



Annual Reports 21 April 2024



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The Parish Church of St Luke
Hartlepool
in the Diocese of Durham

*A member of the Central Hartlepool Group of
Churches*



Central Hartlepool Group

One Family, Three Parishes,
Growing the Kingdom.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Luke's Church is situated at the corner of Hart Lane and Tunstall Avenue in Hartlepool.

In the Deanery of Hartlepool and as part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England, we are a member of the Central Hartlepool Group Ministry, an informal grouping with All Saints and St Aidan & St Columba parishes who give mutual support to each other.

The correspondence address is St Luke's Church, Tunstall Avenue, Hartlepool, TS26 8NF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from the APCM 14 May 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Revd John George Bell: Priest-in-Charge.

Wardens: Mrs Julia Taylor (*Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer*).
Mr Robert Anthony Darling.

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mr Robert Anthony Darling
(*Vacancy*)

PCC Elected members:

Ms Christine Amjad-Ali
Mr David Errington
Mrs Pamela Harding
Mr Nathaniel Jackson
Mrs Tracey Jackson
Mrs Brenda Kloed
Mrs Joan Nixon (*Lay Chair*)

Sidespersons:

Nathaniel Jackson
Tracey Jackson
Brenda Kloed
Evelyn McAllister
Joan Nixon

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Safeguarding

The Parish of St Luke's Hartlepool fully adopts the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church' safeguarding policy statement and works closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding lead in order to support and protect parishioners and clergy.

Parish Safeguarding Officer, Maggie Hammond, tel. 01429 872066.

Objectives and Activities

St Luke's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Centre and rooms attached to the east end of the church.

The Parish Church of St Luke, Hartlepool

Electoral Roll Report

A review of the roll took place this year. The number on the roll has decreased to 65 from 66 with one new member and where two of our members have died. The next renewal will be in 2025.

Julia Taylor, Electoral Roll Officer

Vicar's Report for St Luke's Church 2023

It's now been 18 months since I was licensed to the Central Hartlepool Group, which means I've now had the opportunity to see a lot of what happens in each of our churches across the Group. I've been able to get to know many of you, but sadly we've had to say goodbye to many of our dear friends including Kath Kirby, Margaret Brain, Bernard Atkinson, Paul Aisbitt, Alwyn Whitley, and Ann Lumley.

As always, there are so many people who are and have been involved in so many different aspects of church life here at St Luke's that without all of you, our church would not continue to survive or thrive. So, thank you, to all of you, for your support of our church and all who have helped lead and serve alongside me during 2023.

Particular thanks go to Rob and Julia (our churchwardens), and Joan (our lay vice chair) who have supported me as I've found my feet in Hartlepool, and to our PCC who have worked with me as I have asked many, many questions, especially in the early months, which often dragged our meetings on even later than usual.

I also want to thank Stephen McAllister, who stepped down as our treasurer at the last APCM, but who continues to serve as our Gift Aid Officer, and who ensured our accounts were in order for Julia, who took on the role of treasurer in April 2023.

2023 wasn't without its challenges and frustrations but there are many good things which happened at St Luke's. It was a privilege to take the wedding of Emily and Craig in July. We also hosted and supported the Communities of Hope Easter and Summer Holiday Clubs, which were very well attended by children across the community, as part of the Hartlepool HAF activities. Then there were the regular church social and fundraising events – activities which help us reach out into the community as well as generate funds which aid and support our ministry and our mission. We joined in with a number of joint services across the Group including the Re-dedication of Stranton's Bells in February, Clive & Ang's farewell service in April, Trinity Sunday, the patronal festivals for St Luke and St Aidan, and on Christmas Day, we hosted a lovely joint Christmas service at St Luke's, attended by people from across the group – a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Christ.

One of the biggest challenges we've faced is having one Stipendiary Priest to serve across the whole Central Hartlepool Group, while the other post remains vacant. We have been blessed by having Revd Andrew, Revd Kevin, and Revd Tony, serve us on a regular basis and other clergy helping us out from time to time too. I want to say a huge thank you to anyone and everyone who has supported and enabled our worship throughout 2023.



