



## ST LUKE WITH HOLY TRINITY, CHARLTON

### **Annual report of the Parochial Church Council, for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019**

#### **Administrative information**

St Luke with Holy Trinity is situated in The Village, Charlton, London SE7 8UG. Together with St Thomas, Old Charlton it makes up the United Benefice of Charlton in the Deanery of Charlton, in the Diocese of Southwark, within the Church of England. The patrons of the United Benefice of Charlton are The Right Honourable Viscount Gough and the Right Reverend The Lord Bishop of Southwark.

The correspondence address for the Benefice is St Thomas House, Maryon Road, Charlton, London SE7 8DJ

St Luke's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 until the date of this report was approved are:

#### Incumbent

The Revd Elizabeth Newman

#### Wardens

(2)	John Chipperfield	from 2019 APCM
	Richard Newman	
	Robert Simson	to 2019 APCM

#### Charlton Deanery Synod Lay Representatives (3)

Elizabeth Buck  
Michael Griffiths  
Vacancy

Richard Newman	Ex-officio as Deanery lay chair
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#### Elected members

(9)	Ann Allega	to 2019 APCM
	Judith Barlow	from 2019 APCM
	Sonia Baidoo	
	Roberta Bassah	
	Amelia Cortez	resigned Oct 2019
	Jennifer Lodge	
	Deborah Jones	to 2019 APCM
	Pat Orton	
	Michael Passmore	to 2019 APCM
	Robert Simson	from 2019 APCM
		-resigned Oct 2019
	Joseph Spooner	

<u>Co-opted members</u>	Kathleen Skinner Oluremi Sodimu	SPA From 2019 APCM
<u>Ex-officio members</u>	Revd Joe Lee Revd Bennett Spong	Assistant Priest Bishop's Permission to Officiate
<u>PCC Secretary</u>	Ann Allega Sharon Cullis	to 2019 APCM from October – December 2019
<u>Treasurer</u>	Elizabeth Buck	

## **Structure Governance and Management**

It remains policy at St Luke's that those elected onto the PCC serve for a period of 12 months rather than three years, as is commonplace elsewhere; however, individuals may stand for re-election. Elected members are required to confirm their eligibility to be a 'charity trustee'. St Luke's also has three Charlton Deanery Synod lay representatives, who were elected at the 2017 APCM to serve until the next elections in 2020. The lay representatives for Charlton Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of the PCC. It is practice at St Luke's that churchwardens usually stand down after serving in office for up to three years however, as with PCC members, they serve for 12 months at a time and stand for re-election to office at the Easter Vestry Meeting that precedes the APCM.

All qualified to do so are encouraged to register on the Parish Electoral Roll, which is a requirement for eligibility to stand for election to the PCC. The Electoral Roll is fully revised every six years and is otherwise regularly updated. The Electoral Roll was fully revised ahead of the 2019 APCM.

The PCC usually meets on the third Monday of each month, excluding August and December. St Luke's PCC is supported by a Standing Committee composed of the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary, Treasurer and up to two elected members of the PCC. It meets on the first Sunday of the month after Parish Eucharist.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC co-operates with the Rector, the Clergy and Churchwardens in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for the St Richard's Church Centre in Swallowfield Road, Charlton SE7.

## **Achievement and Performance**

As of the APCM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 there were 97 members on the Parish Electoral Roll, of whom 70 were recognised as regular in attendance at Parish Eucharist. The number on the electoral roll meant that the number of members that can be elected for St Luke's PCC at the 2020 APCM is again nine and that St Luke's again qualifies to elect three lay representatives to Charlton Deanery Synod in 2020.

St Luke's is a historic building and is Grade 2\* listed; noted as having "exceptional historical significance". The building requires much by way of upkeep, with lighting, the main door and internal redecoration having been and continuing to be the key priorities alongside day-to-day maintenance. The Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken in May 2019 and reiterated that re-leading the tower roof was an urgent priority. The PCC observes the requirements of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and seeks to ensure relevant permissions are sought before

any work is undertaken. Plans for upgrade of the lighting and re-presentation of the main door remain in hand but need to be funded as part of the overall budget.

There continues to be close partnership with the parish of St Thomas' within the benefice.

