

All Saints, Leek Wootton

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (incorporating Vestry Meeting)

This booklet contains all the papers for the meeting which takes place Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 after 9am morning worship (meeting starts at 10.00am)

Page 1-2 – Preamble

Page 3 – Agenda

Page 4-6 - Minutes of last year's meeting

Page 7 - Electoral Roll Officer Report and PCC Report

Page 8 - Treasurer's Report

Page 9 – Independent Examiner's Report

Pages 10-13 – Financial Statement for 2022

Page 14 - Parish Safeguarding Officer's Report

Page 15 – Churchwardens' Report

Page 16 - Deanery Synod Report

Page 17-19 - Vicar's Report

Page 19 – Reports from Choir, Eco-Church and Flower Team

Page 20 – Reports from House Groups and Mothers' Union

Page 21 – Report from Children and Families, and Guiding groups

Page 22 – Report from Tower Bell Ringers

Page 23 – Report from Handbell Ringers

Page 24 - Report from All Saints C of E Academy

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LEEK WOOTTON ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31st December 2023

#### Incumbent:

The Revd Jim Perryman

4 Hill Wootton Road Leek Wootton Warwick CV35 7QL

#### **Bankers:**

Lloyds Bank plc
21 The Square, Kenilworth CV8 1EE
CCLA Investment Management Ltd
80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DZ

#### **Independent examiner:**

Mr Graham Stevens

10 The Meadows

Leek Wootton, Warwick CV35 7QQ

#### **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

#### **Background**

All Saints Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting the whole mission of the Church in the ecclesiastical Parish. It is committed to developing every member ministry and actively supports lay involvement in the life of the Church, both in its place of worship and in the local Parish community. It also has a pastoral and governing responsibility for All Saints' Church of England Academy (until 1 March 2018: All Saints' Church of England (Voluntary-Aided) Primary School), Warwick Road, Leek Wootton which, through the Green Leek Federation from September 2014, also extends to Burton Green Church of England Academy (until 1 March 2018: Burton Green Church of England (Voluntary-Controlled) Primary School) in association with the parishes of St Nicholas, Kenilworth and St John the Baptist, Westwood Heath. These federated schools transferred to Academies within the Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust (DMAT) on 1 March 2018, reducing the number of PCC appointed Foundation Governors at that point from 3 to 1, in addition to the ex-officio Foundation Governor who, until his resignation from this role in December 2022, was the incumbent of All Saints' Leek Wootton. During 2023, the ex-officio role was taken up by the Revd Erin Gilmour, Mission Hub Associate at St John the Baptist, Westwood. Following further changes in DMAT governance policy, the number of Foundation Governors appointed by each of the three parishes was increased to 2, with these replacing what had been 'Community Governors'.

#### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year since the APCM the following served as members of the PCC:

**Churchwardens:** Mr Jonathan Kingston

**Prof Nigel Stallard** 

**Representatives on the Deanery Synod:** (elected to APCM 2026)

Mrs Nicola Perryman (also on Diocesan Synod and so ex-officio)

Prof Nigel Stallard (Two vacancies)

**Elected members:** (One vacancy to APCM 2025)

Mrs Eileen Clayton (elected to APCM 2025 – resigned 19/03/2024)

Mr Jonathan Cox (also Electoral Roll Officer) (elected to APCM 2026)

Mr Chris de Wolf (also PCC Secretary) (elected to APCM 2026)
Mrs Lesley Eldridge (also PCC Treasurer) (elected to APCM 2026)

Mrs Christine Haines

(appointed by PCC on 14/07/2021 to fill vacancy to APCM 2024)

Mr Rognvald Linklater (elected to APCM 2024)

Mrs Mary Robins (elected to APCM 2024)

Mr Iain Wilton

(appointed by PCC on 07/06/2023 to fill vacancy to APCM 2025)

#### Structure

The PCC is supported in the fulfilling of its statutory responsibilities by a Standing Committee and a number of sub-committees and working groups. It meets most months while the supporting committees and groups meet between full meetings of the PCC, as appropriate to fulfilling their remits.

