

ST LUKE'S GRAYSHOTT

APCM 2024 BOOKLET



THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

St Luke's Church, Grayshott

To be held

at 7pm on Thursday 16th May 2024

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING 2024

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

(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 2023 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, 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)

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th April 2023.

Apologies were received from Chris Grocock, Anne & Tony Edden, Barbara & Patrick Johnston, Allison Sutcliffe and Peter Wilson.

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

1. OPENING PRAYER.

Revd Haswell opened the meeting with the Easter Day Collect and a general prayer for the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2022 VESTRY MEETING.

Minutes of the 2022 Vestry Meeting were proposed by Chris Grocock, seconded by Jeremy Hassell and approved by everyone present at the 2022 meeting.

3. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.

Two nominations had been received for the role of Churchwarden. Revd Haswell thanked both Churchwardens for their tireless work in supporting him and looking after so many different aspects of what we do here.

Edward Tobin - proposed by Sheila Austin, seconded by Viv Ward.

Sheila Austin – proposed by Viv Ward, seconded by Frankie Kelly.

Both nominations were approved unanimously.

The Chairman signed the Minute Book.

The Meeting closed at 7.48pm.

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2023

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was opened at 7.50pm on Wednesday 19th April 2023 in St Luke's Church by the vicar, Rev Jeremy Haswell, who welcomed the 35 people present.

Revd Haswell opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Chris Grocock, Anne & Tony Edden, Barbara & Patrick Johnston, Allison Sutcliffe and Peter Wilson.

2. MINUTES OF 2022 APCM

The Secretary said that a correction needed to be made to the Minutes in that the next complete renewal of the Electoral Roll would be in 2025 not 2024 as stated in the draft. The Chairman made the correction and approval was given by a show of hands. Revd Haswell then signed the Minutes of 2022 APCM as amended.

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 the figure now was 162. Revd Haswell thanked John Haine for all the work that had gone into producing and maintaining the Electoral Roll.

4. ELECTIONS

4.1. READERS:

Revd Haswell explained that the term “Reader” has been replaced by “Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)” which reflected their theological training and that this was recognised by the Diocese for the role they had undertaken. He added that he was enormously grateful to Susie Millard and Chris Grocock for their diligence and the work they put in. Dr Christopher Grocock offered to remain on the PCC as the Lay Reader’s Representative. This was welcomed by all.

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

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

Anne Gale-Jones – Proposed by Frankie Kelly, seconded by Sheila Austin

Hilary Loder – Proposed by Barbara Johnston, seconded by Dan Bennett

Philippa Whitaker – Proposed by Sue Wilson, seconded by Adrian Banwell.

Revd Haswell thanked the three candidates for offering to serve in this capacity.

4.III. DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES.

There were two vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives.

Penny Thomas – Proposed by Michael Lugg, seconded by Hilary Loder.

Clive Loder – Proposed by Clive Purkiss, seconded by Carol Tinegate.

4.IV. SIDESMEN/WOMEN.

The PCC Secretary read out the following names of Sidesmen/women:

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

All were approved. Revd Haswell expressed his gratitude to all for welcoming and organising people. The approval was unanimous.

5. SECRETARY REPORT.

Revd Haswell asked again for someone to take on the role of PCC Secretary as the role had been covered by the Churchwardens for a year. Sheila Austin stated that the PCC had met 5 times between June 2022 and March 2023.

The main focus this year had 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 were posted on the website.

In addition to the printed report Sheila added the following: As required, the PCC has due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. There were no cases of abuse reported in the year 2022-23. All of the 21 known paid employees and volunteers eligible for DBS clearance have been cleared. 10 of the 23 people known to need safeguarding training are fully up to date, 8 of the remainder have partly completed their training. 5 have yet to start.

Sheila thanked Angela Haine for being the Safeguarding Officer and Revd Haswell stated that Safeguarding was central to everything we do so we can provide a safe place for people to come. He added that Angela was retiring from the post, she has been assiduous and incredible in her diligence to the role and he thanked her. The role was being taken over by Penny Thomas and Hilary Loder both of whom have so much relevant past experience in many aspects of this subject and he thanked them both for taking this on.

6. VICARS REPORT.

Revd. Haswell acknowledge his report was long and he would go with the principle that all the reports had been read so would not be going into great detail. He had a huge number of people to thank but opted not to list them for danger of leaving someone out. At the heart of his vision as a Minister of the Gospel is to build a community that knows how to love God and how to praise the Lord but also to love one

another. Where there is love and praise God moves and by highlighting and focusing in on love we are going to win. Although we are in difficult circumstances financially and others aspects of how things are, while we focus on love we are going to build the right DNA for what's growing.

Hilary Loder asked who Revd Chris Oldroyd (as mentioned in the Vicar's report) was, Revd Haswell replied that he was a CofE ordained Minister who lived in our parish and had asked Revd Haswell to sponsor his application for permission to officiate here and in other places.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 ACCOUNTS.

Viv Ward announced that the Report and Financial Statement was 26 pages long and he did not intend to go through page by page. He confirmed the whole document had been scrutinised by the Independent Examiner, The Finance Working Group (FWG) and the PCC who had approved it. Viv added that if anyone wanted to go through the document, he was very willing to do so outside of the meeting. He apologised that the Summary of Account had been omitted from the Booklet but that it must have got lost between him and Sheila Austin, so he would go through the figures.

In 2021 we had a deficit of £(39,000), in 2022 this was reduced to £(5,000). Investments had increased in 2021 but had fallen back to 2020 figures in 2022. He picked out some items of particular areas of interest. We launched the Parish Fundraising Programme, as promised at this meeting last year, and although new givers came forward it was matched by others who stopped giving for a variety of reasons; grants

received, i.e. from the Diocese who realised several parishes were struggling; Grayshott Parish Council are very supportive especially on the youth work side of things and we won a contract for three years with the East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) to provide The Base Youth Club with funds.

