

**St Luke's Church, Grayshott**  
**APCM booklet**  
**2023**





The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings  
for St Luke's Church, Grayshott  
will be held  
at 7.30pm on Friday 19th April 2023

## Annual Vestry Meeting 2023

(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 2022 Vestry Meeting
3. Election of Churchwardens

### NOMINATIONS

**Edward Tobin:**

**Proposer-Sheila Austin. Seconder-Viv Ward**

**Sheila Austin:**

**Proposer-Viv Ward. Seconder-Francesca Kelly**

# **The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings for St Luke's Church, Grayshott**

## **MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING, 2022**

(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 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)

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held at 7.30pm on Friday 22nd April 2022.

Apologies were received from Adrian Banwell, Sheila and Ray Daniel, Dorothy Eyers, Anne Edden, Anna and John Finey, Roy Fudge, Julia Hedger, Barbara Johnston, James Kennedy, Elizabeth and Peter Knifton, Floss and Nick Mitchell, Gill Purkiss, Maryann and Bryan Rogerson, Spy Roots, Helene Sanderson, Penny Thomas, Fiona Turner, Barbara Ward and Philippa Whitaker.

Revd Jeremy Haswell chaired the meeting, and 44 people were present.

**Opening Prayer.** Revd Haswell opened the meeting with the Easter Collect.

### **2. Minutes of the 2021 Vestry Meeting.**

Minutes of the 2021 Vestry Meeting were proposed by Chris

Grocock, seconded by Jeremy Hassell and approved by everyone present at the 2021 meeting.

### **3. Election of Churchwardens.**

Two nominations had been received for the role of Churchwarden. Revd Haswell expressed huge gratitude to Edward Tobin for his amazing service over the year and thanked him for proposing to serve again.

**Edward Tobin - proposed by Barbara Johnston, seconded by Madi Mocanu**

Thanks was given to Sheila Austin for offering to stand for a second time.

**Sheila Austin – proposed by Adrian Banwell, seconded by Frankie Kelly.**

Both nominations were approved unanimously.

The Chairman signed the Minute Book.

The Meeting closed at 7.48pm.

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

## AGENDA

1. Apologies
  2. Minutes of the 2022 APCM – **Page 7**
  3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll Report - **Page 13**
  4. Elections
    - (i) Election of Readers to the PCC
    - (ii) Election of PCC Lay Representatives  
(three vacancies for three years)
    - (iii) Election of Deanery Synod Representatives  
(two vacancies for three years)
    - (iv) Election of Sidesmen – **Page 13**
  5. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC  
- **Page 14**
  6. Vicar's Report – **Page 14**
  7. Presentation of the 2020 Accounts – **Page 19**
  - 7a. Stewardship Report – **Page 20**
  8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner to the PCC - **Page 23**
  9. Churchwardens' Report on fabric, goods and ornaments – **Page 23**
  10. Other Reports
    - Local Lay Ministers' Report – **Page 24**
    - Pastoral Team – **Page 27**
    - Youth & Children – **Page 28**
    - Babes and Toddlers Report - **Page 30**
    - Grayshott Lunch Club – **Page 30**
    - Grayshott Concerts– **Page 31**
  11. AOB (Previously notified to the PCC Secretary)
- Closing Prayer

# **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2022**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was opened at 7.45pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 in St Luke's Church by the vicar, Rev Jeremy Haswell, who welcomed the 44 people present.

Revd Haswell opened the meeting with a prayer.

## **1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Adrian Banwell, Sheila and Ray Daniel, Dorothy Eyers, Anne Edden, Anna and John Finey, Roy Fudge, Julia Hedger, Barbara Johnston, James Kennedy, Elizabeth and Peter Knifton, Floss and Nick Mitchell, Gill Purkiss, Maryann and Bryan Rogerson, Spy Roots, Helene Sanderson, Penny Thomas, Fiona Turner, Barbara Ward and Philippa Whitaker.

## **2. Minutes of 2021 APCM**

The Minutes of 2021 APCM were proposed by Bill Melly, seconded by Ros Balfour and approved unanimously. The vicar signed the Minutes.

## **3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

It was reported that the total number on the Electoral Roll (ER) as of April 2022 was 165. The Electoral Roll Officer informed the meeting that a complete Electoral Roll renewal would take place in 2024.

## **4. Elections**

**4.i. Readers:** Dr Christopher Grocock offered to remain on the PCC as the Lay Readers Representative. This was welcomed by all.

### **4.ii. PCC Members.**

Revd Haswell thanked all the PCC members of the last year, which had been difficult and tricky at times, but people had been faithful and he was very grateful for that.

