



ST LUKE'S KENTISH TOWN

2022 Annual Report



VISION

**ST LUKE'S VISION
IS TO BE
A COMMUNITY CENTRED ON JESUS,
TRANSFORMING NORTH LONDON
ONE LIFE AT A TIME.**

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LEADERS' REPORTS

VICAR'S REPORT

Jon March / Vicar

For many of us, 2022 saw a return to some resemblance of normality after two years of incredible challenge and change. We began the year under the shadow of the Covid Omicron variant and, as the year went on, while there were still the remnants of the behaviours that we all got used to during the pandemic, the world was opening up again. It was no different for us at St Luke's.

As a church, the question we continued to think about was whether we would emerge from the pandemic returning to a pre-pandemic life, or whether we were going to do anything differently as a result of what we had all experienced.

In 2021, we felt like the Lord was calling us to a "Noah's Ark" season, a season where all of us could gather again under one roof. Where before we had two services, we now had one. Where before our children's work was held off-site, it was now on-site. We ended that year doing nothing more than gathering to worship on Sundays and praying together once a month.

Building on those foundations of worship and community we wanted to take a journey as a church into deeper discipleship beginning with Alpha. For us, Alpha is where we learn the core tenets of what we believe but also, in Alpha, we learn how we are to be with one another. The small group values create a space where anyone can come with any question and where we learn to be comfortable with disagreement.

In addition, during this time, we prayed daily throughout Lent, which coincided with the emerging crisis in Ukraine.

As the year went on, we were beginning to deepen the wells of worship and discipleship.



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

[Hebrews 12:1-2a]

As St Luke's, we need to run the race marked out for us - together running a race that He has prepared for us to run.

The writer to the Hebrews uses this image of our faith being like that of running a race. Paul picks up this image too in his letter to the Philippians. So often we make passages like this about ourselves individually but this applies to us as a church community too. As St Luke's, we need to run the race marked out for us - together running a race that He has prepared for us to run.

But as we come to the end of 2022, I am left with the question that I posed to us in October, are we race ready?

In 2023 we will be taking time to seek the Lord together as a church as to what race He has marked out for us but until then, we need to get race ready.

One of the things we have felt called to do and have invested in, is planting new churches and worshipping communities. Our curates, Lizzie Osborne and Lara Edwards are here at St Luke's so they can plant out from us. As we know, planting new worshipping communities takes a lot of resources, so we need to be prepared. We need to be race ready.

We may see an athlete run a race for a matter of minutes or even seconds but what we rarely see is the hours upon hours of foundational work and discipline that enables them to run that race. An athlete needs to be prepared.

So, we are committing to making sure we are ready, investing in the foundational work of worship and prayer, Sunday gatherings, discipleship and making sure our operations are working well.

On our Monthly Day of Prayer and Fasting we now set aside three hours for worship in our Kingdom Come evenings and we pray weekly together on Zoom. Sunday gatherings are often people's first experience of our church, so we are committed to making Sundays a place where people gather, worship and grow. Excitingly, we launched a new evening service in October.

While recognising the challenges of shaping and creating discipleship spaces in London, we are committed to seeing growth in this foundational work, beginning with Alpha and continuing with our newly launched Streams. But this isn't just for the adults among us: our children and youth work is growing too.

It is tempting to take it for granted but in a climate where children's engagement with Christianity in the UK is on the decline, we have a significant responsibility to nurture our young people in their faith. Many of us owe our faith to those who invested in us when we were still young. That is why I am so glad that we welcomed Eguolo Omonigho to join the staff team this year as our Children and Families' Ministry Lead to help us all do that.



In July, Anya Bannikova completed her degree with Ridley Hall in Applied Theology and Youth Work. In September, Anya joined the staff team of Young Life International, a charity that seeks to share the good news of Jesus with young people outside of the church. As a Young Life Staff member, Anya is actively exploring opportunities in local schools and in the community to share Jesus with young people, as well as continuing to oversee and develop youth work at St Luke's. We are delighted that Anya is still around investing in our young people and really excited to see how the outreach work grows and develops.



Finally, we need to be operationally ready. We are working hard to make sure that we have the staff we need and the physical and financial resources to run the race He calls us to. Naturally we now face a real challenge as to how to house the work we are doing on Sundays with our young people. We would appreciate your prayers as we navigate this in 2023.

The truth is that as a nation, we are facing incredible economic challenges and throughout the second half of 2022 we were seeing this reflected in the finances at St Luke's. It is a challenge. However, God's economy is different from ours and while we want to be prudent and good stewards, we believe in the God in whose hands the whole earth is held.

Thank you for playing your part in making St Luke's what it is, giving of your time, finances, support, prayers and love. I particularly want to acknowledge the amazing staff team and lay leaders who give so much behind the scenes to lead and serve us all. Esther Lau, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, has led us masterfully and in large part to her excellent and diligent work we have now attained Level 3 on the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Dashboard; which is the tool the Church of England uses to assess each parish's compliance and delivery in safeguarding culture.