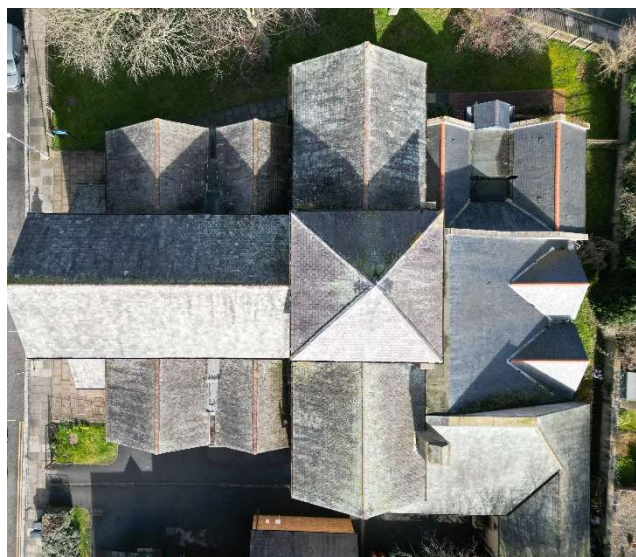
Looking ahead, we continue to hope and pray for church growth, and I will be looking at ways we can all work to facilitate that – in depth of faith and in our community links, as well as the growth of our numbers. We have an ideal opportunity to reflect on what God wants us to do next, on where our priorities lie in the years ahead, and how we can best serve those around us.

In grace and peace,

Revd John (Priest in Charge)

Churchwardens Report : 2023

It seems a bit of a broken record, but I say again 'This has been a challenging year'! The ongoing issues with the windows have yet to be resolved, the roof needs attention as identified by the quinquennial inspector – several leaks above the hall have been dealt with, but we have managed to keep our spirits up with the support of each other, our Group of Churches colleagues and the always loving presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Coronations of King Charles III and Queen Camilla were celebrated at a special Communion Service on 7 May, and a commemorative rose was planted in the small car park garden funded by our Mothers' Union group. A lovely Coronation Afternoon Tea was held on 8 May.



A bird's eye view of the church

The Quinquennial Inspection was done in December 2022 and the report was delivered in March. The most pressing concern was identified to be the rooves. As recommended a roof drone survey has been carried out and we are in contact with a roofer to address some issues identified by the drone such as loose tiles and a proper inspection of the mineral flet on the Hall flat roof. In addition, the inspector recommended that an assessment is made of the current glazing condition. We have identified as an immediate concern that the ties tying the west window to the horizontal bars need to be renewed as the windows flex during high wind conditions. Funding towards the window repairs continues to trickle in to add to the £36k from the Endowment Fund and a legacy of £500.

The QI Report also recommended pruning and crown reduction of the mature trees. Both the Whitebeam and Copper Beech trees have been cut back. The path to the north of church has been levelled.

We need to consider what we can do to achieve Net Zero. This is a long-term project but at St Luke's we already have made some progress. Our gas boiler is relatively new. We have planned to finish the upgrade of all our lighting for energy saving LED lights.

We are grateful to Sheila Anderson and Evelyn McAllister for taking over the running of the Little Angels Mother and Toddler Group, which continues to thrive.

Although Maggie Hammond has stepped down as a member of the PCC she continues to operate very professionally as our Safeguarding Lead and makes thorough reports for each PCC meeting as well as keeping abreast of all Safeguarding and Training requirements. We are very grateful for her continued work, including reporting on a new national safeguarding policy.

Mr Kenneth Ansell our Caretaker continues to ensure that anyone using the hall has access and he is responsible for security of the building. While the Vicarage has been empty, he has been making regular inspections.

Following a non-injury accident at 2022's Christmas Fayre, it was decided to risk assess and closely monitor any attendee using a motorised wheelchair.

A Bereavement Support Group has been established with members from across the Group, including from St Luke's.

Thanks go to Mary Summerson who ensures that our First Aid supplies are as they should be and are 'in-date'. Thanks also go to Margaret Hughes who, despite finding her spiritual home amongst the Baptist Church community, continues to support us in various ways. She helps at the Sewing Group passing on her expertise, she supports the Mothers' Union, she sources the supplies for

and makes up the baptism candles and she runs a children's stall at the major Coffee Morning events (as well as occasionally bringing lunch to the Parish Administrator!).

