



PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LUKE
HOLMES CHAPEL

Come to Christ, love to learn, learn to love!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 14th May 2023 Report for 2022

INTRODUCTION

Under the Church Representation Rules (2020), every parish must hold an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) before the 31st of May each year. Last year, our APCM and the Annual Meeting to elect Churchwardens (AMP) was held in Church on Sunday 8th May 2022 from 10.30 am.

For the APCM, the PCC must provide a report which has to include information about the Church Electoral Roll, details of proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and parish activities generally, information about Church fabric, goods and ornaments, details of proceedings of the Deanery Synod, and a statement about compliance with Safeguarding. This document forms the required Annual Report for the past calendar year: 2022, however, some individual sections may also include information about activities since the last APCM on 8th May 2022. Advance copies of the Annual Report are available on our website (<https://stlukesholmeschapel.uk>) and in the church porch from 7th May 2023.

The PCC also must provide for the APCM independently examined financial statements for the calendar year 2022. Copies of a summary of these financial statements are available on our website and in the church porch from 7th May 2023. Copies of the full financial statements are available on request from the Hon. Treasurer, Trevor Jenkins (HC 535897)

VICAR'S REPORT

My third full year in Holmes Chapel has been a time of slowly seeing the proper rhythms of church life return and starting to see more of the fruit we would expect from a church committed to the Bible and prayer, the fellowship of God's people, the community of Holmes Chapel & Cranage, and the joy of being the people the Lord has called us to be.

Busy services (with good numbers of people) at Christmas and Easter have been a particular encouragement this year. Also, the steady growth of our Genesis and Exodus children's and youth work, and the numbers of newcomers who have joined us (meaning that the sad loss of people to death, infirmity, and moving away, has been balanced by the arrival of newcomers). As we look to a growing future beyond the shadow of the Covid Pandemic restrictions, the PCC will assess our pattern of services and revisit our holy communion practice.

It has been a good year of investment in our buildings, helping them to be fit for the 21st Century. Thanks mainly to a generous donor, we have refurbished our church hall and provided new chairs (plus a special mention to Mike and Trevor for their hard work on our behalf). The Church Lighting Project was completed (with only £5,000 still to be raised) and we are hoping to complete an update to our AV system (incl. cameras for livestreaming weddings and funerals) by the end of the year. As we complete these special projects, it is timely to focus on our regular giving, in order to seek to cover all of the costs of God's work here and to further grow our giving toward Christian missions at Barnabus and Brinnington, and abroad through sister churches in Salta, NW Argentina, and agencies such as TearFund, Christian Aid and Barnabas Aid.

It has been good to improve opportunities for fellowship, with the restart of occasions like a Harvest Supper, Coffee & Croissants, Men's Events, and Bring & Share lunches. We have made the most of several large-scale community events in the centre of the village (like the Platinum Jubilee Beacon, the Christmas Markets, and Coronation Big Lunch) to welcome people into our buildings. Knitted Bible is planned again in October 2023. And I pray that we may, by God's grace, grow in our love of the Lord Jesus, and grow in our zeal to serve in his church and to spread his good news for all.

Yours in Christ,

Rob

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2023 REVISION -

St Luke's Church Electoral Roll is the register of those members entitled to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM – this year on Sunday 14th May 2023). The current Roll was established in April 2019 for the period 2019-2025 but is revised each year for the PCC, ready for the APCM.

The 2023 revision took place between the 16th and 28th of April. The revised Roll is being published from Sunday, April 30th as a list of names on the noticeboard in the Church porch and on the website for information and checking. No address or email details are now permitted in the published Roll.

Following the 2023 revision, there are now 222 members on St Luke's Church Electoral Roll, after five additions and six deletions.

Steve Smith - Electoral Roll Officer

FABRIC GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

Our Grade I listed **church building, the church goods and ornaments** are in reasonable condition, given their general age and the required Quinquennial Inspection, annual maintenance checks, and tests have been carried out.

The two **heating boilers** were replaced and are now working well after some initial problems, thank you to Mike Street and Trevor Jenkins for resolving the issues.

The project to install **LED lighting** has been completed and will significantly reduce our energy consumption, ongoing maintenance, and safety issues; thank you to Alastair Cragg for overseeing this project.

The **Church Hall** was substantially refurbished following a very generous donation and **Pew cushions** were purchased with donations from the congregation.