I also want to take this opportunity to express our collective gratitude for all that our churchwardens, Bethan Sadler and Simon Court, have given our church over the years. Bethan stepped down in April and Simon will be stepping down at the next APCM. They have been incredible servants and prayerful leaders during these remarkably challenging times. Their leadership, support and wisdom has served me in ways I could not have done without. We are so grateful.

In the next year, together we will seek what He has called us to for the next season of our church's life. Until then, may we be ready for that race - each playing our part, prayerfully prepared for all He has for us in 2023.



CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Si Court / Churchwarden

After nearly two years of pandemic restrictions, 2022 was supposed to be the year we went back to “normal life”. Instead we seem to have entered a new era of permanent political, economic, social and environmental scandal and crisis. With our government in constant turmoil, war in Europe and a cost of living crisis meaning millions of people facing poverty, 2022 was another bleak year for so many of us.

However, it was also a year where we can look back on God's obvious yearning for something more for us as a congregation and community at St Luke's Kentish Town and that in the turbulence, He is always good, loving and enough. We have seen discipleship and worship deepening and what I believe to be a desire to re-discover our true identities in Jesus.

We live in a part of London where the prevailing culture says in order to be authentic you must give over authority to your inner feelings and express them to find “your true self”. However, I believe that as we invest in discipleship and worship at St Luke's, we will experience what CS Lewis describes, “the more we get what we now call ‘ourselves’ out of the way and let Him (Jesus) take us over, the more truly ourselves we become”. The call on our lives as Christians is not a call to be true to yourself, but a call to deny yourself (Matt 16:24-26).

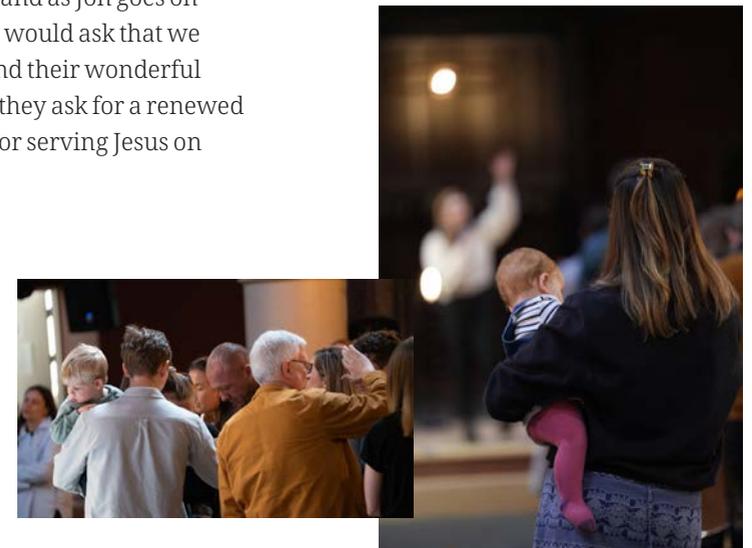


As we embrace this I think St Luke's will increasingly become a community which is an antidote to the struggles of 2022 and offers something compelling to our neighbours. Caitlin (my 2 year old) loves the worship song we often sing on Sunday morning, “City on a hill”. I pray that we would be a church that is a city on a hill that shines not with our own perfection, but Jesus', and would draw people ever closer to Him.

I am so grateful for all of our staff team in leading us in this way. There is a huge cost to leading a church in a post-Christian world and as we celebrated our 10th birthday in 2022, I particularly want to recognise Jon and Sus March. The sacrifice and cost of leading St Luke's over the past ten years cannot be underestimated and as Jon goes on sabbatical in 2023 I would ask that we would hold them and their wonderful family in prayer as they ask for a renewed vision and energy for serving Jesus on Jon's return.

And finally, I want to thank our amazing congregation for all you have given, of your time, money and selves to serve the church. This is a generous community and it has been a privilege to have been the Church Warden and represent it. I am reminded of Dane C. Ortlund's words in his book Gentle and Lowly, “*our moments of feeling utterly overwhelmed by life are where God's heart lives. Our most haunted pockets of failure and regret are where his heart is drawn most unswervingly*”. I pray that we would know that truth in 2023.

Psalm 63, “I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.”





ST LUKE'S MINISTRIES

SUNDAYS

MORNING SERVICE

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

The Sunday morning service has continued to be a place of life and energy. Over 2022 average attendance in the morning was just over 100 people. Around a third of which are under 18, and we are enjoying gathering together at the start of the service to worship together.

In January, we celebrated St Luke's 10th Birthday, it was an all age service full of thanksgiving, celebration and fun. The artwork created at the event is hung in our offices as a reminder that it is not the building but the people who make St Luke's.

"Attendance in the morning was just over 100 people. Around a third of which are under 18"



Over the course of this year, we have had the joy of baptising three adults and seven infants as part of the morning service. The adult baptisms particularly, were services of great joy and celebration.

Over the last year we looked at...

- Ephesians
- How People Encounter the Spirit in Acts
- The Parables of Jesus
- Discipleship - a series to coincide with the launch of Streams
- Foretold - looking at Old Testament Prophecies that point to Jesus

We also had the pleasure of being taught in the morning by guest speakers Bishop Graham Tomlin, Paul Cowley speaking on Alpha Sunday, Sam Wambayo the Executive Director of Kids Club Kampala and Jules Makosi from Chalk Farm Baptist Church.