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LEEK WOOTTON, COVENTRY DIOCESE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

#### SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2024, 10.00am

#### **AGENDA**

#### **ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

(open to all who reside within the parish or who are on the electoral roll of the church)

Please note that at the 2023 meeting, it was decided that, in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure
2001, Section 3 (Disqualification after six periods of office) shall not apply in relation to this Parish.

This decision remains in force until a subsequent proposal is passed to reinstate Section 3.

- 1) Welcome and apologies
- 2) Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 21 May 2023
- 3) Election of Church Wardens

#### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

(open to all those on the electoral roll of the church – others welcome as observers and participators but without voting rights)

We invite and encourage questions and comments on the various reports

- 1) Opening prayer
- 2) Apologies taken as for Annual Vestry Meeting
- 3) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on the 21 May 2023
- 4) Presentation of the Electoral Roll by the Electoral Roll Officer
- 5) To receive the annual report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for 2023
- 6) To receive the audited accounts of the PCC for 2023 from the Treasurer
- 7) To receive the report of the Churchwardens on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church
- 8) To receive the report of the Parish Safeguarding Officer
- 9) To receive the report of the proceedings of Kenilworth Deanery Synod
- 10) To receive the reports of the Vicar and of other church related or associated groups
- 11) Elections
  - a) Deanery Synod 2 vacancies to APCM 2026
  - b) Parochial Church Council **5 vacancies**: 3 to APCM 2027; 2 to APCM 2025;(+ any vacancies caused by existing members being appointed as Churchwarden at Annual Vestry Meeting or as Deanery Synod Reps at 11a)
- 12) Appointments
  - a) Independent Examiner or Auditor
- 13) In the light of the forthcoming interregnum, there will be a time of discussion focussed on those things that we most value about our church and parish.
- 14) Lord's Prayer

# ALL SAINTS' LEEK WOOTTON ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING MEETINGS HELD ON Sunday 21st May 2023 AT 10 AM

Present: Jim Perryman, Nicola Perryman, Jonathan Kingston, Katie Kingston, Jonathan Cox, Carolyn Cox, Nigel Stallard, Graeme Stevens, Joan Stevens, Rog Linklater, Lesley Allen, Tricia Reeve, Janet Jackson, Lesley Eldridge, Hilary David, Chris de Wolf, Audrey Rowberry, Jean Singleton, Suzanne Tisdale, Richard East, John Price, Sue Wood, Graham Martin, Jill Corbishley, Roger Wiglesworth, Jill Wiglesworth

#### **ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

#### 1. Apologies for absence:

Peter Alexander, Marilyn Peachey, Mary Robins, Eileen Clayton, Peter Jackson, Pam Ponting, Sandy Rice, Nigel Hill, Ann Hill

- **2. Minutes of last Annual Vestry meeting on 15**<sup>th</sup> **May 2022** were accepted with one correction that Jonathan Kingston was **proposed** by Nigel Stallard and seconded by Nicola Perryman.
- 3. Proposal to decide that Section 3 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 (Disqualification after six periods of office) shall not apply in relation to this Parish.

Jim read the relevant section of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 to explain the implications of not passing this proposal at this stage. The proposal was unanimously approved.

#### 4. Election of church Wardens -

Nigel Stallard was proposed by Jonathan Kingston and seconded by Astrid Wilton and Jonathan Kingston was proposed by Nigel Stallard and seconded by Astrid Wilton. There were no other nominations and they were unanimously elected and thanked for their continuing hard work for the parish.

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING Held within the Morning Worship Service

- 1. Opening Prayer and Hymn
- 2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies received as above

3. Minutes of the last APCM meeting held on May 15th 2022

No corrections were raised and they were accepted unanimously as a true record of the event.

- 4. Prayers of Confession
- 5. Bible reading: Genesis 1.1-10 (and reflection by JP)
- 6. Presentation of the Electoral Roll by the Electoral Roll Officer

Jonathan Cox noted 3 people have been removed from the electoral roll following their deaths, and there was a correction from 2022 to remove one double-entry. The total for 2023 is 70.

