a premium time slot. We are competing with many other commitments.

SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS

Since my appointment I have had the pleasure of being involved in Family Christmas services as well as Mothering Sunday.

I would personally like to thank our loyal volunteers, none of these things could happen without them. There is always room for more volunteers, I can find a way you can help us. With special thanks to Hilary for her support over the past months, without whom I would have floundered.

BABIES AND TODDLERS

The Babies & Toddler group continue to meet regularly with the children and their Mums/ Dads/ Grandparents/ Carers. There is a lovely atmosphere with between 12 and 16 children enjoying the fun each week.

Thanks to Rika for her continued support on the administration and communication. Annette continues to bring an array of ideas and skills for craft to brighten up the children's mornings. She has recently created a lovely new board to introduce the "Team" and some photos of our activities.

We enjoyed our Christmas service in church and we were delighted to have Alice and Hilary to help us with a story and songs.

We have greatly missed Jeremy at song time and look forward to welcoming him back.

Report prepared by Liz Tippett.

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 dressing

up and acting out a narrated bible story (without rehearsal – always fun!) 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, with a large number of food gifts being donated for the Headley Down Food Bank, and in November it was a Remembrance Church Assembly during which Sgt Gilderson (serving RAF) agreed to be interviewed by me and to share his faith with us. This was very special for the children, and they were able to ask questions at the end. 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. At the end of each term (Christmas, Easter, Summer) a church service is held for the school, including parents and governors – this is well supported, often standing room only. The PTA provide tea and coffee for parents waiting for the service to start.

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. We especially think about making new friends – not judging new classmates on how they look or sound. At the End of Year school service in July, we were able to present each year 6 child with their own Youth ESV (English Standard Version) Bible, thanks to the generosity of St Luke’s congregations in funding this project 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 on Wednesdays, to prepare a Nativity service for St Luke's church. 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.

At the end of November, I was also able to do a special advent session for year 1, including giving each Year 1 child a gift from St Luke's of a 'Real Advent Calendar'. The calendar 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.

Needs

Are you interested in occasionally helping with the Assembly? It involves being in school from 10-11 on a Tuesday morning; it could be just helping children (usually 4-6 children) to get into costumes and practice their words, and/ or help 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.

Please pray for the right initiative to include parents in our outreach and support. **Thank you to everyone who supports our outreach to the school and school families.**

Report prepared by Susie Millard.

CHURCHYARD TEAM

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

The compost bins for mulching leaves behind the mound continue to be a success, saving significant amounts of money that we used to spend few years ago. The mulched leaves have improved the soil conditions in the front beds and there is sufficient mulch for parishioners if they wish to collect it.

In November 2025 we had a survey of all the trees in the churchyard and applied to EHDC for planning permission to undertake the remedial surgery recommended in the report. This included immediate surgery to be undertaken on 8 trees with one in the car park to be felled. Permission was granted in February 2026 and the initial surgery is planned for early April.

Apart from the tree survey the maintenance of the machinery continues to be the most significant cost in the budget. Repairs to the John Deere and lawnmowers are ongoing.

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 David Williams 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. It's a place to have a chat or to just sit quietly, whatever a guests 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 significant 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 2024 the Trust contributed £11,925 to the school. £10,475 was for a new artificial grass area replacing chippings where the old swimming pool was located and the balance went to staff health training, Christmas and end of term meals.

After this contribution and the cost for maintaining the building the Trust showed a profit of £3,415 which will be carried forward for any projects that the school plans for 2025.

Report prepared by David Williams.

FUNDRAISING 'HAPPY' TEAM – JONATHAN TIPPETT

In 2025 the focus of the Fundraising committee was on organising a range of events that are intended not only to raise funds for St Luke's but also to reach out into the wider village community.

The year's programme began in February with the Winter Warmer evening meal and concert in the church with music and songs performed by William Edwards and Emily Day.