EVENING SERVICE

Lara Edwards / Curate

In October 2022, after a year of meeting together as one morning service, we began our 5pm evening service. We felt there was room for growth particularly in young adults, students and young professionals. The vision for the evening service is one of equipping and encounter. Encountering God through extended worship and longer ministry times as well as a place to be equipped and sent out, back to your university, college, workplace or home, to share the good news of Jesus.

Since the service began we have seen a steady increase in the number of people attending, with a regular congregation of 30 to 40. Our hope is that this service will continue to grow as it becomes more established.



ALPHA

ALPHA

Lara Edwards / Curate

In January 2022, we started a spring term Alpha course like never before. It was an Alpha course for the whole church, running over three platforms, in person, over Zoom and live streamed from the Church building into groups meeting at people's homes. We did this across multiple platforms, running two simultaneous courses; the guest Alpha course with the traditional material and a homegrown Alpha Deeper course, with tailor made questions and content for those who would already consider themselves a follower of Jesus.

This was no easy task, to simultaneously serve 100 people, across three platforms with leaders, various technology requirements and two forms of content. It was all hands on deck for the staff team and volunteers with many doing multiple roles at once to make it happen.

“This was no easy task, to simultaneously serve 100 people, across three platforms”

Our hope was that by running an Alpha course for the whole church as well as guests, we would begin a journey into deeper discipleship and relationship after many months of Zoom church during Covid. Thank you to all those who attended and helped to make it happen.



In the Summer term of 2022, we ran another Alpha course but this time focusing on guests and using the traditional content. This group had a lot of fun and many made new commitments of faith and joined the church family.

In the Autumn term of 2022, we had 13 people join us on the Alpha journey and the table was led brilliantly by Matt Morley-Brown and Scott Tuohy. It was a fantastic group, with many discovering or rediscovering faith. Also, a huge thank you to Sophie and Barry Docherty-Breen for providing the food for the whole course!

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUTH

KID'S CHURCH AT ST LUKE'S Eguolo Omonigho / Children and Families' Ministry Lead

It's beautiful to see the number of kids coming to church. The weekly average is 30 and that doesn't even count the under twos. With that number set to increase and the need to better tailor our curriculum for different age groups, we have separated the juniors and the infants and given the juniors their own space. After Easter, a third marquee was put up as a crechè space for under twos with the service being live streamed. The need now is to separate the infants into two groups as we currently have two to seven year olds all in one space. A recent development is that we now have paving and a little flower bed in between two of the marquees, to create a safer place for

the kids to walk through and evidently less mud in the marquees!

The curriculum has been rich, the kids have been learning about the life of Jesus from his birth to his resurrection, the story then continued with a series on the book of Acts and then a series on prayer before the summer break. In the autumn term, we went right back to the beginning of the Bible, looking at the story of creation up until the life of Joseph, followed by exploring six of Jesus' "I am" statements in the lead up to Christmas. In the New Year, we will be starting a series on Moses. My heart for the kids at St Luke's is to know that God is always there, protecting, helping and guiding us through all the ups and downs of life.

The weekly average is 30 and that doesn't even count the under twos



We have had two Kids and Youth Takeovers, our first in June, where we looked at the Armour of God. The youth did the talk together, the juniors led a game and the kids helped with the actions. Our second service was in November where we looked at what it means to be part of the big family of God. The youth led the church in a game of human bingo, the kids helped with actions and played in the band and one of our young people preached. It was beautiful to see our kids and young people growing in their gifts and we hope for more of this in the coming year.



CRUMBS

Eguolo Omonigho / Children and Families' Ministry Lead

Crumbs, our toddler group, has been steadily growing, each week we see around 30 parents/carers bringing one to three kids with almost one new sign-up every week. We are also so grateful to have more volunteers helping to make Crumbs happen. With our budget we have bought a new soft play and craft table which has gone down a treat with the toddlers.

We have now started to share Bible stories which are linked to the craft activities. During the first half of the autumn term we looked at a different part of creation and then after half term we built up to the Christmas story. Next year, we will be looking at the miracles of Jesus.

SCHOOL VISITS

Eguolo Omonigho / Children and Families' Ministry Lead

In December, we had three classes from Brecknock Primary School come and visit the Church building to hear about the Christmas story. 90 pupils and their teachers came through the doors of St Luke's; Year 6 looked at the difference between Matthew's and Luke's accounts of the story, Year 5 looked at the prophecy of the wise men, and Year 2 looked at the journey of Christmas.

It was such a joy having them come to the church and I am looking forward to building the relationship with the school and pupils. The teachers want to come back at Easter for more sessions and I am hoping to make more connections with school visits in 2023.

90 pupils and their teachers came through the doors of St Luke's

THE BIG TREAT

Eguolo Omonigho / Children and Families' Ministry Lead

On Monday 31st October, we hosted our very first Big Treat Party for all the children and families in the area. We had hot dogs, hot chocolate, crafts, and glitter tattoos. We prepped enough for 100 people but thanks to our mass advertising and God's goodness at least 300 people came through our gates.

