



ST LUKE'S KENTISH TOWN

2023 Annual Report



VISION

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

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND LEADERS REPORT	5	Easter	28
Vicar's Report	6	Easter Services	28
Churchwarden Report	10	Social Transformation	30
		Simple Supper	30
		CAP	31
		Racial Justice Roadmap Group	31
MINISTRIES	13	Focus	32
Sundays	14	Christmas	33
Morning Service	14	Makers Market	33
Evening Service	15	Christmas Services	34
Alpha	15	Love Christmas	35
Children, Families and Youth	16	STATUTORY REPORT	37
Children's Church at St Luke's	16	Safeguarding	38
Crumbs	18	Finance	39
Ignite	18	Fabric, Goods and Ornaments	42
School Visits	19	Electoral Roll	43
Parties	20	PCC	43
Youth	21	Deanery Synod	44
Youth Ministry Staffing Changes	22		
Worship and Prayer	22		
Prayer	22		
Worship and Production	23		
Teaching and Ministry	23		
XCC and Pillars	25		
Women's Event	26		
Greenwood	26		
Streams	26		
3's and 4's	27		
Newcomers Meal	28		



INTRODUCTION AND LEADERS' REPORTS

VICAR'S REPORT

Jon March / Vicar

This year I went on a long walk. A VERY long walk.

In the late hours of most wedding receptions, you can almost guarantee that the DJ will sling on “I’m Gonna Be’ by The Proclaimers. It’s the kind of song that brings everyone to their feet, from the overly-tired 6 year olds to Great Aunt Mavis as ‘I would walk 500 miles’ is sung in unison. I’ve often sung it but I never thought that one day I would fulfill it.

In the Church of England, it is encouraged that you take study leave every 7-10 years of ordained ministry. In February this year I was able to take four months of study leave returning in June. At the time of beginning study leave I had been in some form of Christian leadership and training for the last 25 years and been ordained for almost 18 years and in that time I had not really stopped.

While I was on leave I visited other churches in the US, went on a mini-pilgrimage across the UK visiting people who had, over the years, been significant in my faith journey and yes, went on a very long walk.

The Camino de Santiago is a centuries-long, well-trodden path of pilgrimage that, while there are several variations, traditionally begins on the French side of the Pyrenees and 515 miles later, ends in Santiago de Compostela. I walked it alone (although I made some companions along the way), to spend days reflecting on the years that have passed and the years ahead of me. I reflected on brokenness and healing, joy and sorrow, the past and the future.

I reflected on brokenness and healing, joy and sorrow, the past and the future.

Walking 500 miles in 29 days was not without its challenges. Some of the terrain was tough (from the mountainous, to the monotonous); the distances intimidating, the hostels basic, and even included a hospital visit for an ankle injury that I carried throughout.

But it also came with amazing moments of connection with God and His creation. I learnt a lot about myself and my need for Jesus and the things I wanted to continue to give myself to.



Eugene Petersen describes our walk with Jesus as “*a long walk of obedience in the same direction*”. It is tempting in our fast-moving, time-poor, success-driven city to treat our walk with Jesus as a sprint, expecting Him to work in our lives according to our schedule and for it to always be full of self-defined success.

This is not the faith we have been called to. Our faith is the faith of the mountain-top and the valley. It is the faith of battles and blessings. It is the faith of the every day and the adventure. It is the faith where success is measured in faithfulness not triumphant victories. It is the faith of following the simple, yet deeply challenging call of Jesus, to take up our cross and follow Him. It is a long walk, a life-long journey, remaining obedient to Him whatever the circumstances.

At St Luke’s we are called to equip people well for this long walk of obedience. For years we have lived with the transition that comes with living in this part of London. We have those who are with us for a short season and those who are with us for a lot longer, and even those for whom this will always be their home.

Our hope is to create a place where everyone who finds a place at St Luke’s, for however long, are formed by the Spirit of God into life-long disciples of Jesus.

There will always be people moving on - such is life in Zone 2 London - but what if instead of fighting against this, we recognised this as a gift that God has given us - that instead of being measured by our *seating* capacity we were measured by our *sending* capacity?

It is our job to create a space where people are grafted into the vine of Jesus so that they bear fruit wherever the Lord sends them, for however long they are here.

We will carry grief and sadness as we say goodbye to those who are no longer able to be with us, but the Kingdom of God continues to grow. I know that across the world from Melbourne to Macclesfield, from Kingston to Kampala, there are hundreds of people who owe significant growth in their faith journey to the work of Jesus through the community here at St Luke’s and the fruit of the Kingdom continues to grow as they serve in new places.

It is our job to create a space where people are grafted into the vine of Jesus so that they bear fruit wherever the Lord sends them, for however long they are here. This is our calling as a church - to all be part of creating that space and to send people out.



The success of reaching our goal of raising £100k through Project 100 was testimony to this - all of us investing in our church so that we could continue this ministry that Jesus is doing amongst us. I am so thankful for God’s faithfulness to and through the generosity of each of you. Thank you for playing your part!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank those who have served so brilliantly especially during my absence. I particularly want to thank the staff team, not least my clergy colleagues Lizzie Osborne and Lara Edwards as well as Simon Court, Onika Khan and Luke Kon who at different points have led in their capacity as church wardens. I know they carried extra responsibilities and it was a real joy to come back to a church that was thriving!

Thanks must also go to those who came to the end of their PCC term this year, in particular Chris Philpot who was our PCC Secretary for several years.

As we look ahead to 2024, I am reminded of Psalm 127:1 “*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain*”. He has called us to co-labour with Him - but let’s make sure we trust the chief-architect and let Him do the work of building His Church for the sake of His Kingdom in north London.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Luke Kon and Onika Khan / Churchwardens

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, one undeniable truth shines through: the unwavering faithfulness and provision of God in every circumstance. Despite the storms we've weathered, we've witnessed His miraculous intervention, redemption, and transformative power.



One standout achievement of this past year has been the overwhelming success of Project 100, where together we rallied and raised over £100k in 100 days for supporting the existing budget and enabling the work of the Church to continue. This accomplishment speaks volumes about our community's generosity, compassion, and commitment to serving others, reflecting the love of Jesus to all.

