

ST. LUKE'S - PINNER
PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2023
12 NOON

**Please read the reports of our various Parish teams for the
AGM 2023 in advance of the meeting.**

AGENDA

- 1 Opening prayer**
- 2 Welcome and Chairman's remarks**
- 3 Apologies for absence**
- 4 Notification of AOB**
- 5 Approval of Minutes of previous AGM & Matters Arising**
- 6 Parish Priest Report**
- 7 Questions arising from Reports**
- 8 Parishioners' Feedback:**
 - a.** What do you enjoy most about your parish life?
 - b.** What is most important to you in the parish?
 - c.** What would you like to see more of?
 - d.** Other thoughts and suggestions?
- 9 AOB previously notified**
- 10 Closing Prayer**

Draft Minutes for AGM 19th April 2022

Father Vincent opened the meeting with a prayer.

Welcome and Chairman's remarks - Richard Almond

'Good evening and welcome to St. Luke's, Pinner, 2022 Parish AGM.

This meeting covers Fr. Vincent's first full year as our Parish Priest during which he has settled in remarkably well - particularly given the difficulties in actually meeting and speaking to parishioners during the Covid period – and in which he has begun to make his mark on our public worship. Those at the Good Friday Liturgy and Easter Vigil were appreciative.

The year has also marked our continued recovery from Covid and the associated lock downs. We were determined to keep our church open to all except when we were forced by government to close, and we managed to do that. We have been helped throughout by the sterling work of many volunteers without whom the parish would not function as it does and we will hold a thank you party for them after 11.00 Mass on 8th May.

I want to draw particular attention to Norah O'Hare's comments at page 21 of tonight's reports about Marian Vince, because after leading the Children's Liturgy of the Word for 10 years pre-pandemic she has decided to step down. As a Governor of St. Teresa's Primary School where she works, I am aware of how gifted a teacher Marian is and St. Luke's has benefitted greatly from those gifts.

The parish has continued to benefit from the administrative skills of our administrator Pat Williams who keeps us all in order. She has been joined recently by Noreen Linnane, who looks as though she will do likewise, in a job-sharing arrangement.

Finally, as always, I shall assume that you have read the reports. Their authors will highlight any items where necessary and respond to questions on them'.

Apologies for absence: Denis Argent, Elizabeth Thorp, Mariola Griffiths, Hugh Dinan, Raj Jayaraj, Eithne Atterbury, Bill Wright & Thelma Lewis.

Notification of AOB– appointment of new members to the Parish Council.

Approval of Minutes of previous AGM & Matters arising.

Minutes were approved following a correction regarding the lease of the annex which had been annotated as a 3 year lease but is in fact 5 years, having been proposed by Sue Girvan and seconded by Anne Bek.

Reports 2022

Parish Priest's Report – Father Vincent Brady

As you all know, this is my second Parish Annual General Meeting and Report and it is good to see that parish life is more normal than at this time last year. At time of writing, we hope to celebrate Holy Week and Easter without too many restrictions. As you will remember we were finally able to celebrate Father Robert's farewell and my arrival last September with a lovely parish get together. Even the weather behaved well on the day. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make that happen.

I should also like to highlight the recent sale of Easter bunnies, etc, which took place to raise funds for Ukraine, on both Laetare and Passion Sunday, at the instigation of the knitting group who regularly meet on Thursday afternoons. It is so good to see some of our normal community activities restored, making a difference and bringing people together for the good of others.

The Parish as a Worshiping Community

The celebration of Holy Mass and the Sacraments continues and people seem to be feeling more confident about returning to Mass in person. Please do take up the Cardinal's appeal to personally invite someone you know back to church if so far they have not returned. That having been said, it is good that we continue to live stream our Masses. This is a tremendous blessing and helps keep our parish and others together in worship. The sick and housebound continue to comment positively. The Advent and Lenten Exposition and Confessions were well supported and I am very grateful to the priests of the deanery who came to assist.

A very positive initiative too, has been the new Group for men who meet for prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and a drink once a month. It is early days yet but a good start has been made.

Thanks to the Stewards and the greeters whose role is now more about welcome and less about sanitising. You are not taken for granted and a Mass and 'thank you' do is arranged for 8th May.

Catechetics – growing in our Faith

Thanks to all the catechetical team. The preparation courses for Baptism, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are running. First Reconciliation has taken place recently. First Holy Communion and Confirmation are both due on the weekend of 21-22 May. A word of thanks to the parents, both Catholic and non-Catholic, for all their help and support.

Synodal Pathway.

During these last months we have participated in the Westminster Synodal Pathway which has thrown up a number of ideas. Though the wider response was not overwhelming, we do owe a vote of thanks to Bryan Wickware for his enthusiasm and hard work. He and a small team continue to look at possible developments for the future life of the parish.

Pinner Association of Churches (PAC)

The members of PAC and I hope that St. Luke's and the other Churches may continue to work together for Christian Unity. We have been united in prayer at Christmas-time with carols at the war memorial. Also joint prayers for Ukraine have taken place. The Good Friday Walk of Witness has been restored. Thanks to all from Saint Luke's who participated. Anyone interested in the work of PAC is invited to volunteer.

The Parish Council and the Finance Committee

To all who are on the Parish Council & on the Finance Committee, thank you for all that you do. Thanks to those who are stepping down and those who are joining. My continuing thanks to all the members of the PC and FC and particularly to the two 'chairs' Richard Almond & John Wiseman – for your time, patience, hard work and generous support. As you all know, Richard is soon moving on to pastures new so please be assured of our gratitude for all that you have done during your term of office. Dear Richard. Thank you.

The Property Services Committee/Gardening team.

A great sadness during the year was that Mark Jenkins, our caretaker, was called to God last September. His cheerful presence is very much missed here at Saint Luke's. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. We have been blessed by the appointment of Sylwester Lechowicz, our new caretaker, who has taken over from Mark. I

wish to officially welcome him to the Parish. Special thanks to Andrew Egan, our Chairman of Works, and to all who help in any way with maintaining our properties.” Particular thanks to Mary Bardsley and to her faithful team of volunteers. To you all – I am most grateful.

The Hall is now in use again and the Parish Centre is being used for Catechetics. A special thank you to the team at SPEC for accommodating our larger than usual group of Confirmation candidates last year. The future for the Scouting Movement and parish letting income from the Hall are still a little uncertain. Thanks to Rita Maestranzi who has kindly taken on the role of Lettings Manager.

My thanks

As regards the ongoing life of the Parish, may I express again my gratitude to Pat Williams and Noreen Linnane, our Parish Administrators, who are sharing the job at present. Thanks to Norah O’Hare our Catechist, to Mariola Griffiths our Pastoral Outreach worker: key workers at the heart of the life of St. Luke’s.

To conclude, there is one additional point I think we need to keep in mind. I fear that there may be a danger of us becoming ‘self-referential’ and just asking are we as a parish inward or outward looking. These are obviously important questions but not the whole picture. My concern is that we should be ‘upward looking.’ For our first duty is the praise and worship of God. So, thank you for your patience and let us continue to pray for one another.

Father Vincent.

Father advised us that he would be away from 1st June for a month – he is to visit America for the Ordination of a friend, who in 1996 when he was PP in Northwood, was one of his Altar Servers – he is also visiting his sister. Father Pellegrini will be covering for him. In spite of him not being here he hoped that St Luke’s would be able to do something to celebrate the Queens Jubilee.

Catechist Report

It is such a blessing that covid restrictions, in the main, have been lifted and that parish life is resuming to the fullness of pre Covid days. It is necessary, however, to begin with an update of the celebration of the Sacraments during the pandemic.

First Holy Communion (FHC) 2021

My thanks to Alfred Micallef, Kasia and Izabella Podwiazka, Renata Malhotra, Emma Nason - Walsh, Thelma Lewis and Melinda Whitehead

Despite the pandemic, Saturday Club achieved 16 classes in the academic year with a combination of face to face and zoom meetings. A total of 19 children received their FHC on 26th June and 3rd July. This included two older children who also came to classes for preparation. The 4 children from Pre-Communion progressed to the FHC class in September.

The Masses were wonderful celebrations for the children and their families. A big thank you to everyone who helped; the readers, the folk group and of course the stewards, who ensured the Church was Covid secure. The numbers of guests were compliant with the risk assessment, thank you to Pat Williams, Richard Almond and team for their work on this.

Confirmation 2021

My thanks to Julia Lamb and Dennis Jenkins.

23 young people were prepared for Confirmation throughout May and June. Classes, based on Fr. Stephen Wang’s, Sycamore programme, were held at SPEC. Thank you to Maria West and Michael Linnane for their help in opening for us each Monday.

Reconciliation for the young people was held at SPEC on Saturday 12th June. This was a lovely occasion for them as they received the sacrament, outside, on a beautiful day in a very peaceful setting. My thanks to Fr. Mark Walker for assisting Fr. Vincent.

The Confirmation Mass, was celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington, on 4th July, with Fr. Vincent and Fr.

Mark concelebrating. 24 young people received the Sacrament including 1 from 2020 who missed the Sacrament due to Covid quarantine. Thank you to Sue Girvan for reading, Stephanie Gush for playing the organ, Peter Moss for getting everything prepared in advance, the stewards and the Catechists. A great team effort.

Sacraments 2022

Applications for the Sacraments 2022 were in the church and available on line from the end of June, with a deadline of 31st August. Thanks to Eithne for working on all the renewal and new DBS checks.

Advent and Christmas 2021

Throughout the four Sundays of Advent, at the beginning of 9am Mass, a child read a short passage relating to each Sunday, after which, The Advent Candle song was sung, led by the folk group. This was followed by the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath.

From the first weekend of Advent the Blessing of Christmas Trees was in the church and on Sunday 5th December, Fr. Vincent blessed the home crib figures at both Sunday Masses.

On Sunday 19th December, immediately after the Holy Hour, 80 parishioners, of all ages, attended the Advent Carol Concert in the church at 4.15pm. This was a wonderful celebration of readings and Advent carols. Streaming figures from Church Services show a high number of people also joined remotely.

Rehearsals for our Christmas morning nativity were held on 20th and 22nd December and Christmas Eve. The children were brilliant and on Christmas morning at 9am Mass, 17 children successfully acted out the Gospel of St. Luke to a full church.

First Holy Communion (FHC) and Reconciliation 2022

My thanks to Alfred Micallef, Kasia Podwiazka, Chiara Ottaviani, Emma Nason - Walsh, Jacqui Brosnan and Thelma Lewis

Despite my concern at the beginning of September, regarding low numbers of children for FHC preparation, we now have, 14 children in FHC and 4 in Pre FHC. These numbers are slightly lower in FHC than of recent years but given the percentage of non-Catholic children in St. John Fisher School, not surprising. Fr. Vincent and I held an introductory meeting for parents in the parish centre on Monday 13th September and Saturday Club opened for this academic year at 10am on 18th September.