We have a fantastic team of fundraisers who, all through the year put on Coffee Mornings and other events to raise money for St Luke's and other charities. These gatherings not only benefit us financially but also give people a chance to get together in a warm and safe space with friends and others for a chat and cuppa. We have passed on contributions to the Foodbank and to the Christmas Hampers for those schoolchildren who may not be as fortunate as some.

Easter and Summer Holiday Clubs were supported by us and run by Communities of Hope in our buildings. Primary schools have visited; we thank our Open the Book Team for the links they maintain at both Throston and Jesmond Road Schools. Children of all ages are well catered for at St Luke's with our regular weekly meetings of Mother and Toddler, Brownies and four sections of Scouts – Squirrels, Beavers and Scouts (Cubs meet at West Park School).

The Communities of Hope Team of Emma Cain and Hayley Liversedge have gone above and beyond in keeping up the work amongst the desperate and needy of Hartlepool. After some turbulent times at the end of 2022 that resulted in a reduction of personnel, a very productive 'Vision Morning' had been held on 10 June at Hartlepower's meeting room. There is an appetite and desire across the whole Group of Churches for us to find reconciliation, to identify opportunities, and to improve Communication across the Group to ensure that CoH remains viable.

The Children's Corner in church is now being used every Sunday. It is so heartening to see young people in church once more, but we do need someone to take on looking after the toys and craft in the corner and generally to keep it clean and tidy.

The grounds also require looking after and we are very grateful to Billy Taylor for cutting the grass and to Nigel Shaw for tackling the shrubs and borders that sometimes get a bit 'Triffid' like!

There are 8 people who are authorised by the PCC under the Bishop of Durham's guidelines to distribute Holy Communion, 5 help at Communion Services and 3 offer Home Communion.

We cannot close without thanking Revd John for his support throughout the year. Despite the heavy load of responsibility for overseeing the running of the three Parishes and Communities of Hope, he has been caring and patient, a listener and a good advice giver. We offer him and his family blessings and all good wishes for the next year and beyond.

Rob Darling and Julia Taylor, Churchwardens

The Central Hartlepool Group Ministry Report 2023

One family, Three Parishes, Growing the Kingdom.

Members: All Saints Stranton with Burbank, St Aidan's with St Columba's and St Luke's churches.

St Luke's Representatives: Rob Darling, Julia Taylor; Maggie Hammond

A Lent Course based around Religious Art was held in our Parish Centre. This very interesting course presented each week by a different leader was well supported.

We said farewell to Revd Clive Hall with a joint service at All Saints, Stranton on 23 April. The generous Faith Supper was enjoyed by all who attended.

Vacancy – the vacant post in the Group is attached to St Aidan's Church. The profile for the post was advertised in the summer though no suitable candidates came forward. The post was readvertised at the beginning of 2024 with interviews scheduled to take place on 9 April.

Group Choir – members from across the group were invited to join the joint Christmas Service at All Saints, Stranton.



Central Hartlepool Group

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..... and finally, a good time of fellowship was had when we gathered at the Golden Lion for a Group Christmas meal – thanks to Helen Rochester for organising that.

Julia Taylor

Hon. Treasurer's Report – Jan – Dec 2023

Financial review

Our thanks once again go to Martin Firth for carrying out the independent examination of the accounts.



Following Stephen McAllister's decision to step down as Treasurer in April, unfortunately no one came forward to take up the position meaning that care of the accounts defaulted to the PCC and Churchwardens. We have found it extremely difficult to match the high level of financial reporting and attention to detail that we enjoyed from Stephen, so must apologise for the dearth of reporting since April. We are grateful that Stephen has agreed to carry on as our Gift Aid Officer. The 2023 accounts are currently with the auditor and his report will be presented at the APCM.

Fundraising activities over the year: Candlemas Coffee Morning £336.50; Plant Sale £345.96; Garden Party £681.41; St Luke's Coffee Morning & Gift Day £1,531.71; Christmas Fayre £704.21. Charitable fundraising was carried out throughout the year, especially by the Sewing Group and Mothers' Union. None of this could be possible without our hard working team of fundraisers who continue to do great work in putting on these events, for which we thank you.

Parish Share

The Parish Share for 2023 of £12,000 has been paid in full. The Guided Pledge from Durham for 2024 is £23,600. PCC decided that we should increase our Share for 2024 by 10% to £13,200.