The main building has seen various improvements made to the finishes. These include new carpet, and wooden flooring for the stage. In tandem to the carpet some rewiring has taken place to rationalise the AV and production system. We also made some significant repairs to the roof. Beyond the main building, the marquees have seen some small improvements implemented to support the children's work.

In addition to the minor improvements, the team have begun to speak with building consultants to explore how best to accommodate the various church activities. In particular these conversations are important to consider how to use the built spaces to support the growing childrens and young people ministry.

Despite the storms we've weathered, we've witnessed God's miraculous intervention, redemption, and transformative power.

Central to our mission at St. Luke's has been our outward-focused approach, embodying Jesus' command to love one another. From our weekly gatherings to initiatives like Simple Supper, Ignite and the Greenwood Programme, we've strived to extend hospitality, care, and support to our neighbours, serving over 286 people in the local community on a weekly basis.

Central to our mission at St. Luke's has been our outward-focused approach, embodying Jesus' command to love one another.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, whose selfless service embodies the spirit of Galatians 5: *"use your freedom to serve one another in love."* Additionally, our clergy and staff have tirelessly worked behind the scenes, pouring their hearts and souls into nurturing our community and its spiritual growth. Special thanks go to Jon, Lizzie, Lara and their families for their steadfast dedication and support.

Amidst our community's growth, we've also witnessed personal transformations as many have deepened their faith through various programs and discipleship groups such as Alpha, Streams, Labs and 3s & 4s. Our children's ministry also reached an all time high with 42 in attendance. It's been a blessing to see individuals and families embrace Christ more fully and walk in the light of His love for them.

As we embark on the journey ahead, our prayer is that each member of our congregation continues to grow in their relationship with Christ. May we steadfastly anchor ourselves in the Word of God and pursue His transformative power, knowing that with Him, all things are possible.

We invite you to join us in celebrating God's faithfulness and looking ahead to the next chapter of His work at St. Luke's. Together, let's anticipate with hope and expectation what He will do in our midst.



MINISTRIES

SUNDAYS

MORNING SERVICE

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

As I reflect on the morning service over the last year I am struck by the number of ways we have seen God at work. We have heard stories of transformation, witnessed God's healing hand, seen young people grow in confidence in leading and speaking, been challenged through teaching and had some powerful times of worship. A particular highlight has been the three Youth and Kids Takeovers – it is a joy to see our children and young people help lead all in worship, praying and teaching.



Average attendance in the morning was just over 100 people, a third of which were children, and we had the joy of baptising four children and two adults for the first time and one person renewing their baptism vows.

We had the joy of baptising 4 children and 2 adults for the first time

From January to March we had a mini-series on the book of Exodus, and then a series many people found very powerful reflecting on the final words of Jesus on the cross. After Easter, we dug into the book of Hosea exploring the relentless nature of God's love and then delved deeper into the gifts of the Spirit. Over the summer we joined together with the evening service for a service at 3 pm and had the opportunity to hear from two members of the congregation for the first time at St Luke's. During the autumn term, we dug into just six verses from Colossians chapter one, reflecting on what this teaches us about the nature and character of Jesus.



EVENING SERVICE

Jon March / Vicar

Each week, a diverse group of between 20–40 people gather to worship in a service where there is more time to worship, pray and go deeper with God and one another. It is wonderful to spend more time in worship and prayer ministry together where it is also becoming a place of deepening community. This has been helped by the growing connect team and the regular social spaces happening after church.



ALPHA

ALPHA

Jon March / Vicar

Anyone is welcome at Alpha, whether they have a faith or not. No questions or opinions are off-limits. Our vision for discipleship and formation at St Luke's begins with Alpha and so we ask that anyone who wants to be involved in one of our Streams groups begins with doing Alpha.

Alpha helps establish some of our culture – firstly in what we believe and secondly in how we are to be with one another – giving space to ask questions and not have answers and living alongside disagreement and all in the context of friendship.

We have also found it is a great place for people new to the church, not just in being introduced to our church culture but also in building relationships with others who are new to the church community.

Finally, it is our experience that Alpha is the best tool we have in seeing those we know come to faith in Christ. We want everyone to experience Alpha at St Luke's as we know that we will only invite people to things we have confidence will be done well.

Over the years we have seen many people come to faith for the first time or renew their faith through Alpha. This year was no different.

We ran Alpha in the spring and autumn terms where we had a strong attendance of between 20-30 each time. In the spring we welcomed a mix of guests from a wide range of backgrounds and we also saw the growth and development of new leaders particularly in the use of spiritual gifts and praying for others.

The Holy Spirit days were particularly impactful and by the end of the courses, many participants had made significant strides in their faith with five people coming to a new faith in Jesus in the autumn term. We are looking forward to baptising them and others in 2024!



CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUTH

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

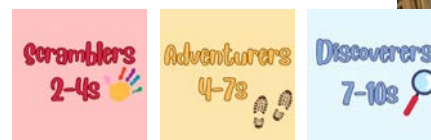
It has been a pleasure seeing the number of children in Children's Church grow! In 2023 we saw nine children move on (three to youth and six moved on with their families out of London) and six joined us. On our busiest Sunday this year we had 42 children aged between 2-10 years old.

Our children's groups have had a bit of a rebrand. Each age group now has a new name: 2-4s are called Scramblers, 4-7s are called Adventurers and 7-10s are called Discoverers. The meaning behind these comes from the verse found in Matthew 7:7-8. *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. We want each child to discover more about who God is, and each week know Him more and go deeper in their relationship with Him.*

We have now started doing live worship in the marquees. It has been amazing to see the children worship all together in the main service and in the marquees. One Adventurer said, *"I love worship, I can feel it in my heart."* A beautiful thing to hear!

It has been amazing to see the kids worship all together in the main service and in the marquees.

We have covered a lot of topics at Children's Church. We started the year looking at the journey of Moses, we then looked at the different names of God, we explored different heroes of the faith and then ended the year looking at the importance of prayer.



We have had three Youth and Kids Takeover services this year, both of them involved dramas in which the children participated. We reenacted the stories of David and Goliath and when the Lord called Samuel. The children have also led action songs and prayers in the services and even helped me lead a quiz game. It has been a pleasure seeing the children lead the adults in church.