- 7. To receive the annual report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for 2022
  Report received unanimously without questions. JP added that PCC was still looking for new members to fill existing vacancies.
- 8. To receive the audited accounts of the PCC for 2022 from the Treasurer JP observed the accounts look healthy, but we should not be complacent since the parish share had reduced as had our charity support. The surplus was less than the two reduced items. All Saints' has been noted as a generous parish within a generous deanery and JP looks to continuing that and supporting ministry here and round the world. LE does not know the parish share for 2023-2024, but JP has indicated it should be what was suggested in May 2022. In 2024 it will be considerably more. JK asked whether the Parish has a voice in the parish share. JP indicates yes, but communication back is not always complete. KK asked if the parish can say no to the parish

share amount. JP indicated the parish can tell the diocese the parish share cannot be afforded and the diocese will take this into account. JP has asked for PCC help to feed back the information to the parish.

#### 9. Prayers of Thanksgiving

- 10. To receive the report of the Churchwardens on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church

   NS compiled report. LA offered thanks to the work of the church wardens. Report received unanimously without questions.
  - **Warden report highlights** JK spoke about the heating system and upcoming masonry work on the roof of the vestry requiring expenditure.
- 11. To receive the report of the Parish Safeguarding Officer LA encouraged people to contribute. More training and DBS checks will probably be required for new activities and LA and JP will support that. JP highlights a card is available encouraging people to register and conduct the online safe-guarding course. There is a booklet to keep on your person to remind everyone what to do, if concerns are raised. RL has asked if the cards can be made more widely available to have in the pews/church. JP has stated yes, and has indicated the poster is up and booklets and information will be pinned to the porch and kitchen area poster boards.
- 12. To receive the report of the proceedings of Kenilworth Deanery Synod Report received unanimously without questions. NP has stated she was not at the February meeting. New representatives will be nominated at this APCM for the next 3 years. LE has asked whether there is an update about the proposed boundary changes. JP has said there is currently no news, but a new committee, the Deanery Leadership Team, will form and address this question. The deanery synod has struggled in the last 3 years to complete started projects and discussions. David Hammond, the new Area Dean, is making the meetings more accessible and more interesting. JP added the focus is on hearing from, and praying for, churches at each meeting.

#### 13. Hymn

- **14.** To receive the reports of the Vicar and of other church related or associated groups JP is planning to retire at beginning of 2025 and making it clear so there will be no surprise interregnum. How can we prepare to make the church sustainable for the future?
  - a. **Cathedral Parish Partner, Choir and Flower Teams Reports** All reports received unanimously without questions. JP offered thanks to GS for the Christmas choir and all the hard work put in to making it a success. Thanks to JS for the flowers.
  - b. **Eco-Church, House Group and Mother's Union Reports** All reports received unanimously without questions. JP pointed out that NP is busy with all aspects of the environment groups: local parish, deanery and diocese. JP said that there are two house groups; one in person and one on-line meeting mid-week. JP urged more people to join one of these groups or to create their own. Such groups are at the heart of a healthy church.
  - c. Reports from Social, Children and Families All reports received unanimously without questions. JP 9000 KS2 children from the church school and academies in the diocese gathering at ALIVE2023 in June, in four sections, in Stoneleigh Park run by the Diocesan Board of Education. All Saints school going on Thursday. Praise Party and Picnic. JP has asked for prayers for good weather and asked for volunteer stewards to help direct children and keep them safe.
  - d. **Guiding and Scouting Groups Reports –** No reports received.
  - e. Tower bell Ringers and Hand bell Ringers All reports received unanimously without questions. RE has said that other ringers are joining the All Saint's ringers in the church towers on Tuesdays and Sundays. Special bell ringing occasions have been marked by the Tower bell ringers groups. Monthly ringing of 'Quarter Peals' (involving 1260 changes) is anticipated. JP offered thanks to NG and RE for their work and dedication.

**TR** – handbells is once a year, but open to join. Next event is carol service and practise to begin from November.

f. All Saints C of E Academy Report - Report received unanimously without questions. TR — foundation governor of Green Leek Federation — questions were asked at a recent meeting. All Saint's has a vision to live life in all its fullness. TR looks to see that in all school life whenever she visits. Some schools have closed their gates in recent times — some feel they do not see the schools as much. The church can visit the school, not just the children go to church. TR has asked how the church can support the school better. No DBS check required for general help. KK has asked about the open assemblies on Wednesday. They were stopped due to Covid, but numbers had been declining, so they have not been re-opened. LE pointed out that there is no notice/invitation from the schools regarding the school summer and Christmas fayres and other large events.