Lesson plans are sent to Catechists and helpers by Tuesday of the preceding week with the children following the age appropriate 'I Belong' programme, supported by the Gospel stories retold and deeply rooted in Jesus.

The Inscription Mass was held on 28th November, the First Sunday of Advent, at 9am. The following day, Monday 29th November, the 2nd meeting for parents was held in the church, where Fr. Vincent took them on a guided tour, culminating with a discussion on the Eucharist. This was greatly appreciated by the parents, as they agreed afterwards, it helped with the formation of their own faith.

Saturday Club opened for the spring term, on 8th January.

A meeting for parents on Reconciliation/Confession was held on 3rd February, followed by First Reconciliation for the children on Saturday 26th February. Fr. Mark Walker, from SPEC, joined Fr. Vincent to hear confession for the parents. This was a wonderful opportunity for parents to renew their faith, most parents availed of the opportunity to go to confession and this was warmly welcomed.

The end of the spring term service was in the Church on Saturday 26th March. To date we have had 21 classes and will reopen on 7th May after the Easter and May Bank Holiday, break. FHC for all the children will be on Saturday 21st May.

Confirmation 2022

My thanks to Julia Lamb and Dennis Jenkins.

The introductory meeting for the young people who would like to be Confirmed in 2022 and their parents was held on Monday 22nd November. Classes began on Monday 17th January in preparation for the Confirmation

Mass that will be celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington on 22nd May.

12 young people are preparing for Confirmation. We meet on Monday evenings and, to date, have had 10 classes. These are based on Fr. Stephen Wang's Sycamore programme and enhanced by outside speakers: Holly Cooke from Westminster Youth ran a workshop on 7th February on the theme of 'Loving Without Limits' highlighting the need for respect for all our brothers and sisters regardless of gender, race or any diversity. All very relevant to the lives of our young people in 2022. Colette Joyce, from the Diocese held an intergenerational talk on Climate Change based on Laudato Si. This talk was opened to parents and to the wider parish community but only 4 people apart from the Confirmandi attended. On 21st March, speakers from the Columban's in Birmingham came to discuss the same subject and consolidate learning. This was well received by the young people with encouraging feedback.

On 21st February, Fr. Vincent took the Confirmation group on a tour of the church, highlighting things of interest and their relevance to Mass and the Sacraments.

Our Confirmation retreat was held at SPEC on Saturday 5th March with the Inscription Mass on Sunday 6th March at 11am. Reconciliation, for the young people, was on Saturday, 12th March, with the last class before the Easter break, on Monday 28th March.

RCIA 2022

My thanks to Sr. Josephine, Jane Bartlett and Caterina Verderame

Our enquiry evening was held on Monday 4th October, with one young man coming forward. Meetings started on 11th October, on Mondays, for the winter term only and then for the spring term on Tuesday evenings, to avoid clashing with Confirmation classes.

As we journeyed towards Easter this young man was welcomed by the parish on 26th February and by the Diocese at the Rite of Election on Sunday 6th March, supported by the parish Catechists, his sponsor and his family. On this occasion we were lucky to be able to introduce him to the Cardinal and to Bishop John Sherrington. He was received into full communion with the Church at the Easter vigil. The last class for this year will be on Tuesday 17th May and held at Farmside, the home of the Daughter's of Charity.

Baptism

Pre-Baptism classes continue to be held as required usually on Saturday afternoons.

Easter – at time of writing

Celebrations, below, with the children, will resume as pre pandemic:

Mass of the Lords Supper 7.30pm on Holy Thursday, 14th April – The Confirmandi to have their feet washed

Stations of the Cross for children at 9.30am on Good Friday

Blessing of the Polish food and the Easter Garden on Holy Saturday at 9.30am

The Resurrection play at 9am Mass on Easter Sunday morning

Easter Garden – Thank you to the Lee Family for volunteering to help with this again this year

Post Pandemic

The Offertory Procession was reintroduced at both Sunday Masses on Sunday 27th March (Mother's Day). Mothers brought up the gifts at both Masses

Children's Liturgy will be reintroduced on one Sunday per month wef September

In recognising the fact that, across the Diocese, not all families have returned to Mass, Cardinal Vincent has recorded a video for Catholic schools - **Take your family to church this Lent**, where he has asked children to ask their families to go together to Mass, this Lent, in preparation for Easter. This can be accessed on youtube for anyone who is interested.

Future Events

Sunday 8th May – Crowning of Our Lady

Sunday 3rd July – Family Event at SPEC – full details to follow

Various

Fr. Vincent and I continue to meet weekly to plan the week ahead and discuss any other business and/or

pastoral matters that arise.

Attendance, bi monthly, at Harrow Deanery meetings with Fr. Vincent and then also bi monthly split meetings, that I chair, with Lay Coordinators and school Chaplains

Meetings, as and when requested, with the agency of Evangelisation at the diocese either in person or via zoom

Parish council meetings as per diary

To continually ensure we meet compliance standards under safeguarding for volunteer staff

The afternoon of 2nd September, in the parish centre, I attended with Fr. Vincent as he signed school forms

A follow up to the young readers workshop that was held on 7th November was held after 11am Mass on Sunday 20th February where 3 new young readers came forward

The Stars of Abraham, our post communion group, led by Chiara Ferrario, continue to meet monthly on Saturdays from 1.30 -3pm. This group builds on the shared experience of Saturday Club with a view to the children's friendships evolving through fun time spent together and their faith developing within the life of the parish

Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to:

- the Catechists and helpers who volunteer with such dedication to grow the faith of Our Lord Jesus, within the parish community of St. Luke's. It couldn't be done without them. So many give so much in a quiet and unassuming way
- Marian Vince, who led Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) for 10 years pre pandemic. A very special mention must be made to acknowledge Marian's work and dedication. Marian cheerfully arrived at 8.15am on 2 Sundays per month, during term time, and delivered an age-appropriate liturgy to a generation of children always keeping in mind they were still at Mass. Marian has now stood down from this role but thankfully her expertise is still an asset in Catholic education as she continues to lead early years teaching at St. Teresa's. On behalf of all the families, thank you Marian
- Those who help build the crib at Christmas and those who build the Easter Garden
- The folk group for their support and Stephanie Gush and Elizabeth Thorpe for playing the organ as and when required
- Eithne Atterbury, who gives guidance on all safeguarding requirements
- Fr. Vincent, Pat Williams, Noreen Linnane, Mariola Griffiths, Sylwester Lechowicz and Richard Almond for their support and friendship.

Norah O'Hare

Catechetical Coordinator

Norah added that unfortunately it was not possible for the RCIA candidate to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil due to Covid infection – this will now happen at the 11o'clock Mass on 24th April.

Richard Almond thanked Norah for all her outstanding work, keeping everything going in spite of Covid.

Finance Report - see Summary Financial statement at end of minutes.

Church attendance was still severely affected in 2021 with the ongoing spread of Covid-19. Closure of the church to public worship remained in place, as did national lockdowns, etc.

The 2021 parish income of £209,948 was exceeded by total outgoings of £210,935, resulting in a year-end shortfall of £987. The parish overall financial figures however, remain relatively healthy, as can be seen from the attached Summary Financial Statement. Our overall bank balance at year end 2021 stands at £472,027 against a year end figure for 2020 of £473,014.

Reduced numbers in church, resulted in plate offerings reducing to £9,972 in 2021, from £13,457 in 2020 and from £34,573 in 2019. Similarly, Envelope Giving in 2021 reduced to £13,595, from £21,965 in 2020 and

from ££49,966 in 2019. Many parishioners have however transferred to supporting the church using standing orders and this method of giving has increased from £69,246 in 2019 to £95,477 in 2020 and to £99,966 in 2021. We would encourage parishioners, wherever possible, to transfer to this form of giving. Also, where parishioners pay income tax, this tax can be reclaimed by the parish if a gift aid form has been completed.

The anticipated Gift Aid income tax refund of £25,000 has not been received. We anticipate this payment now in 2022. The Annex, let to Kiddicare on a 5-year contract, generated an income of £20,445 and Hall letting generated £3,794. We anticipate Hall letting income increasing in 2022. A Growing in Faith refund of £12,000 has been applied for, and received and a Furlough Grant of £11,404 has also been received.

Due to the pandemic, parish activities were much reduced during the year, the 200-club continued to operate and its surplus was distributed to selected charities. General and Specific Donations, Fund Raising, Parish Activities and Legacies generated additional income of £11,376. Our Diocesan Assessment for year 2021 was £51,435 and this will increase for year 2022.

The church roof PV system installed in 2011 continues to generate an income and this year contributed £4,710. The system is now 10 years old and we are intending to upgrade its control and monitoring system. Works & Maintenance expenditure was reduced during the year amounting to £53,456 against a forecast of £85,000. The current Works budget has been approved by the Finance Committee and a 10-year plan is being developed.

The accounts for the period 1st Jan to 31st Dec 2021 have been reported to and approved by the Finance Committee. The final 2021 year- end submissions have been approved and the required returns made to the Diocese. The parish was audited by the diocesan auditors, Buzzacott, in late 2020 and all the auditor findings have been satisfactorily addressed and resolved.

Any of the above would not have been possible without the commitment, hard work and support of many individuals and organisations within the parish. Particular thanks are due to Bill Wright, Greg Knowles and Nick Foley for their specialist work.

John Wiseman – Chair Finance Committee

John also wished to thank Greg Knowles, Paul Andersson, Bill Wright and Nick Foley for all their help.

Pinner Association of Churches (PAC) Report

The PAC Executive Members have continued to meet via Zoom this past year.

Rosemary Lay (St. John the Baptist Parish Church) is the current PAC Chair. Denis Argent, who has served as PAC Treasurer for the past twenty years, is stepping down. The PAC Executive is most grateful to Denis for his service these past two decades and will miss his jovial wit, good humour and insight. Raj Jayaraj has joined the Executive as joint representative for St Luke's. Kate Brooker is delighted to be working with Raj going forward. Kate will be Chair from November 2022 for one year.

Pinner Methodist Church hosted a Thanksgiving Service on 19 September 2021. It was well attended.

Carols by Torchlight around the Christmas tree at the top of Pinner High Street went head in December 2021. In excess of one hundred and fifty people of all ages took part and the carollers enjoyed being able to gather outside and sing together. Mince pies were served afterwards, and Pinner Baptist Church hosted refreshments at the Church. Organisers felt it was the best Carols by Torchlight since the event was first introduced. Carols at Milmans Day Centre 2021 did not take place due to the pandemic.