Reserves

The reserves policy is to hold 3 months expenditure at any one time.

Other funds

St Luke's is entitled to a Church Hall Trust Fund which is held by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustee. The funds are available for repairs to the church and have been earmarked for repair works required to the church windows. At the year end the Capital value of the funds was £52,670, a reduction over the year of £1,821, which is unsurprising considering the current state of the economy. Nevertheless, the investments made £3,154 interest over the year.

Related party transactions

During the year one PCC member received payments from the church for vergers' fees and through employment as the church administrator. No PCC members are paid for their roles as trustees of the church.

In all cases where pay rates for these roles are discussed by PCC the relevant PCC members declare an interest and do not take part in the discussions made by PCC.

Energy Contracts

We have taken advice from Adam Pearson (a local resident) of BigEnergy Group who has helped us identify favourable 100% renewable energy rates at the instruction of the PCC. Both Gas and Electricity contracts are due to finish in early 2024. It was decided to renew at summer 2023 prices and new contracts have been signed to commence when the (very favourable current rates) contracts come to an end. This will mean that energy costs for 2024 will increase to over £6,500. The electricity contract is to remain with Yorkshire Gas and Power as they had the best pricing at the time and is scheduled to commence on 2nd March. The gas contract will switch over to EonNext on 2nd May.

Fees

- The hourly rate for hire of the Parish Centre for regular users was increased to £10 per hour and for occasional users £20 per hour.

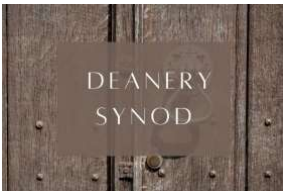
- The Magazine price remained at 80p per issue. Organist fees were increased: £85 for Weddings and £70 for Funerals. More and more weddings and funerals are asking for us to provide music through the music system as well as or instead of an Organist. Currently the vergers are stepping in to do this.
- Caretaker hours were reduced to 8hrs per week, however Ken offered to keep to the hours needed to open and set up for events, but that any hours over the 8 be classed as voluntary; we thank him for his generous offer as he already voluntarily delivers the weekly Notices Sheet to those unable to come to church and not on social media.

Net Zero

We are determining what we can do to reduce our energy consumption. To this end we are replacing all the lighting in both church and parish centre. The full cost of doing this is £1,178. We will look at whether we can upgrade insulation and prevent draughts.

Julia Taylor Hon. Treasurer

Accounts Jan-Dec 2023 St Luke's Church, Hartlepool to follow



Deanery Synod Report

The Churchwardens took up as the Deanery Synod representatives, however Julia stood down in order to become Deanery Synod Secretary, leaving Rob Darling as our sole representative.

At the Spring meeting an illustrated talk was given by Duncan Podbury, Transformation Project Lead at Durham, on 'Called to Fruitfulness', a vision for missional transformation. The talk covered poverty, decline, sensing God in order to shape our ideas, the Six Threads – planting 100 new worshipping communities, piloting mission hubs, youth chaplaincy especially in FE Colleges, equipping everyone to become disciples and transforming prayer, generosity, culture change for mission and sustainable growth. Having a presence at the Tall Ships event was discussed but subsequently it was found to be too expensive and difficult to resource.

Officers for the Triennium period 2023-2026 were elected at the November meeting. Julia Taylor will continue as Deanery Secretary.

Concern was expressed about the future of Communities of Hope. The Steering Group had suffered a number of resignations and the turnover of CoH staff was proving extremely challenging both in our team and within the support group at the Diocese. Hayley Liversedge is a valued new addition, and she and Emma Cain are doing excellent work supporting the vulnerable of our town.

We discussed the cohesion of the churches across the town and whether there was a need for a purposeful sense of direction to be created to enable us to be effective together. Several events were suggested where all could be involved.

Hart Church has achieved the Eco Church Gold Standard; members offered their congratulations. Revd Janet said, "It's about what we already do and has not been difficult to achieve, it's the way in which we care for God's creation."

Julia Taylor

SAFEGUARDING REPORT April 2024



Margaret Hammond, Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The responsibility to Parish Safeguarding continues to lie directly with the Priest in Charge, Rev Bell. Under his leadership, our Parish Safeguarding Officer continues to be Mrs Margaret (Maggie)

Hammond.