Clive Nash Landscapes, continue to maintain the main **churchyard**, the border outside the church hall, and the **Knutsford Road churchyard** to a high standard with volunteers weeding and tidying the area around the cremated remains three times a year.

Jayne Weaver - Churchwarden

Peter Cotton, Yvonne Janvier, Charlotte Webb - Assistant Churchwardens

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS

Covid restrictions were finally lifted at the beginning of 2022; thank you to the **warden's team** of Peter Cotton, Yvonne Janvier, Charlotte Webb, and Pat Pye, and Geoff Bond for all their assistance in running the church services.

Thank you to our loyal team of **Sidesmen** who provide a warm welcome and support during all our services and we remember with thanks the devoted service of John Jack and Kevin Fryer.

Mike Street, Trevor Jenkins, and Steve Smith do much work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running and upkeep of St Luke's, we are thankful for their commitment and expertise.

We are also grateful to the **Church Hall Committee** for all the work they do to ensure that the Hall runs so effectively.

Thank you to everybody who gives their time, knowledge, and enthusiasm to make St Luke's an active and caring Church within our local community.

Jayne Weaver - Churchwarden

Peter Cotton, Yvonne Janvier, Charlotte Webb - Assistant Churchwardens

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Since formally taking up the role of Safeguarding Officer in January, I have developed a spreadsheet to monitor and manage training requirements. Training is a requirement for all PCC members as directed by the Diocese. The PCC Membership is aware of the training obligations, and I continue to monitor compliance and progress.

There have not been any safeguarding issues reported to me since taking up my role.

Allan Whiston - Safeguarding Officer for St Luke's

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council proceedings – In 2022/23 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Church Hulme met six times to conduct general business and financial matters in support of the Vicar and Churchwardens. During this business, the Council received and discussed reports from the

Churchwardens, Treasurer, Deanery Synod representatives, and other Church officials on a variety of issues, including those summarised in the Fabric Goods and Ornaments and Churchwardens' Reports above.

At the end of December 2022, the Council had 19 members and council meetings were chaired by the Vicar, Canon Rob McLaren. Agendas and Minutes of meetings have been published on the PCC page of the church website (<https://stlukesholmeschapel.uk>) and a paper copy can be supplied on request to the Secretary.

Annual Parish Meetings –The Annual Meeting to elect Churchwardens for 2023/24 and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect lay representatives to the PCC and conduct other business, are being held from 10.30 am on Sunday 14th May 2023, along with a short service of Morning Worship.

Janet Chettle – Hon. Secretary, St Luke's PCC

DEANERY SYNOD

During 2022, Congleton Deanery Synod resumed its trice yearly face-to-face meetings with the first two taking place on Tuesday, 22nd February at St Mary Magdalene's in Alsager and the second on Wednesday 8th June at St Bertoline's in Barthomley, both chaired by Acting Rural Dean, Canon Robert McLaren.

At the February meeting, Canon David Page thanked retiring Lay Chair, Bill Ball, for his many years of sterling service to Congleton Deanery and welcomed Kath Cliff of St Peter's in Elworth as his successor before Rev Rob McLaren outlined Diocesan plans for smaller meetings for senior staff, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Arch at Chester Cathedral and Eco Church.

A light June evening found us at the rural idyll of Barthomley, where its rector, Rev Peter Ennion led a simple order of evening prayer, we learned that Rev Heather Buckley was retiring from Goostrey Parish to the Wirral and that Congleton Parish had initiated a Carer and Toddlers' group and café based sessions to help people think and talk about bereavement.

The third meeting shared with Nantwich Deanery, entitled 'Everyday Faith', was organised by the Diocese and took place on Wednesday, 14th September in Elworth Church Hall, where we considered how our local church could encourage its worshippers to live out their faith in everyday life.

Long-serving treasurer, Albert Crew, presented accounts in February and June showing that the deanery remains in a healthy financial position, and we welcomed our new Rural Dean, Rev Ian Enticott, Rector of All Saints, Congleton in June 2022

Barbara Smith, William Hall, Lee Hardy and Tim Fryer - Deanery Synod Representatives

TREASURER'S REPORT

As the treasurer of St. Luke's Church in Holmes Chapel, I am pleased to present the financial report for the year 2022 which was a successful year for the church. Whilst income

of £174,287 was exceeded by expenditure of £221,626, the deficit was due mainly to the completion of the lighting project for which funds had been accumulated in previous years.