Viv recognised that everyone knows we are not able to raise huge amounts of money so we needed to reduce our expenditure and it is this that resulted in the reduced deficit for 2022.

Looking forward to next year (2023) we see a lot of things going on. We are receiving a reduced amount of giving and the cost of heating the church and church rooms has gone from £6,000 (2022) to £18,000 (2023), so the pressure is definitely on. Each month we pay the Diocese £8,000 (£96,000 a year) and our main income has been below that since December 2022 (December £7,400; January £6,600; February £7,700 and March £6,400). On top of that there is heating, salaries and other expenditure. This is not a good position to be in.

Viv stated that he had prepared a Budget in November 2022 and presented it to the PCC with a £(41,000) deficit. The PCC would not accept it and it went back to the FWG, who produced a list of things the church could perhaps do; increase regular giving; increase regular attendance which should help income figures; encourage village support; pursue legacies; appoint a grant searcher; set up digital donation facility in church; maximise Holiday Club income and increase fundraising. These measures would only reduce the deficit from £(41,000) to £(23,000) if all were successful. Viv advised the meeting that, and Dan Bennett was aware of this, we could not really afford a

Youth Worker but that we are talking to St Edmund's School who are very open to coming up with a solution to help us maintain our youth work.

He then welcomed any fundraising suggestions from those present. He added that the Vicar's Relief Fund, which had been running for a few years began the year with £5,000, had received £4,000 and we had donated £3,000. The end of year figure was therefore £6,000. The Accounts were then approved by a show of hands.

Viv finished with thanks; to Michael Lugg, who counted the collection money weekly and banked it at the Post Office; to the FWG who helped him feel less lonely when talking about money matters and the new Independent Examiner Christopher Kelly. Revd Haswell added his thanks to the outgoing Independent Examiner, Jonathan Tippett who had served in the role for many years.

Revd Haswell stated that the sober nature of the financial situation has not been taken lightly and in terms of the biblical model is that we all share that responsibility together. He added that the initiative of Gill and Clive Purkiss to provide monthly roast lunches ticked all the right boxes, i.e. hospitality and fellowship and he thanked them for that.

John Haine suggested holding a Gift Day as had been done some 15 years ago and had been very successful. This would be considered by the Fundraising Team.

A discussion followed on the issue of a Card Reader system for donations and Revd Haswell confirmed this was in hand.

7A. STEWARDSHIP REPORT.

Viv Ward acknowledged that Shelagh Edwards had kept Stewardship records going for a very long time and was always very accurate (round of appreciative applause for Shelagh).

He noted that the results showed a downward trend as indicated in his Finance Report. It was intended to have another Fundraising Programme to remind people of the need to do more and increase funds. Revd Haswell said how much he appreciated all the work Viv did for the church and how grateful we all should be.

8. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER.

Revd Haswell said that Christopher Kelly needed to be formally appointed by this meeting. Proposed by Claire Haswell, seconded by Jonathan Tippett. Unanimously approved.

9. CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

Further to the printed report Edward Tobin said how pleasing it was that our relationship with the local Ukrainian community was very good and had resulted in Kler and Amanda providing live music for the 10.30am services twice a month. He added that Sheila and he were very well assisted by Patrick Johnston, Clive Loder and Richard Pimm. Richard's Fire Safety briefing for Sidesmen had been very helpful and informative for all who attended. Jeremy Hassell also assisted with some technical and practical advice when needed and he was available.

Edward wanted also to mention the efforts of the Churchyard Team; David Williams, Brian Rodgeron, Richard Pimm and Alan Corlett. They not only kept the churchyard tidy but had provided a container for mulched leaves which had saved a significant amount of money last autumn and would do so again. Revd Haswell added that Edward was also a part of the team and was seen so often in and around the churchyard.

10A. LOCAL LAY MINISTERS (LLM) REPORT.

Revd Haswell said the two reports from our LLMs Chris Grocock and Susie Millard were good ones.

Chris shares his support with other parishes and has maintained a ZOOM congregation for Traditional services but is now coming back into church for these twice a month.

Susie's work continues in Grayshott School helping with assemblies and lots of other ways and also in the services in church. Notably for child and family services that she runs particularly at feast times – Nativity and Palm Sunday, the involvement of the school at these times encouraged the attendance of the parents. Revd Haswell expressed his gratitude for all Susie's efforts. Susie also worked with Dan Bennett in the school with "Open the Book" which was very much appreciated.

He added that the church's connection with Grayshott School was very good, partly because of the new Headmaster now in post but also because of these initiatives. Revd Haswell also gave thanks for the Foundation Governors, who included Alice Murphy and Linda Holbrook.

Revd Haswell said how grateful he was to both LLMs for all their work in their different areas.

10B. PASTORAL REPORT

Revd Haswell thanked Ros Balfour for her report and for all her work with the Care Homes and the Pastoral Team she leads. He added that Ros was the Pastoral Assistant responsible for the elderly community and Liz Tippett the Pastoral Assistant for birth end of the community, helping with baptisms.

10C. YOUTH AND CHILDREN REPORT.

Dan Bennett was thanked for his published report and Revd Haswell said much of Dan's work went unseen by many. He had run youth Alpha courses which had been successful and well attended. Dan gave a plea for volunteers to support the youth work activities and he announced the forthcoming "Curry Night" to raise funds for his youth work.

Revd Haswell noted that the youth flagship was the summer Holiday Club which in the past had had a great team but this also needed more volunteers. It was confirmed that the Holiday Club would again be held at St Edmunds school and he expressed his gratitude for the school's support.

10D. BABES AND TODDLERS REPORT

Revd Haswell thanked Liz Tippett for taking over, together with Rika one of the mothers, so that after Julia Hedger left it had continued with

the same energy and support from the parents which was very much appreciated.

10E. THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB.

Revd Haswell thanked Angela Haine for her report and said what a great institution this group was. Angela Haine said that those who attended enjoyed a nice lunch and good fellowship which was so important for elderly people.