It has been a joy seeing new families join and friendships develop within the groups. Wanting to build on friendships being made, the Discoverers have started having socials. We've played games and had hot dogs, we've been to a trampoline park and had slushies. We are looking forward to doing many more socials next year.



CRUMBS

Eguolo Omonigho / Children and Families' Ministry Lead

Our stay and play group 'Crumbs' continues to steadily grow - even with a big chunk of them moving onto nursery and school. Each week we see around 30 parents/carers bringing one to three children with one new sign-up almost every week. We have a few more volunteers helping to make Crumbs happen, which was a massive answer to our prayer, and they have been a huge blessing to the team.

We have also been given some new toys, including a new toy kitchen.

We still continue to do craft activities linked to Bible stories. During the first half of the autumn term, we looked at a different part of creation and then after half term, we taught a different element of the Christmas story, each week. Next year, we will be looking at Jesus' miracles.



IGNITE

Eguolo Omonigho / Children and Families' Ministry Lead

As well as discipling the children in our church we also want to create ways to reach out to the children and families in the community. By bringing them into church I hope we can share about the love of Jesus with them. With the support and funding from Scripture Union, Ignite was created.

Ignite is an afterschool club that runs once a week on Thursday afternoons. We have free play, which involves crafts, games, football and badminton followed by group games. We also gather in groups and go through the Scripture Union resources.

Over the ten weeks, we have seen a little Ignite community begin to grow. Children are inviting their friends. One child has invited four of his friends from school, one of whom had never been to a church before. Parents from Crumbs have come back after picking their children up from school. One mum and her children walked in because she saw the door was open and was looking for a place to go!

For the first term, we had support from Jordana who is a mission enabler from Scripture Union. Here are her thoughts on how she found her time supporting Ignite:

"It has been such a joy to support the Ignite afterschool club, the children love it, they always come away feeling more inspired about Jesus and they are learning about God in a fun and welcoming way. I have loved being there and interacting with children and their parents, having small conversations about God while doing a craft on Christmas, or about friendship. The children have really opened up about some issues they have faced at school, through the Jesus time talks, we used the Rooted junior resources many of the children shared about their friendships and some bullying and peer pressure they had faced. They were able to share in a safe space and hear from other children going through similar things to know they are not alone."

**Children are inviting their friends.
One child has invited four of his
friends from school.**

SCHOOL VISITS

Eguolo Omonigho / Children and Families' Ministry Lead

We opened our doors again to Brecknock School – their reception and year 4 classes visited to learn about Easter. We looked at the story of Jesus' death and resurrection using Easter eggs and drama.



We were then pleased to welcome Brecknock School back at Christmas to look at the Christmas story, which Reception and Year 1 attended. Additionally, pupils from Torriano School came, which was wonderful. Some children were familiar to us because they had previously been to Crumbs. The pupils went on a Christmas journey, exploring the Christmas story where Lizzie played Mary and a wise person and Jon March was a shepherd, and I was an angel. The children had a great time singing songs and asked lots of big questions of the clergy. I am looking forward to them coming back next Christmas.

PARTIES

Eguolo Omonigho / Children and Families' Ministry Lead

This year we had a lot of parties! We were able to open up our doors to lots of people who we don't normally see on a Sunday. We had our first-ever pancake party, where 46 families learnt about the connection between pancakes and Jesus.

We ran our biggest party yet, the Big Treat, where we celebrated all things good and how Jesus is the light of the world. More

than 600 people came to celebrate with us, we welcomed back people who came last year and this year brought friends!

We were able to open up our doors to lots of people who we don't normally see on a Sunday.

At the start of Christmas, we had an Advent party, where the children from Ignite invited their friends and families. We had over 37 families learn about why Christians count down to Christmas and the meaning behind Advent.



YOUTH

Ethan Smith / Youth Worker

Over 2023, Youth at St Luke's has had a bit of a shake-up! I'd love to thank you, the church, for how you have welcomed me as the new Youth Worker. We have seen growth as we now have 14 young people who engage regularly with our church.

Youth on Sunday mornings has remained a space where we have fun and dive deep into scripture together, exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in today's world. Once a month, we have also continued to run "Youth Serve" where the young people have been great at serving the church in different ways, including helping with Children's Church, worship, connect and tech teams.

Our midweek groups and events have seen some change over the past year. Earlier in the year Anya, the previous Youth Outreach Worker, continued to meet with the Youth small group, who read through the gospels. Since joining in September, I have been exploring different options for a midweek youth group to fill the gap left by the small group. In the meantime, we have hosted a few Youth Movie Nights, which have been popular socials.

In March 2023, Anya took eight of the youth on a weekend away to Adventure Plus in Oxfordshire. It was a highlight of the year, it gave the young people the chance to leave the busyness of London life, and have the space to rest and be renewed! I'm hoping to continue this tradition as we're currently planning to host another youth weekend away in March 2024.

As we look forward to 2024, I ask that you pray for me and our wonderful team of volunteer youth leaders as we explore new opportunities for the Youth Ministry. We're currently looking at how we can serve the relational needs of our young people by planning a midweek youth group that will be held in the church building. If you'd love to find out about how you can serve the youth at St Luke's or are passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with teenagers, please come and chat with me and we can see how to get you involved!



YOUTH MINISTRY STAFFING CHANGES

Jon March / Vicar

After five years with us we said goodbye to Anya Bannikova, Anya joined us as a placement student and when that finished, continued on staff. She has had such an incredible impact on our young people where the youth ministry grew under her leadership. We are so thankful for her and continue to pray for her in her new role with Young Life International in Stratford with a particular focus on ministry to young people from Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.

We were also pleased to welcome Ethan Smith as our new youth worker. Ethan graduated from the youth worker training programme at Ridley, Cambridge and joins us part-time to oversee the youth work at St Luke's.



WORSHIP AND PRAYER

PRAYER

Jon March / Vicar

Prayer is the heartbeat of every church. Without prayer, if we're not careful, everything we do is in our own strength - striving to build the church when Jesus said that it was His job to build the church and our job to pray. So, every week, we pray.

We pray before each service, before events and courses, and we gather to pray for our world for 20 minutes every Thursday morning. It isn't long, but it means that for many of us, attending a morning prayer meeting is not hindered by the school run or the work commute. We take time to worship and to pray for our world, our nation and our church. It has formed a helpful regular habit for us. There is a steady attendance and of course, we would love more people to join.