The response to appeals to improve facilities in the church and to increase planned giving to meet the increasing costs of our day-to-day spending were well supported. A generous donation towards the refurbishment of the Church Hall was another major highlight. The introduction of digital giving has proved successful and will become increasingly important in the years ahead.

During 2022 the church also contributed to various charitable causes, both locally and internationally.

Overall, the financial status of St. Luke's remains healthy, and we look forward to continuing our efforts in serving the community in the coming years.

Trevor Jenkins – Hon. Treasurer, St Luke's PCC

CHURCH HALL .

2022 saw the first-year post covid when the Church Hall was able to return to almost normal usage. Occupation of the Hall increased throughout the year and almost reached pre-covid levels. Costs have increased due to inflation and the usage charge was reviewed accordingly.

A number of improvements were made which included a complete redecoration alongside new doors, windows, and blinds and also a gas boiler to improve the hot water provision. Members of the committee have worked very hard to ensure the Hall was available for use by the Church community and beyond.

We are looking forward to further improvements to the amenities we provide and the Hall being in even greater use.

Derek Copley - Chair Hall Management Committee.

THURSDAY MORNING COFFEE

The weekly coffee mornings in the Church Hall on Thursdays had to relocate for part of the year due to the Church Hall renovations. During this time, we were fortunate to be able to use the Red Lion and we are very grateful to them for this. However, we are now back in the Church Hall, and it is well attended.

Music has been provided some weeks by a group of volunteers which is much appreciated by those attending the coffee mornings.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their help. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact either Anne or Sue.

Anne Lane and Sue Shorrock

CHURCH GROUPS

GROUPS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

It has been a harder year for Growth Groups, as people have caught up with their busy lives. Our Tuesday Zoom group now has 3 members and meets monthly. Tim's Monday group has met in person at least once a month (otherwise on Zoom). Rob's Monday group has grown in membership and enjoys studying the previous Sunday's Bible teaching theme and building one another up through prayer and sharing. Rob's Sunday E-100 group continues to be a good place to ask all sorts of questions. We hope to start another group as new people join the church and to consider a Hope Explored Course for interested contacts.

A note from our Vicar, Canon Rob McLaren

BELL RINGING

Fortunately, we can now ring normally with all restrictions lifted, but unfortunately due to a depletion in numbers, we have not been able to muster enough ringers to ring every Sunday morning.

We were able to join the national ringing for the two major events of 2022, the Queen's jubilee and then the passing of our Queen.

Some new recruits are currently learning to ring but more would be very welcome.

Mervyn Harrison - Tower Captain

FLORISTRY - ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers have continued to be arranged by volunteers. We have been able to celebrate Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, and Easter with more floral arrangements.

The flower rota for the Altar flowers is now in the porch for volunteers to sign up for a two-week slot. No special flower-arranging skills are needed, and new people are very welcome.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped with the Altar flowers and for the main festivals.

Anne Lane

GENESIS – SUNDAY SCHOOL

Genesis has continued to meet each Sunday morning from 10 am and our numbers have grown to 18 children aged 2-12 years. Genesis has enjoyed contributing to family services at harvest, Christmas, and Mothering Sunday and sharing their weekly learning with the congregation during 'Show and Tell'. Outside Church services, Genesis has coordinated the harvest giving to the 'Storehouse Food Bank at the New Life Church in Congleton, the gifting of over 100 boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and the organisation of activities for families visiting St Lukes at the Christmas markets where approximately over 600 people attended. Genesis continues to look out for and pray for the children in their care and their families.

Fiona Pullé - on behalf of Genesis

EXODUS

Exodus for 11s-15s has continued to grow in numbers, averaging 8 people each week, from a list of 10 members and we now meet mainly in the church hall every Tuesday evening. We support spiritual growth through Bible study, prayer, and discussion, and within our sessions, we enjoy quizzing, playing games, and learning about the bible together. We have also completed a few twilight walks this year as a way of continuing to grow friendships and bonds within our group. Three of the members were confirmed this year and we are looking forward to another year of growing in faith together in a safe and welcoming environment. We welcomed Steve Waltho as a third leader and ask you to pray for us as we wonder how to work with the post-GCSE age group.