At the end of the summer holidays the St Luke's Fete was held in late August in the churchyard, the church rooms and in the church itself. The plan was to hold the Fete on Lyndon Green but the weather forecast before the day was sufficiently poor for the decision to be made to be closer to the church to provide shelter from the rain and wind. The weather turned out to be reasonably kind to us and it was a wonderful day with plenty of activities and games prepared under the skilful guidance of Annette Baker.

Then into September Robert Harland led the presentation of The Last Night of the Proms with the Hart Male Voice Choir singing before the start of the broadcast from the Royal Albert Hall. This is an excellent community event and we are grateful to Robert and his team for organising the event over so many years.

Also in September Gill Purkiss provided the Harvest Supper which was enjoyed by all.

Rounding off the year's events in October was the St Luke's 125th Anniversary Concert with return performances by William Edwards and Emily Day.

Altogether we saw a series of accessible and entertaining events in 2025. The total raised from all events in the year was £10,000 towards church funds and everyone had an enjoyable time as well. Thanks to all those involved in the events as well as everyone else who provides the hospitality that goes on at St Luke's nearly every week of the year. It all goes to show that St Luke's is an energetic and lively community. If you would like to help at future events and fundraising please do not hesitate to contact me, Alice or Jeremy.

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

GRAYSHOTT TODAY – HELEN WILLIAMS

The magazine has had a very positive year. We have improved our delivery system and now use a combination of employed, local young people and older, local volunteers to deliver the magazine. This means we avoid the previous wastage that was happening and that individuals are accountable for particular roads or areas. The delivery of the magazine is organised by Robert Harland and Brian Rogerson who do a fantastic job. We have made sure that we have notified both Surrey and Hampshire Councils about employing the younger people and have complied with all the necessary paperwork.

The advertising pages of the magazine continue to be efficiently managed by David Williams and this financial health will be reflected in a donation to St Luke's in 2026.

Our Editorial section occupies just over half of the overall magazine. Many local charities and organisations rely on us for support and we also give editorial space to new businesses. Our regular contributors come from diverse backgrounds and age ranges and demonstrate the surprisingly huge depth of talent and knowledge that can be found in a small village. We hope to form a bridge between the church and the local community and aim to be of service to both. Our print run each month is just under 2,000 copies. Barbara Johnson continues to support me in editorial work, and she always proves invaluable at proof reading time.

The magazine team would be very keen welcome new members in 2026.

Report prepared by Helen Williams.

GRAYSHOTT CONCERTS – ANDREW CROCKER

We continue to be incredibly 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.

2025 was another super year for Grayshott Concerts:

We were again able to put on a varied and exciting programme of concerts, all of which were very well attended, not only by Friends of

Grayshott Concerts, but also non-members, who found the Church a welcoming and excellent venue:

- **A Selection of French Music for a Romantic Valentine's Evening.** The London Mozart Players with acclaimed pianist ZeeZee treated us to a rich and varied selection of French music.
- **A Caledonian Evening,** featuring the LMP and exceptional violinist Joo Yeon Sir took us through a series of pieces filled with Scottish charm.
- **A Festival of the Saxophone.** A wonderful evening led by brilliant saxophonist Jess Gillam known for her dynamic and joyful performances. She took us from Tchaikovsky to Joni Mitchell
- **A special evening for our Friends,** featuring clarinettist Emma Johnson and the Orchestra for the Environment.
- **Our Gala Concert – A Night of Mozart** - such a memorable evening, with the LMP, under the baton of Jonathan Bloxham, delivering a captivating all-Mozart programme. The concert was further elevated by the radiant presence of soprano Danielle de Niese.
- **A Celebration of Beethoven,** featuring violinist Fenella Humphreys together with the LMP, all of whom provided breathtaking performances.

Our Outreach Programme to bring music to children and those in need is going from strength to strength. We fund lessons for a class at Grayshott Primary and two 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). Several of the Trustees have enjoyed concerts put on by the pupils. We have also funded a number of concerts in care homes and supported a concert in Bordon featuring the Surrey Youth Jazz Orchestra which was 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 Lugg, Viv Ward and Anna Gilderson. We couldn't have done it without you!