It is again noted that while Rev Liz Newman is in full time ministry as the Rector of Charlton, her post is still only half funded as a result of diocese-wide cuts and a requirement on all deaneries to have shed one post. For Charlton Deanery this means there remains only limited funding for the Rector of Charlton, which is unquestionably a full-time position. The churchwardens have again been in communication with the Bishop of Southwark and are assured that he is mindful of the situation and that the arrangement will not be permanent.

We remain ever mindful of the need to ensure the wellbeing of people and security of the property. St Luke's is committed to reviewing its safeguarding policies and practice in accordance with the revised version of *A Safe Church*.

2019 again saw no reports of vandalism or theft at St Luke's; however there was damage to the churchyard wall after a driver lost control of his car in The Village. A pavement bollard was projected into the churchyard and demolished two Victorian tombstones.

The past year has seen much progress under the Mission Action Plan; the stated aims of which are engaging with and nurturing children and young people, sharing our faith confidently and better community engagement. Progress of the Mission Action Plan is monitored by the PCC. In addition, St Luke's Masterplan Group is a body responsible to the PCC and charged with developing the vision for St Luke's building that is mindful of its heritage at the same time as developing the building as more fit for mission and consistent with the goals of the Mission Action Plan. St Luke's PCC has remained committed to developing St Richard's Church Centre

Plans for the coming year include seeking to appoint a music director for St Luke's and a benefice administrator, both of which are essential to progress the mission of St Luke's.

The past year saw the creation of The Friends of St Luke's and publication of a well received guide to the church and its history. There are also plans to develop a benefice Leadership Team.

St Luke's PCC has remained committed to developing and promoting wider use of St Richard's Church Centre.

## **Financial Review**

St Luke's pays in full its agreed Parish Share (the annual contribution to the Diocese), which has again been increased for 2020 by a percentage above the rate of inflation. Were the Rector being paid a full stipend, St Luke's would receive more from the Diocese in financial terms than it is able to contribute. As it stands, Charlton Benefice is a net contributor to the Diocese.

The annual accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 are attached to this report.

The net loss of £3000 for 2019 this should be seen in the context of basic expenditure and income being consistent with the previous year. The decrease in general expenditure by £10k is partly due to our having spent much less on the building, however figures on both sides of the financial spread sheet are distorted by exceptional circumstances. The accounts indicate considerable variance from 2018. Overall expenditure was raised by taking into account the £105k previously held on behalf of the Swainson Trust being transferred to the diocese. Income has been increased with St Luke's being the grateful recipient of a significant legacy

from the late Trixie Latter as well as an unexpected gift from an America relative of someone whose connection with St Luke's goes back to the mid-nineteenth century.

Planned giving and collections at services amounted to £28,526 and is almost the same as in 2018. There is an increase in income from church activities. Although there has been no significant expenditure on major repairs, plans for the coming twelve months should see considerable expenditure on planned work at both St Luke's and St Richard's.

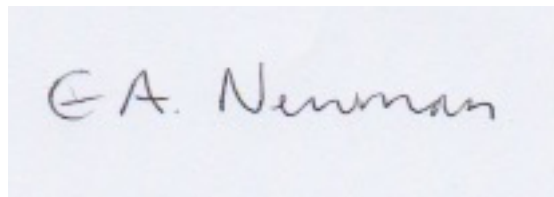
Once again, we are just about living within our means, albeit greatly assisted by income from the telecommunications base station rental and dividends on our investments. A budget has been drawn up and a fundraising strategy has been developed. A stewardship campaign has seen increase in the amounts given by several who are already committed to regular planned giving. Stewardship is now an 'ongoing item' rather than a one off event. Although we continue to receive a significant income from investments, the PCC has agreed to draw on the investments in order to progress repair and renovation at St Luke's as well as for the Mission Action Plan.

That St Luke's accounts appear healthy is a reflection of excellent financial management by the Treasury Team, and in particular the work of Liz Buck as Treasurer in partnership with Barbara Drew, St Luke's accountant.

**Approved by the PCC on**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**and signed on their behalf by**

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Liz Newman" in a cursive script.

Revd Liz Newman  
Rector, The Benefice of Charlton