Rob McLaren, Rachel Copley. Steve Waltho

MOTHERS' UNION

.Mothers' Union Report for APCM 2023

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian organisation of 4 million members whose aim is to help families around the world.

Here at St Luke's, we are successfully run by a committee and have 26 members who now meet together on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and this is working well.

We aim to help families in our own diocese in as many ways as possible

- Some members help in the baby changing tent at the Cheshire Show each June
- Others knit premature baby items for the Neo-natal department at Leighton Hospital

We are a charitable organisation and also raise money for our National and Overseas MU charities through collection boxes and our annual Strawberry Supper in June. We sell books and usually have cake stalls to raise money for Away From It All holidays for families who cannot afford a holiday.

Carole Elliott and Dorothy Wood - Branch Secretary and Treasurer

MUSIC

Music at regular services has developed with the St Luke's Singers, a group of 7, joined once a month by additional singers as an All-Comers Choir, Stephen Haigh and Peter Cotton assisting with the organ, and guitar and drums added to accompaniment of some songs.

We are grateful to Alan Rickards for the provision of a music cabinet in memory of his late wife Jacquie.

At the village Christmas Market, we provided a programme of music in church whilst people were visiting and in March, we restarted recitals in church after each of the Lent lunches.

The St. Luke's Community Choir continued to meet weekly with a membership of approx. 30.

Thank you to all those who contribute to the music at St Luke's.

Wendy Macdonald - Director of Music

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee consists of 6 members, who serve the membership of the whole congregation.

During the year we provide refreshments and Hot Cross buns to the whole congregation from the three village Churches who attended the Ecumenical Service on Good Friday.

We contribute and serve food and drink to support the Music event at Church in April.

We have a Harvest Supper in October and serve mulled wine and mince pies after the Christmas Carol Service in December.

We are trying to vary and provide more social activities throughout the year and all monies raised are donated to Church funds.

Carole Elliott - on behalf of the Social Committee

ECUMENICAL GROUPS

CHRISTIAN AID

Over the past year, Christian Aid Holmes Chapel has held two Quizzes, an Autumn Fair & Christmas Card Sale, Friday soup lunches during Lent, a Christian Aid service, and bucket collections during Christian Aid Week. Because of the popularity of our Quizzes, we have decided to hold two per year, one in January and one in May. Our first May quiz was last

year. Despite the fact that we have not had house-to-house collections because of Covid, through our events, street, and online collections, we raised £8,181 in the past year – a return to pre-Covid levels. We will be having street collections outside Tesco and Costa Coffee/Sainsbury's over Christian Aid Week (14th to 21st May) 2023. Unfortunately, Traidcraft has gone into administration, so it seems we will no longer have Fairtrade Christmas Cards or goods at our events. We plan to have bingo at our Autumn Fair because of this.

Margaret & Martin Thompson - Christian Aid Holmes Chapel

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Pulpit swaps were started again after the lockdown.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday followed a service in Church and hot cross buns.

We were involved with the village Platinum Jubilee celebrations, holding a service in the Leisure Centre and having a stand along with other village groups.

For Christmas, new crib figures were gifted by the Yarn Bombers, and we delivered 3,800 Christmas cards throughout the village, including the Bluebell estate.

We had a stall at the Village Christmas Fayre.

Pete Shackleton - Co-ordinator for St. Luke's

FOCUS

Focus is an ecumenical fellowship group, with no formal membership, which meets in the Methodist Church Hall between 8 and 10 pm on usually the second Friday evening of each month, although we also enjoy an annual dinner and a day's excursion during the year. Rev. Ian Enticott, of All Saints Congleton, initiated this year's programme with an inspiring presentation on the 'Changing Face of Mission' describing how the African Pastors' Fellowship equips locals to carry out mission in the rapidly expanding East African Church; followed the next month by John Clowes sharing a fascinating 'Photo Archive of Holmes Chapel' and the subsequent month by Peter Cotton giving a well-researched and informative presentation on 'Slavery in Cheshire'.