In the autumn we also ran our first Prayer Lab where we did some training on how to pray for others. It was well attended and helped reset our prayer ministry training.

Since Focus this year, we have implemented several changes to improve the prayer ministry culture in our church. Firstly we ask that the prayer team come forward first and collect a lanyard to give confidence and safety to those who want to come forward for prayer. Secondly, our prayer team pray in pairs to help those receiving prayer feel safe knowing that there is always a third person present. It also gives one of the people praying space to hear from the Lord and offer it when there is space to do so. Thirdly, we let the person who wants to receive prayer choose who they want to receive prayer from and finally, we now incorporate some basic safeguarding principles within our prayer training, helping team members know when to report any concerns.



WORSHIP AND PRODUCTION

Jon Beagley / Production and
Worship Lead

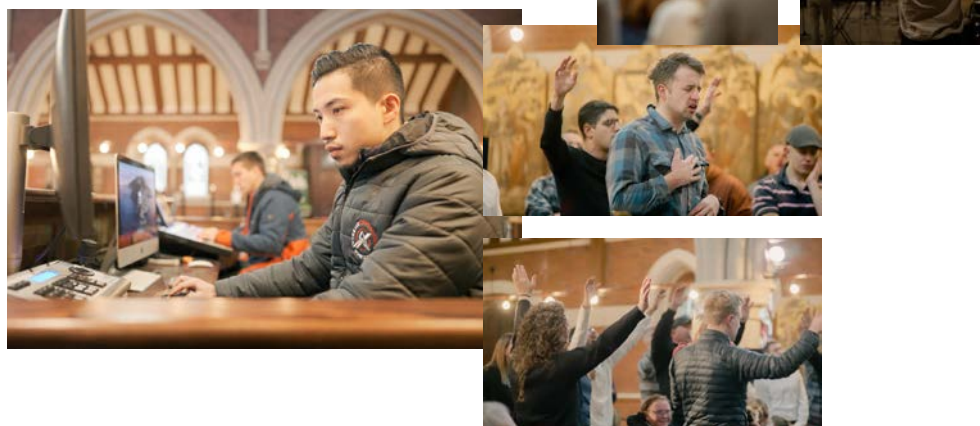
In 2023 we made some exciting strides in production, in particular, the purchase of our new speakers. This was only made possible by a very generous gift specifically for the area of worship/production. The new speakers now make it significantly easier to hear everywhere in the church, and therefore engage with what is happening, from wherever you are in the building.

Towards the end of the year, we had a clear out of all the cabling under the floor, allowing us to lay down new cabling and solutions for the future. We've continued to streamline and make the area of production an easier, more efficient and accessible ministry to help serve our church. A special thanks to Alex Jones for the hours he has given to make so much of this happen.

I believe 2023 was a transformative year for us as a church in the area of worship. We have seen a deepening longing for the presence of God in our times of worshipping together, leading to us extending how much time we give over to it in our Sunday services. This has been seen in other spaces outside of Sundays too, including the Joint Prayer Gathering in Hackney, with Saint, KXC and Imprint, which we have joined in with; and in our own monthly worship nights, Kingdom Come. We have continued to give three hours over to worship and encounter on these Thursday evenings, making Jesus our number one focus and allowing space for Him to move amongst us.

2023 also saw us invite local churches, including Revelation Church and Lighthouse, to join us for some of these nights. It has been so special to gather as one church as we seek more of Jesus. As a worship team we have continued to meet up twice a term to worship together, encourage each other and look at how we can help grow the worshipping culture at St Luke's. Thank you to all the team that continue to put in so many hours to help facilitate the worship here at St Luke's. My prayer for 2024 is that we continue to seek more of Jesus as we gather to be in his presence, glorifying Him for who He is.

I believe 2023 was a transformative year for us as a church in the area of worship.



TEACHING AND MINISTRY

XCC AND PILLARS

Rupesh Patel, Josh Brookes, Simon Court

In 2022, about 10 men from St Luke's went on something called XCC (Xtreme Character Challenge).

It was, on paper, a terrible idea.

72 hours walking, talking and hardly sleeping in wild Northumberland - with no sense of time, our location, or the plan for the weekend. Out of control, yet fully surrendered.

It had a deep impact on all who went. So much so that the same 10 went again in 2023, along with others totalling almost 30 men. And it was incredible - the rain, wind and snow if anything made it better! And we're going again in 2024.

Out of XCC, our Pillars meet-ups were started, to focus on what it means to be a Christian man in today's culture. We describe Pillars as wholehearted and servant-hearted men. We meet to ask ourselves: how can we be a pillar in our faith, our families, our community, and our workplaces? We've now met twice and had one speaking event from James Ray (XCC CEO).

Our hope for any man at St Luke's is that they can stand alongside other men, on the walk of a life lived in the way of Jesus: wholehearted, servant-hearted.



WOMEN'S EVENT

Lizzie Osborne / Curate

In March a small group of women from St Luke's hosted a Woman's Pizza and Prosecco evening. Guest speaker Georgina Graham (the Operations Manager for Two Cities area in the Diocese of London) shared and gave us space to creatively reflect both as individuals and in small groups.

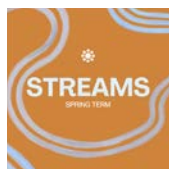
GREENWOOD

Immi Court

We have continued to enjoy building friendships at Greenwood Sheltered Accommodation, with a monthly coffee morning and Bible study, where we have anywhere between five and twenty residents gathering each time. God has been so faithful in encouraging our group as we share in the highs and lows of life and pray for each other. It is always wonderful to share experiences and faith across life stages and the babies have been a real hit too! A particular highlight was the carol service, where we shared readings and songs, and Lizzie gave a short talk. Some of these residents have been coming to Simple Supper at church each month and we were also delighted to celebrate Tina's baptism recently.

STREAMS

Lizzie Osborne / Curate



In September we marked a year of running Streams as our small group structure. Over the last year, 15 Stream small groups have run in total ranging from 5 to 14 people in each group. Streams have been places for people to start to put roots down at St Luke's and places of deepening prayer support. Whilst some groups remained fairly stable over a number of the three terms, others have used the term-bound nature of the groups to explore particular areas in more depth and gathered with different people every term. One of the benefits of the Stream format we have seen over the last year is the whole range of people stepping up to host and facilitate, many of whom for the first time.