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YOUTH

Anya Bannikova/Youth Outreach Worker

In 2022, the Youth Ministry at St. Luke's has been through a fair bit of change.

We transitioned from online presence back into in-person fellowship. Our small group that was hosted via zoom came into the flesh, and now we gather at young people's houses to read the Scripture together. It's a pleasure to be hosted by young people and their families every week.

We also moved from the marquees back into the office space. This was partly to give the kids ministry more space and also because with the transition of year 6s from kids to youth we were outgrowing the space. We now have 11 young people who are part of Sunday Youth, most of which we see at least twice a month.

One thing that we are grateful for is the team, they have been such a blessing! Since the team was strong, it was able to navigate through all the changes with young people. Which is massive for the quality of ministry.

One highlight for our young people was going away in the springtime. We had a fun opportunity to take a few on a youth retreat to a place called "WITH", where we had the ability to leave the busy London life, and had the space to rest and be renewed! We are planning another weekend away for March 2023 so do be praying for our time together.

In September I changed my role to become St Luke's Youth Outreach Worker working for Young Life International. I am excited about new opportunities in local schools and the community to see how together with Young Life we can reach young people outside of our church with the love of Jesus. If you want to find out more about how you can be involved in this pioneering work please chat to me.



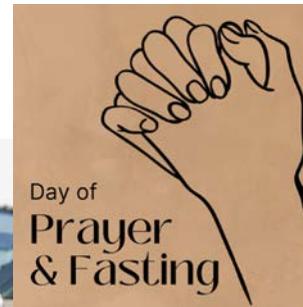
WORSHIP AND PRAYER

PRAYER

Lara Edwards / Curate

Day of Prayer and Fasting

We continued our commitment to prayer in 2022, with our Monthly Day of Prayer and Fasting. From January until July we prayed at 7am over Zoom and met together for a time of Worship at 7:30pm. In July, after Focus, we decided to change the monthly day to the first Thursday of each month and introduce Kingdom Come in the evening, three hours of continual worship.



Prayer Ministry Training

In September 2022 we recognised a need to help people grow in confidence in prayer ministry after so much time spent meeting online due to Covid. To encourage this we hosted a prayer ministry training night, seven people attended and had the chance to listen to the biblical teaching on prayer and practise what they had learned.

In May 2022 we had the privilege of hosting Steve Nicholson, the now retired pastor of Evanston Vineyard, and his wife Cindy for a week. Steve put on two training evenings for us, one on praying for healing and one on hearing from God. Both sessions were well attended with many stepping out in prayer ministry and the prophetic.



WORSHIP AND PRODUCTION

Jon Beagley / Production and
Worship Lead

During 2022 we continued to grow in the area of production. Our morning services continued to be streamed online, assuring those unable to join us in person did not miss out. Beyond this, we were able to use the recordings to share snippets of our talks on our social media platforms, with some videos reaching nearly 6,000 views. We streamlined both our visuals and sound systems, making it easier, more accessible to use and more serving to our church. We started using video as a great way to communicate different ministries within the church, this included the launch of our Evening Service, Streams and for our autumn vision.

**I believe we have seen our church
step more into the area of
worshipping and encountering God.**

Worship played a pivotal part in the life of St Luke's in 2022. The Worship Team met up twice a term to encourage and grow together in order to enrich the church's worshipping life. I believe we have seen our church step more into the area of worshipping and encountering God. This has been encouraged by our monthly worship night, Kingdom Come, which we changed from one hour to three in the autumn term. This has given us the chance to step into a time of more liberated and dedicated worship, meeting with Him and being transformed more into His likeness as we do. We have also been leaning more into the prophetic and Kingdom Come has fostered a safe space to explore this more.



TEACHING AND MINISTRY

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Lara Edwards / Curate

In November 2022, a group of St Luke's women got together to put on a women's breakfast, in the hope that it would kick start more events and gatherings for the women of St Luke's to support and encourage one another. 20 women attended and it was a beautiful time of sharing, worship and prayer. With special thanks to Jasmine King, Heulwen Philpot, Fleur Brading and Maggie Magner for organising the event.

OPP

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

In May 2022, we re-launched our Older People's Small Group. This had been on pause since the beginning of the pandemic. We gathered monthly on a Wednesday morning at the Church Building for an hour of coffee and conversation, finishing with sharing a song of worship together and praying for each other. This has been a small group of up to five older people but a time of honesty, friendship and support, which has been appreciated by all involved. It has been particularly beautiful to watch intergenerational relationships develop as many of our volunteers are mums

on maternity leave or on their day off so bring their babies and toddlers with them. We are excited that from February 2023 this group will now meet in the common room of Greenwood Sheltered Accommodation. Those who don't live in Greenwood will still be able to attend but we hope this will enable others from Greenwood to join.

EVERYDAY SUPERNATURAL

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

In the summer term, we ran the Everyday Supernatural Course from Soul Survivor in small groups. Six small groups met on either Tuesday or Wednesday evening in people's homes for 8 weeks across North London. The course enabled us to explore the ministry of the Holy Spirit including the gift of tongues, prophecy and healing. It was so encouraging to hear stories of physical healings and encouraging prophetic words as groups stepped out in faith and put the teaching into practice.