Christmas Day Lunch Plan A, with guests and volunteers enjoying a traditional Christmas meal together, had to be cancelled due to health and safety concerns related to the Covid Omicron variant. Plan B saw the chef cook the meal in St John the Baptist's church hall kitchen, volunteers packed the food in boxes and driver volunteers delivered the meals and goodie bags to the guests at their homes. Thirty-five guests enjoyed the Christmas fare. The PAC is very grateful to all the organisers and volunteers who made this event possible. Many local businesses contributed financially to the Lunch either by supplying food donations or cheques.

The first Welcome Lunch since lockdown in 2020 took place on 5 April 2022. Twenty-two guests attended and

ten volunteers looked after them. Feedback received expressed enjoyment and gratitude. An additional five Welcome Lunches' dates are booked into the 2022 calendar. Romaine Mutti, Welcome Lunches' Coordinator, would like to thank those members of St Luke's who have joined the volunteer team. Kate Brooker would also like to thank Eithne Atterbury for her guidance and help with all safeguarding matters.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness 2022 went ahead this year, the first held since 2019. Kate Brooker wishes to thank Father Vincent for his support and all those parishioners who helped with refreshments and acted as Stewards and Cross Bearers. Kate would also like to thank Richard Almond for his years as Chief Steward, leading the planning and delivery of the Walk.

The pandemic has allowed time for reflection. Over the past year, the Executive has canvassed members of their churches for their views on how they want to see the PAC in the future. Feedback has been gathered and a way forward is under review.

The Executive plans to revamp and streamline the PAC website later this year. It will incorporate links to the five member Churches so people can find out with a click what is happening locally.

The Parish Council voted to continue supporting the Harrow Food Bank / London Community Kitchen via donations delivered to Pinner Baptist Church. Pastor Manoj Raithatha thanks St Luke's parishioners for their continued support of this community venture.

News from the PAC Churches

All churches have reintroduced in-person services and some services continue via Zoom. The churches are very busy with their ministries and outreach programmes. Full details can be seen on the churches' websites. Some highlights:

Cannon Lane Methodist Church: The church held a very successful charity Coffee Morning in November, raising £560 for the Karibuni Trust, a Christian charity which supports children living in the slums of Kenya. A very enjoyable Christmas lunch was held in early December, with the young people taking the lead in hosting the fun and games before the meal.

Pinner Baptist Church: Pastor Manoj Raithatha organised and led, with Roman Nuka, Minister of the local Romanian Church, a Prayer for Ukraine Service in March 2022. The church was packed, and the leaders of each PAC church delivered a prayer that they had written for the occasion. The retiring collection for Ukraine raised in excess of £550.

Pinner Methodist Church: The Taizé Services continue to be very well attended. The Youth Club meets on Friday evenings. It is secular, run on Christian principles. It is open to boys and girls from 9 to 14 years old. The Club is open to people of all faiths and is so popular that there is now a waiting list for new members and also for teenage helpers. The teenage helpers use their participation as part of their service section for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

The way forward for PMC and its 'Sister Churches' saw meetings take place between Pinner, Cannon Lane and Eastcote Methodist Churches. This was a "Circuit initiative". The agenda was to discuss and project the position of the group of churches and the Circuit in 10+ years' time. There were some very divergent views ranging from the traditional to the out and out radical. It will be interesting to see how these develop and which ones will be taken forward.

St John the Baptist Parish Church: In late October, St John's held a service to mark the celebration of the church's 700th anniversary. As part of the year-long celebration, the church commissioned Roy Rodgers to create a series of twelve paintings of St John's Church. All the paintings were sold. Prints of the paintings, and calendars featuring images of the twelve paintings, were also produced and sold.

The Music in Pinner Series held three concerts in the church.

Kate Brooker- PAC Representative

Kate added that Denis Argent has agreed to continue in his role as Treasurer.

The vacancy for Secretary on the Executive is still vacant.

She advised that the Walk of Witness was well attended. Numbers were slightly lower than usual – 150/160. She thanked Richard Almond for all his support

Property Services Report

The change in our grounds between the Presbytery and the Parish centre from a muddy mess to beautifully laid lawns and flower & shrub beds occurred in 2021. This was in spite of a delayed re-supply of plants that had been destroyed due to the development works – hopefully replacement plants will be delivered very shortly. Serious credit is due to the St Luke's gardening team who took on that task of making the garden area look good again once lawn turf was re-laid.

Earlier in the year the Parish Centre basement flooded during heavy rains and had to be pumped dry, and subsequently, the automatic pumping system was replaced. The rains also showed up a weakness in one side elevation flat roof above the lady chapel; whilst external repairs were carried out it was noted that our mineral felt covering the flat roofs will need progressive replacement over the next two years as part of preventative maintenance.

Upkeep of our properties is important and it was possible to undertake the renovation of the large wooden entrance doors to our Church as dust from contractor works diminished. These doors have been oiled rather than varnished for ease of subsequent maintenance. Safety railings with relatively slim metal strut profiles were added to the front of the Altar. The wood rot in the back window of the Parish Centre kitchen by the rear door was cut out, replaced and painted, but in the next three to five years that double height window complete with door frame and door is likely to need replacing as a unit. To remain in keeping with the age of the building and the church it may be appropriate to replace the unit in hardwood rather than upvc.

The hall had motorised opening windows installed one on each side to ensure better ventilation, and the gas fired boiler in the hall kitchen had a number of new parts fitted to extend its useable life. This boiler provides heating and hot water for the nursery in the hall annex so it has to be reliable.

Our power generation from solar panels is providing a strong return on its investment and our endeavours to find a suitable monitoring system remains on-going. As part of our sustainability endeavours, battery storage for surplus generated electricity, will be investigated, and work to achieve better energy efficiency in lighting is a continuing action across 2021 and 2022.

Reports by Parishioners of a less than fully reliable church services streaming services were relayed to the supplier in Dublin, Church Services TV, to Irish Telecom and to BT. It became possible to pinpoint a weak link in service infrastructure, namely underperforming ADSL communication lines supplied by BT. As normal channels of communication to BT failed to gain a solution, letters were sent to the CEOs of BT Group Ltd and to BT Openreach Ltd requesting replacement of slow ADSL lines by fast fibre optic lines. Currently the BT exchange to which our ADSL lines are connected has a scheduled date of conversion to fibre optic cable of 2024/5, but it is hoped that this date may be bought forward as action is being taken to try and facilitate fibre delivery ahead of that timeline.

With the arrival of Fr Vincent in January 2020 delayed renovation work in the Presbytery can be anticipated to be undertaken in the next 12 months.

My thanks to all the volunteers and helpers who work hard to keep the buildings and grounds of St Luke's in pristine order. Your generosity and commitment is much appreciated.

Andrew Egan- Building and Maintenance Representative

Andrew wanted to thank Mary Bardsley, Peter O'Sullivan, Rita Maestranzi for their sterling work in transforming the sea of mud into the beautiful church gardens we have today. Some of the plants have arrived and more are to follow. He also advised that there has been a major leak on the far side of the Church roof. We may need a new roof – a quote for this is to be obtained and the work possibly carried out in 2023.

Richard Almond said that the church grounds are outstanding and a credit to the gardening team.

Health and Safety Report

Building	Fire	Asbestos	Electrics	Equality	Facilities	General	Documentary
Church	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Parish Hall Annex	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Parish Centre	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Presbytery	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green

Green: Tolerable Risk (No risk or acceptable risk) – No significant issues identified or advisory only

Yellow: Moderate Risk (Non-life threatening) – Non-urgent risks which should be reduced

Red: Substantial Risk (Potentially Life Threatening) – Significant risks that require urgent action

Chris Horsfall from Precision carried out his inspection on 21st January and I am pleased to report there was only two Substantial (red) risk identified, one within the church and one in the Presbytery. The risk in the church was in respect of a mop stored in the electrical cupboard in the sacristy. The cleaning team have been notified that nothing should be stored in this cupboard, I am confident this was a one-off occurrence.

The presbytery issue relates to no linked fire detection or warning system in the house. Precision recommend installing such a system ASAP.

They have identified several Moderate (yellow) risk areas which will require additional expenditure this year:-

Hall Annex: Door out to the rear has a keyed lock. Precision recommend replacing this lock with a “thumb turn euro cylinder type lock”

Parish Centre: The fire doors already fitted are fire rated but are not installed as fire doors due to insufficient seals. Precision recommend “fit cold smoke seals & intumescent hot seals to the top and sides of all the fire doors where missing”. They also recommend confirming existing hinges are fire rated. This requirement is the result of a new Fire Act 2021 which came into force in April last.

The front exit & kitchen exit doors have 2 locks on each door. Precision recommend removing one lock from each door and placing a sign to indicate which way to open.

Accessible WC is not fully part M compliant. Precision recommend the following:- fitting additional grab rails usable on both sides of the toilet. Install a distress alarm. Low level sink usable from a wheelchair. Blending valves on the hot tap to limit the maximum water temperature to below 40 degrees. Lever type door handle/lock combination.

Presbytery: Non compliant fire doors. Precision recommend upgrading doors to FD30 standard with the doors from kitchen to office and from office to corridor should be considered as high risk, Substantial (red).

Church: The glass doors from the porch to the church have clear glass. Precision recommend to avoid someone walking into the doors that the glass have markings at both eye level and waist height to identify the glass. They can provide some samples such as crosses to be attached to the doors.

Exits have small 1 inch threshold. Precision recommend providing threshold mats at each exit where there is a risk of tripping.

Bill Tuohey – Health and Safety Representative.

Bill added that he had now got clarification regarding the points raised concerning Fire Doors – this legislation does apply only to new buildings. The work in respect of linking of the fire alarms in the Presbytery is being looked into by Andrew Egan.

Bill thanked Pat Williams & Sylwester Lichowicz for all the help given.

Liturgical Groups Report

CHOIR - we have no choir at present but an advertisement for a Choir Leader is going to be issued within the Diocese. Stephanie Gush and Elizabeth Thorp continue to play the organ at the 11am Mass and on Feast Days etc.

FOLK GROUP - the Folk Group was delighted to be reinstated in its usual position facing the congregation from Christmas. In order to minimise covid transmission, the Folk Group employed a rota whereby no more than four singers are on duty each week. Whilst numbers in church are lower than usual, we have also pushed back the first pew on the Folk Group side to allow plenty of space between unmasked singers and the congregation. We would be grateful if parishioners taking communion walk back to their seats through the gap in these pews.