There were four applicants for nomination for the four vacancies ( 3 for 3 years and one for one year) – Jeremy Hassell, Alice Murphy, Clive Purkiss and Philippa Whitaker. There being only four vacancies, the following were elected:

**Jeremy Hassell - Proposed by Michael Lugg,  
seconded by Sheila Austin**

**Alice Murphy – Proposed by Sheila Austin,  
seconded by Jeremy Haswell**

**Clive Purkiss – Proposed by Edward Tobin,  
seconded by Sheila Austin**

**Philippa Whitaker – Proposed by Ros Balfour,  
seconded by Michael Lugg**

Revd Haswell thanked all members of the PCC for their service through what had been a very difficult time.

**4.iii. Deanery Synod Representatives.** There was one vacancy for Deanery Synod Representatives, but no applications had been received.

**4.iv. Sidesmen/women.** The PCC Secretary read out the following names of Sidesmen/women:

Ros Balfour, Adrian Banwell, Shelagh Edwards, Andrea Franklin, Jan Gale, Angela Haine, Robert Harland, Linda Holbrook, Anna Lescure, Clive Loder, Michael Lugg, Madi Mocanu, Alice Murphy, Henry Panes, Jenny Pimm, Richard Pimm, Anne Preston, Clive Purkiss, Christine Richmond, Julia Tarento, Liz Tippett, Jonathan Tippett, Barbara Ward, Philippa Whitaker, Sue Wilson.

All were approved. Revd Haswell expressed his gratitude to all for welcoming and organising people, particularly during this difficult time. Their role was an important part of the hospitality we give at St Luke's.

**Reports.** Revd Haswell said he would make the assumption that everyone had read the published reports apart from one or two where interventions were needed.



**5. Secretary Report.** There was nothing to add to the published report.

**6. Vicars Report.** Revd Haswell said his report was based on the one St Luke's submits to the Charities Commission, which is essentially justifying our charitable status. It also details what benefits we give to the local community. He hoped those attending had had a chance to read the full report. He reinforced the issue at the end of his report that St Luke's priority for 2022 must be to address the financial position which will be highlighted in the Accounts report. There will also be a presentation specifically on the way we are going to address the financial situation.

**7. Presentation of the 2021 Accounts.** Viv Ward said his 21-page report had been published and made available as required by the Church of England. The Report had been checked by the Independent Examiner and approved by the PCC. Full copies were still available and if anyone wanted to raise anything he would welcome an opportunity to clarify any issue.

The important points are the deficit of £39k, that is income less expenditure, for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Due to a gain of £8k on investment, the net decrease figure is £30. This is not a good position. It is very similar to the previous year (2020) but in that year we received £30k in legacies – not so for 2021. The COVID pandemic didn't help our income but the Furlough scheme gave some relief.

Looking forward the PCC has decided to run a Parish Funding Programme which would be presented at the end of the meeting. The COVID related initiative, the Vicar's Relief Fund, began the year with £6,518, and received £5,304 generous. £6,760 was issued to those in need. The balance at the end of the year is £5,062 and is available for giving to those in need.

Viv thank Barbara Johnston for her help and moving to the Stewardship side of finance, he thanked Shelagh

Edwards who had done a sterling job. Thanks were also given to Jonathan Tippett who has audited St Luke's for the last 20 years and had given Viv really helpful support.

**7a. Stewardship Report.** Viv Ward said the money we receive from Regular Giving had decreased. In 2020 we received £137k, in 2021 it was £122k. This reflects a reduction of nearly 20% in the number of donors. He repeated that this would be addressed in the Parish Funding Programme, the details to be outlined at the end of the meeting. Viv again thanked Shelagh Edwards for all her work in this area.

Revd Haswell thanked Viv Ward saying, "words fail me to thank Viv enough for all the incredible work he does – he keeps us on our toes, often the bearer of difficult news, always faithful and diligent in all aspects of his role". He added his thanks to Barbara Johnston and Shelagh Edwards.

**8. Independent Examiner.** Jonathan Tippett was standing down and a new Independent Examiner was needed. Revd Haswell thanked Jonathan for monitoring our legal status and keeping us within the acceptable accounting practises. His stepping down does leave a gap and someone was needed to be appointed in this role. Nobody came forward at the meeting. Viv Ward stated that some roles were shared within the Diocese and perhaps this might be a way forward.

**9. Churchwardens Report.** Edward Tobin was thanked again, by Revd Haswell, also the Assistant Churchwardens, who shared some of the workload using their individual skill sets. Edward Tobin added his thanks for the Assistant Churchwardens, Clive Loder, Richard Pimm, Patrick Johnston and Anna Finey, without who he could not have done the job. Thanks was given by Revd Haswell also to the Churchyard Team, who have maintained the Churchyard so beautifully. They are creating a reflective space around the Chestnut trees which will be a pleasant area.