In the same vein Revd Haswell mentioned the Oasis Group's continuing presence on Tuesday mornings and for those who do attend it was hugely appreciated and he thanked Allison Sutcliffe and Alice Murphy for this initiative.

Claire Haswell expressed thanks to Kirsty Bourgogne for setting up the Superheroes group for parents of extremely autistic children which meets twice a month at St Luke's and the Fox & Pelican.

10F. GRAYSHOTT CONCERTS.

Revd Haswell wanted on the record, to thank Peter Harrison for his report expressing Grayshott Concerts thanks to St Luke's. Revd Haswell added that the relationship between Grayshott Concerts and the church was very good and while it doesn't bring more people to church services it does put St Luke's on the map. The concerts did bring income to the church by way on hire fees which was welcome.

11. AOB

There being no other notified business Revd Haswell asked all PCC members to remain afterwards to enable the appointment of officers necessary to keep the business of the church going. He added that a lot of people continue to come and commit to our work here. He wanted to thank those who had persevered when it's been tough, particularly through Covid. He acknowledged that some people had moved on for a variety of reasons which he understood but we needed to celebrate the new people coming to church and appreciating what we are providing. His day had started, he said, with the words "whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11;10). The passage illustrates the need to obey God in faith even through difficult circumstances. Prayer and hospitality remain central to all St Luke's stands for in the community. He reminded everyone of his three "C"s Connected, Committed and Confident. He finished with "Our vision is to build faith, build confidence and discern the vision of God to reach the people of Grayshott".

Revd Haswell closed the meeting with a prayer, a sung hymn (Thine be the Glory, organ played by Edward Tobin) and a blessing.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

19th April 2023 to 16th May 2024

Recorded members on the Electoral Roll at the 2023 APCM was 162

The changes since April 2023 have been

Moved away from the Parish 1

Deceased 3

Requested to be removed 14

Removed as non-contactable 3

New members 10

Roll entry total for 2024 APCM 151

ELECTIONS

ELECTIONS OF READERS TO PCC

ELECTION OF PCC LAY REPRESENTATIVES

ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

The role of Sidesmen/women continues to be 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, Sue Bentley, Shelagh Edwards, Andrea Franklin, Anne Gale-Jones, Angela Haine, Robert Harland, Claire Haswell, Linda Holbrook, Anna Lescure, Nicholas Lescure, Clive Loder, Michael Lugg, Alice Murphy, Richard Pimm, Anne Preston, Clive Purkiss, Christine Richmond, Julia Tarento, Liz Tippett, Jonathan Tippett, Philippa Whitaker.

You can join this team at any time so if you would like to know more please speak to me.

The PCC met 6 times between April 2023 and March 2024. The PCC is currently made up of the Vicar, one Associated Minister, a Readers' Representative, one Deanery Synod Member, nine elected members and a co-opted Treasurer.

The church's finances were again concerning for the PCC but a number of generous donations were received which were welcomed but not before difficult decisions were made. In October 2023 the PCC held an extraordinary meeting with the Archdeacon Martine Breadmore and David Senior (Diocesan Mission Enabler for Stewardship and Evangelism). The meeting was primarily to discuss the PCC's decision to withhold the Parish Share payments while the church finances were so low. The details are covered in the Treasurer's Report but it was a significant event in the year for the PCC.

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

I want to thank my fellow Churchwarden, Edward, for producing the PCC Minutes as we still seek a PCC Secretary.

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.

VICAR'S REPORT — REV. JEREMY HASWELL

BEING CHURCH

My high level vision for church is that we fulfil Jesus' charge to his disciples, referred to as 'The Great Commission', and that we take Jesus' Isaiah 61 anointing from Luke 4, and pray for these to be seen and fulfilled in us in our generation and community.

The last 5 years have seen significant changes in society through the impact of restriction of movement, changes of patterns of life, social behaviour, choice, etc., which have affected expectations relating to church attendance, and volunteering. Anecdotally this is widespread, however life has more or less re-set, and we are all learning this new order. The arrival of technological advances has also impacted all areas of society. How we reach our community will also adapt, and the question for us all is to learn to communicate the message of Jesus to our neighbours. These things represent the new wineskin, flexible and receptive for the new wine Jesus promised to pour out. If we try to hold on to past patterns Jesus' metaphor says the old wineskin will break. New shoots are emerging in the congregation which relate to the prophetic picture Susie Millard shared fifteen months ago of snowdrops emerging from a muddy patch of ground.

CHALLENGES

We began the year with significant financial challenges, a youth work contract which was financially unsustainable, and the challenge of how we restructure to enable us to fulfil our spiritual and financial responsibilities. We navigated these as a team, although not without some pain, and have had to address the realities with courage and honesty. The Diocesan leadership has played a role in some of this and we arrived at a Church Development Plan, and have tried to address the financial deficit through stewardship campaigns and fundraising.

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

WORSHIP

I am very grateful to Kler Mizer and her sister Emanuel who have provided live band music in our 10.30 services and Jose who has joined them. We have included a testimony time in these services that has encouraged sharing of personal blessings and points for prayer in the services that bring us together as a community. I am grateful to those working on rotas and serving in all our services giving them consistency. Thanks also to Malcolm Pain and Edward Tobin for maintaining the music in the traditional services. I am working to broaden our leadership of the services so that it is all less dependent on one person, and am looking forward to see this grow over the coming year.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Our CDP consists of three main strands,

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

Actions have been taken to address these but they remain ongoing in our practical priorities.

FINANCES

I thank Viv Ward for all his work on the accounting and financial planning over the last year. His consistent rigour and foresight have meant that we can plan ahead with a clear picture of the trends, and his re-forecasts have given us an accurate current status from which to plan. We have saved significantly on utilities by putting up with cold in the office and the Church, changing from full to part time Youth Worker, and by not replacing one of our office administrators. Also people have been generous in giving both in one-off donations, and increasing their regular giving. Please celebrate the new situation, while acknowledging that we are still under pressure to build the church up numerically and financially, and have some way to go before we can call ourselves financially 'healthy'. We are wanting to build towards being able to refresh the church room's lavatories and kitchen, and increase the support provision in the office.