We are delighted to welcome Joanna back to playing the keyboard for the Folk Group and we feel blessed to have two excellent pianists in Analisa and Joanna leading the Folk Group. We are also delighted to welcome a new singer to our ranks, Greta, who has recently moved to the parish.

If you would like to join the Folk Group, even if you might be able to provide help on an ad hoc or occasional basis only, please do get in touch. Either speak to one of us after 9am Mass or email gailhovey@hotmail.com

ST. STEPHEN'S GUILD Altar Servers - Peter Moss 'retired' from being M.C and, as yet, no one has taken over the task. Father Vincent has 'co-ordinated' some members of the Guild who serve at the 9am and 11am Masses. All queries re servers etc should be addressed to Father Vincent.

SACRISTY- Christine Jenkins had to vacate her job as Sacristan after very many years doing fantastic work daily preparing for Mass, cleaning and generally keeping everything in order. A big THANK YOU, Christine. As well as 'Mass preparation'- which Father Vincent is happy to do himself - the candle boxes have to be emptied regularly, votive candle stands 'topped up', a weekly check on ordering...candles, altar wine, hosts etc; linen has to be washed and ironed, brass and copper cleaned..etc. Obviously sacristy life gets busier around Easter and Christmas!

USHERS - a rota of ushers, who were renamed stewards- was introduced during the Covid restrictions and co-ordinated by Richard Almond. A huge number of Parishioners volunteered to be present at every Mass (week days included) to make sure everyone entering the doors of the Church adhered to the instructions... masks being worn, hands being sanitised etc. As restrictions were lifted it was felt that week day stewards/ushers were not needed. At present two stewards/ushers are present at the 6pm Saturday Mass and the 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday to welcome people. Hand out Mass books, newsletters, hymn books and to answer any questions parishioners may ask as well as taking the collection, and 'ushering' people up to Communion. They also tidy the church after Mass and communicate with Father Vincent re locking the doors etc. There is always space on the rota for more ushers/stewards!

We remember in our prayers Paul Brosnan who, up until his sudden death last year, was a popular member of 'the team. R.I.P.

We are in urgent need of people who would be willing to prepare for Mass, and clear away after, when we have a visiting priest. Any help gratefully received!

SUE GIRVAN- Liturgical Group Representative

Uniform Groups

During lock down the Group held no meetings in the Hall but each section held their own Zoom Meetings enabling the youngsters to continue their Scouting albeit on a screen! Once face to face meetings were allowed weekly instructions were issued by the Scout Association re: numbers allowed, mask wearing etc and slowly but surely our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts got back to some form of normality!

The BEAVER COLONY (aged 6-8 year olds) changed their meeting day from Wednesday to Thursday evenings.from 5.15pm-6.15pm.,just prior to the Cub Pack meeting. The reason for this was two-fold: the parents felt that if they had a Beaver and a Cub it only meant one evening of delivering and collecting and the leaders felt that, as on a few occasions, one leader had to cover for another they could 'stay on' in the Hall.

Last July the Colony said farewell to Marie Wright who had been Beaver Leader (named Sunny River) for over 20 years and had decided to retire and, at the time of writing this report she hasn't been replaced, so the Group decided to restrict the numbers in the Colony from 20 to 16 (this may change soon) and there is still a

long waiting list to join. An excellent parent helper rota is in progress and a big thank you to all those who have offered help. Various games are played weekly, lots of craft work is done (Christmas gifts, mothers' day cards etc) visiting speakers are invited, badges earned (many weeks were spent carrying out the requisites for the Beaver 1st Aid badge, bandaging, resuscitation etc..) topics and hobbies are addressed by the beavers themselves to the rest of the colony and most important of all fun is had and friends are made.

When a Beaver turns 8 years of age he/she "swims up" to the CUB PACK (aged 8-10+ years) which meets from 6.30pm-7.45pm. Over the past few months, the Pack have worked on the Home Safety Badge, which incorporated a visit to the fire station, visiting speakers and learning how to keep safe themselves and others. A weekend camp was very popular and learning to erect their tents etc proved to be an entertaining experience! At the age of 10+ Cub Scouts join the SCOUT TROOP (aged 10+ -14+) which meet from 7.30pm – 8.45pm). The 15 minutes as a joint meeting with the Pack has proved very popular, as the younger members of the Group get to know their older peers. Team building exercises has resulted in constructing mini buildings from marsh mallows and spaghetti - if one person decides to eat a marshmallow the whole 'building' collapse! Again weekend camps and spending evenings outdoors and navigating themselves in patrols around Pinner has been a useful learning exercises.

We welcomed two new leaders to the Troop who were once Scouts in the Group.

On Thursday 11th November the Beavers and Cubs held part of their meeting together at the Pinner War Memorial where they laid a home-made wreath, were led in a prayer and Father Vincent gave them a blessing. The Scout Troop did the same later in the evening. On Remembrance Sunday the Group were represented at the mini ceremony at the Memorial, due to Covid restrictions we were told numbers were limited.

The first Church Parade at 9am Mass will be held on Palm Sunday -not too sure of numbers due to school holidays!

On Sunday 24th April all members of the Scout Movement in the area will parade in Pinner High Street with Mayor of Harrow for St. George's Day.

A Group Camp is being held in July - Cubs and Scouts will camp for the weekend and Beavers will visit for the days.

We are still in need of leaders/helpers etc. no qualifications necessary. help, training, DBS checks all undertaken by the Scout Association..all one needs is lots of energy and the desire to have fun and help the young people achieve. I started in 3rd Pinner nearly 50 years ago and survived!!

As usual a huge THANK YOU to all our leaders who voluntary give up their time on training courses, preparing meetings etc thus enabling our young people become good citizens.

SUE GIRVAN - Assistant Group Scout Leader.

5th Pinner (St. Luke's) Brownie Pack

Summer Term 2021

For the first half of the term we were meeting over zoom and we worked on a pawprint astronaut adventures badge. We held a virtual sleepover during the early May Bank Holiday (a time when traditionally we would have been away at Kingswood in Norfolk) and completed a pawprint top secret spy adventure. After the May half term we held our weekly meetings in Pinner Memorial Park where we completed a Girlguiding LASER pawprint badge growing up wild with insects and mini-beasts and spent lots of time enjoying the out of doors.

Autumn Term 2021

We returned to indoor meetings and started meeting in the Parish Hall instead of the Parish Centre. This went successfully and although we had a few Covid cases reported none were directly related to Brownies and had been picked up at School. We worked on and completed our Communicate stage 3 skills builder badge and unit meeting activities relating to the express myself theme of our programme. We also visited the cinema as an end of term treat to see a special Girlguiding viewing of Disney Encanto.

Spring Term 2022

During the Spring term we worked on the skills for my future theme unit meeting activities and worked on and completed the stage 3 Lead skills builder badge. We were also fortunate enough to have our first residential since 2019 and spent an exciting weekend being castaways at Willow Tree Centre. I had a stressful build up to the weekend with ensuring the weekend was planned and run taking Covid into account but the huge responsibility of running one of the first residential since Covid knowing how if girls contracted Covid it would affect their half term plans not to mention the worry of ensuring the adult team also remaining Covid free on the run up, during and after the weekend however we all had an amazing time and the feedback from girls and parents was extremely positive and the parents were overwhelmingly in support of this event and the girls having the opportunity to experience a residential. (None of the girls had been away on a residential before and many hadn't experienced sleeping away from home and their due to Covid and some girls overcame their anxiety over being away from home overnight at this event so although stressful I was so pleased we went ahead with the trip and so proud of the girls and how well they did.

We also started a STEM pawprint badge towards the end of term but will finish at the start of next term as unfortunately I came down with a chest infection and we cancelled one meeting and held one meeting online.

We are looking forward to the start of the Summer Term.

Jackie Diamond. Brownie Leader.

Safeguarding Report (Eithne was unable to attend the meeting due to illness)

An introduction to the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA): CSSA becomes a new professional standards body against which all safeguarding practice will be assessed. The best way for me to explain this would be in terms of bringing the Church safeguarding practice into line with other statutory bodies.

The standards are:

- 1. Safeguarding is embedded in the Church's Leadership, Governance, Ministry, and Culture*
- 2. Communicating the Church's safeguarding message*
- 3. Engaging with and Caring for those that have been harmed*
- 4. Effective Management of Allegations and Concerns*
- 5. Support and Management of Respondents*
- 6. Robust Human Resource Management*
- 7. Training and Support for Safeguarding **
- 8. Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement*

My view is that these should not be seen as objectives to be set aside for review by various Diocese Safeguarding teams and church leaders followed by an end of year report to the wider Church. Instead, these are practical objectives with "performance targets" that can be achieved at parish/local level; we are all accountable for ensuring we deliver a high standard of safeguarding care to our parish community and beyond.

We have come a long way as a Church in terms of safeguarding practice and there is always more we can do and should do. By its very nature safeguarding risk management is dynamic since we can never fully and accurately assess the risk in any situation.

But we can do our best to anticipate risks by learning from the past, adhering to the guidance, reflecting on best practice and never allowing ourselves to be complacent.

Safeguarding has to be at the forefront of all we do. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Parish Safeguarding Update News:

Since the last AGM, all reported safeguarding concerns have been appropriately responded to, following Church and statutory guidance.

Hopefully many of you will have noticed new safeguarding posters at the back of the church (same PSR though!) - one specifically designed for children and young people. This is designed to help make raising a concern more accessible for our younger parishioners.

DBS clearances: The process for DBS clearances unfortunately remains a sore point. We still have a cumbersome and lengthy process, albeit thorough. There is little we can do locally but wait.

Parish Priest meetings: Fr Vincent and I meet regularly and we continue our commitment to deliver best practice in safeguarding. Fr Vincent has undertaken relevant Diocesan safeguarding training specific for clergy. I am grateful for his continued support and advice.

Catechist meetings: Norah O'Hare and I continue to meet with a focus on safeguarding our children and young people in all our catechetical groups. Norah's team of volunteers are all DBS cleared (enhanced level /Children's Barred List checked). All volunteers are required to agree to a Code of Conduct and, in keeping with latest CSSA guidelines must undertake mandatory TES/EduCare Safeguarding training. I am grateful to Norah for continued vigilance in safeguarding.

Pastoral Outreach meetings: Mariola Griffiths and I have met with Father to review the terms of pastoral outreach in the parish with a specific focus on safeguarding. It is important we are delivering safe and supportive services to our housebound parishioners; it will be an area we continue to develop. Mariola is growing her team of volunteers and again. All volunteer staff will be DBS enhanced (Adults Barred List checked). They will also be required to complete the mandatory safeguarding training and agree to a Code of Conduct.