**10. Deanery Synod Report.** There had been no Deanery Synod meeting so no report.

### **11. Other Reports**

**Prayer and Discipleship Report.** Revd Haswell thanked Brenda Schwartz for her report and added that she was a valuable aid to him. Prayer is the mainstay of all St Luke's activities and services. He also thanked Susie Millard particularly for the recent prayer space with Grayshott School.

**Outreach Report.** Allison Sutcliffe had reported that the Oasis Group meets weekly on Tuesday mornings. The Superheroes Group meets twice a month, once in the Church Room and the other held in the Fox and Pelican. Revd Haswell said the Ministry of hospitality has been a huge help to those who receive from it. He added real thanks to all who volunteer in these events, and he thanked Allison for her report.

**Pastoral Report.** Ros Balfour reported on the Pastoral activities which are beginning to wake up following lockdown restrictions. Revd Haswell thanked Ros for her report and for looking after, particularly the elderly, by phone during the pandemic, when personal contact was so difficult.

**Bellringing.** The Frensham Bellringers had rung St Luke's bells while their own were under renovation. They had expressed their gratitude to St Luke's for being welcomed and for allowing them to ring.

**Grayshott Lunch Club.** Their report stated the Club was now 36 years old and how good it was to have reopened in September 2021.

### **Any Other Business.**

**Sue Wilson** commented on hospitality and encouraged more people to come to Parish Breakfast. Christine Richmond consistently produced a lovely breakfast and it would be lovely if more people came. Revd Haswell endorsed the request and added that people attending the 10.30am service could come early for

breakfast at 9.30am. It was a rare opportunity for mixing congregations.

**Bill Melly** asked if the church was having any problems with Gas and Electricity supplies. Viv Ward advised the meeting that St Luke's was in a group of about 3000 other churches under the Church of England and tariffs negotiated on our behalf. We are on a fixed rate so costs remain the same until September.

**Michael Lugg** asked Edward Tobin if all outstanding quinquennial work had been done. Edward replied that a couple of things still needed to be done – one involved attending to the finding of asbestos in Timothy Room ( not found until after the Quinquennial Inspection) and the other was the need for us to have plans for cost neutral by 2030. This might be helped by solar panels on Timothy Room, but other ideas would be welcomed. Edward Tobin particularly thanked the Fire Safety Officer, Richard Pimm, who had secured a contract for all the fire extinguishers at about a quarter of the price of the competitors.

**Parish Funding Programme (PFP).** Revd Haswell produced a PowerPoint presentation, the slides of which are attached to these minutes and are available on the St Luke's Website. He answered questions and thanked everyone for their patience. Envelopes containing a PFP leaflet explaining the situation, and a response form, were handed to all Electoral Roll members attending the meeting. An envelope would be delivered to all on the Electoral Roll.

Revd Haswell closed the meeting with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer was said by all.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

### 3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Recorded members on the Electoral Roll at the 2022 APCM was 165.

The changes since April 2022 have been

Moved away from the Parish	1
Deceased	4
Requested to be removed	2
New members	4
<u>Roll entry total for 2023 APCM</u>	<u>162</u>

*John Haine  
Electoral Roll Officer*

#### 4. iv. Election of St Luke's Sidesmen/women.

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, Angela Haine, Robert Harland, Linda Holbrook, Anna Lescure, Clive Loder, Michael Lugg, Madi Mocano, Alice Murphy, Richard Pimm, Anne Preston, Clive Purkiss, Christine Richmond, Julia Tarento, Liz Tippett, Jonathan Tippett, Philippa Whitaker, Sue Wilson.*

Sheila Austin. Churchwarden

## **5. Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC**

The PCC met 5 times between June 2022 and March 2023. The PCC is currently made up of the Vicar, one Associated Minister, a Readers' Representative, two Deanery Synod Members, nine elected members, a co-opted Treasurer and Youth Minister.

The main focus this year has been the state of the church's finances. With the Treasurer again cautioning the PCC that urgent action was necessary to improve the church finances for which, as Trustees of the Charity, the PCC were responsible.

The "WhatsApp" prayer group continued to provide support during difficult and challenging times.

Two members of the PCC resigned during the year and it is pleasing to see we have new volunteers applying to join.

Copies of approved minutes for all PCC meetings are posted on the website and if requested will be placed at the back of the church for general information.

*Sheila Austin, PCC Secretary*

## **6. Vicar's Report**

### **First of all LOVE**

Our first call as the body of Christ in Grayshott is to love God, and love our neighbours. Love is the fulfilling of the law of God, and despite the challenges and difficulties faced since the huge disruptions over the last 3 years I have seen encouraging expressions of both love for God and neighbours.