UKRAINIAN FELLOWSHIP

I am delighted to say that the Ukrainian fellowship, led by Pastor Andriy Kopylash, has been thriving, and has recently moved from having a single service in the church building once a month, to have two Ukrainian Alpha meetings a month held in the Timothy Room (hall), on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We have some local Ukrainian members at our 10.30 services.

DIVERSITY

We are seeing more diversity in our fellowship particularly through seeing employees of the care homes attending, this has been a source of great joy, and we have seen approximately 12 nationalities attending. Also in the Summer, we welcomed a Gujarati language church from Wembley for their summer outing, at which they had a service in the church and I preached a message to them. I hope very much we will have them again.

GRAYSHOTT SCHOOL

Dan was our Youth Worker for the beginning of the year, and he concluded his work there, but Susie Millard has maintained our link with the school, increasing the number of times the School has visited the church for assemblies, and their well-established end of term services. We provide foundation governors to the Governing body, and our influence and contributions have been significant in the life of the school.

FIRCROFT TRUST

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

THANKS

I am enormously indebted to so many, but particularly our Church Wardens, Edward Tobin and Sheila Austin, our treasurer Viv Ward, our PCC team, the assistant Church Wardens, our Licensed Lay Ministers Susie Millard and Chris Grocock, our administrator Anna Gilderson, our new Youth Worker Rhys McLaren and our Youth Work overseer Hilary Loder, who have all worked tirelessly to bring us to where we are, assisted by many volunteers helping in many ways large and small. I want to particularly thank Frankie Kelly and Ros Balfour who have served their terms on PCC after the APCM in May and Penny Thomas who is stepping down. They have all contributed significantly in different ways, and I am grateful for their support. Penny and Hilary Loder now lead on Safeguarding, a key area in our governance and life, and they have done a superb job, taking over from Angela, who stepped down after long and faithful service.

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

PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 ACCOUNTS – VIV WARD

The Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2023 have been scrutinised by our independent Examiner and approved by the PCC. They are 26 pages long which I commend as a good read and they describe what has happened during the year in St Luke's. However, as it is so long, I am only showing the income and expenditure report and balance sheet below which summarise all of

these figures. If you would like a full copy of the report we can send you one by email or you can get a hard copy from the office. I am also available to answer questions or go through the accounts if you would prefer.

The net surplus is £5,169 to which is added the gain on revaluation of investments of £5,899 resulting in a net increase in funds of £11,068 for the year. After all the year's movement the total of all funds is £142,303.

During the year regular giving has decreased but this has been compensated by an increase in other income. We have received grants from Collier Trust for youth work, Hidden Gardens of Grayshott for flowers in the churchyard, Guildford Diocese providing an energy grant, East Hants DC Supporting Community Fund, Hampshire CC and Grayshott Parish Council all supporting the Base youth club. Many generous donations were received both large and small as well as a legacy. Much hard work was put into fund raising with coffee mornings, Purkiss Sunday lunches, Parish lunches, Harvest supper, a Christmas concert and a youth stall at the Coronation celebrations. This is to name but a few activities and we are grateful for all the hard work and generosity.

As in previous years we recognised the need to reduce expenditure and the expenses were carefully monitored and everyone played their part to make this happen. Unfortunately this was not enough and we were forecasting a large deficit. This necessitated our not replacing our office administrator at the beginning of the year and when matters did not improve we made our Youth Minister redundant. Here we were

supported by a large anonymous donor which allowed the youth work to continue until the end of August. The Youth Programme was reorganised to continue Youth work centred on “the Base” Youth club. Though these measures were put in place the PCC were concerned that savings were not enough and so we had to suspend our monthly payments to the Diocese from July. The Diocese offered their guidance and Revd David Senior, Diocesan Mission Enabler for Stewardship and Evangelism and Archdeacon Martin Breadmore addressed the PCC. As a result Revd David launched a parish funding programme at an October service which was followed up by emails to our congregation. This has resulted in some increases in giving which allowed us to restart our Parish share payments at a reduced rate. We said that we would pay the outstanding amount as long as we made a surplus and, thankfully, this has happened and we are able to do this. The balancing amount is included in our stated results.

In 2021 we suffered a large deficit of £ (39,192) which recovered to a deficit of £ (5,449) in 2022. With a late surge in 2023 we have made a surplus of £ 5,169 and so the finances seem to have settled. However this has come at a cost and we have sat in cold services due to reduced heating and reduced staffing considerably.

Looking forward to 2024 we have set a deficit budget but hope that since that was prepared we have had initiatives to better this and are looking forward optimistically.

The Vicar’s Discretionary fund began the year with £6,107. It received £1,616 and paid out £1,650 to those in need leaving a balance of £6,073.

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 a decrease in the giving during the year. Unfortunately those new givers have matched those who have left but the amount given has reduced.

The summary of the total amount given during 2023 is recorded in this table.

Stewardship Income Table:

	Total Income £	Donations Gift Aid Claimable £	Donations Gift Aid Not claimable £	Gift Aid Claimed £
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
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
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
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. 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. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ 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). After many years Shelagh has stepped down and we thank her for all the work she has done. We are very pleased that Barbara Johnston, previously Vicar's pa, has stepped forward to take on the role and we welcome her.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE PCC

Christopher Kelly has agreed to continue in this role.

As we are learning to live with the lower income from donations at St. Luke's, and the restraints of Covid 19 are remembered but not dominant in our thinking, we are able to look to the future in a more constructive manner.

Services are getting back to a structured pattern once again and, although Jeremy has very little assistance in his role as ordained minister, our licenced Lay Ministers, Susie and Chris, are leading services whenever they can.

Our Assistant Churchwardens continue to help and advise us. The Payaz machine working with the Sum Up card-reader has made it easier to donate to the church using a credit card.

Our volunteer gardeners in the churchyard have transformed the north end of the churchyard. There have been some generous donations of benches for the churchyard. Plans are that some of these will be used to replace very old dilapidated benches and some will be in new locations. These will require a faculty from the diocese.