In the Spring term, three groups delved into the book of James finding their faiths challenged by James' practical and straight-talking vision for living a Christian life. Alongside this Stream we ran the Parenting for Faith course over Zoom, a practical course filled with tools to help parents disciple their children and in the journey reflect on their own discipleship. The Theology Stream explored an overview of the Old Testament using St Paul's School of Theology resources.

In the summer term, the Bible Stream dug deep into Hosea. This gave the opportunity to dig into some of the more challenging passages of the Old Testament. Several groups reflected how this was not necessarily easy but enabled people to sit with and reflect upon some of the more uncomfortable areas of their lives and invite God into them. The Theology Stream followed the Bible Society's Bible Course, which was particularly helpful for those getting to grips with the Bible for the first time, giving them confidence and structure to get started reading the Bible. The third Stream used the book *Why Worship?* by Tim Hughes. This Stream seemed to really impact the worshipping culture of our church.

In October and November, the Bible Stream studied Colossians and Philemon to complement the teaching series, and we introduced two new Streams - the Prayer Stream and the Everyday Life Stream. The Prayer Stream engaged with Pete Greig's book, *How to Hear God*. This was so well-received that we are repeating it in January 2024. The Everyday Life Stream delved into LICC's Transforming Work series. Whilst the content was a little dated, it facilitated some great discussions about the impact of faith in the workplace. The discussions were grounded in people's daily lives, wrestling with some of the very real tensions of being a follower of Jesus in a variety of workplaces.

Thanks to all those who have been involved in hosting and facilitating over 2023. We really appreciate the time and care you have shown to create spaces for our church to go deeper with Jesus and each other.

3s AND 4s

Lizzie Osborne / Curate



Alongside Streams, we have invited people to form groups of 3 to 4 people who meet regularly to encourage, challenge and support each other to be with Jesus and become more like Him. These groups meet around some of the harder and often neglected practices of our faith, but practices that can be transformational in our discipleship. We believe that gathering in these smaller groups has the potential to be deeply formative.

We live in a world where we are bombarded with different voices seeking to shape and form us. These groups have created a space where God's voice can speak more loudly, as we allow the voices of others we trust to speak challenge and encouragement into our lives. Over the course of the year we ran three evenings to share the vision and encourage groups already formed. Whilst the numbers at these events were small we know that a number of 3s and 4s have been formed, and we have seen where people have committed to them that they have had a profound impact on their discipleship.

NEWCOMERS MEAL

Jon March / Vicar

Over the course of this year, we have hosted four Introducing St Luke's events at the Vicarage and at Lizzie's home while I was on study leave. Very simply, we spend the evening eating together and hearing from one another. They are always some of the highlights of the year as we not just share the story of St Luke's but hear stories of others' lives who are new to joining the church community. This year we saw 21 people come to the events which always include sharing the vision of the church and how people can get plugged in.

We find that these events are really effective in new members of the church community feeling more integrated - particularly in finding connection with other new members of the church.

We find that these events are really effective in new members of the church community feeling more integrated



EASTER

EASTER SERVICES

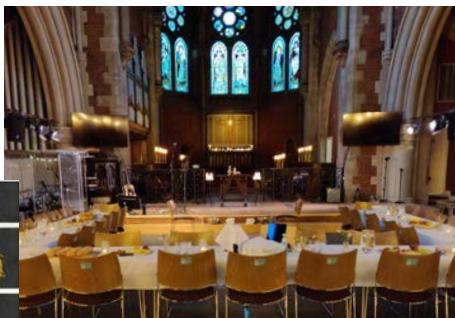
Lizzie Osborne / Curate

Ash Wednesday

We marked the start of Lent with a small, simple service in the church office. A handful of us gathered to reflect, confess, pray and receive an ash cross on our foreheads. A powerful reminder of our fragility and mortality.

Maundy Thursday Meal

On Maundy Thursday around 30 of us gathered to share a meal of soup and bread, hear readings from the Gospel accounts of the Last Supper, shared communion, and were invited to have their feet washed. It was beautiful to see a real range of people gathering around the table together from teenagers to 80-year-olds. It was a wonderful mix of both reflective and fun as we ate, prayed and worshipped together.



Good Friday Prayer Stations

On Good Friday the church building was open from 10 am to 10 pm for prayer and worship. There were seven prayer stations which helped individuals and families reflect on the final words of Jesus on the cross. The stations were designed so that both adults and children could engage. The day culminated in Kingdom Come worship for three hours between 7 pm and 10 pm, and included George Ward sharing a powerful reflection on Jesus' final words "It is finished". As per the last few years, the numbers across Good Friday were fairly small, however, a number of people commented how much they appreciated the opportunity to set some time aside to reflect on the events of that first Good Friday both through the prayer stations and in sung worship.

Easter Saturday Party

For the second year in a row, we open wide the doors of the church and garden on Easter Saturday to our local community. 150 people came through the doors and were treated to hot cross buns, chocolate nest making, a bouncy castle, an egg hunt and more. This year we had a really strong team, which gave us all the capacity to have longer and more in depth conversations. These community-parties are beginning to gain a reputation in the local community, raising the profile of St Luke's in the local community as a warm and welcoming place to be.

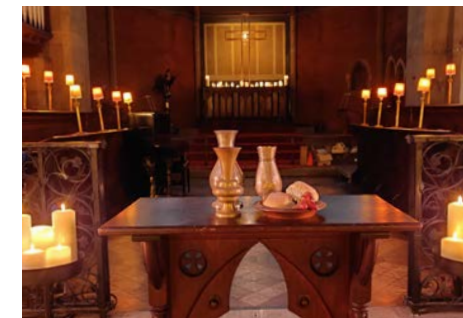
Easter Sunday

Early Morning Communion

At 7.30 am on Easter Sunday eight of us gathered under the tree in the front garden to celebrate the resurrection through sharing communion together. A simple but profound gathering, providing an alternative to the busyness and noise of the all-age service later on.