Parish Council: Thanks are also due to particularly to Pat Williams and more recent Noreen Linnane (welcome!) and Richard Almond/ Chair who have supported me this year. Also to my fellow parish councilors for responding to requests when necessary.

PAC: Kate Brooker I am very grateful to Kate Brooker who is consistently vigilant with safeguarding in relation to the PAC activities connected to our parish.

Stars Of Abraham: Chiara Ferrario-Ottaviani Chiara is a parent with a young family who leads the monthly Stars of Abraham group - a post Communion faith based youth group, for school year groups 4 - 6 . More young parishioners are welcome to this fun group, and I am grateful to Chiara for maintaining a safeguarding focus.

Parents Group: Elise Fabris In another change to safeguarding guidance since my last report, the leaders of parents group must also be DBS enhanced checked. In the past as long as parents remained present with their children this was not a requirement. Our new group leader Elise has complied with the process, for which I am grateful.

Readers rota: Bill Wright Bill has worked diligently to get our new eager younger readers on the rota and he has taken great care to ensure they are supported on the altar. My thanks to Bill for showing due regard to their best interests.

Our Volunteers at large: There are a great many other individuals who have taken care to support the parish, ask appropriate questions, raise concerns with me and respond when needed. To this group of volunteers I am most grateful - it means the message of safeguarding is being heard in our parish.

CSSA Standard 7: Training and Support for Safeguarding Pushing forward with safeguarding training, the parish council (as agreed at our recent meeting) are all expected to undertake the Diocese Safeguarding training. It is accredited training and is open to any member of the parish who wishes expand their knowledge of safeguarding.

If you wish to sign up please email me and I will follow up. Training is now compulsory for all paid and volunteer staff in roles with vulnerable adults, children and young people.

My own training remains up to date as recent as January 2022, with further refresher training later this month with the local authority.

General information: There are often queries and disagreements, about offering lifts to parishioners, the use of photography, social media, GDPR etc. These are always valid questions but, I would like to reassure you that decisions about when it is appropriate to give lifts etc are not made locally, ie by myself or Father Vincent. Decisions and safeguards are based on guidance from the DVLA (in the case of lifts), Data Protection rights, and other legislative or statutory guidance.

I recommend everyone accesses the "Creating a Safer Environment" document which, at 39 pages, is not long at all in comparison to the fuller guides you will find on the CSSA directory. It will also give you a helpful link to the DVLA for anyone unsure about when and who can give lifts to parishioners. Members of the parish

council have been given one which means staff in lead parish roles should be familiar with it too.

The link to the “Creating a Safer Environment” booklet can be found by logging on to the : Diocese of Westminster website and link to the following tabs:

Safeguarding - Creating a Safer Environment - scroll to the link near the bottom of the page.

I am always happy to hear your feedback and ways to build and improve on safeguarding in the parish.

Equally if you need support or you are concerned about someone, please feel free to contact me. I will respond discreetly and where it is necessary to do so, will action your information with those who I need to know, safely. Please feel free to email me on: pinnerg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Eithne Atterbury - PSR

If anyone has any queries regarding this report please contact Eithne direct – her contact details are shown in the Church Porch.

Outreach Report (Mariola was unable to attend the meeting)

There are five Parish Visitors of which three are commissioned to take Holy Communion to the elderly; the sick and housebound, two are still awaiting their DBS renewal.

At present there are twenty-five people on the Outreach list who are visited weekly, fortnightly or monthly by me or a Parish Visitor.

Our Knitting/Crochet Group meets weekly, Thursday afternoons. Our latest project was knitting various Easter items for Easter: chicks, bunnies, baskets, flowers, crosses and tea-pots, some in the Ukraine National colours. All proceeds went towards our Ukraine Appeal. We raised £475.02. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and support.

Sadly, our social afternoon activities had to be put on hold during the time of the pandemic and have not resumed. In order for activities to resume it would require volunteers to be prepared to set up and oversee it. I, unfortunately, am unable to do this anymore.

I would like to thank Eithne Atterbury, our Safeguarding representative, for her tireless work and dedication in ensuring that all safeguarding procedures are in place and that DBS checks have been carried out and is presently updating all.

Mariola Griffiths – Pastoral Outreach Support Leader.

AOB

Richard Almond welcomed Noreen Linnane as a new addition to the Parish Team.

Election of new members to the Council – as we have received 3 nominations and have 3 vacancies the following have been duly elected to the Council:

Anne Bek

Bryan Wickware

John Whitehead

Thanks are given to Denis Argent and Ian Brandon who have stepped down after their elected term and to Niamh McEnery who has resigned due to ill health – we hope to be able to welcome Niamh back sometime in the future.

Anne Bek thanked Richard on behalf of us all for his enthusiasm and hard work as Chair of the Parish Council and all he has done for us here at St Luke’s.

Father Vincent also thanked Richard for his great support and friendship.

Closing Prayer – meeting was closed with a prayer led by Father Vincent.

ST LUKE’S PARISH – FINANCIAL FACTS & NOTES FOR THE FUTURE

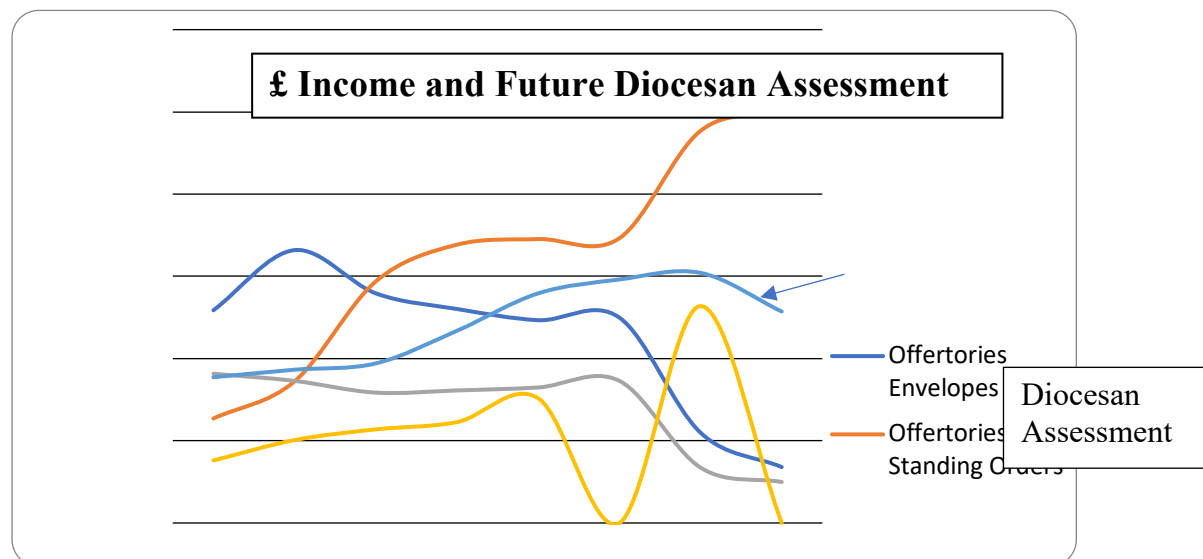
Overall – our healthy bank balance has continued during the pandemic, mainly because we had an appeal just before Covid struck 2 years ago – asking parishioners to convert to Bank Standing Orders. And many of you did just that, for which we are all very grateful, because we have suffered less from reduced cash collections than many other parishes during Covid-enforced absences from church.

We would like even more parishioners to get into the habit of giving by monthly standing order – it is very easy, and convenient for all, so please – do consider this method of giving . . . it really is the best method for you and for us.

Meanwhile, we have another method of giving, just installed – the Card Pay machines at the back of the church – very simple to use. You don’t have to think about cash at all . . . please utilise this method as much as you like, even in addition to a monthly Standing Order. Clearly, these figures will only show in next year’s reports.

Our expenses continue – and with inflation increasing dramatically, we have to consider whether it would be better to get certain big projects done sooner rather than later. There are disadvantages if we put off major (unavoidable) projects - like renewing the church flooring. And the church heating system will inevitably be reviewed in the coming years, to get better value in the longer term. . . Bear in mind our decision to go for an early Solar Panel installation, at a very significant up front cost – and look how much revenue those panels are now generating for us.

The chart below shows our main revenue streams broken down, and (the light blue line) how our payment of Diocesan Assessment has increased over the years. The Tax Refunds are very helpful (c.£25k p.a.), but go up and down, depending on when we receive them – some years a lot, some years none, due only to delay in payment.



Again, the Finance Committee would like to thank Nick Foley for the splendid way in which he has accounted for every detailed transaction and produced reports due to the Diocese, over so many years. Nick is now “retiring” and Greg Knowles has full responsibility for the detail of the parish accounts. Ad Multos Annos, Greg !

Finance Committee, St Luke’s,Pinner
April 2022

ST LUKE'S CHURCH , PINNER

Summary Financial Statement - Year ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Planned Giving		
Envelopes and bank Standing Orders	113,562	117,344
Income Tax Refunds	-	52,755
	<u>113,562</u>	<u>170,099</u>
Weekly plate, Christmas, Easter and Mass offerings	29,432	21,916
Hall lettings	3,794	14,661
Electricity generation	4,710	5,359
Rental income re Annexe	20,445	1,552
Growing in Faith refund	12,000	-
Donations to the parish (including legacies)	9,866	47,109
Furlough grants, catechetics and other income	12,569	14,998
Fund-raising,sales and parish activities (receipts less payments)	3,570	5,739
	<u>209,948</u>	<u>281,433</u>
PAYMENTS		
Diocesan Assessment	(51,435)	(60,837)
Parish priest, clergy, liturgy and choir	(20,361)	(20,791)
Catechetics and pastoral visitor	(35,176)	(34,679)
Electricity ,gas ,water and insurance	(12,953)	(6,452)
Administration and other expenses	(29,099)	(30,981)
Donations and grants by the parish	(8,455)	(11,616)
	<u>(157,479)</u>	<u>(165,356)</u>
	52,469	116,077
OTHER ITEMS		
Repairs and Maintenance	(50,456)	(31,265)
Capital expenditure	(3,000)	-
	<u>(53,456)</u>	<u>(31,265)</u>
(SHORTFALL) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>(987)</u>	<u>84,812</u>
YEAR END FUNDS		
	'2021	2020
	£	£
Restricted Funds		
Parish buildings	160,842	160,842
Sanctuary	2,971	2,971
Unrestricted Funds		
Bertha Mary Street fund	45,911	45,911
General Funds	262,303	263,290
	<u>308,214</u>	<u>309,201</u>
Bank balance at year end (after excluding unremitted special collections).	<u><u>472,027</u></u>	<u><u>473,014</u></u>

Commentary

1. The surplus before Repairs and Capital Expenditure is £52,469 which was greater than the figure of £43,850 that had been shown in our internal budget

2. The 2020 surplus of £116,077 before Repairs and Capital Expenditure includes Tax Refunds of £52,755. There was no Tax Refund in 2021
 3. Whilst the 2020 surplus of £116,077 before Repairs and Capital Expenditure includes Donations of £47,109 compared to £9866 in 2021, a Growing in Faith refund of £12,000 was received in 2021 (nil in 2020) includes £20,445 relating to the Annex (£1,552 in 2020) Hall letting income in 2021 was £3794 compared to £14661 in 2020. This was the impact of the pandemic
 4. The repairs and fixed assets in 2021 totalled £53,456 which whilst lower than budget was higher than 2020 £31,265.
-

REPORTS FOR AGM 2023

Parish Priest's Report

Since our last Parish AGM life does feel more normal. Numbers attending Mass appear to be up. This was particularly noticeable at Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.