Report Prepared by Grayshott Concerts.

HOSPITALITY – ANNE GALE-JONES

Hospitality at St Luke's is increasing all the time.

The Winter Warmer held on Valentine's evening was a great success. 50 people attended and a good time was had by all. We had a varied 2 course menu followed by a light hearted quiz. The Timothy Room was well decorated with subdued lighting, lots of hearts hanging from the ceiling, beautiful flower decorations with red roses and red hearts all over the tables. A truly romantic setting for the occasion. Around £600 was achieved for church funds.

On 23rd February there was a 2pm Memorial Service in the Church followed by a tea in the hall. Handmade cakes and sandwiches were on the menu with crisps and biscuits for about 30 people. Tea and coffee were served to the table with lovely old fashioned tablecloths and porcelain. This was also a great success and a £300 donation was received.

Hardly a day goes by without some form of hospitality shown, for example, after the 10:30 service on Sunday it is very popular to stay for tea and coffee. Accompanying these drinks there is often biscuits and pancakes too. It is good to hear the sound of conversation in the hall for nearly an hour and a half after this!

Each organisation has its own form of refreshment. Once a month on the first Sunday we have a Parish breakfast at 9:30. This can be attended by 15-30 people who enjoy the hospitality.

Also during the 6 Tuesdays of Lent we have a lunch consisting of soup and homemade bread. The soups and bread are made by volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who makes the hospitality at St Luke's possible.

Report prepared by Anne Gale-Jones.

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

CHRIS GROCOCK

Leading services – and preparing for them – has continued to be the core of what I have done in 2025 – 2026. With only a few lessons of teaching still to be done (and all comes to an end as of May this year). I have had time to undertake what has been a significant expansion of what I have done compared to past years. This has been occasioned not only by being required to take additional services at Saint Luke's Grayshott, but also taking on some anticipated extra responsibility in the Benefice of Milland and Linch, Iping and Stedham, where I am also licensed. This was all arranged well in advance in October 2024 as Trish

Bancroft, the rector at meal and, had a sabbatical of three months awarded by the Diocese of Chichester.

The impact of all this has really been felt over Christmas and the past three months. In St Luke's Grayshott in 2025 I have continued to take Evensong on the first and third Sunday of each month, and have added some preaching duties at 10.30, and some services of Communion by extension. At Milland I have taken 11.00am Matins on the third Sunday of the month, and since Christmas an additional 9.30am service at Linch on the fourth Sundays. Communion by extension is not yet permitted in the Diocese of Chichester.

In 2025 in Grayshott, I took 24 services and 3 occasional services, and preached 29 times. My duties in Milland & co. in 2025 were slightly less onerous, 11 services led and preaching 10 times, as opposed to leading services 14 times and preaching 13 times in 2024.

From January to March 2026, I will have led 11 services and preached 12 times at Grayshott, and led 7 services and preached 5 times at Milland, Linch and Iping.

The New Testament Greek course which started at the beginning of 2025 has continued apace; we have five regular attendees from our own parish, and four visitors. It continues to be an appreciated activity and helps me keep my own grey matter going! We are approximately 2/5 of the way through the course, with no sign of abating. At some point we need to draw it to a close and then re-start to see if anyone else would like to take part.

I would like to re-run a post-Alpha study and discussion group (open to all, not just Alpha candidates) later in the year. This will look at some of some challenging aspects of our faith, again using Kris Kandiah's book *Paradoxology*. I need to liaise with Susie and Jeremy about this.

Over the past year I have continued my 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

The last year, especially the last 6 months have involved both Chris Grocock and I in leading, preaching and leading Holy Communion by extension on many more occasions than usual, during Rev. Jeremy's treatment and recovery. It has been a privilege to lead and be involved in so many services.

During the Autumn and Spring term, I led an evening Alpha Course, with the support of the Tuesday Evening Home Group and Claire Haswell. A special thanks to Claire for organising the food and Amalia for her help!