Currently retired, I have a background in adult and children's social care and have significant experience around safeguarding from this time. I continue to keep up to date with currently trends and developments in child and adult safeguarding as much as possible, and have attended the relevant courses available from the Church of England and Durham Diocese.

The Parish continues to support the protection and safety of all those attending, visiting or working (either paid or voluntarily) within St Luke's Parish. During the last twelve months we have continued to support both victims and perpetrators in a caring and meaningful manner with the support of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (Beth Miller).

All those working on the Parish Church Council (PCC) have clear and current DBS safeguarding checks and have completed relevant training.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and a safeguarding checklist completed during March 2023. There have been no changes during the last twelve months and a review will follow prior to the next PCC meeting. Copies of these documents are on display in the Parish Centre. The annual checklist shows that St Luke's Parish is compliant with all aspects of safeguarding except in the provision of hard backed copies of the Parish and Diocesan safeguarding handbook. Instead, we offer leaflets with the relevant information, freely available at the back of church.

Volunteers

The Parish Safeguarding Officer oversees the appointment and support of all volunteers in St Luke's Parish, and the Church of England Safer Recruitment Policy is followed. This includes the provision of role descriptions where volunteers are needed. Roles now require an application process and relevant training and support is available. Some roles, particularly those where Children or young people are involved, may require Safeguarding DBS checks.

This year we have recruited volunteers for a Home Communion Team, Open the Book and for the Gift Aid officer. Those role descriptions currently in development include the Sacristan, organist, and vergers.

If you have any queries or concerns around the safeguarding or recruitment process, please talk to me. ***More importantly, if you have any concerns about the safety of yourself or anyone else, please do not hesitate to talk to either Myself or Revd John Bell.***

Margaret Hammond, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Health and Safety

Health and safety legislation applies to church buildings, as it does to any other public building; and PCC members are responsible for compliance with this. Church members, visitors, hirers of the hall, employees and volunteers all need to be kept safe, whilst the Church carries out its worship, mission and ministry.

As a church we understand that we owe a duty of care to ensure the safety of those who visit or use our church, hall or church grounds. We also know that, where we are an employer or control premises in certain circumstances, we have to meet the requirements of health and safety law. We

employ fewer than five employees, and are not required to have a written health and safety policy under Section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Risk Assessments: We will complete risk assessments to identify what we need to do to comply with health and safety law. We will record our findings, implementing any necessary precautions. We will review and revise these where we suspect that they are no longer valid.

Information and Training: We will provide any necessary information and training for our employees and volunteers in a timely manner. We will keep a record of what is provided. We will also give relevant information to contractors and self-employed people who may need this to complete their work safely.

First Aid: We provide adequate first aid facilities including a suitably stocked first aid box kept in the kitchen and a person is appointed to take charge of the first aid arrangements. We will also provide relevant information for employees and volunteers.

Monitoring: We will make periodic checks to ensure that our precautions remain effective and adequate. We also ensure that any lifting, work or electrical equipment and church utilities are inspected as necessary to ensure that they remain safe. We will keep records of the checks we make.

Contractors: If we employ contractors, we make sure that they have their own health & safety policy and public and Employers Liability Insurance by asking to see copies of the relevant documents.

Record Keeping: Our Health and Safety Risk Assessments, records and other documents are kept in the office.

Fund Raising Events Summer 23023-Spring 2024

The weather has not been very kind to us this year, but we still held our usual events.

In July we held our Garden Party. October was a wet and windy St Lukestide. December was the Christmas Fair with the Brass Band. Finally, January 2024 saw the Candlemas Coffee Morning.



Evelyn McAllister



The Shared Ministry Development Team

It was decided that the future of the SMDT should be put on hold dependant on numbers in church to support a team going forward. The possibility of having a joint team with Stranton was discussed. Should a project be identified by PCC then a special team could be set up. In September a review was held and it was decided that SMDT should become a Group initiative.

Julia Taylor (on behalf of the SMDT)



Home Communion Team

St Luke's Home Communion Team of Maggie, Eileen and Mary continue to offer home communion to those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend regular communion at Church. Visits are provided on a regular or one-off basis and can include other members of the family where

appropriate. Current provision is on a two or four week basis.

We always welcome new recruits to support the team. Please feel free to talk to one of the team if you are interested. Requests for the service should be made to one of the team members or by completing a request card, found at the back of Church.