The Parish as a Worshipping Community

- In addition to the regular celebration of Mass and the Sacraments, most Tuesdays there is a Holy Hour and Benediction. Stations of the Cross during Lent were popular. Also, starting in September, Jake Scicinski will take on the role of organist and choir leader.
- The Lenten and Advent Saturday Days of Recollection were well supported and so were the Holy Hours with visiting priests available for Confessions before Christmas and Easter. The Mens' Group meets regularly as do the Lectio Divina Group.

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the preparation and execution of the liturgies in any way. Sue Girvan deserves special mention for her work in the sacristy ordering and sorting things out. Her support here has been invaluable.

Catechetics – growing in our Faith

- I refer you to Norah's report, with a special mention of the Family Day last July at SPEC which was a most enjoyable occasion and a lovely mix of generations. Regarding Sacramental preparation; thank you to the Catechists and also to the parents, Catholic and non-Catholic, for all their help and support.

Social.

- Social activities have recommenced with a very enjoyable quiz night in memory of dear Bill Wright, RIP and with a celebration for the feast of Saint Patrick. In a small way too we have marked the Coronation. A 'Social Committee' in place to organise more events would be very useful for the future.

Pinner Association of Churches (PAC)

- I refer you to Kate's report while thanking her for all her hard work as Chair. It was lovely to celebrate her installation at Vespers on the Feast of Christ the King. Member Churches have been united in prayer at Christmas-time with carols at the war memorial. The Good Friday Walk of Witness was a very special moment.

The Parish Council and the Finance Committee

- I refer you to Bryan and John's reports. To the Members of the Parish Council & on the Finance Committee, thank you for all that you do. Thanks to those who are stepping down and who are joining.

The Property Services Committee/Gardening team.

- I refer you to Andrew's report but adding thanks to Sylwester Lechowicz, our caretaker, to Andrew Egan, our Chairman of Works, and to all who help in maintaining our properties." Particular thanks to Mary Bardsley and to her faithful team of volunteers.

The Hall is now in fairly normal use again and the Parish Centre is being used for Catechetics.

Thanks to Rita Maestranzi who has very efficiently taken on the role of Lettings Manager.

My thanks

- I express my gratitude to Pat Williams and Noreen Linnane, our Parish Administrators, who are job sharing and to Norah O'Hare our Catechist, to Mariola Griffiths our Pastoral Outreach worker.

As I wrote last year and would like to repeat, I fear that there may at times be a danger of us becoming 'self-referential' and just asking whether are we inward or outward looking. These are obviously important questions but they are not the whole picture. My concern is that we should always be 'upward looking.' Our first duty is the praise and worship of God. So, thank you for your patience and let us continue to pray for one another.

Vincent+

Catechist Report 19th April 2022 – 20th May 2023

First Holy Communion (FHC) 2022

- 14 children received their FHC on Saturday 21st May. The Mass was a wonderful celebration for the children and their families.

Confirmation 2022

- 13 young people were prepared for Confirmation and The Confirmation Mass, was celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington, on Sunday 22nd May.

Sacraments 2023

- Application forms for the Sacraments 2023 were in the church from the weekend of the 21st May 2022.

Advent and Christmas 2022

- Throughout the four Sundays of Advent, at the beginning of 9am Mass, children read and lighted the Advent Wreath
- The Travelling Crib began its journey on the First Sunday of Advent on a rota basis
- From the first weekend of Advent the Blessing of Christmas Trees were in the church and on Sunday 4th December, Fr. Vincent blessed the home crib figures at both Sunday Masses
- On Sunday 18th December, immediately after the Holy Hour, 100 parishioners, across all ages, attended the Advent Carol Concert in the church at 4.15pm. This was a wonderful celebration of Advent readings and Advent carols
- On Christmas morning at 9am Mass, 17 children successfully acted out the Gospel of St. Luke to a full church.

Easter 2023

- The Mass of the Lords Supper on Holy Thursday was exceptionally full, in excess of 250, with 9 of The Confirmandi having their feet washed
- 75 people, young and old attended the Stations of the Cross for children at 9.30am on Good Friday
- Blessing of the Polish food and the Easter Garden was held at 9.30am on Holy Saturday, over 70 people attended
- 14 children acted out the Resurrection Play at 9am Mass on Easter Sunday morning. Thank you to all the children and their parents who made this play possible.

FHC 2023 (Saturday Club)

- 21, year 3 children are preparing for FHC. 3, year 2 children who don't go to Catholic schools, are in pre FHC. 2 older siblings are also being prepared and will receive their FHC in June
- Fr. Vincent and I held an introductory meeting for parents in the parish centre on Monday 12th September and Saturday Club opened for this academic year at 10am on 24th September
- On Sunday 27th November, following the FHC Inscription Mass at 11am and brunch in the hall there was an afternoon for families of children who are attending Saturday Club. In total there were 64 parents and children present. 16 out of 20 families attended. In the hall, children who are receiving their FHC next year and siblings worked together whilst parents worked in the Parish Centre, both groups focused on the learning intention 'how do you know God loves you' and 'how do you know I love you' and then they came together to discuss
- A meeting for parents on Reconciliation/Confession was held on 23rd February, followed by First Reconciliation for the children on Saturday 4th and 11th March. This was a wonderful opportunity for parents to renew their faith, most parents availed of the opportunity to go to confession with a visiting Priest, which was warmly welcomed
- On 23rd March, a further meeting for parents was held in the church, where Fr. Vincent took them on a guided tour, culminating with a discussion on the Eucharist. This was greatly appreciated by the parents, as it helped with the formation of their own faith
- The final meeting for parents prior to the FHCs was held on Thursday 11th May
- FHC Masses will be on Sunday 11th June and Saturday 17th June both at 2pm.

Confirmation 2023

- The introductory meeting for the young people who would like to be Confirmed in 2023 and their parents was held on Monday 21st November. Classes began on Monday 16th January in preparation for the Confirmation Mass that will be celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington on 28th May
- 14 young people are preparing for Confirmation. We meet on Monday evenings. Classes are based on Fr. Stephen Wang's Sycamore programme and enhanced by outside speakers, all very relevant to the lives of our young people in 2023
- Reconciliation, for the young people, was on Saturday, 4th March.

Baptism

- Pre-Baptism classes continue to be held as required usually on Saturday afternoons although I am very flexible and classes can be at a date and time suitable to parents.

RCIA 2023

- No RCIA this year.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

- Children's Liturgy was reintroduced, post covid, on Sunday 11th September. This will now happen on the second Sunday of each month. Chris Ryan leads a childlike liturgy whilst remembering, most importantly, the children are still at Mass.

Family Breakfast – now known as parish breakfast

- It is great to have the Family Breakfast back, post covid. This will now happen on the first Sunday of each month with the parents working on a rota basis.

Family Day (wef April 2023 this will be now known as Parish Day or Picnic)

- On Sunday 3rd July, SPEC in Waxwell Lane, opened its doors to St. Luke's and over 140 people came along to celebrate Mass and enjoy a Sunday afternoon in each other's company. It was wonderful to see such a mix of age groups, generations of families and the parish community come together. It was lovely to see so many of last year's Confirmation group come to 'meet and greet'. This year the **Parish Picnic** is Sunday 2nd July 2023 with Mass at 2pm.

The Stars of Abraham

- Led by Chiara Ferrario had its first meeting of the academic year on Saturday 1st October with 11 children attending.

Various

- Signing of school forms with Fr. Vincent – took place in the parish centre on Saturday 8th October between 1 and 3pm
- A young readers workshop was held after 11am Mass on Sunday 20th February where 3 new, young readers came forward
- Francesca Silano, a Professor of History at Houghton University, in America, came to talk to primary school age children on Sunday 23rd April about the lives of some of our English saints
- Sunday 7th May after 9am Mass – Crowning of Our Lady
- Fr. Vincent and I continue to meet weekly to plan the week ahead and discuss any other business and/or pastoral matters that arise
- I continue to liaise with Eithne Atterbury our outgoing Parish Safeguarding Representative on any matters arising to continually ensure we meet compliance standards under safeguarding for all volunteer staff.

Thank you - A heartfelt thank you to:

- the team of Catechists and helpers who volunteer with such dedication to grow the faith of Our Lord Jesus, within the parish community of St. Luke's. It couldn't be done without them and their dedication to the children and young people of the parish. So many give so much in a quiet and unassuming way.

Norah O'Hare

Catechetical Coordinator.

Finance Report

- The Covid -19 virus struck early in 2020 and some of its on-going effects are still with us to date. Church attendance is gradually recovering towards pre-covid levels.
- Financially the year ended with a deficit of £52,292. This deficit was generated by a total income of £232,194 against a total expenditure of £284,486. High level figures are shown below with comparable figures for 2020 and 2021.
- Offertory envelopes, standing orders, online donations, and plate + contactless giving generated total income of £133,724 in 2022 compared with £123,558 in 2021. The Annex, rented to Kiddicare Nurseries generated an income of £21,200 and the Parish Hall, where activities are returning to normal, generated £8,609. Similarly, the catechetics, candles, repository, papers etc. income increased to £9,582 in 2022, compared with £4,698 in 2021. The church roof PV cells generated an income of £5,320 during the year and system upgrade works are being investigated with a view to installing a battery storage system. These cells installed in 2011 at a cost of £26,000 have, to date generated an income for the parish of £50,000. Works in the Presbytery and to the church ceiling lighting system cost a further £33,422. The annual works budget for 2022 was £89,000. Some of the planned work has been held over to 2023.
- The outstanding Gift Aid tax rebate applications for HMRC refunds are currently being processed. The anticipated outstanding amount of 3 years of Gift Aid refunds from HMRC is expected to be in the region of £70,000. The Growing in Faith refund of £10,000 has been applied for and received.