All-age Celebration

This service was such a great all-age celebration. We joined Detectives Sherly Holmes (Eguolo) and Sandy Drew (Lara) as they investigated the case of the Missing King. There were clues to be found and characters to be interviewed as they discovered that the King wasn't missing but had risen. But it wasn't just fun, it was a real celebration with joyful worship, space to wait on the Spirit and opportunity for prayer ministry. A real example of all-ages engaging in worship together.



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

SIMPLE SUPPER

Evie Jones / Senior Team Administrator

Towards the end of 2022, Emily Castle put the idea forward to start a community project that addressed issues around food poverty and loneliness. After prayerful consideration, a group was formed to start what we now call Simple Supper. We had our first gathering in January 2023 and now once a month on a Monday we gather to have a hot meal around a big banquet-style table. Our vision is to be *centred on Jesus to create spaces where people from all walks of life share time together and build friendships*. We have seen local families



join, some of the adults from Greenwood and anyone else who wants to gain a sense of community. It's been so beautiful to share life together and get to know people who might otherwise feel on the outskirts. We are so grateful for the support of our core team: Barry, Sophie, Immi, Emily, Natasha, Charise, Vanessa and Carol.

It's been so beautiful to share life together and get to know people who might otherwise feel on the outskirts.



CAP

Evie Jones and David Devine



Our very own David Devine has trained with CAP (Christians Against Poverty) to be one of their Money Coaches. CAP is a fantastic charity that helps people learn how to manage the finances and become debt-free. David ran two courses at St Luke's in 2023, one in the spring in which eight people attended and another in autumn where two attended. *"Money coaching is a free service that is designed to empower people with the knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to better manage their finances. It is for anyone; from seasoned budgeting experts to those struggling to get to grips with the spending, from those with a 6 figure salary or those managing week to week."* (CAP)

RACIAL JUSTICE ROADMAP GROUP

Rupesh Patel

St Luke's is delivering The Racial Justice Roadmap in combination with God's Beloved Community (GBC). This is also a pilot for the diocese of the roadmap.

The roadmap aims to address the challenges of racial injustice, seeking the transformation of our hearts, our church and our city to become more like the church Jesus calls us to be.

To deliver the roadmap, a committee of members of St. Luke's was appointed. This committee is chaired by Dr. Amatu Christian-Iwuagwu, the Director of Mission and Racial Justice for Edmonton.

The committee is an advisory body to the PCC and the Vicar and its key function is to provide advice, make recommendations and deliver on each phase of the roadmap. It is a group that is explicitly mandated to help the PCC move forward and implement congregational-wide actions that help St Luke's move towards a church where all truly belong and "all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God" (GBC).

This group started meeting in 2023 and will continue to meet throughout 2024, with regular checkpoints with the PCC, and will engage the congregation and other data to help inform its recommendations.

FOCUS

FOCUS

Evie Jones / Senior Team Administrator

Focus is an annual festival run by Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), where churches across the network gather for three days to receive teaching and worship together, as they camp with their church communities. We had 131 people join us this year, 56 of which were children! We were really glad to be able to host 14 from St George the Martyr church as well.

Focus provides a really beautiful and informal space to get to know people that otherwise might not get to speak to on Sundays, particularly if people attend different services. Friendships were formed and solidified over games of volleyball, spikeball and chats around the fire pit.

A huge shout-out to Barry and Sophie for taking the lead on cooking all of the hot meals! They did an incredible job looking after us all.

This year there was more emphasis on worship and prayer. Every night after the main sessions there were Kingdom Come worship nights and in the main sessions the worship felt a lot more stripped back from distractions giving more focus to God. Off the back of the recent revival in Asbury there was a lot more focus given to prayer ministry and waiting on the Spirit. Many from St Luke's joined the prayer ministry team where we had the privilege of praying for people who wanted to respond. It was a beautiful opportunity to seek God for others and share words and pictures. Off the back of this, we have seen the prayer culture at St Luke's shift as many feel more equipped to offer and receive prayer on a Sunday.



CHRISTMAS

MAKERS MARKET

Jon Beagley / Production and Worship Lead



To kick off our festive season at St Luke's, we held our very first Christmas Makers Market in our church building.

We had over forty makers selling their goods, including ceramics, illustrations, jewellery and wood-turned bowls. Hot food and Christmas trees were also sold outside and a wreath-making workshop was held inside, to help offer up a very festive market experience.

Our children and families were also able to engage with the family Kingdom Come sessions and the big spectacular event. They really enjoyed it and were so blessed to see the children worshipping and developing a relationship with Jesus. We are really grateful to those who came to be part of the children and youth teams!

We had a really impactful time on the last day where we had space to share testimonies of what God had been doing in our lives throughout the week. Stories of transformation and perspective change were shared. It was so special to see the journey God has been taking people on and for them to have a space to lean into him and listen to the Spirit.

It was so special to see the journey God has been taking people on.

We saw over 600 people come through the doors during the course of the day, many from a demographic that we don't see from other areas of outreach that we currently do. This was an opportunity to not only celebrate and encourage creatives in north London but to also engage with



our local community in Kentish Town. We pray that this will lead to relationships and opportunities to share who Jesus is with our wider community. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped serve the refreshments, welcome people at the door (it was, quite literally, freezing), set up and pack down. And a special thank you to Lomasi Bell for all her hard work in putting this on so professionally.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Jon March / Vicar

We welcomed hundreds of people across our two carol services again this year where our theme was "Sent to Save".

Each year our family carol service gets bigger in terms of attendance and the increased involvement of our children demonstrating how the demographic of our church has changed over the years. Our children's choir is growing and we look forward to building on this again next year.

We want to offer a huge thank you to the many volunteers who made our carol services a great success. We would love to see the growth of our musician base for the years to come so please let us know if you have a musical skill as yet uncovered!



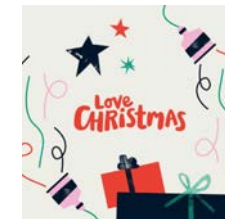
On Christmas Eve we welcomed a lot of families to our Crib service.

In addition to our Christingle service, we welcomed a lot of families to our crib service on Christmas Eve. Children and adults got involved in the retelling of the first-ever Christmas. It was an absolute delight, full of laughter and lots of improvised lines!