I also led a 5-week Lent Course- Pete Grieg's Lectio Course. This is a great course for small groups– it includes a 15-20 min video, followed by 20 mins of discussion around pre-set questions and a 20 min activity to practice what we had learned. If your group would like to follow this course do get in contact for the details.

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.

During the second-half of the Autumn term I run a weekly after-school Nativity Club, where we work out a way of telling the Christmas story, which becomes our church Nativity service, and which was well attended by school families. On Palm Sunday we had a fun Palm Sunday service with crafts and activities before the service, and an interactive travelling story around the churchyard - as usual there was much enthusiastic cheering and flag-waving as we entered Jerusalem (the church!) in our story! These 'one-off' services are aimed for families with school age children but are open to all to enjoy.

I have also supported Hilary's initiative to trial a short family service called WAFFLE, once a month at 4pm on Sundays, relaxed 'café-style', seated around tables in church, and aiming to help families explore, worship and pray together while enjoying drinks and cake. We continue to pray how to take this forward. Big thanks to all involved in making this happen.

Remembrance and St Georges Day provided opportunities to work with the Grayshott Scout group as well as the school in different ways.

A big 'thank you' to all who have helped and supported with various unusual and practical tasks in our 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.

OUTWARD GIVING REPORT

Each year we set aside 10% of our income to give to causes that are in line with the principles we hold, and build relationships with those causes. This year we disbursed £11,912

Using the following principles:

- Being faithful and generous in our support.
- Supporting organisations we have personal links with, rather than individuals.
- 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.

We gave to the following organisations:

- School for the Handicapped, Ibadan, Nigeria
- Testimony of Faith Homes, Kenya

- Harriet Memorial Fund for Teacher & Nurse Training in Yei, South Sudan
- Great Mission Kenya (Dolphin Academy)
- Elam Ministries (Iranian Church, and refugees)
- Dohnavur Fellowship, India
- World Vision (child sponsored)

We try to have occasional services connected with these organisations to keep the congregation aware of our worldwide connections as a fellowship.

Report prepared by Jeremy Haswell

OUTREACH TO THE VILLAGE

Apart from our worship and fellowship, which we do to give to God, and be built up, our primary purpose in being here, is to share the light of the Gospel with our neighbours and love them with God's love. Connecting with our community is at the heart of how we do this. It is the first step in fulfilling our purpose.

We have hosted Newcomers teas for the community, and offered the Alpha course, alongside all the hospitality events, teas lunches and other activities.

I plan to provide a course to build up our outreach team, build confidence, and equip individuals with the tools to reach out based on Isaiah 61.

The Pastoral team led by Ros connect with our care homes, and provide worship services in them periodically, as well as home visits. I

appreciate all the volunteers who have supported this part of our work.

Report prepared by Claire Haswell.

GRAYSHOTT COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Grayshott “Lunch Club” has had a very successful year. In July 2025 we celebrated our 40th Anniversary with a delicious lunch to which the local MP and the Chairman of the Parish Council came, together with many of our wonderful helpers past and present.

We meet every Thursday in Timothy Room at St. Luke’s, apart from breaks at Easter, in August and at Christmas. 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. Everyone else comes for lunch at about 12 noon.

In 2025 we provided 774 lunches on 42 occasions, averaging just over 18 local people each time. Membership was 25. These figures do not include the Christmas Lunch and the 40th Anniversary Lunch.

The food is freshly cooked on the premises to a very high standard by our four cooks, who average one day’s cooking per month each so that no one person gets over-tired.

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.

So far in 2026 our membership has increased to 27 and average weekly numbers have increased also, which bodes well for the future.

If you would be interested in becoming a member or a helper, please contact the undersigned.

Report prepared by Angela Haine.

GRAYSHOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL – CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As I write this report, our governing body is expected to be at ‘full strength’, following the proposed appointment of a new Foundation governor, in the near future.