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ministry of the Holy Spirit including
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healing.**

STREAMS

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

In September we launched our new small group structure called Streams. Streams are where the work of following Jesus deepens at St Luke's, learning together to be with Jesus and become like Him. Each Stream explores a different area of discipleship from relationships to Biblical study, from deeper theology to the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Whilst each Stream explores a different theme, they share the same vision remembering our identity as **chosen** people, **challenged** to live out this identity more fully in order to be **changed** into the likeness of Jesus. Within each Stream are groups of 8-12 people who commit to meeting together in homes for 8-10 weeks across a term. In the autumn term we ran four Streams: Alpha, Relationships, Bible and Theology. Two groups met in the Relationship Stream, using the Loveology Small Group resource from John Mark Comer. The Bible Stream had three small groups digging into the book of Philippians, using Tom Wright's Paul for Everyone Study Guide. In the Theology Stream two small groups explored an overview of the Old Testament using St Paul's School of Theology resources. The feedback from these Streams was overwhelmingly positive and despite a slow start to

sign ups over 45 people ended up joining a Stream Small Group. We were encouraged that people really thought about whether they could commit to the group and as a result saw good consistency in attendance from those who did sign up.

remembering our identity as chosen people, challenged to live out this identity more fully in order to be changed into the likeness of Jesus



NEWCOMERS MEAL

Lara Edwards / Curate

In 2022 we hosted three Newcomers meals, welcoming over 25 people into the life of the Church. Each evening was a brilliant time of hearing one another's stories and sharing the journey of St Luke's so far.

DIG DEEPER

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

Dig Deeper continued into the first half of this year as Jon March and Dr Stephen Backhouse dug into the book of Ephesians to complement the Sunday teaching. Dig Deeper has been such a helpful resource, providing fresh insight, challenge and perspective as Jon and Stephen chat over the passage from the previous Sunday. If you haven't heard them, all three series from the last two years are still available on the website (<https://www.slkt.org.uk/digdeeper>) and are a really rich library of theological reflection which has real practical applications for our faith today.



EASTER

LENT PRAYER

Lara Edwards / Curate

For the 40 days of Lent in 2022 we committed to praying every week day over Zoom at 7am for 20 minutes. We were so encouraged by the number of people who joined this commitment. We had upwards of 25 people praying each morning, interceding for our church, community, nation and world.

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EASTER PARTY

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

On Easter Saturday we threw open the doors of our church to our local community for a family fun morning. Around 100 people came to eat hot cross buns, make Easter crafts, join the egg hunt, or have a go on the bouncy castle. At the end we gave away Easter Eggs with a book sharing the Easter story. We were blown away by how many people came along and loved seeing a few people come back the next day to celebrate Easter with us. Thank you to all those who helped make the day happen.

EASTER SERVICES

Lara Edwards / Curate

Maundy Thursday

In order to remember the last supper and Jesus' final few hours before being handed over to be crucified we hosted an agape meal. We shared communion together in the context of a simple symbolic meal of bread, water, soup and cheese. The evening was punctuated with readings, worship and concluded with offering foot washing as Jesus did with his disciples. It was a deeply moving service as we entered the first night of the easter story.



Good Friday

On Good Friday we hosted two walks, one beginning at the Church in the morning for all ages and ending on Parliament Hill. The second began in the evening on Hampstead Heath and ended up back at St Luke's for a time of worship and sharing. On each walk people had a pebble to carry as a prayer reminder of that which Jesus had carried for them. Both groups then had the opportunity to place the stone at the cross or on the hill, a symbol of Jesus taking it on himself to liberate us.

Easter Sunday

He is risen! On Easter morning we celebrated Jesus' resurrection and bursting from the tomb with an all age extravaganza. Over 100 people joined the celebration, shared communion and worshipped Jesus the risen King.

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FOCUS

FOCUS

Evie Jones / Senior Team Administrator

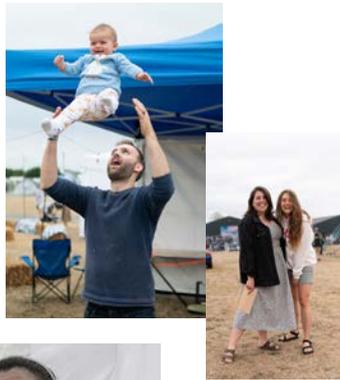
Focus is an annual festival run by Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), where churches across the network can gather for three days to receive teaching and worship together, as they camp with their church communities. We had 134 people join us; this was by far the most people we have ever taken to Focus. We camped in happy chaos as we had 50 children with us! It was a great time for people to connect, particularly as Focus hadn't been able to run since 2019. Focus offers a relaxed space for people to connect who may not otherwise get to speak on a Sunday. We really get to see our community grow over meal times and lots of games of volleyball.

Even with some catering issues we were all able to join together, think on our feet and make a great time of doing community living together.

Stories of redemption, healing and meeting with God were shared.

A notable highlight was that we were able to commission Nicky and Pippa Gumbel alongside the network churches, as they stepped down from leading HTB to pursue their calling within Alpha International. In turn, we were able to welcome and pray for Archie and Sam Coates as they stepped into the leadership of HTB.