Mary Summerson

Communities of Hope 2023/24



It has been a busy & fruitful year for the Communities of Hope. The work done at St Luke's, has grown.

The whole of Jesmond Garden Primary School now visit St Luke's three times a year for Harvest, Christmas and Easter Celebrations. It is always a pleasure to welcome them. As there are over 300 children in the school plus staff, there has to be an infant then a junior celebration as they can't all fit into the church at the same time.

Assemblies continue to be taken regularly at Jesmond Garden Primary School. Also, there is a weekly RE Club that offers games, crafts, a Bible story and a prayer. As the lady who used to be able to help weekly can no longer come, we have this last term struggled to find people to help for one hour on Thursdays between 12pm and 1pm. Consequently, the club has sometimes had to be cancelled. When this happens, I visit the dining hall and eat my lunch with the children chatting to them.

As I write this report, we have just finished the third holiday club for children at St Luke's Church. In Easter 2023, summer 2023 and Easter 2024 we welcomed non church children to church to enjoy games, crafts, a hot lunch and Bible stories. They all have gone well and seemed to be enjoyed by the children a lot.

I look forward to seeing how all the work develops in future.

As always my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who have made this important ministry possible. Without them it couldn't happen.

Blessings,

Hayley Liversidge, Community Children & Families Worker



Foodbank and other collections

Hartlepool Foodbank (HF) is a registered charity set up by Hartlepool Churches Together. Unfortunately, the level of engagement has fallen off; recently, the Annual Development Plan has been done. The Trussel Trust

(TT) has over 400 foodbanks; it has evidence of poverty to give to the government; its ultimate ambition is to go out of business!

HF also gives advice on financial and benefit matters. HF sessions are on Tuesdays and Fridays. They have successfully got full funding from the TT to recruit an Advisor and Community Person. Copies of the HF Annual Report are available; this highlights how more people are being referred. The regular donations of free food are being squeezed. They always need more volunteers, not only doing the food distribution but as warehousemen, signposting, drivers, cleaners etc.



Church Group and Prayer Chain

The WhatsApp Prayer Chain as well as the WhatsApp Church group continue to be valuable support resources. The Prayer Chain regularly receive requests for prayer enabling members to respond quickly, ensuring that intercessions to our Lord God are heard promptly.

BIBLE STUDY 2023: Cell Groups have not been reinstated since they were closed during the Covid pandemic. Members are instead encouraged to attend Lent and Advent Courses at this time. The Lent course based on Christian Art, held in the Parish Centre, had been well attended, but unfortunately the evening Advent Course based on the film 'It's a Wonderful Life' held at St Columba's was very poorly attended. Both Lent and Advent courses had been held in the evenings, although the Advent Course had also been offered after the Thursday morning Communion service at St Columba's.

Julia Taylor



Website: The website is at www.stlukeshartlepool.org. Many thanks to Sarah Anderson for keeping it up-to-date. We regularly get requests for information coming through via the 'Contact' page.

Julia Taylor

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families **Report 2023**

It has been quite a sad year for our Mothers' Union, with two of our long-standing members dying - Ann Lumley and Alwyn Whitley. Also, we had the sad news that the leader of Stranton Mothers' Union, Mrs Ann Courtney, had died quite suddenly and that nobody was willing to take on the job of Leader of their MU.

After a lot of discussion it was decided that any willing members of Stranton would join in St Luke's MU. Up to now we have five of their members attending, so all told we now have 18 members.

During last year we had various speakers, and we paid a visit to the Golden Lion for afternoon tea in July. We raised money with a Mother's Day raffle in aid of Mothers' Union overseas projects. We also held a Strawberry Tea in June to raise funds.

We would welcome anybody who would like to join us. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month - January to November (not August) 2.00pm till 3.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Why not give us a try and come as a visitor, you will be made most welcome.

Meetings in 2023:

February	AGM
March	Talk on teaching in Japan
April	Easter quiz
May	Discussed agenda for the rest of the year
June	Summer of Hope strawberry tea
July	Tea at Golden Lion
August	No meeting
September	MU Christmas orders
October	Recalled St Luke's pilgrimage to the Holy Land
November	Christmas crafts with Mrs M Hughes
December	No meeting

Joan Mills, Secretary Pam Harding, Leader

Sunday Club



Closed due to lack of any primary aged children attending church.