In our Sunday Services I have seen a desire to grow in faithfulness to God and worship, and through outward giving to mission partners, Dan Bennett's work with the youth, the schools, care homes, baptisms, particular groups, and through funeral ministry, I have seen the love of God go out to others. Susie Millard said after Christmas that although in the life of the Church, some things seem to have died, but the Lord showed her there are snowdrops poking through. I do sense the hand of God moulding the Church for this time, and for what he is going to do.

### **At the Heart of the village**

Part of our vision is to be the Local Church at the heart of our community. Our impact is growing in this. This vision has helped to prioritise certain things, shaped decisions and gradually we are growing as salt and light to our neighbours, working for the common good, linking with the Parish Council, Businesses, and local community, to support the life of the Village. The Ukraine Fundraising concert, and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations are just two examples of this. The commitment to serving others from the youngest to the oldest has been remarkable in the circumstances.

### **Challenges**

Clergy around the country report that life has been difficult, exhausting, and stressful, but I am encouraged to see green shoots of new growth, and exciting developments emerging, which as they grow will need new leaders, new volunteers, new skills, renewed energy. I really couldn't do what I do without the help of a number of people, some working very hard in practical ways, and others through prayer and encouragement. My overriding wish in making this report is to thank everyone who has given so much over the last year to the community and life of St Luke's.

### **Finance**

I am enormously grateful to Viv Ward for his diligence and professionalism in overseeing our financial governance, and to Jonathan Tippet who retires as our Independent Examiner after many years. Viv has provided regular re-forecasts and trend reports to communicate up to date information on the seriousness of our financial position, as some significant donors have left the Church for a variety of reasons, including moving away, or have died. There has been a fundraising group, and Finance Working Group, seeking to navigate the situation, and think of how we save or raise funds. The main task is to increase the number of givers and the scale of individual giving. But with a significant and increasing deficit forecast for the next financial year, the urgency of this is high. Let us all pray and ask how we might help in this area, either volunteering time, or in directly giving to the Church.

### **The Office Administration**

During the year both Barbara Johnston, after many years of service, and Madi Mocanu after about four years have left the office, while I am very grateful to them both for all they did. I am very glad we recruited Lucie Thornton who has picked up the roles of PA, and office manager. I am enormously grateful to Sheila for her support in the Office and administrative work helping Lucie.

### **Communications - Grayshott Today**

We are working on our communications which have been lacking due to the changes of personnel in the office, but is being taken in hand by Lucie in the Office, and will have some volunteer help with Facebook and other local social media. Our main means of communicating is of course Grayshott Today, excellently run by Helen Williams, to whom a particular vote of thanks for leading a wonderful team who together produce a very high standard magazine. The vicar's letter is another way we reach out to our community.

### **Links with Ukraine**

During the year, in collaboration with the Red Rose Tea Room, we hosted the enormously successful Concert for Ukraine, which raised £8,000. Also our link with Ukrainian Pastor Andriy Kopylash has been a very exciting. He stays with a St Luke's family at weekends, and we help to host a service and tea for the local Ukrainian Christian community. This has continued monthly since it started a year ago.

### **Prayer**

I am grateful for all the prayer that happens both privately and corporately. I thank Brenda Schwartz for setting up the WhatsApp emergency prayer group, through which both urgent and some more long term prayer requests are shared, as well as establishing the morning meditations group. Brenda has led this area for a while now but has asked to step down from this role and the outward giving group. I am very grateful for all she has done. I want to encourage us all to consider the monthly prayer meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, an important fixture in praying for our way forward.

### **Leavers and Newcomers**



We have seen some leave for a number of reasons, but it is very exciting to welcome newcomers to the Church. Some have come because they have felt drawn to come, looking to know God for the first time and felt welcomed and are receiving what they need. Others have come from other Churches.

### **Safeguarding and Anti-Slavery**

Our Safeguarding has been assiduously overseen by Angela Haine who is retiring after overseeing this vital part of our life and responsibility to the community, and will be taken over by Penny Thomas and Hilary Loder, both bring much experience to the role and know each other very well. Allison Sutcliffe, has helped with the PCC's Anti-Modern Slavery awareness, and trained to become the Diocesan trainer on Anti-Slavery, congratulations to her.

### **Licensed Ministry**

Clergy Licensed to the parish with Permission to Officiate are Rev. Elizabeth Knifton, and Rev. Chris Oldroid, both help in other Churches, but I am grateful to Elizabeth for helping with the preaching in recent months, and I hope to incorporate Chris into more of what we are doing locally. I am very grateful to Licensed Lay Ministers: Chris Grocock, and Susie Millard, Chris helps with some of the Traditional services, and Susie particularly with the Schools work at Grayshott School, and more children based services.