We had a beautiful time on the last evening where we had space to share testimonies of what God had been doing in our lives throughout the week. Stories of redemption, healing and meeting with God were shared. Our prayer was that we can carry this thirst for Jesus and hearing from him for others back to Kentish Town.



CHRISTMAS

DIY CHRISTMAS
Lara Edwards / Curate

We kicked off our Christmas season with this fantastic day! The Church was filled with church members, guests and friends for wreath making, present wrapping for the Angel Tree Project and Christmas crafts.

With particular thanks to Emily and Sim Castle for providing the epic wreath making materials and to all those who bought and wrapped presents for the Pentonville Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Project.



CAROLS
Jon Beagley / Production and
Worship Lead

At the carol services we welcomed over 200 people to come and sing carols and hear the message of Christmas. We were so excited to be able to think creatively about how we approached our Christmas carol services. With an extended band in the round, split across two services (family and contemporary), we decided to create a journey. Starting with the prophecy of Jesus' birth right through to the wise men visiting Jesus in the manger, with the readings and short thoughts interspersed between the carols and continuous soundscape going on throughout the entire service.



This gave an immersive dynamic feel to the storytelling of the Christmas story. Our first service, aimed at families, saw a number of our kids & youth involved in the band and giving the readings, with the kids choir kicking the service off.

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CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY Lara Edwards / Curate

Crib

On Christmas eve nearly 30 children and their caregivers came to remember the Nativity, each dressed up and came on stage to help act out the story. Many brought friends from school or nursery and many more heard the message of Jesus.

Midnight Communion

At the midnight service we celebrated communion together and gathered around the message of hope that the Christchild brings as we entered Christmas day.

Christmas Day Service

Over 40 people came on Christmas day to celebrate and remember the birth of Jesus. We worshipped and Jon March led us in a short message about the power of hope.

Christmas Day Meal

After the Christmas day service we hosted over 30 people for Christmas lunch, families, individuals and those from our local community, some of whom would have otherwise been alone on Christmas day, came for the festive feasting fun! A particular thank you to Sian Brookes for organising and to all those who gave their time, cooked and delivered meals.

GREENWOOD CAROLS Lizzie Osborne / Curate

On Wednesday 14th December a small group of us ran an informal carol service at Greenwood Sheltered Accommodation. Jon Beagley led us in some carols, we shared the story through Bible readings, Jon March gave a short talk and we all enjoyed mince pies. It was a really special time together, through this we were able to invite residents to Christmas Day Lunch and has opened the door for us to regularly run prayer groups or services in Greenwood.



BAGS OF KINDNESS Evie Jones / Senior Team Administrator

We joined with Love Christmas to create 'bags of kindness' to bless those in our community who may be vulnerable or isolated. In total we created 45 bags. Everyone received an invite to our Christmas day meal, some Christmassy snacks and drinks and a 'why Christmas' book, where they could read about the hope of Jesus. The bags were funded by congregation donations. The option was given to either sponsor a bag or pay for one to be made for someone they knew who would benefit from one. The feedback was really positive. We gave a bag to every resident at Greenwood, a local residential home for the elderly. They all had personalised bags with a Christmas card and were very grateful for the gifts. We hope to partner with Love Christmas again with their next campaign.





STATUTORY REPORT

SAFEGUARDING

Esther Lau / Parish Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith and St Luke's is committed to promoting a safe environment and culture to ensure that our church is a safe space for all.

In 2022, we continued to ensure our safeguarding policies, procedures and record keeping are in line with the latest guidance from the Church of England. In particular, we improved our recruitment process in accordance with the *Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance* (published in 2021). All ministries involving under-18s and adults at risk have risk assessments, volunteer role descriptions, and a thorough application process in place. We now have 42 volunteers who are fully DBS checked, with updates done every 3 years. The vast majority have completed the required level of safeguarding training using the Church of England's online system, in addition to inhouse refresher sessions (which we ran twice in 2022). We continued to use MyConcern (an online safeguarding management system used by many schools) to report, triage, and manage safeguarding concerns. All reported concerns, as well as further

actions and outcomes, were logged securely with an audit trail. Every PCC meeting had safeguarding as a standing agenda item, with a safeguarding report circulated ahead of time. Details of our safeguarding procedures can be found in the Safeguarding Overview ([slkt.link/safeguarding-overview](https://www.slkt.org.uk/safeguarding-overview)).

St Luke's has achieved Level 3 (the highest level) and is only one of very few Church of England churches to have achieved this across the Borough of Camden.

The safeguarding audit for 2021, which included an action plan approved by the PCC, was submitted to the Diocese Safeguarding Team in July. The annual audit has now been replaced with the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, an online tool that the Church of England uses to assess each parish's compliance and delivery in safeguarding culture. The dashboard has been continually updated since April; as of January 2023, St Luke's has achieved Level 3 (the highest level) and is only one of very few Church of England churches to have achieved this across the Borough of Camden.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community. If you are concerned about the welfare of anyone who is part of our community, including a child, young person, and/or vulnerable adult, please speak to the leader of that ministry, a member of the clergy, or our Parish Safeguarding Officer; more details can be found here: <https://www.slkt.org.uk/safeguarding>.