The key figures are shown below, with comparison figures for 2021 and 2020: -

	2022	2021	2020
Total Nat Income	£232,194	£219,266	£275,694
Total Outgoings.	£284,486	£218,460	£190,884
Year End.	(£52,292)	£806	£84,810

- The overall parish bank balance remains healthy, with 2022 year-end total funds of £423,890, (£479,009 for y/e 2021 and £472,889 for y/e 2021), held by the diocese for the Parish. The diocesan assessment applied to our parish for 2022 was £72,918. We have been notified by the Diocese that our assessment for 2023 will be £48,564. We expect a considerable increase on this levy for year 2024.
- An approach was made to Fr Vincent for financial assistance associated with unexpected additional building costs related to tower works being carried out at the Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Holloway North London. After a site visit by members of the PC and FC it was agreed that a contribution of £5,000 be made towards these costs.
- The final 2022 year-end submissions have been approved by the Finance Committee and the required returns have been made to the Diocese.

John Wiseman Chair of the Finance Committee

Pinner Association of Churches (PAC) Report

- **The PAC thanks** Father Vincent for his continued support of the activities related to the PAC. Athan Nwogu has joined the PAC as an additional representative for St Luke's Church. Athan joined the PAC as a direct result of the Parish Volunteer Recruitment Weekend last September. We pay tribute to the late Denis Argent for his dedicated work as PAC Treasurer for many years. We miss Denis' insight, company and good humour. A 'special thank you' to parishioners Raj Jayaraj, Elizabeth Thorpe and Pat Williams for the ongoing support they provide the PAC.
- **In September 2022**, Pinner Baptist Church's Minister, Pastor Manoj Raithatha, led the PAC in a Worshipping Together Service celebrating the life of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Afternoon Tea was served. The event was very well attended.
- **The PAC laid a wreath at the Pinner War Memorial** on Remembrance Sunday. The Churches raised a total of £474.86 for the Poppy Appeal.
- **St Luke's hosted the PAC AGM in November 2022**. Kate Brooker became the Chair. The AGM began with a service in St Luke's Church and concluded with high tea. The Vice Chair is Judy Rackham of Cannon Lane Methodist Church.
- **Carols by Torchlight**, followed by mince pies around the Christmas tree at the top of Pinner High Street, attracted 160-170 carollers, some staying for the hour, others stopping for a carol or two.
- **The Christmas Day Lunch (CDL) 2022** had 48 guests, 70 helpers, and 7 volunteer drivers. 78 meals were prepared as well as 10 take away lunches. To keep in touch with the guests, Easter cards and a small box of chocolates are also sent. Many of the volunteers are from non-Christian faiths. Their generosity is greatly appreciated. There is a small committee of seven people who have been organising this event for a number of years. At the request of the CDL Chair, an appeal for new volunteers to join the CDL Committee for 2023 and onwards is being made via the Churches. It is vital that new volunteers step forward so that this event can continue. A big thank you to all those from St Luke's who already volunteer in a number of ways, and a special thank you to St Luke's parishioner, Catherine N'Dungu, who coordinates the guests' attendance.
- **The Good Friday Silent Walk of Witness 2023** had around 165 people taking part. Kate Brooker is very grateful to those parishioners who volunteered to act as Stewards, Cross Bearers and to help with refreshments. It is very heartening to see this act of united Christian worship in Pinner.
- **On 16 May, the Pinner and District Faiths' Forum**, formerly the PAC Three Faith Dialogue, hosted a discussion in St Luke's Parish Centre on the topic, '*Food for the soul: Prayer texts that inspire us. Bring and share*'.
- **The Welcome Lunches** continue to be well attended, with an average of 25-30 guests at each Lunch. From 2023, the price per person increased to £4.00 (£3.00), due to the rising cost of living. A special 'thank you' to parishioners Romaine Mutti, who leads the team, and Anne Bek, who volunteers both as a driver and helper.
- **The PAC Friday Coffee Morning** continues to attract a faithful following. We are very grateful to Ann-Marie Brownsell and her team of volunteers.
- **The Harrow Food Bank / London Community Kitchen food collections**, organised by Pinner Baptist Church, and supported monthly by St Luke's, continue. A special highlight is the Christmas collection with donations weighing in at 287.9kg. A list of items needed each month features in the Parish newsletter and on the PAC notice board.
- **The new PAC website** continues to generate a lot of interest. Please do take a look: www.pinnerchurches.org.uk. If anyone would like to know more about the work of the PAC or would like to become involved, please contact any of the PAC representatives listed on the PAC Noticeboard in the porch.

News from the PAC Churches

Cannon Lane Methodist Church

- The three Methodist Churches (Eastcote, Cannon Lane and Love Lane) often hold joint services and social events. In January, they celebrate their annual Covenant Service.
- The Thursday Coffee Mornings are going well, raising funds for charities, including Multiple Sclerosis UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, Christian Aid and The Women's Refuge.
- The congregation celebrated their Church's Anniversary in November, reflecting on the past, present and future of their Church. EPIC, the Church's young people's band, accompanied the service.
- The pre-Christmas lunch and games on Advent Sunday proved a lot of fun, with friends from Eastcote and Pinner Methodist Churches, and friends from the Tamil Church (that meets on the premises on Sunday afternoons) taking part.
- Reverend Lynita Conradie ran a Lent course, based on the book, 'Feast or Famine?' - How the Bible challenges austerity.
- In September 2023, Reverend Lynita Conradie will be taking on the role of Superintendent of the Harrow and Hillingdon Methodist Circuit. Her responsibilities at her three local churches remain unchanged.

Pinner Baptist Church

- Manoj Raithatha has finished training and is now the full time Pastor. His Ordination and Induction was in June 2023.
- PBC hosted the PAC Worshipping Together Service in September 2023, followed by tea. The service was in thanksgiving for the life of the late Queen Elizabeth II.
- Manoj is mentoring several members of the congregation as they begin to preach in church.
- The congregation has grown, with many new members from several nationalities joining over the last year.
- Several people have been baptised, by total immersion, over the last year, including on Easter Sunday.
- PBC held a fun day to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 and hosted another party to celebrate the King Charles III's Coronation.
- Usual activities have continued: Sunday School and Youth ministries, Kaleidoscope, Salt Women's Ministry, Little Pips, Men's Breakfasts, Superdads, Connect groups, the monthly Food Bank collections. There are two new Connect groups who meet in people's houses regularly.
- Our Youth and Children's worker has arranged for a family fun afternoon in each half term holiday.
- Church members hold Saturday night suppers every few months for fellowship and community engagement, plus occasional Sunday lunches. They celebrated Harvest with a Bring and Share Lunch.
- A Good Friday service took place in April, after which most of the congregation went on the Walk of Witness around Pinner. This was in addition to the Maundy Thursday service.
- There is currently work going on to repair and restore some of the church's stained-glass windows.

Pinner Methodist Church

- The three Methodist Churches (Eastcote, Cannon Lane and Love Lane) often hold joint church services and social events.
- The Saturday Coffee Mornings are very popular, and raise funds for several charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support and Christian Aid.
- The pre-school group runs during term time.
- The Youth Clubs meet on Friday evenings. At the time of the Queen's death, the Youth Club members made condolence cards and sent them to King Charles. They received a very appreciative note from His Majesty, thanking the young people for their consideration. The Youth Clubs' current project is "Candles for Ukraine". They recycle glass dessert pots and used candle stubs, creating candles, with funds raised sent to Ukraine.

- The Church hosts a Taizé style Service twice a year. These Services are popular, with people from all the PAC Churches attending. Donations raised are given to a variety of charities.
- Reflective Services are now running on the fourth Sunday of each month. These services have a faithful following and are multi-denominational.
- Outside lets are now back to pre-pandemic levels, with some new lets taking over from those that have discontinued.

St John the Baptist Church

- In June, Reverend Paul Hullyer celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination.
- In July, the Curate, Emma Webber, was ordained at St Peter's, Ealing by the Bishop of London, Sarah, Lord Bishop of London.
- The Music Festival was well received, raising funds for Michael Sobell Cancer Care.
- In July, the Church ran the Team Builders' Holiday Club, a summer club for children.
- The Church works closely each year with the Pinner Association to mark Remembrance Sunday.
- St. John's welcomed back local schools during Advent, and held a Christmas Eve Christingle service, open to everyone.
- The Church ran a Lenten course.
- The Church will hold a joint Worshipping Together Service in September, with Harvest as the theme.
- Currently, there is no PAC representative from the laity.

Kate Brooker PAC Chair

Property and Management Report

Reflecting on 2022 year - as follows:-

- Church Flat roofs inspection uncovered wear requiring attention.
- Streaming Service complaints led to investigating on when fast fibre cable would be available.
- Lighting review – of all buildings was undertaken. Buildings re-equipping with LED where practical.
- Tap and Pay Device – electricity supply installed prior to two T & P units being installed.
- Defibrillator – installed in Church porch.
- Amplifier & Speakers – installed in hall for parish use and for use in hall hire functions.
- Grounds – Harrow Council and their contractor persuaded to provide replacement plants and shrubs. Knotweed in car park originating from the Waxwell development treated professionally.
- Sacristy Inner Doors – in-floor cams that allow 180 degrees opening had to be serviced.
- Narthex & Side Chapel – partial repainting completed to repair damp ingress.
- Presbytery -new smoke/heat/fire alarm installed to comply with current H&S guidance.
Presbytery Front Steps – relaid to even the rise of each step (handrail now awaited).

Looking forwards:-

- Attention to determining how to achieve reduction in fossil fuel usage has become a diocese project under the title, 'Towards Carbon Neutrality' & this parish is to play its part in that process which could have several phases, the initial phase to concern insulation additions. The other significant project will be to complete the renovation of the church flat roofs.

Andrew Egan

Property & Management Representative

Health and Safety Report

Precision Safety Services carried out their annual H&S audit of St Luke's parish on 1st February, this includes the Church, Parish Centre, the Hall and the Presbytery.

Precision categorise risk under 3 headings:

1. Substantial=potentially life threatening
2. Moderate= Non life threatening
3. Tolerable= No risk or acceptable risk

It is pleasing to report that no Substantial or intolerable risks to any of our buildings have been identified this year which is an improvement on last year when there were 2 Substantial risks. Both of these risks have now been addressed and rectified. They have highlighted some Moderate (non life threatening) risks which are reviewed regularly and remedial continues to be taken as appropriate. For instance the disabled toilet in the parish centre has now been renovated to meet current requirements and the heaters in the Sacristy are in the process of being upgraded.