The church heating has been turned on particularly for Sundays and special occasions such as concerts and funerals but it is difficult to make the church entirely comfortable during the winter months. Grayshott Concerts recently used a propane space heater to boost the heating before a concert and the PCC is looking into this and other ways to improve the church heating / insulation before next winter.

The Terrier and Inventory has been checked, amended and updated to include the generous gift of Communion silver ware and linen from Acorn Healing Ministry.

The last Quinquennial Inspection was in April 2021 and the next one will be in April 2026. The church will be applying to the diocese for a grant to help with recommended improvements. Jeremy Hassell is looking into using a device to clear the high gutters of the church from ground level.

Other items on our “wish-list” are improvements for the Timothy Room Kitchen including a fridge-freezer in place of the rather old fridge and modernisation of the toilets. Hilary and Rhys are hoping to improve the car park so that the Base can hold ball games in there if the entrance has a suitable folding gate. It would be nice to improve the surface at the far (West) end of the car park which is uneven at present and very muddy in winter.

We are grateful for all the efforts parishioners are making to get the church fully active once again. Further helpers and volunteers will be very much appreciated.

OTHER REPORTS

BABES AND TODDLERS – LIZ TIPPETT

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

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

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

Thanks to Rika for her continued support on the administration and communication.

We are 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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH OVERSIGHT – HILARY LODER

The vision statement for the Youth and Children’s Work at St Luke’s is:

To bring the largest number of young people and children both within the community and the church into the deepest place of love with God.

The grants from EHDC and the Grayshott Parish Council enabled us to recruit and employ a part time (10 hours per week) Youth Worker from September 23 for 2 years.

Rhys McLaren (our new Youth Worker) has reviewed and upgraded the organisation and systems that are essential in the Youth Work at St Luke’s, improving safeguarding, communication with parents, timely reports to the PCC, the EHDC monitoring processes and the Parish Council. He has a great heart for the youngsters that attend the clubs and is a great asset, a respected leader and a popular and trusted friend to them all.

Rhys is managed by the Youth Co-Ordinator from the PCC, he meets regularly with Chris Grocock who is his Spiritual Director, and successfully completed his 6 month probationary period in March. He has some tough targets (set by the grant sponsors) to achieve in the coming months and would hugely appreciate the prayers and

encouragement of the family of St Luke's as he builds on his success thus far.

THE BASE YOUTH CLUB

This is a secular club which runs every Friday evening in the Church Rooms and provides a safe, supervised space for young people (11 – 17) to meet up and socialise. The younger members meet from 18:00 – 19:30 and the older members meet from 19:30 – 21:00.

The number of members has grown steadily since the club was reopened in September '23 and there are 30 registered members to date with some occasional visitors who are additional to this figure.

The average weekly attendance has also gradually increased and now stands at 20.

On an average evening the members are offered table tennis, air hockey and pool tables (recently upgraded by a Councillor's grant of £326.00); on dry and light evenings we offer football and hockey outside; art and crafts are available for quieter activities; we have a Nintendo Switch console that enables 4 players to engage in all sort of electronic games from Super Mario races to Dance contests; we also have a Scalectrix Rhys and the volunteers (all fully DBS checked) play group card games, supervise some of the team based games and provide the required adult / child ratio for each part of the club. Rhys plans and runs special evenings planned with our members such as Nerf gun evenings, film nights and games evenings. The Club is manned by Rhys and two volunteers who also offer friendship and provide opportunities for conversation.

We offer a tuck shop and hot food for the members each week to discourage them from wanting to leave the club to go into the village during the evening. Once booked into a club session young people may only leave with parental permission. This is a change from the previous club which ran as a 'drop in' facility. This has been hugely appreciated by parents and increases security and safety for the members.

The Base will be hosting a stall at the Dementia day on May 19th and our Young People have chosen Charities that they wish to support with their profits on the day.

TEA AND TOAST

Was opened in February and runs every Wednesday from 16:00 – 17:30. This club offers a quiet, supervised homework/ revision space with internet and access to support as required. Refreshments are available. To date this club has not been as successful as hoped and has only attracted two members who use it from time to time.

This club is led by Rhys and supported by Chris Grocock.

REVIVAL

Was opened in February and runs every Wednesday from 17:30 – 19:00. This club is for Young People who want to explore the Christian faith. We have two regular members and hope to build membership in the coming term when some school clubs come to an end. Wednesday evenings are popular with other local activities e.g. scouts and football clubs. The lack of families at church has hugely impacted on the potential membership of a group like this so there is hard work ahead to recruit more interest.

This group is led by Rhys and supported by volunteers from St Luke's.

HOLIDAY CLUBS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

We have run 4 workshops in the school holidays for children aged from 4-10.

Two of these clubs have had a strong Christian focus (Christmas and Easter) and the other two have had a gentle but clear strand of Christian ethos and values running through but have ticked the 'secular box' for the grant sponsors.

These clubs attract an average of 25 children and have given us a means of outreach and have enabled us to build relationships with over 35 families.

We encourage donations at the workshop to fund the materials for the next event. This money has all been added into the Youth fund and so far the workshops have been held at no cost to the church. Activities for these workshops have been resourced where possible using recycled materials, naturally available materials and stored craft supplies which have accumulated over years in the loft of the church rooms. We will continue on this basis to clear the backlog of resources that will otherwise be wasted.

WAFFFL (WORSHIP, FAMILY FELLOWSHIP AT FOUR AT ST LUKE'S)

Led by Susie Millard and Hilary Loder

A new 4 o'clock monthly service for Families starts on May 5th.

This service will run as 'Café style' church where families can come and join in a very informal worship and fellowship session with stories and activities for all followed by tea and cake. The whole service will last for 45 minutes. We ask for the prayers of all the family of St Luke's as we launch this exciting outreach / mission project.

This report does not carry details of the considerable work of Susie Millard at Grayshott school.