### **Schools**

I have been a Governor at Grayshott School since becoming Vicar, and the appointment of Richard Austin as Head has been a revelation, the link with St Luke's has been positively championed by Mr Austin in the school, and he introduced new services in Church to make children more familiar with being in Church. I also led the Amesbury and St Edmund's Christmas Carol Services, and have preached in Amesbury School twice during the year.

### **Hospitality**

The Parish Breakfast has been handed over by Chris Richmond, and Helene Sanderson to Ann Gale-Jones and a new team. Thank you to them all for their service in this lovely event bringing people together. Ros Balfour's friendship Lunch, Coffee Morning & the friendship tea led by Shelagh Edwards and others, Oasis led by Allison Sutcliffe and Alice Murphy, and the

Superheroes Group led by Kirsty Burgoyne and other gatherings provide vital services to our Church and wider community. Thank you for all of them mentioned and unmentioned.

### **Music**

I am very grateful to Kler and Emmanuel Mizer for their contribution to the 10.30 services, playing when they can, they have brought a great spirit of service to that service, and also I am grateful to the Choir who have served at Christmas and other times, despite being seriously depleted. Thank you.

### **Facing the Future**

The Standing Committee and PCC are partnering with the Diocesan initiative called the "Parish Needs Process" in developing a "Church Development Plan", highlighting three main areas to address. These are:

- 1. Fundraising** (taking all measures to raise funds, balance the books, and build for the future to fulfil our mission),
- 2. Growing the Church** (Through intentional outreach, and providing Alpha and other routes into the Church community), and
- 3. Developing Discipleship** (Through growing our homegroup provision, raising up homegroup leaders)

### **Thank you all**

In all, Claire and I are enormously grateful for the support we have received from so many, the staff, our excellent Church Wardens Edward Tobin and Sheila Austin, Viv Ward, the PCC and many other volunteers enriching the life of St Luke's, I can't possibly name you all. Some, though retired, are working enormously hard on our behalf. St Luke's would not be all that it is without you. Thank you so much, and let's keep looking forward and praying for a revival of the Holy Spirit, in faith and power to LOVE God and neighbour as Jesus commissioned us to do, and go into the world with the Gospel.

Blessings to you all, Jeremy.  
Reverend Jeremy Haswell.

## **7. Finance report on the accounts to 31 December 2022.**

The Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2022 have been scrutinised by our Independent Examiner and approved by the PCC. They amount to 26 pages which is a lot of reading and so the income and expenditure report and balance sheet shown below are a summary of these figures. If you would like a full copy of this 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 in detail if you would like that.

The net deficit is £ (5,449) to which is added a loss on investments of £ (8,365) resulting in a net decrease in funds of £ (13,814) for the year. After all the year's movement the total of all funds we have is £131,235.

Last year we had a deficit of £(39,192) so we knew we would need to improve financially. In our previous annual report, we promised to launch a Parish Funding Programme and this happened in the summer. Churchgoers were generous and we increased our regular giving substantially. Unfortunately, this only matched those who moved away resulting in a small reduction of outward giving. We are very grateful for the continued support of those who donate regularly to aid God's work.

Grants have been received from many sources; Guildford Diocese provided two energy grants; Grayshott Parish Council supported our Youth work, and East Hants DC allocated three years of support to the Youth Club – "Base" from their Supporting Communities Fund. We also received a grant from East Hants DC to pay half the cost of a new and much needed leaf blower for the churchyard. Many donations were received, both large and small, for which we are most grateful. After Covid there were more wedding and attendance at church increased the collections, letting income increased and the Christmas Concert raised the fundraising income. In total our income rose by £28,000 year on year.

Recognising the need to reduce expenditure the expenses were carefully monitored and everyone played their part to

make this happen. As with the whole country, Energy prices increased. For us the new annual energy contract started in October. We calculated that for the same usage as the previous year the cost of gas and electricity will increase threefold, most of this will impact in 2023 and steps have and are being taken to reduce consumption. Altogether we spent £5,000 less than last year.

The various funds we have are for a variety of reasons, e.g., the building fund allows the PCC to put money aside in case of major repairs whilst the bells fund is available for any needs of the bells. The general fund is for day-to-day income and expenditure and resulted in a deficit of £ (6,908) whilst the Youth Fund ran a deficit of £ (7,233). The two funds combined reserves are £61,361 and can support the deficit for a short time.

Looking forward to 2023, the reduction of planned giving income, energy costs and inflation provide a challenge that we must address as our reserves will not support us for ever.

The covid related initiative, the Vicar's Discretionary fund began the year with £5,062, received £4,096 generous donations and £3,051 was issued to those in need. The balance at the end of the year was £6,107 and is available for giving to the needy.

Viv Ward – Treasurer.