ST LUKE'S SEWING PARTY: St Lukes Sewing Party continue to meet every Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm in the choir vestry, enjoying a coffee whilst chatting and developing our sewing, crochet and knitting skills.

We had a very successful coffee morning in November raising £394, enabling us to send a donation of £500 to Vellore Hospitals in India. Due to a number of circumstances, we were unable to hold our usual coffee morning in Easter 2024 and instead had a table of Easter goodies and small raffle available over the Easter festivities. This was very successful, and we were able to raise around £184 for our charity. Thank you everyone who contributed to the event. We are hoping to hold our usual Christmas Coffee Morning at the end of November this year, however, remember that if you would like to purchase or order any knitwear or garment, please ask

one of the group as this can usually be easily arranged.

The group remains small, and sadly last year we lost Alwyn Whitley one of our long-term original members whom we all miss, but on a more positive note we continue to meet despite the challenges of meeting the weekly rent! Do come and join us, all are welcome!

Mary Summerson



St Luke's Savings Club 2023

We are pleased to say that we have successfully continued the savings again in 2023 and with the increased giving from our contributors we were able to send £625 to St Luke's funds, an extra £85 above the 2022 amount.

It's not too late to start saving in this year. Please have a chat with us. We collect an extra 10p from our savers for every pound they save with us, i.e. £1.10 collected is £1 saved plus 10p donated.

<i>Credit</i>		<i>Debit</i>	
Amount brought forward	8.45	Amount paid to savers	6155.00
Amount collected (17 savers)	6776.00	Amount donated to church	625.00
		Amount carried forward	4.45
<i>Total</i>	6784.45	<i>Total</i>	6784.45

Brenda Kloed & Pamela Harding



Altar Flower Fund

Thank you to Pam Harding and Joanne Wheatley who have continued to take on the task of keeping fresh flowers in church throughout the year except for the weeks of Advent and Lent.

Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers please speak to one of them. There is a memorial list kept in the Baptistry for flowers to be displayed in memory of loved ones.

Church Magazine

Our subscribers in 2023 were 92 plus 5 copies were each sent to All Saints and St Aidan's. Julia continued as editor, however in January 2024 Favour Ike has taken on doing the editing for us. We are grateful to all those who continue to support this important outreach tool whether as subscribers or advertisers.

Julia Taylor



OPEN THE BOOK

Open the Book in Throston School and Jesmond Gardens School

Another very successful year. Both schools enjoy the sessions we provide and include us in their whole school activities.

We have covered stories from both the Old and the New Testaments. Both schools have been to look around the church and Throston came to learn about Advent.

We visited the schools for their Nativities and with Julia's help we did St Luke's Nativity on Christmas Eve.

At Jesmond Gardens we were asked to talk about the Bible and at Throston we took their Easter Assembly. Sheila and I went to Throston for their Harvest Assembly and went to Jesmond Gardens for their end of term show.

The Team have enjoyed the rapport with both the staff and pupils of both schools. Thanks Team!

Evelyn McAllister



LITTLE ANGELS continues to meet every Thursday morning from 9am till 11am in the Parish Hall, term time only. Following Briony leaving last year, it is now run by Evelyn and myself with help from Julia and some of the mums/carers. There are between 16-18 pre-school children attending regularly. Drinks and snacks are served for the children, and tea and biscuits for the adults. The fee is £2 for the first child, and £1.50 for any additional children. Rising costs may mean we will have to raise the fee for the September term.

We held a very successful Christmas disco, with 26 children attending, who all had party snacks and received a Christmas gift. We plan to have an Easter egg hunt in the church at the end of this term.

Feedback from mums and carers is very encouraging, and we continue to welcome new faces every week.

Sheila Anderson

HONORARY SECRETARY

Thank you to everyone who has made contributions to this report.

The role of Hon. Secretary is to manage correspondence and take up and prepare minutes of meetings. Usually, the role would be undertaken by a member of the PCC, but it is open to anyone who feels they have the skills to do this. It is a role where the person will need to undertake Safeguarding checks. I would be very happy to pass on this role and to work with a new Hon. Secretary.

Blessings, *Julia Taylor* Hon. Secretary.