Report prepared by the Youth Co-ordinator (Hilary Loder)

CHURCHYARD TEAM – DAVID WILLIAMS

The leaf collector purchased in late 2022 has successfully collected and the shredded leaves for mulching in compost bins behind the trees. This has worked well and resulted in a significant saving in the leaf disposal costs that the church previously incurred. The mulched leaves have improved the soil in the front beds which have also been renovated and planted with plants purchased with a grant from Grayshott Hidden Gardens in Autumn 2023. The grant also enabled the purchase of 20kg of daffodil bulbs which were planted in the mound and were blooming in the spring sunshine.

Recently two newly donated benches were erected in the churchyards and the four-man team continues to cut the grass throughout the growing season. There is also an ongoing maintenance and tidying up programme around the edge of the churchyard, renovating the sheds, removing old compost bins and trimming bushes and hedges as well as maintaining the lawnmowers and strimmer's.

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 quest's need 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. The importance of this was written about by one of these students in Grayshott Today.

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.

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 2022 the Trust contributed £2,100 towards the swimming instructors for the school and staff Christmas

and end of term meals. After this contribution the Trust showed a profit of £13,390 which will be carried forward for new school projects planned for 2023.

I would add that in December 2023 following his redundancy the youth worker, Dan Bennett and his family moved out and a young Ukrainian family moved in.

FUNDRAISING 'HAPPY' TEAM – JONATHAN TIPPETT

The autumn of 2023 saw the creation of the Fundraising committee, otherwise known as the “Happy committee”, so called because it looks at the positive development of the church’s activities with the aim of running events to raise funds for St Luke’s and also provide opportunities to bring people into the church.

The committee meets quarterly and provides an opportunity to set time aside from the regular running of St Luke’s to assemble a programme of events, the first fruits of which are the Winter Warmer held in February 2024 and the St Luke’s Festival being held during the second May bank holiday weekend of 2024.

The committee are grateful to everyone already involved with the fundraising events being held at St Luke’s and we look forward to seeing the activities develop as we move into 2024 and beyond. If anyone has ideas for fundraising events or would like to join the committee and help with its work, we would be delighted to hear from you. We can be contacted through Anna in the church office.

The headmaster Mr Austin is keen for the children to be in church as a normal part of their school life and both he and Mrs Tennant, the RE Co-ord are very supportive of everything we do.

I lead a weekly (Tuesday morning) assembly – usually Open the Book (OTB) style with children acting out a narrated biblical story, followed by a short reflection and prayer. Once each half term the assembly takes place in church at 09.30, which is for the school only (no parents or visitors) and is a normal OTB assembly. In November we used the church assembly for the Remembrance Day assembly, and in October for a simple Harvest service.

In addition, the plan is for each class (less reception) 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, rituals.

I also ran some special sessions during the year. At the end of the summer term a session for year 6 on moving on, with the gift of the Scripture Union moving-on booklet addressing some ‘moving-on to secondary school’ anxieties in a fun and helpful way. At the End of Year school service in July, we were able to present each year 6 child with their own Good News Bible, thanks to the generosity of St Luke’s congregations in funding this through specific donations.

The school requested we run the after-school club to produce a Nativity Service for St Luke’s in December again in 2023. This has become a popular event, once we get over everyone wanting to be

Mary or Joseph – or the donkey! The after- school club ran for the second half of the Autumn term on Wednesdays at school. The Nativity service took place on Sunday 18th December and was well attended and enjoyed by parents and family as well as the St Luke's congregation. Many thanks to all those who helped on the day, especially to those who provided pre-service refreshments for parents. Special thanks go to Carol Tinegate-Smith for helping with each holiday club session, costumes and the service.

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

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

Needs:

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

week, would be a great help. If interested to find out more or to volunteer contact Susie at susie@stlukes-grayshott.org.

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

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

It would be good if we could start to develop something for parents as well. This is for prayer!!

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

GRAYSHOTT TODAY – HELEN WILLIAMS

Grayshott Today suffered in the post pandemic economic climate. However, I am pleased to report that today we are in a better financial position. Grayshott Parish Council have awarded us a grant of £1000 per annum and there has recently been a significant increase in the number of our advertisers including yearly commitments for Grayshott Surgery and several new businesses in the area. The magazine now has an independent bank account which was needed to secure the council grant.

The team continues to be very committed to the principle of serving our community and the magazine is always ready to publicise services, events and occasions which contribute to life in the village. We have regular contributors from all age ranges, and we try to represent all the local organisations. As well as our regular contributors we are now receiving a pleasing number of creative submissions from local people.

Jeremy Haswell leads this team and guides us in all our decision making, especially in regard to our primary concern of serving the community. His monthly articles continue to provide a valuable link between the village and the church.

This year Robert Harland has been heading the distribution team and has been joined in this work by Brian Rogerson. They are currently reviewing the current distribution methods to see if a more efficient and effective service could be implemented.

Colin Milner continues to advise on our artwork and to polish and perfect photographs for us.

Barbara Johnson works hard every month proofreading the magazine always operating with in a very tight timeline.

David Williams has taken over as Advertising Manager and as mentioned above, has secured several new contracts for the magazine.

We are always looking for new team members and think it important that they be practising Christians.

“World-class performances – on your doorstep!”

We couldn't be more grateful to the whole St Luke's Church family for helping us to create a continuous feast of music for the last 20 years and for helping us to become one of the UK's most successful music charities.

Over the years, you've enabled us to stage almost 100 sell-out events.

ONE OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE YEARS - 6 CONCERTS!

Last year was intense but fun and we are looking forward to keeping up this pace. In 2023 we had a pleasure of welcoming and listening to:

- super-star cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, performing “Schelomo - Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra” - he created a real sensation;
- BBC Young String Player Coco Tomita, performed the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto;
- Pegasus Choir, performing Mozart's Requiem, featuring outstanding young soloists;
- London Festival Opera - provided an evening filled with passion, beauty and not a few laughs;
- Matilda Lloyd, the amazing young trumpeter, who performed works by Haydn, Mozart and Rossini;
- Roderick Williams OBE - the mesmerising baritone performing works by Finzi and Butterworth under the baton of talented conductor Chloe Rooke.