Precision will no longer be carrying out the parish audit, in future this will now be performed by an "in house" team within the Diocese.

My thanks to:

- Pat and Noreen, our administration team, for their continued invaluable assistance to me
- the welcomers at the weekend Masses to agreeing to act as fire wardens in the event of a fire in the church.
- I also wish to thank Andrew Egan for his expertise in ensuring all necessary work is undertaken to ensure our buildings are a safe environment for us all to use.

Bill Tuohy

Health & Safety Representative

Liturgical Groups Report

- **READERS:** Patricia Solomon took over the Readers rota from Bill Wright and currently has about 38 readers of all ages who read at the weekend Masses , Feast Days, Christmas and Easter Liturgies. The very high standard of reading has been commented on especially regarding the younger age group
- **ALTAR SERVERS:** We currently have about 16 members of the Guild of St Stephen . Father Vincent carried out practices for the Holy Week Services and at the Easter Vigil four servers received their Silver Medals having served regularly for ten years. The Parish is still in need of someone to ' take over' the Guild and help train younger servers
- **SACRISTY:** All the necessary work is carried out regularly....ordering of candles, altar wine, incense, votive lights etc. The sacred vessels and copper/brass is cleaned as necessary, altar linen, finger towels, purificators etc are washed weekly and the priest's sacristy is kept clean and tidy. The Holy Water Stops are emptied and washed on a weekly basis. Holy Week and Easter was extremely busy but all seemed to go well. a note has been made to make sure a few lights go on during the readings at the Easter Vigil next year !.... A lady who comes to weekday Mass has taken over the "topping up" of the votive candle containers which is a great help. We have a parishioner who regularly prepares the altar for the 10am Mass on a Thursday for Father Pelligrini but we could do with a couple of other parishioners who would be willing to "prepare" for Mass on the occasions when we have a visiting priest.

Sue Girvan – Sacristan

- **Choir:** a professional organist has been interviewed and will start at St Luke's in September.
- **Our cleaning team** meets every Wednesday morning to ensure parishioners can experience the beauty of the Mass in a clean and orderly church. We would certainly like to have more people on our team and everyone is welcome! A special thank-you to our longstanding members Maria, Mary, Gwen, Fiona, Devi and Ian.
- **Our teams of Welcomers** at each of the weekend Masses greet parishioners with a warm smile and acknowledgement. We can always use more Welcomers on our rota at all the Masses. A special thank-you to the many volunteers who not only welcome parishioners but take the offertory collection and usher parishioners receiving Holy Communion. God bless, Bryan Wickware for his excellent work in this respect
- **Folk Group:** the Folk Group continues to provide musical support for the weekly 9am Sunday Mass. We also provide musical support for additional Masses at Christmas and Easter as well as other occasions such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- We are always pleased to welcome new musicians and singers to the Folk Group.
- If you would like to join the Folk Group, even if you might be able to provide help on an ad hoc or occasional basis only, please do get in touch. Either speak to one of us after 9am Mass or email gailhovey@hotmail.com.

Uniformed Groups

3RD PINNER (ST. LUKE'S) SCOUT GROUP: Our Scout Group, which was founded in November 1940 by a parishioner called Sheileigh Hennessey, currently has about 65 members, and 7 leaders who meet in the Parish Hall at various times on a Thursday evening. The Group consists of the following boys and girls :

BEAVER COLONY..... aged 6-8 yearsmade up of "Lodges ---- 5.15pm - 6.15pm
 CUB SCOUT PACK..... aged 8-10+ years..... made of "Sixes" ---- 6.30pm - 7.45pm
 SCOUT TROOPaged 10+-14+ years..... made up of "Patrols" ---- 7.30pm – 9pm

During the course of the meetings various activities are held to help the young people develop into the citizens of the future whilst remembering their Scout Promise.

Games are played,-always very popular- as well as other activities: craft, painting, cooking, planting, pioneering, map reading, first aid, tent building, navigation skills, cycling, hiking, keep fit.....the list is endless!

At certain times in the year the meeting is given over to a particular activity..e.g. Pan Cake making and tossing,(Shrove Tuesday). Poppy Wreath making (November 11th) Mother's Day cards, Pumpkin Carving, Christmas Gift making.....

Scouting is an Adventure and therefore, as often as the weather permits, meetings are held outdoors either in and around the Church car Park, the local parks or, in the case of Cubs and Scouts at one of the Scout Camp Sites.

The highlights of the year are the weekend camps...two nights away from home, sleeping in tents and spending all the time outdoors. So much is learnt on these occasions: cooking, wood chopping using axes, fire lighting, tent erecting, (and packing away correctly at the end of camp) rifle shooting, sailing, raft building, pioneering etc and learning how to live together and, most important, have fun.

The Group take part in all local events involving Scouting..Remembrance Service (11th November) at War Memorial in Pinner. St. George's Day event with Mayor of Harrow (who this year happens to be our Group President) 23rd April as well as two Church Parades at the 9am Mass on Palm Sunday and Harvest Festival.

Each year, in May, the A.G.M./Open and Presentation Evening are held to which all parents, friends, and Scouters from the County and District are invited. Reports are given and each section do a short presentation telling what they have done during the year. Various trophies are awarded to members who have achieved in various activities and the evening ends with a light buffet. Members of our Parish are most welcome at this event.

3rd Pinner (St Luke's) Scout Group has existed in our Parish for nearly 83 years but to keep it going we desperately need more leaders and helpers.....no financial payment but the reward comes in seeing a youngster join at aged 6 and develop in confidence, skills etc when they leave at 14+ to carry on their Scouting in an Explorer Unit locally. CAN YOU HELP?

5th Pinner Brownie Report

- **In the Autumn Term of 2022** we started by reflecting on the Queen, her life and her contribution to Girlguiding. We also worked on the 'make change skill builder' doing activities thinking about changes to make the world a better place. We also worked on a Girlguiding Anglia badge called 'sky and earth' thinking about and making and eating food as though they were an astronaut, learning about the moon and making Sun cookies.
- **In the Spring term** we worked on the 'Lead skill builder' with activities on keeping de-stressed and calm, giving calm and clear instructions, reading body language and changing our tone of voice and the Jobs badge where we interviewed 3 people each and found out about their jobs. We discussed and did an activity related to international womens day as well as playing games. We wrote job adverts for our perfect job and thought about what we might be doing in 20 years time.
- **In the Summer Term** we are going a 'residential' to Willow Tree Centre (Our County Campsite and Holiday House') for the start of the May Half Term. We shall also be celebrating King Charles 3rd Coronation in May and completing a 'cup of Kind' badge – (King, Influence and Increase, Neighbours and Discover) We'll be doing a 'if I was King' activity, finding out about 'Guides' (our next section in Guiding), Supporting the local foodbank and doing an activity based on the union jack. We haven't finalised plans for Summer 2 yet.

Sue Girvan – Uniformed Group Representative

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults Report

Since the last AGM any reported concerns and/or allegations that come to my attention or reported to me have been appropriately responded to, following Church and statutory guidance.

- **Parish Priest engagement:** Fr Vincent and I maintained regular contact regarding safeguarding best practice in the life of the parish. This includes concerns raised, improving standards and keeping up to date with Diocese Safeguarding advice as well as statutory guidance.
- **Catechism and parish Evangelisation :** Supporting Norah O'Hare, Parish catechist, in the safe delivery of catechesis and other programmes for all our children, young people, vulnerable adults and adult formation programmes.

A reminder that all Diocese based catechetical groups (eg FHC, Confirmation) must meet the DfE and Ofsted guidance when we deliver our faith-based learning programmes.

- **Parish Outreach:** Supporting Mariola with Diocesan and statutory guidance in safely delivering parish outreach work to our housebound and most vulnerable adults.
- Offering support to Kate Brooker and PAC where possible regarding our parish volunteers.
- Similarly the great many new initiatives Bryan Wickware, Parish Chair has overseen or associated with such as support for parishioners with the cost of living crisis.
- **DBS process.**

As you know DBS clearance sits inside the Safer Recruitment of all our volunteers and paid parish staff. The CSSA has recently moved to a new service provider. The Diocese of Westminster has therefore revised its strategy and hopefully this should see an improvement overall.

NB: A DBS will only be completed after the safer recruitment has been undertaken, ie that the parish lead has assessed their proposed volunteer as a suitable candidate for the role, including taking up suitable references. Thereafter they will notify the PSR to progress the DBS.

- Safeguarding Training and Support

The Diocese of Westminster continues to make available to all paid and volunteer staff and all parishioners, free of charge, Safeguarding training.

To access this training details are at the back of the church, or by emailing your PSR.

- PSR Update:

After 10 years as a volunteer PSR at St Luke's, I stepped down from the role in the autumn. It has been humbling to have served in such a privileged position. Stepping down is entirely a personal decision.

Going forward Fr Vincent agrees that the PSR role requires more than one volunteer and it is hoped that both positions can be filled as soon as possible

I am immensely grateful to colleagues in the parish council who have supported me throughout the years.

A particular thankyou to both Fr Vincent and to Bryan Wickware, Chair for their support and I wish them well.

A very grateful thank you to all of you who have entrusted either your confidential documents (for DBS clearance) or your personal concerns to my care over the years. I hope I have served you well.

Eithne Atterbury – Outgoing PSR

Pastoral Outreach Report

- The Outreach Team consists of five Parish Volunteers of which three are commissioned to take Holy Communion to the elderly, the sick and housebound of our Parish and two Volunteers who visit socially and also keep in touch by phone.
- At present there are twenty-five people on the Outreach list who are visited or phoned either weekly, fortnightly or monthly by myself or a Parish Visitor.
- Our Knitting/Crochet Group meets weekly, on Thursday afternoons. Our recent Easter sale of knitted/crocheted items raised £529.50 for the Turkish and Syrian Earthquake Disaster Appeal.
- Our Christmas sale of knitted/crocheted items raised £745 for the Cardinal Hume Centre, after factoring in the beautiful flower wreaths donated by Mary and the marmalades made by Sue.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to be so generous in supporting our charity sales. And thank you as well to those who have given their support and time to Outreach, and to those visiting and keeping in touch with the elderly, the sick and housebound of our Parish.

Finally, I would like to thank Eithne Atterbury for all her tireless work in her years as our Safeguarding representative.

Mariola Griffith – Pastoral Outreach Representative