Our board is made up of individuals from a variety of backgrounds: teachers from different areas of the education system, HR, law, industry & commerce. We also span a wide age range and varied life experience. In addition, we have parent and staff governors. Currently, we have a Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors, Chairs of the Curriculum & Standards and Finance & General Purposes sub committees. The Vicar and the Head Teacher are also governors. At present, we are 13 – soon to be 14 - members. Grayshott School is blessed in having a full Board of Governors who are committed, enthusiastic and effective in their governance of our school.

Governors are continually involved in monitoring different aspects of our school, holding the Head teacher and his team to account for the education of our children. To do this, we are committed to training in specific areas of our responsibility. Attending different training opportunities/conferences allows us to develop our knowledge and

understanding of what is happening in education – we then, through monitoring visits and meetings, engage meaningfully and effectively with what is happening in Teaching & Learning, and other areas of school life. We are very proud of the achievements of our Head Teacher and the Staff team over the past couple of years and thank them for their dedication and determination which has achieved great success.

During our visits to the school this year, Governors have appreciated the welcome we have received from both staff and pupils. We have been impressed by the work that everyone has been doing and have seen progress being made in many areas with impressive and encouraging results. During our monitoring visits we witness at first hand the determination and enthusiasm with which our young people rise to the challenges presented both in school and in life. Our vision is that our young people grow from ‘acorns to mighty oaks of righteousness.’ Grayshott Governors see that our school presents the loving environment and challenging opportunities to enable this to happen for all the children in our care.

Under our responsibility for strategic vision and the financial probity of our school, Grayshott Governors are continuing to engage in the process of application for Grayshott Primary School to join The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust (GST). The Department for Education have ‘paused’ our application to allow the GST a period of time to work with schools that have joined them very recently. We anticipate that we shall be able to re-submit our application later this academic year. The coming months are an opportunity to continue to develop & consolidate our commitment to joining the GST.

Grayshott School enjoys and benefits from the relationship we have with St Luke's Church. Governors experience at first hand the involvement of members of the church in our school life, both on a continual basis and for special celebrations during the year. The support offered by St Luke's members, and the Fircroft Trust, is greatly appreciated by the school. As Governors we also value the relationship the school has with village members and organisations aiming to involve, and be involved with, the community wherever possible.

Our governing body has the school vision & values as the context for all we do. We aim to support the staff and pupils within a loving, Christian environment to enable them to flourish and find their place in the world.

Report prepared by Linda Holbrook

GRAYSHOTT BELL RINGERS – STU AITKIN

We have managed to keep the bells ringing on some Thursdays. 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. Occasional ringing is organised on other Thursdays. 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 four weddings requiring bells, and 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.

As reported last year, we have noticed some unusual movement in the clappers. Nothing dangerous, but it does need attention. The DAC bells advisor visited in April and we await his written report, but he has verbally agreed that the clappers do need “rebushing”. The top end of the clapper has a hole where it hangs down through a pivot pin, which is insulated from the bell by a leather or fibre pad which gets compressed over the years causing the clapper to become loose. These need replacing when worn. This is a once in a 40 years maintenance item.

We have a quote for the work from a reputable bellhanger and can expect a grant from the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers – Bell Restoration Fund towards the work.

When I have all the necessary paperwork, I will be writing to the PCC for approval. The overall cost will be approx. £1,500 and the designated bell fund has sufficient funds to cover this cost. This is a “list A” matter, and as such does not need either a faculty or a consultation with the Archdeacon.

Apart from this, the bells themselves are in generally good order. The DAC bells advisor did notice that the clock hammer on the tenor bell was resting at a strange angle, and the spring holding it in place was worn. This is a non-urgent piece of maintenance, but I will pass his report to the PCC when I receive it.

There are 8 ringing bells in 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 2027. The designated bell fund has sufficient funds for this.

Report prepared by Stu Aitkin.