STRING DAY AT GRAYSHOTT PRIMARY

In 2023 we facilitated and financed a String Day at the Grayshott CE Primary School, when 2 of the London Mozart players (Our Orchestra in Residence), together with a variety of stringed instruments, visited the

school. During the day all pupils were involved in this. Sebastian Comberti, LMP, commented:

“It was a delight to return to Grayshott School after our ‘Carnival of the Animals’ visit the previous year. As ever, the children were very attentive, and responsive to new ideas, and within a very short time we were able to create several short compositions together. A memorable day all round!”

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

HOSPITALITY – ANNE GALE-JONES

It is good to see more and more people accessing opportunities for hospitality at St Luke’s.

Over the past year the church has enjoyed welcoming its members and the wider community to have fellowship and food together. We celebrated harvest together in church, had a sold out Winter Warmer in the Church Rooms, enjoyed Soup during Lent and we are looking forward to cream teas at the Festival in May.

There’s also been special services with additional refreshments.

As well as these one off events there have been our regular ways to host and welcome others in -

- Parish breakfasts see an average of 24 in attendance
- Sunday coffee after every 10:30 service
- Friendship Lunch on Saturdays once a month run by Ros Balfour sees about 24 in attendance
- Coffee mornings once a month

- Afternoon tea once a month
- Tuesday lunches which see about 8-17 in attendance.

There is also the Grayshott Community Lunch that uses our facilities once a week to offer a hot meal and company to those that need it.

Very grateful to volunteers that do help, but more volunteers will always be made welcome!

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

CHRIS GROCOCK

Continued involvement as a teacher has continued to occupy me for much of my time though my commitment will reduce in 2024-2025 and will probably come to an end in 2025-2026, but we will see! I am happy to say though that I have managed to keep this in balance with ministry in St Luke's Grayshott and across the border at Milland/ Linch/ Iping/ Stedham.

In 2023 in St Luke's Grayshott I have been mainly involved with traditional format services at 6pm; this has left me free to commit myself to Milland etc. in the mornings, and (usually) on alternate Sundays. In Grayshott, I preached on 24 occasions and led 22 services. The pattern of taking evensong on the first and third Sundays has continued into 2023, though other commitments and events have meant that I have not always been able to take all these services in 2024. In addition to these I have led 16 services and preached 15 times in the churches in the Milland etc. benefice – mostly at Milland.

During 2024 I have also taken over the responsibility of being Spiritual Director to our Youth Worker Rhys McLaren, meeting with him on a

weekly basis as far as possible, and latterly combining this with attending his 'Tea and Toast' sessions from 3.30 – 5.00 on Wednesdays. I would like to start a post-Alpha study group (open to all, not just Alpha candidates) looking at some challenging aspects of the faith, and if there is a demand, to run a beginner's group in New Testament Greek (or I may just coach Rhys in some as he missed out on it at Ridley Hall). I have done CPD with the LLMs Theological Study group on all the occasions I have been able to attend, and using some courses provided by the Diocese of Chichester.

SUSIE MILLARD

My big news is that I have completed (and passed!!) my MA in Theology, Imagination and Culture!

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 above.

Within church, my main focus is preaching and leading at the 10.30 service, both contemporary worship and Family Services, and occasionally at the 08.30 service.

We had a well-attended Nativity service, followed on Christmas Eve by the new Family Candle Service. On Palm Sunday we had a fun Palm Sunday service with an interactive travelling story around the churchyard, crafts and activities - although sadly Mr Moon the donkey had hoof-rot and was not able to join us for his starring role. Thanks to all those who helped. These 'one-off' services are aimed for families with school age children. The Christmas services and the Palm Sunday

service fall at the end of the Autumn and Spring term, so I am hoping to develop a themed service to coincide with the end of the summer term this year, to complete the year.

An exciting development in our outreach to families is Hilary's initiative to trial a short family service called WAFFL, at 4pm on Sundays, which we will lead together. This will be 'café-style', seated around tables in church, and will aim to help families explore, worship and pray together while enjoying drinks and cake. Helpers needed!

I am helping to support Rhys, our Youth worker, with his initiatives as needed, particularly with Revival on Wednesday evenings.

I have also enjoyed working with the Grayshott scout group on their faith badges, their involvement in Remembrance Day and their St George's Day celebrations.

A big 'thank you' to all who have helped with various unusual and practical tasks in our family services. More to come!

My employment as the Prayer and Comms Lead for Military Ministries International has been very busy over this last year, for obvious reasons. Thank you to St Luke's prayer groups and individuals who have supported in prayer.

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

Just before leaving St Luke's Dan Bennett (then our Youth Worker) was able to run the 2023 Summer Holiday Club. The club took place at St Edmunds School indoor sports centre and grounds, which was appropriate, as the theme was 'The Olympics'. The children enjoyed stories, drama, worship and craft as well as outside activities – especially popular was the Treasure Hunt around the grounds. On the final afternoon a 'mini Olympics' team competition was held, with age-appropriate activities needing good teamwork to succeed. Thanks to all those who helped in so many ways, and to Jeremy Hassell and the staff at St Edmunds school.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Having restarted the men's breakfast group in February 2024 we have had three sessions which have all been particularly successful. It is very early in its re-establishment but we have seen good numbers and my estimate is that we have raised around £90 so far for the youth work through this.

OUTWARD GIVING – REV. JEREMY HASWELL

Each year it is our policy to tithe the giving to the church, and give it to a variety of organisations, as our contribution to the wider work of God. In the year ending December 2023, we were blessed to be able to disburse a sum of £12,855.

In the light of the challenges to our financial position in year, we took the decision that we would fulfil the principle in Malachi 4 of not forgetting to give, for in doing so we are giving to God. The promise is that God who sees these acts of faith and sacrifice will open the windows of heaven and provide our needs. One of the principles we

also applied was that we would not make our need the guiding principle, but obedience to God.