FINANCE

David Cooke / Treasurer

We started 2022 with an ambitious budget reflecting our hope that church life would return to normal after the pandemic. The budget assumed that giving levels would be in line with 2021 and that expenditure would increase as activities resumed. A number of staff left at the end of 2021 and plans were made to recruit to support the work of the church in 2022 and beyond. Overall the budget anticipated that expenditure would exceed income by £85,000, something that could be supported thanks to the generosity of church members in 2020 and 2021 when general reserves had been built up.

In practice, church members generously gave £283,000 to the work of St Luke's. With rental income and a grant, the total income was £325,000. This was £56,000 less than budgeted. Giving was 18% lower than in 2021 and across a smaller number of donors. A number of people who regularly gave to the church moved away in 2022 while an equivalent number of new people joined the church in the latter half of the year.

On the expenditure side St Luke's spent £360,000, which was £106,000 less than budgeted. This was almost entirely due to staff not being recruited in line with the budget. That assumed that we would recruit an Operations Director and a Children's worker from the beginning of the year and a Youth worker from May. In practice the Children's worker joined from September, it was decided not to recruit the Operations Director and the Youth worker started in October.

Expenditure on the church's ministry increased in 2022 reflecting the ending of covid restrictions. Resumption of Sunday services, children and youth work, the Alpha course and Focus increased spending in these vital areas of church life to £34,000 (an increase of £21,000 over 2021 but still lower than pre-pandemic levels).

The net result was that expenditure exceeded income by £35,000, a much lower figure than budgeted. Our general reserves, money available for spending on the normal running of the church, reduced from £213,000 to £178,000. This represents about 26 weeks of normal expenditure as compared to the minimum threshold of 13 weeks as set by the PCC.

The budget for 2023 assumes that giving will stay at the levels of the third quarter of 2022. Expenditure assumes no increase in staff and a reduction in the money allocated to the building fund. The resulting budget assumes a reduction in general reserves of £120,000. The PCC are focused on what can be done to increase income and ensure that costs are minimised wherever possible.

In addition to the general reserves, the church maintains three 'designated funds' set aside for specific purposes. The building fund is allocated for the upkeep of the church building. The giving fund distributes money to charities working in the UK and Uganda, and more widely to Tear Fund. The church planting fund is for the support of new churches. £56,500 was allocated to these funds in 2022, while only £31,000 was spent.

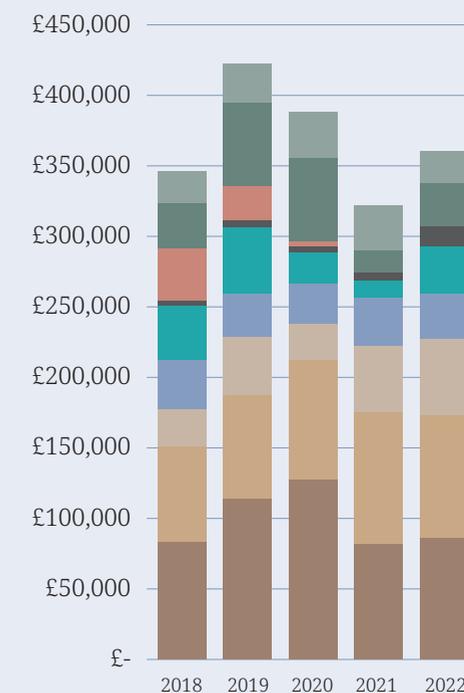
As at the 31 December 2022 total funds and reserves were £344,000. These assets were made up of £303,000 in cash (net of loan), £33,000 of fixed assets and £8,000 for monies owed to the church (net of monies due). Some numbers may be presented differently in the Reports & Accounts after they have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner.

Designated Fund	Balance at the start of 2022	Added in 2022	Spent / Distributed in 2022	Balance at the end of 2022
Building	£26,500	£30,000	£3,000	£53,500
Giving	£35,000	£22,000	£28,000	£29,000
Church Planting	£27,000	£ 4,500	£0	£31,500

St Luke's Income 2018-2021



St Luke's Expenditure 2018-2021



- Growth groups ■ Other ■ Grants
- Giving fund ■ Building fund
- Rental ■ Giving
- Social transformation
- Ext support ■ Ministry ■ Office
- Church ■ Diocese ■ Staff

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

Si Court / Churchwarden

This is the report you have all waiting for, the fabric, goods and ornaments report.

The good news is the Church building is still standing, it is in good order and blessing us immensely. The even better news is that we are bursting at the seams. God is doing amazing things with our young people, a privilege the vast majority of churches in the UK do not have. Thanks to our fantastic staff and volunteers team we are managing to provide multiple kids groups on a Sunday despite the limitations on physical space.

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I am particularly thankful for those who joined the Building Committee this year to help us enable the ministries at St Luke's and also help to plan for the future as best we can with the available funds. Thank you Fleur, Craig, Jacob, Laurie, Luke, Mandy.

The Inventory, the Log Book and the Terrier have been reviewed and updated.