Then twenty four of us enjoyed a delicious evening meal at the George and Dragon; we followed Julian Bond on his journey from Calcutta to Bhutan, noting references to his family who once lived in Calcutta; then Jean McLaren shared 30 years of life in the vicarage, illustrated by a pot of coffee, a jam muffin and some welly boots and we observed the stunning photos and videos presented by Focus stalwarts, Stephen and Judith Coyne, leading us from the Royal Cities of Spain to the stunning architecture of Gaudi in Barcelona. We look forward to Stephen Haigh's inspiring lecture recital on the Mozart Piano Sonatas, an excursion to the extremely interesting Avro Heritage Museum at Woodford followed by lunch at Notcutts and an exposition on 'Unknown Kyrgyzstan' by well-travelled Anne Vaughan, plus programme planning for next session.

We thank God that our fellowship has continued to meet throughout the pandemic and look to Him for the future; David Carr for his meticulous handling of our accounts; Brian Donlon for his technical expertise; those who have supplied refreshments or attended meetings and welcome all who wish to join us - programmes may be obtained from the box on the Focus notice-board in St Luke's Church Hall or you may contact Barbara Smith on 537301 or at barbara.smith47@hotmail.com for further details.

Barbara Smith – Group Secretary

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Comms Team - The Comms Team (Trevor Jenkins, Alan Rickards and Steve Smith, in conjunction with our vicar Rob) coordinates communications within the parish, choosing the most appropriate medium (paper, on-line and/or email) depending on the content and urgency of the information about parish activities and news. Our aim is to make best use of our different publication media to communicate with the widest number of Church members in a timely manner, recognising that not everyone wants (or can cope with) on-line information.

Please be sure to send important notices or proposed publications when they are ready by email to media@stlkhc.uk rather to an individual Comms Team member. That way the whole Team receives the information at the same time. Alternatively, you can leave a brief phone message on HC 571872.

Parish Magazine – The Magazine has continued to enjoy a loyal following but had begun to run at a loss and so it was decided to increase the cover price to 60p, having remained at 50p for the past 15 years. Individual copies can be bought from the back of the church or the Print Room, and the Magazine can also be delivered each month to subscribers living in Holmes Chapel or Cranage at no extra cost. The annual subscription remains at £6; please contact Sue Wood or Alan Rickards to set one up.

Sourcing original material during the summer months and across the New Year is always difficult. Therefore, in common with many other church magazines, we will be producing a single edition for July/August and also for December/January.

Finally, thanks are due to David at the Print Room for his excellent service, Sue Wood and her team of distributors, all the contributors, but especially you, our readers, who buy the magazine making all our efforts worthwhile.

Facebook – Our Facebook page ([stlukesholmeschapel](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesholmeschapel)), includes summary details of services, daily bible readings and news from St Luke's, and continues to be widely viewed. If you use Facebook, then please be sure to follow our page!

In 2022 the number of people following our page increased from just below 400 to 435, of which 75% are women and 418 live in the UK. Drilling deeper into the statistics, our page is followed by people outside the UK (six in the USA, two each in Australia, Gibraltar, and Spain, and one each in India, Ireland, Kenya, Pakistan, and the Philippines!).

Alan Rickards – Magazine Editor and Facebook Page Administrator

Church Websites – Our main website (now accessible from the short name of *stlkhc.uk* or *stlukeschurch.uk*, as well as *stlukesholmeschapel.uk*) continues to be updated at least weekly with current information about church services, meetings, church notices, daily bible readings, and an increasing number of images etc.

In 2022, daily visits and page views to the site remained at similar levels to those in 2021 with website users predominantly from the UK, as might be expected. Some restructuring of page layout and menu headings took place during 2022 to make the site easier to view on smart phones and tablets as well as on laptops and PCs. This is continuing during 2023 with a new donations page recently included to make online giving easier to support St Luke's general expenditure and special appeals.

Steve Smith and Trevor Jenkins – Web and Comms Admin Team

A Church Near You - This website is managed by the Church of England to allow people not yet connected to a church to find details of CofE churches in their area. The Comms Team updates St Luke's basic information on this site regularly with a list of services which are also on our main website.

Link Sheet - The occasional printed Link Sheet, reintroduced after the pandemic in 2021 continues to be given to everyone attending church services and Genesis. It is compiled by Rob with a short introduction and headline material about parish activities and some key contact details. The Link is also available on the church website for those unable to attend services in person.

Church e-Mails There are now 161 email addresses in the secure Church database enabling us to reach around 180 individual Church members. The Comms Team sends out occasional emails to all these addresses with important updates and notices. The messages are sent on a blind copy basis so that individual addresses are not communicated to others.