The principles used to choose these recipients are that they should be varied by geography, usually have someone in the congregation who has a link with them, and that they are meeting real needs with the potential to help people out of the work.

The organisations who have benefited from this help are:

- School for the Handicapped, Ibadan, Nigeria
- Testimony of Faith Homes, Kenya
- Harriet Memorial Fund for Teacher & Nurse Training in Yei, South Sudan
- Acorn Christian Healing Foundation
- Great Commission Trust, Kenya
- Elam Ministries
- Dohnavur Fellowship, India
- World Vision (child sponsored by Sunday school)

Although we have supported St Mark's Bordon in the past, they had received help from other sources so we divided that pot to other existing recipients.

OUTREACH TO THE VILLAGE – CLAIRE HASWELL

GENERAL

The vicar of a parish, when installed, is charged with what is called: The 'Cure of souls' in your parish, this means care and pastoral responsibility for anybody in the parish, irrespective of their church attendance or allegiance.

Defined as *‘The comprehensive ministry of pastoral care: administration of the sacraments, especially the more frequent confession and Holy Communion, sacramental, liturgy and prayer, preaching, teaching, moral counsel, and works of charity.’*

In a sense, all our ‘outreach’ is any part of this ministry that is outward looking. The Cure of Souls, is the gospel of Jesus, and introducing people to Jesus. We recognise that this can take time to establish and grow, so growing confidence and relationships is essential. This is the basis of our outreach to the village. It is holistic, spiritual and practical.

BUSINESSES

We have had connections with many people and businesses who have appreciated the care and support of the church family. For example, being asked to pray for the success of a new business, Or to listen to somebody who is struggling with life, their business, their future. We are here for everybody.

The strategy with the businesses is to be known by the owners and staff and they are visited on a regular basis as the Spirit leads. Over the years I believe we have gained their confidence so that now people will talk about their lives and their faith/ life stories, and also be given the opportunity to pray for them.

NEWCOMERS OUTREACH TEA

We have done 2 of these, both greatly appreciated and has led to conversation, coffee, and a sense of belonging. As reported by numbers of guests who we have forged relationships with.

ALPHA

It takes time... One woman on our latest alpha course I met 7 years ago pushing her buggy on the punchbowl. At a recent conference on church growth Nicky Gumbel said it takes approximately 9 alpha courses to establish the culture of invitation and to establish the teams and infrastructure to sustain growth.

We have been very encouraged by the development of the last course. The group has continued to meet weekly since.

THE MEDICAL HUB

We had a table at the recent event put on by the surgery. There were many conversations both with people we knew and people we didn't.

GRAYSHOTT CONCERTS

Jeremy and I and the Church Wardens are regular attendees of the concerts engaging with the Grayshott concert team, other concert goers and performers ensuring that the church is not just seen as 'a venue'.

This contributed to the friend's concert making a substantial contribution to our funds.

MAY DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK FETE.

We have been offered a table by the parish council. Again enabling conversation and invitation.

MAY ST LUKE'S FESTIVAL

Another opportunity to engage with the village and welcome newcomers over the threshold.

SUPERHEROES

The group continues to support many families with SEN children. With presence by me, Ann, sometimes Jeremy

TEAS

Engaging with attendees. Planning Invitation to recently bereaved to come to Tuesday once a month. Jeremy has been invited to speak to Helene's Women's Group tea.

OASIS

Continues to be a blessing to those who attend, including some teenagers in the holiday season. Where they love the connection with older people, and learn skills with crafts, knitting and crochet. Thanks to Alice M for her faithfulness in running this.

TUESDAY LUNCHES – ANNE GALE-JONES

Each lunch consists of a jacket potato and salad. Each week an accompaniment of ham and coleslaw, sausages and tune mayonnaise are also served. Cheese and baked beans are always available, as is fruit, tea and coffee.

Most weeks we have an average of 10-14 people. A donation bowl is displayed for donations to contribute towards the food which is served at 12:30pm.

GRAYSHOTT COMMUNITY LUNCH – ANGELA HAINE

This remarkable organisation is now officially to be called Grayshott Community Lunch – a recent Annual General Meeting decision.

We meet every Thursday in Timothy Room at St Luke’s Church. We have a small group of people who arrive by bus at about 10:30 for social activities – chiefly coffee and a chat, though there are a couple of enthusiastic domino players. Everyone else comes for lunch at about 12 noon. The two groups together produce a membership of about between 18 and 22 people and often includes Jeremy and Claire. The food is freshly cooked on the premises and to a very high standard.

One of our greatest strengths is that apart from Caroline Hall, who cleans the kitchen and the bathrooms, we are totally run by volunteers. It is great fun, and gives a lot of happiness to a lot of people.

Despite various humps in the road, next year we will have been functioning for 40 years, which I think you will agree is an incredible achievement, and one for which we are justly proud.

GRAYSHOTT BELL RINGERS – STU AITKIN

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

We have managed to keep the bells ringing on two Thursdays a month, on the 4th Thursday the ringers from Binsted hold their practice at Grayshott, and on the 2nd Thursday I have been organising ringing by

inviting other ringers from the southern end of the Diocese. In this way, we keep the village used to at least some bell ringing.

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

We have had 6 visiting bands in the last 12 months (about normal), some on a Saturday morning and some on a weekday.

The bells themselves are generally in good order, and no specific maintenance is planned for the next 12 months.

There are 8 ringing bells at Grayshott, and we have four spare ropes (each rope is a different length and fits a specific bell), which means we have no ready-made replacements for the other four bells, but we don't anticipate the need to purchase ropes this year. This is something that should be considered in 2025.

For the future, we believe we will be in a position after the Summer break, to start a recruitment campaign to look for new people willing to learn. I have had offers of help to assist teaching. Meanwhile we will keep the bells ringing some Thursday evenings and for Weddings, with a hope that activities will pick up later in the year.

AOB