## **.7a.Stewardship Report**

May we take this opportunity to thank you for all 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 an increase in the giving during the year, this because of the launch of the Parish Funding programme when many increased their giving and for this we are so grateful. Unfortunately there have been many who have left the church and so the initially good number

of givers (106) shown below include those who have started giving and also who have left during the year. The January equivalent is 69 indicating a large drop in giving which will have an impact on our finances.

The summary of the total amount given during 2022 is recorded in this table.

Stewardship Income Table:

	Total In- come £	Donations Gift Aid Claimable £	Donations Gift Aid Not claimable £	Gift Aid Claimed £
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
2017 (Jan - Dec)	177,076	127,599	8,722	40,755

The number involved are:

	Total Donors	Donors who use Gift Aid	Donors who do not Gift Aid
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
2017 (Jan - Dec)	153	136	17

The reduction in stewardship income this last year needs to be dealt with and we need to renew growth over the coming years especially with a relaunch of a parish funding programme. Let me encourage everyone who is reading this to consider adopting the biblical principle of tithing, if you are not already doing so. I'm led by our Lord to Luke 21 V1-4 where Holy Scripture says, *As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup>He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>"Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup>All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

During the year the stewardship role has been run by a small group of Shelagh Edwards, Jeremy Hassell and Viv Ward (Shelagh more than anyone). You will be aware that we have been advertising for a person to take over this position and hope that there is someone who will take on this very important role from Shelagh.

Bless you all, The Stewardship team

## **8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner.**

We welcome Christopher Kelly who has agreed to take on this role.

## **9. Churchwarden's Fabric, Goods and Ornaments Report**

The past year has seen the church opening up after lockdown as well as hosting services for Ukrainians led by Pastor Andrei. Grayshott Concerts are filling the church to capacity once again with top quality concerts and the local schools were able to hold their school Christmas Concerts in the church last December.

With the tight financial situation in this parish, we aim to keep costs to a minimum, particularly heating. We appreciate the volunteers who clean the church and maintain the churchyard but would welcome additional helpers. Seeing the church looking tidy is very satisfying.

Particular thanks should go to the assistant churchwardens – Patrick Johnston, Clive Loder and Richard Pimm who have helped Sheila Austin and me especially on technical matters as well as repairs such as the tiles in the church porch. We are hoping to start accepting contactless credit card donations in church (as is possible in many churches) and the team have been researching the various options.

Thanks should also go to our churchyard team – David Williams, Brian Rogerson, Alan Corlett and Richard Pimm who have made the churchyard a joy for all to see. We have applied to the archdeacon for a memorial bench to be placed under the chestnut trees at the north end of the churchyard. This should complement the small level area that has been created there. Many visitors come a long way to visit family graves or attend funerals here and it gives them comfort to see that the graveyard is well cared for.

We have applied to the archdeacon for a memorial bench to be placed under the chestnut trees at the north end of the churchyard. This should complement the small level area that has been created there. Many visitors come a long way to visit family graves or attend funerals here and it gives them comfort to see that the graveyard is well cared for.

Richard Pimm has been our fire safety officer for many years and works hard to keep safety measures to an excellent standard. In March he led a training meeting for sidesmen on fire safety.

The Archdeacon examined and signed the Terrier & Inventory Records and the Logbook on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The churchwardens and assistant churchwardens are joint Health and Safety Officers and the policy was updated at the beginning of 2023.

We are constantly reviewing options to achieve our Net Zero by 2030 target. At the present time however, the set up costs are too high to make viable changes. There are various grants available and we are open to review our options. Being part of the “Parish Buying” scheme involving over 1000 parishes across the UK keeps us in touch with the latest developments.

Edward Tobin and Sheila Austin  
Churchwardens

## **10. Other Reports**

### **a. Local Lay Minister’s Report - Dr Chris Grocock**

Continued involvement as a teacher has kept me to doing just a few services in St Luke’s Grayshott, where there has been an opportunity to do so.

In 2022 I preached 6 times and led 6 Sunday services (all, from recollections, BCP evening prayer) in person in the parish and I took 9 services on Zoom (also BCP evening prayer). This pattern has continued into 2023, and I agreed with Jeremy that ‘live’ services will replace ‘Zoom’ services while we have the benefit of British Summer Time.



We will endeavour to broadcast these so that those who have attended from a distance can still feel they can join in. I am particularly pleased that we have employed the choir as much as possible; I think that members of the congregation as well as the choir have found this helpful and edifying. As I continue to teach at Bedales, at least for the coming year, I think this pattern of participation is likely to remain fairly steady.

I have taken one funeral for our parish, but at Fernhurst Cemetery.

My involvement with St Luke's Milland and its associated benefices should also be noted: here in 2022 I have led 16 Sunday services, preached 15 times, and have assisted with communion twice.