The Quinquennial Report (Sept 2021) continues to inform the maintenance and works programme.

As you may remember, we had planned to get a new floor in the church building this year. Craig Bowen has been done some brilliant work behind the scenes to progress it but unfortunately given the financial pressures we have not been able to proceed with the much needed upgrade yet.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Erin Andres / Electoral Roll Officer

Members of the congregation were invited to join the electoral roll between 12th March and 26th March, we saw 11 people join, making the total number on the roll 105 in the run up to the April 2023 APCM (a 6.06% increase on April 2022 APCM numbers).

We are continuously thankful for God's provision and to witness how he is growing our community.

Our two weekly services grew throughout 2022, bringing around 138 people inside the church on a weekly basis (75% increase on 2021), with more being reached through Streams, Crumbs, and Alpha. Our Sunday morning service saw the fastest growth, with more families joining and becoming part of our church family than ever before with around 37 children in attendance each week. Our Christmas and Easter services also had record numbers with 137 and 70 respectively. We are continuously thankful for God's provision and to witness how he is growing our community.

PCC

Chris Philpot / Secretary

The PCC in 2022 consisted of the following individuals and their office:

Chair: Revd Jonathan March

Clergy: Revd Lara Edwards, Revd Elizabeth Osborne

Churchwardens: Simon Court, Bethan Sadler (till April 2022)

Lay Representatives: Olamide Akinsanya (till April 2022), Erin Andres (from April 2022), Fleur Brading (from April 2022), Simeon Castle, Karsen Cheung, David Cooke (Treasurer), Lydia Devine (till April 2022), Peter Evans (till Jan 2022), Ema Howling (from April 2022), Maxim Khan (from April 2022), Jasmine King, Esther Lau (from April 2022), Rupesh Patel, Chris Philpot (Secretary), George Ward, David Wesson (from April 2022)

The PCC meets on average once every two months to oversee the planning of the mission of St Luke's. During 2022 we met on the following dates: 17th Jan, 21st March, 24th April, 20th June, 17th Sep, 21st Nov. In the remaining term for 2022/23, we will be meeting on: 16th Jan 2022 and 20th March 2022.

We regularly discuss and support decision-making on topics including:

- General church life
- Specific areas of mission
- Staffing
- Finances
- Safeguarding
- Building and facilities

Individuals on the Electoral Roll of St Luke's may have access to the approved minutes of Council meetings after the APCM, with the exception of any minutes deemed confidential.

This year the PCC have continued to lead alongside staff and members of the congregation, and have supported Jon and other leaders in exploring what it looks like for St Luke's to be 'race-ready'. All the members of the PCC give their time and skills to support the work of St Luke's.

We would like to thank the Churchwardens and Treasurer for their excellent stewardship of staff, buildings, and finances. Thanks in particular to Simon Court who will stand down as churchwarden in April 2023 for his wise leadership and the support he has afforded to Jon as the only churchwarden since April 2022. As with every year, we would appreciate your prayers for wisdom and expectant faith as we make decisions about the direction of St Luke's for the future.

DEANERY SYNOD

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

The deanery is a cluster of churches who relate to one another through their clergy and churches. The primary way this happens is through Deanery Synod where clergy and laity discuss matters of local interest and concern. We are part of the Camden Deanery.

Thursday 24 February 2022 Euston Church, Gordon Square

Penny Roberts – newly appointed Director of the London Diocesan Board for Schools provided an informative and engaging overview of the current situation with the London CoE schools, ranging from the oldest school in Hackney (founded 502 years ago) to Wren in Finchley which is now in its 2nd year. It was encouraging to hear that the CoE schools in general are performing very well, with the schools in the Camden Deanery showing particularly good results.

Tuesday 17 May 2022 St Michael's Church, Camden Town

The Revd Prebendary Amatu Christian-Iwuagwu Edmonton Area Dean of Mission and Racial Justice gave keynote address on the "God's Beloved Community" initiative.

Fr Amatu spoke about Vision 2030 and how to deliver the plans for the Edmonton area. There was an engaging group discussion about the meaning of the words empathy and sympathy, followed by an open and frank exchange of thoughts about the Church as an institution. Fr Amatu shared various inspiring examples from his own personal life about racial justice and how to deal with racial inequality.

This was Jonathan Kester's final Deanery Synod as Area Dean as he was leaving Camden Deanery to take a new position. Jonathan has been a very supportive, wise Area Dean and has dealt with great care amongst the challenges within Camden Deanery.

Wednesday 9 November 2022 St Martin's Church, Gospel Oak

The keynote presentation was from Shiri Shalmy from Cooperation Town and Kate Robertson from Camden Council shared helpful strategies related to Fuel & Food Poverty. Shiri Shalmy explained the concept of self-organised food distribution by setting up a local cooperation (coop). A local cooperation is not a charity, but a structure that can help increase individual purchasing power by buying collectively.

Kate Robertson from Camden Council spoke about the cost of living crisis in Camden. Various initiatives are being developed to reduce poverty and build resilience, including a £2M cost of living fund, with family grants up to £500 available. Many vulnerable people remain invisible to council workers and Kate asked churches for help to reach those people, so that no child and family will go hungry this winter.





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