CHURCH CHOIR

St Luke's Choir continues to support the traditional worship of the church. We lead the singing at two Choral Evensongs each month, with Edward Tobin as our organist, and occasional evening Holy Communion services. We also play an important role in the annual services of Remembrance, Advent, Christmas and Good Friday.

At present we have no Director of Music so we can no longer sing the anthems we (and the congregation) previously enjoyed. Not having full SATB parts means that we mostly sing in unison but often a cappella for the psalms and canticles.

We are always delighted to welcome new members, either to join us on a regular basis or for special occasions such as Christmas. For most services, our only practice is for twenty minutes immediately beforehand.

Report prepared by Jane Tobin.

PASTORAL

We are a small team of volunteers who help to communicate with those parishioners who need spiritual support. This is usually done by telephone calls, occasional home visits usually taking home communion to those unable to attend church and wish to receive. We always visit in pairs and in strict confidence. We meet every two

months to discuss those people who are known to us to decide where and how we can help them. We visit local nursing homes on a regular basis and are always amazed at how much the residents enjoy and benefit from our short services usually with Holy Communion by extension.

Hospitality is a welcome way to create a link with people some are St Luke's based e.g. friendship lunches but there are several other coffee mornings and tea parties in which people can meet not necessarily church organised.

We hope that we can make a difference to our parishioners and help them to keep in touch with God and church. Jeremy is always there to give us support as we need it and help with any situations we cannot handle.

Report prepared by Ros Balfour.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is central to the ministry of St Luke's Church. It is essential that everyone who attends St Luke's either for services or other activities knows that everything has been done to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Safeguarding is the PCC's responsibility and Hilary Loder and Penny Thomas are appointed to ensure that there are safeguarding policies and procedures in place for everyone's benefit.

The PCC has adopted the Church of England's "Promoting a safer Church" as its policy and will review an action plan annually. The PCC

must follow the procedures required by the Charity Commission and the Diocese and safeguarding is an essential item on every PCC meeting agenda.

Hilary and Penny are the DBS Validators appointed by the PCC. All PCC members and church volunteers who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults on a regular basis must have a check before taking up their role. This helps to protect all those that take part in church activities, those that volunteer to help and the Church. The check is free for the volunteer.

All church officers and PCC members must do online training which can be done individually or as a group.

This year we have introduced volunteer role descriptions to most of our church based activities so that everyone is clear about what they have signed up to do.

We have also extended our safeguarding management more robustly to groups who are not church based but use our facilities so that they follow our safeguarding standards and expectations.

Hilary and Penny are fully supported by the safeguarding team at the Cathedral. If a safeguard concern rises this is immediately reported to the Diocesan team and Hilary and Penny follow any advice or instructions which are given. The Diocese team will lead and investigate any serious matter. Three issues have been reported to the Diocese during the last twelve months, all of which have been resolved.

As far as we know, St Luke's is a safe place for everyone. Safeguarding is about all of us looking out for each other. The administrative procedures and requirements are only a safety net.

Effective safeguarding relies on us all being aware and willing to raise concerns however insignificant.

It is vitally important that anyone concerned for themselves or for another knows who to speak to and is confident that they will be listened to.

Safeguarding also means listening and supporting survivors of abuse and anyone affected by safeguarding issues. This support might need to be in place for some time.

Hilary and Penny are always available and can be contacted through the church office by phone or by email or by contacting the Vicar.

Report prepared by Penny Thomas and Hilary Loder.

PRAYER REPORT

I am very grateful to all who pray for St Luke's, but there are some I would like to mention. The leaders of the intercessions in the services help to inspire us in our prayer, and invest time in preparing for this important element in our worship. Then there is a group of people praying for special prayer requests, including medical and personal crises, praying for all kinds, which runs via a WhatsApp group, and people pray as they do other things, and pray specifically for items on the list which is updated every day at 7pm. If any of you have a specific

request, please let me, Rev. Elizabeth, or someone know at our services, and you will be put on the list.

The corporate prayer meeting once a month is very sparsely attended.

AOB