Dr Christopher Grocock

### **Local Lay Minister's Report - Susie Millard**

One of the things I focus on is outreach to the children and families of Grayshott Primary school:

**School in Church:** The new initiative for this year is for the whole school to be in church for an assembly twice each term (once in each half). This got off to a good start with a special Remembrance Assembly – where Rev. Jeremy played the Last Post and took part in the assembly with Susie and Dan.

**School Assemblies:** Dan and Susie have continued to lead an 'Open the Book' Assembly on Tuesday mornings for the whole school. This is a fun, acted out bible story followed by reflection and prayer. The themes follow the Christian calendar, but we try to also keep the chronology of the bible in mind in our planning. We are looking for some willing volunteers to join us.

**Exploring Christian themes in Church.** Alongside the in-church assemblies, each half term one class is coming to the church to explore with Susie the Christian theme in their RE curriculum for the term

**Advent:** The Church's gift of a Real Advent Calendar (which includes a 24-page Christmas story activity book –to be read with a parent or carer each day), was well received by Year 1 (Yellow class) as part of a 'Thinking about Advent session.'

**Nativity Service:** The school invited us to repeat the Nativity After-school club in the second half of the Autumn term, producing a Nativity play and service in St Lukes for Christmas. This works as a great outreach to the families, and we were delighted with the large number of school families who came to the service. There were 17 children involved in telling the Nativity Story. A huge thanks to Carol Tinegate-Smith, Barbara Ward and Fiona Johnson for all their help and to Franky Kelly and her daughter for the pre-service family refreshments – which are a vital part of the experience.

**School Prayer Support Group** Liz Holbird, the Chair of Governors at the school is re-establishing a prayer support group for the school – open to anyone with an interest in supporting the school in prayer. The first meeting took place at the school in February. Dates of the prayer meeting will be advertised in the church and the school newsletters.

**The 'Moving on' session** for Yr 6 leavers, including every pupil in year 6 receiving the scripture union book 'It's your move' took place on a very hot summers day at the end of the Summer term. Sadly, this year the church did not have the funds available for each year 6 child to receive a Bible. We hope to be able to give the leavers a bible this year, but we need to do some fund-raising to achieve that.

Within church my main focus is the 10.30 service, both contemporary and Family Services. We have just had a fun Palm Sunday service with a real live donkey!! I have also led some of the 08.30 services during the year.

Thank you to all who have helped with various

unusual and practical tasks in our family services.

My role as the Prayer and Comms Team Leader for Military Ministries International has been very busy over this last year, for obvious reasons, which some of the St Lukes prayer groups have supported in prayer. Thank you.

I am in my third year of a part-time MA in Theology, Imagination and culture, and I am currently trying to fit in writing a dissertation on the power of story.

If you would like to be involved in the school or family services do please contact me at

susie@stlukes-grayshott.org.

## **Pastoral Team Report**

Pastoral care seems to be increasing now post pandemic with our enthusiastic team of visitors.

Hospitality is very popular and an effective way to keep in touch with people on average about 26 people attend monthly friendship lunches [ this is maximum number we can cater for safely}

Lent lunches proved very popular again about 18 to 20 people coming each week.

We hold monthly short services at both Huntington House and Moorlands Lodge led by Rev. Haswell about 20 residents attend. There are plans for fellowship to be taken to both Langham court and Green Gables care homes.

We have regular meetings to discuss in confidence those people who require pastoral support either with phone calls or visits.

Ros Balfour

## **Youth and Children Report Outreach**

### **The Base (Friday Nights)**

**School years 6 6–7.30pm, School years 7+: 7.30–9pm**

This is our main form of outreach for the youth of the village. Split into two sessions, there is a younger group and an older group. The sessions are very informal, with lots of time for conversation, games and activities. The youth particularly enjoy quizzes and wide games. The link from the base to the church has been very strong with the children from the base coming to our bible study nights.

### **Discipleship**

#### **Bible Studies (Wednesday Nights)**

We have a group that meets weekly on Wednesday nights to cook together, eat together, play games, study the Bible and pray. This has been very helpful for the youth and has led to some great conversations. We again went through Youth Alpha in September and at other times have covered topics especially relevant to the young people.

This time is also often used to plan and practise for the Youth Service (particularly the dramas).

### **Schools Work**

Each week on a Monday, Susie Millard and I go into Grayshott Primary to host Open the Book, assemblies in which the children act out some of the key Bible stories.

I continue to run lunch time activities for children at Grayshott Primary three times a week. I also continue to work at St Edmund's, especially in the PE department. This has been good for the links between the church and the school and has meant that some St Edmund's students have been volunteering at The Base as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### **Residential August 2022**

We took 15 young people to this weekend away in Studland, many of whom we know from The Base. During

the weekend we did lots of activities – including water sports at the beach, games and a BBQ. We had the head of Youth and Community Work training at Moorlands Bible College as our guest speaker, and some of the young people responded to the gospel and have since come to Bible studies.