LOVE CHRISTMAS

Evie Jones / Senior Team Administrator

We joined with *Love Christmas* again this year to create 'bags of kindness' to bless those in our community who may be vulnerable or isolated. We handed out 39 bags, funded by our congregation and put together by our church youth group. We were able to give a bag to every resident at Greenwood, a local residential home for the elderly. They all had personalised bags with Christmas cards and were very grateful for the gifts. One resident wrote in saying "*Everyone received an invitation to our Christmas day meal, some Christmas-y snacks and drinks and a 'Why Christmas' book, where they could read about the hope we have in Jesus.*"





STATUTORY REPORTS

SAFEGUARDING

Esther Lau / Parish Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith, and St Luke's is committed to promote a safe environment and culture to ensure that our church is a safe space for all. Our safeguarding policies, procedures, and record-keeping align with the Church of England's guidelines.

All volunteers of our children, youth, and social transformation ministries have been recruited in accordance with the Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance, which involves risk assessments, volunteer role descriptions, a thorough application process, and DBS checks in place. The majority have completed the required level of safeguarding training through the Church of England's online system and participated in in-house refresher sessions in May 2023.

We continued to use MyConcern (an online safeguarding management system used by many schools) to report, triage, and manage safeguarding concerns. All reported concerns, as well as further actions and outcomes, were logged securely with an audit trail. Every PCC meeting had safeguarding as a standing

agenda item, with a safeguarding report circulated ahead of time.

Since January 2023, we have maintained Level 3 (the highest level) on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, an online tool that the Church of England uses to monitor parish compliance and delivery in safeguarding culture. Details of our safeguarding procedures can be found in the Safeguarding Overview ([slkt.link/safeguarding-overview](https://www.slkt.org.uk/safeguarding-overview)).

St Luke's is committed to promote a safe environment and culture to ensure that our church is a safe space for all.

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

FINANCE

David Cooke / Treasurer

St Luke's depends on the generosity of its members to pay for its staff, the upkeep of the building and the delivery of its ministries – Sunday services, children and youth work, and support of the local community. The level of giving dropped in the middle of 2021 and fell again in the summer of 2022.

When the PCC looked at the budget for 2023 the picture did not look healthy. Given the cost of living pressures and people moving away from the area it was anticipated that giving would fall further. Much of the church's expenditure is fixed but opportunities to reduce costs were taken. Plans to recruit were shelved and the amount being put aside annually for building work was reduced.

St Luke's ended the year in a far healthier position than it started it.

Despite best efforts the result was that the 2023 budget showed the church's expenditure exceeding income by £120,000. This would result in the church becoming financially unviable in the second half of the year.

The PCC set up a group to look at what could be done to address this shortfall and they proposed 'Project 100', a project to raise £100,000 in 100 days from 7th May to 13th August. This was a huge step of faith, with some having more faith than others! The result was that just over £102,000 was raised through a mix of one-off donations, pledges for increased regular giving and gift aid. We thank everyone who contributed to this and to God for enabling this to happen.

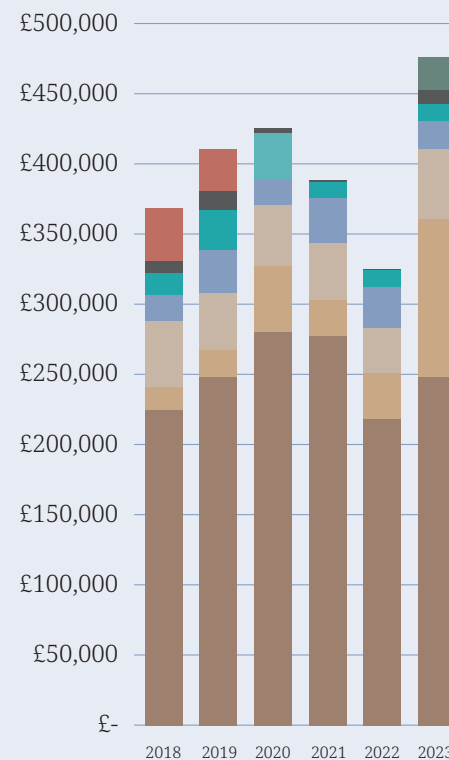
The end result was that St Luke's ended the year in a far healthier position than it started it. Overall income was £475,000 (compared to a budget of £261,000) and expenditure was £388,000, an increase in general funds of £87,000. Giving exceeded budget by £190,000, well beyond what was donated as part of Project 100. Expenditure was slightly above budget (£388,000 compared to £381,000) but the biggest increase was in electricity charges for the mobile antennae in the church tower which are recharged to the company that runs them. If these are excluded, then the cost of running the church was within budget thanks to careful management by the staff team.

Designated Fund	Balance at the start of 2023	Added in 2023	Spent / Distributed in 2023	Balance at the end of 2023
Building	£53,700	£13,400	£36,100	£31,100
Giving	£29,500	£26,100	£33,400	£22,200
Church Planting	£31,600	£5,200	£0	£36,800
Total	£114,800	£44,700	£69,500	£90,100

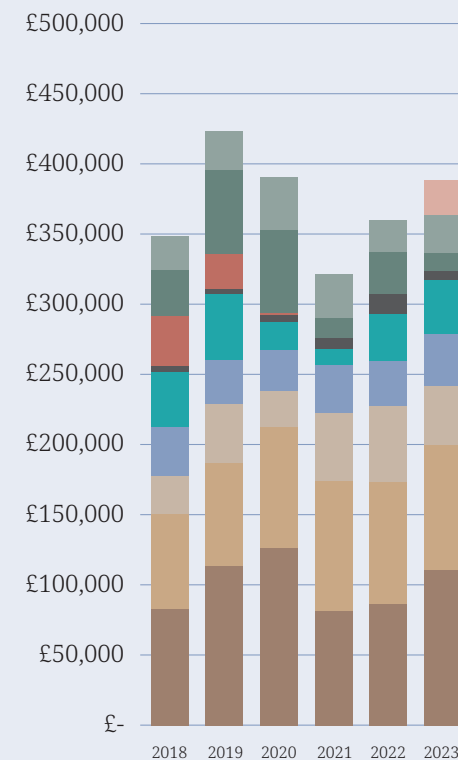
In addition to the general reserves, the church maintains three 'designated funds' set aside for specific purposes. The building fund is allocated for the upkeep of the church building. The giving fund distributes money to charities working in the UK and Uganda, and more widely as needs arise. The church planting fund is for the support of new churches. £44,700 was allocated to these funds in 2023 and £69,500 was spent.