### **Holiday Club July 2022**

This was a great success with over 50 children attending at ST Edmunds school for the first time, it worked very well and have already book on again for July 2023.

The theme was 'Explorers', encouraging the children that there are loved by God no matter what their gifts are. The Holiday Club included teaching, worship, prayer, activities, games and crafts. We had a fantastic team of volunteers making all of this possible. Our youth bible study group all helped out.

### **Garden project August 2023**

Last summer we re-launched our garden project. We helped the church with lots of weeding. We also helped Roy Cropper with his garden cutting back his hedges. We will defiantly be doing this again in the summer the young people loved helping.

### **Holiday clubs with the Parish Council Christmas and Easter**

This exciting new project has been very productive for the youth group and volunteers. A big thank you to Alice Murphy, Barbara Ward, Karina and Annelise Farnlucher who have all been instrumental to the great success with these clubs. They are smaller and shorter days but we have had good numbers and parents have expressed their gratitude towards the church/council for running these clubs.

We have run 4 days, two half days and two full days.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday school has been going well since the re launch

post covid. We haven been doing the bible in 1 hour child version from scripture union. We now run craft and sport every other week.

### **Light party**

We ran a successful light party an alternative to Halloween. The children enjoyed the tea cup ride provided by Fairlands. We also had a bright firework display to represent Jesus the light of the world.

*Dan Bennett, Youth Minister*

### **Babes & Toddlers Group Report**

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

We said goodbye to Julia Hedger at the end of the Summer term and thanked her for all the hard work and dedication to the group over many years. She continues to help other members of our Church Family for which I am very grateful.

We continue to welcome new members and there is great excitement when we have a “new arrival”.

We very much appreciate Jeremy and his guitar during the morning and we all join in with the actions.

A big thank you goes to Rikka who has continued to help us with the smooth running of the group, particularly on the administration and communication side.

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.

Liz Tippett

### **Grayshott Lunch Club Report**

Grayshott Lunch Club is now 37 years' old. We meet

every Thursday. We have a small group of people who come every week at 10:30 for social activities, coffee and a chat, followed by lunch. Everyone else comes for lunch at 12 noon. The two groups together produce a membership of between 19 and 26 people, who often include Jeremy, Claire and Lucie. We provide freshly cooked food of a very high standard.

Apart from Caroline Hall who cleans the kitchen and the bathrooms, this organisation is totally run by volunteers. It is great fun and gives a lot of happiness to a lot of people. We hope the Club will still be here in 37 years' time.

Angela Haine, Chairman

## **OASIS**

Oasis is a safe, friendly place to be, a place to chat and have a cup of tea, maybe work on a craft project. We meet almost every Tuesday morning from 9:30 -11:30. We are a small group with relationships growing and people feeling able to drop in for a quick coffee. Its encouraged the new crossword in Grayshott today! Do come and spend some time with us.

Allison Sutcliffe and Alice Murphy

## **Grayshott Concerts**

*"World-class performances – on your doorstep!"*

A huge thank you to everyone in the St Luke's Church family for helping us to achieve some great events in 2022.

You may not realise – but our concert-goers come from up to 50 miles away to hear great music in the beautiful, serene and acoustically-perfect surroundings of your 120-year-old Parish Church of St Luke. Many of them have told us, over the almost 20 years of our activities, how much they have appreciated coming to Grayshott Church.

And can you believe it? You've enabled us to stage almost 100 sell-out events – and brought some of the world's best-loved performers to the heart of the village – helping us to become one of the UK's most successful music charities.

Over the last 12 months alone, our stars have included super-star cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason; his sister, pianist Isata; international choral group Tenebrae, singing Allegri's magnificent 'Miserere'; Grayshott's own home-grown violin virtuoso Shoshanah Sievers performing Bruch's Violin Concerto; and presented a second performance of the work we commissioned for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 'The Healer – a Cantata for St Luke', composed and conducted by our Patron, Sir Karl Jenkins, one of the world's most performed living composers.

Perhaps our most memorable event was having the privilege of staging a free performance of 'Peter and the Wolf' for all pupils and staff at Grayshott Church of England Primary School to celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The performance was so popular that we repeated it at our 'Friends Evening' with film-star Simon Callow as Narrator.

So, thank you again to all at St Luke's – with special thanks to Jeremy and Claire, Ed Tobin, Sheila Austin, Viv Ward, Barbara and Madi.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Founders Peter & Vivien Harrison and the Trustees of Grayshott Concerts. (<https://grayshottconcerts.co.uk>)