As at the 31 December 2023 total funds and reserves were £385,700. These assets were made up of £355,800 in cash, £26,000 of fixed assets and £3,900 for monies owed to the church (net of monies due). Some numbers may be presented differently in the Reports & Accounts after they have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner.

St Luke's Income 2018-2023



St Luke's Expenditure 2018-2023



FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

Evie Jones / Senior Team Administrator

The children's ministry continues to meet in the marquees outside. In January 2023 we were able to pave the space between the marquees to avoid the slippery mud and therefore keep the spaces cleaner. We have also added new durable waterproof flooring in the spaces. The marquees are not an ideal long term solution so conversations continue around a better space to host the children's ministry. We are so grateful for our fantastic staff and volunteers team who manage to provide multiple children's groups on a Sunday despite the limitations on physical space.

With the help of the wonderful Ramsey Barreto we have been able to see to lots of the church maintenance tasks that we were previously struggling to address. He has been helping us to continue to work through the Quinquennial Report (Sep 2021) and make sure we are meeting our targets. He has also played a very key role in upgrading our stage, putting in new signage on the boundary wall and installing thick curtains to prevent the cold draft during services. Most notably

we finally have a new carpet in the nave! It's been a long time coming but we are so glad to have a nice neat carpet that will cater much better for our ministry needs, namely our toddler and children's ministries.

We are so grateful for our fantastic staff and volunteers team who manage to provide multiple kids groups on a Sunday despite the limitations on physical space.

We have also seen a few tech upgrades as we have raised the TV screens, installed new floor boxes and a loop tape for those with hearing aids. We have also introduced two new K-array speakers which has made a big difference particularly in terms of being able to clearly hear the preaches from the pews.

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

ELECTORAL ROLL

Evie Jones / Senior Team Administrator

Members of the congregation were invited to join the electoral roll between 31st March and 13th April, we saw 11 people join, making the total number on the roll 105 in the run up to the April 2024 APCM (a 6% increase on April 2022 APCM numbers).

Some of our core families left over the summer alongside some others resulting in 16 people coming off the Electoral Roll.

We are seeing growth in our children and youth works

Our congregation numbers have stayed pretty consistent despite several families moving away over summer. On average our two weekly services bring in 137 people compared to 138 in 2022, 34% of which are children compared to 28% in 2022. We are seeing growth in our children and youth work as children are growing up through the year groups and some are joining from Crumbs. We also had 110 attend our Easter services this year, these numbers had really dipped since the pandemic, but seem to be picking up again. We are continuously thankful for God's provision and to witness how he is growing our community.

PCC

Stef Cadney-Tribe / Secretary

The PCC in 2023 consisted of the following individuals and their office:

Chair: Revd Jonathan March

Clergy: Revd Lara Edwards, Revd Elizabeth Osborne

Churchwardens: Luke Kon, Onika Khan (from April 2023)

Lay Representatives: Chris Philpot (until July 2023) Esther Lau, David Cooke, Stef Cadney-Tribe (from April 2023) Maxim Khan, Maggie Magner, George Ward (until September 2023), Aidan Cross (from April 2023) Tim Wiffen (from April 2023), David Wesson, Jacob Spence, Rupesh Patel, Christy Ting (from April 2023), Ema Howling.

The PCC meets on average once every two months to oversee the planning of the mission of St Luke's. During 2023 we met on the following dates: 16th Jan, 20th March, 16th April, 19th June, 25th Sept, 20th Nov and 11th Dec. In the remaining term for 2023/24, we will be meeting on: 5th Feb and 18th March 2024. We regularly discuss and support decision-making on topics including:

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

Individuals on the Electoral Roll of St Luke's are able to have access to the approved minutes of Council meetings after the APCM, with the exception of any minutes deemed confidential. This year the PCC have continued to lead alongside staff and members of the congregation, and have been exploring options around providing the right space for children's and youth work in a growing church community. All the members of the PCC give their time and skills to support the work of St Luke's. We would particularly like to thank the Churchwardens and Treasurer for their excellent stewardship of staff, buildings, and finances. As with every year, we would appreciate your prayers for wisdom and expectant faith as we make decisions about the direction of St Luke's for the future.

DEANERY SYNOD
Lizzie Osborne / Curate

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

Tuesday 7th February
St John-at-Hampstead

'Ageing Gracefully': Kevin Rogers from the Diocese of London outlined the support available for our church buildings.

There is a major need for investment, with a staggering £25 million repair bill coming up.

Kevin explained how he and his team aim to provide pragmatic advice about church buildings, including support on how to establish efficient fundraising and optimizing the use of church buildings in general. For the South Camden area, there are 18 buildings, two of which are closed and 15 listed (most are Grade II). There is a major need for investment,

with a staggering £25 million repair bill coming up. The available pool of money is concentrated around high-need churches, but this does not say that other churches have no issues. All parishes were reminded to take great care with fire safety and their electrical systems and make sure that the mandatory 5-year electrical test was properly conducted. Kevin concluded that the bill for the magnificent church buildings is astronomical and that he and his team will do everything they can to support parishes with the maintenance and upkeep of these wonderful places of worship.

Wednesday 8 November 2023
St Martin's Church, Gospel Oak

After being proposed and seconded by members of the Deanery:

- Angela Gardner was elected for another term as Deanery Treasurer; and
 - Harmen van den Hondel was elected for another term as Deanery Secretary
- Mthr Carol thanked Monica Bolley from the Diocese for all her valuable help around the election proceedings and dealings.

A variety of positive news and initiatives were discussed, including new appointments for Fr Jamie Haith at St George the Martyr and Mthr Carol at St John's, Hampstead, with thanks to the acting Bishop of Edmonton and Bishop of Fulham, Fr Jonathan Baker for overseeing the process. St Mark, Regent's Park reported rising congregation numbers and Euston Church mentioned the enthusiastic participation of many students from the area. St Mary Kilburn celebrated Black History Month with a gospel choir and 100 Christmas presents were given to children in the area who would normally not get a present.





St Luke's Kentish Town

Oseney Cres
Kentish Town
London NW5 2AT

hello@slkt.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7916 0050
slkt.org.uk
f/i/t stlukeskt