JP has stepped down as governor and they are looking to appoint a new one. TR indicated that there may be two new nominations.

LE also asked why they could no longer receive an e-mail with the newsletter. LA has stated it is probably the mailing list requires GDPR guidelines and can be difficult to manage. JP has assured he will look into it and feed-back. JP assures the church that the school wishes to be part of the church.

NS asked if the school get information from the church. JP and TR offer that the school newsletter has church dates in it. AR – Year 6 leaving assembly, they come to church and receive a bible from the church. Audrey encourages people to come along to the open services. Leaver's assembly will be Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**Christian Aid** – envelopes have ended and will not return so JC is working to put a charitable dinner together. Details hopefully coming soon.

#### 15. Prayers of Intercession

#### 16. Elections

- a. **Deanery Synod** 3 vacancies Nigel Stallard proposed by Jonathan Cox and seconded by Carolyn Cox. NS re-elected. Nicola Perryman will continue to serve ex-officio. All were encouraged to pray about discerning candidates to fill the remaining vacancies
- b. PCC There are 5 vacancies. There were no new nominations, but Jonathan Cox proposed by Lesley Allen and seconded by Carolyn Cox, Chris deWolf proposed by Nigel Stallard and seconded by Nicola Perryman. Lesley Eldridge has offered to continue to be book-keeper. In anticipation of her reappointment as PCC Treasurer, LE was asked to stand for PCC, with the understanding that she would attend primarily when giving a financial report. Nigel Stallard proposed and Jonathan Kingston seconded. CdW, JC and LE were re-elected to the PCC until 2026.
- c. 2 vacancies remain for Deanery Synod and for PCC
- d. NP asked what the process was for filling vacancies after the APCM. JP stated that the next available PCC meeting can be used to fill those vacancies.

#### 17. Appointments

- **a. Independent Examiner or Auditor** JP asked GS if he would consider continuing as independent examiner. GS agreed. congregation unanimously agreed to re-elect GS as the independent examiner.
- 18. Bible Reading: John 17.1-11
- **19.** "The Disciples Task": In the context of our Bible reading, we will think together about our journey of discipleship.
- 20. Lord's Prayer
- 21. Closing Hymn
- 22. Closing Prayer and Blessing Meeting closed at 12.00 pm.

#### REPORT OF ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

At last year's APCM the figures were: -

Electoral Roll	Resident in Parish	Non-Resident	Total
Roll (2023)	42	28	70

During the year there have been the following movements.

Electoral Roll	Resident in Parish	Non-Resident	Total
New entrants	0	11	1
Removals	1	0	1

This means the current figures are: -

Electoral Roll	Resident in Parish	Non-Resident	Total
Roll (2024)	41	29	70

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Omitted from 2023 report

Jonathan Cox, Electoral Roll Officer

#### **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)**

For 2023 the PCC has been focusing on creating several new committees that will focus further on supporting the church and community.

The Friends of Leek Wootton Church aim to raise funds and support the church both financially and with the fabric of the building.

The Stewardship Committee aims to find out more about the church members to enable it to support them in better ways.

The Secure Storage Committee aims to ensure that all important church-related documents are safely stored according to GDPR rules.

The PCC would also like to give thanks to Eileen Clayton, for her many years of service to the PCC as a member and as secretary.

The PCC are always looking for new members to join and help shape the future of the church.

Chris de Wolf, PCC Secretary.

### ALL SAINTS', LEEK WOOTTON Report on its financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2023

The accounts which follow were presented to the PCC on 20 March 2024 and accepted as a true record of its financial dealings for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Planned Giving in 2023 shows a 12½% increase on the 2022 figure. However, Collections and Donations were down 56% from 2022. The Parish Share figure for 2023 of £35,000 was met and paid in full from the above plus GiftAid claimed from HMRC.

The figure for utilities was substantially down on 2022, primarily because of the new heating system and the PCC now being charged for its energy monthly based on submitted meter readings. Regrettably, the issue of the PCC repaying all or much of the money paid to it in 2021 by Bulb Energy has still not been resolved despite the intervention of the Energy Ombudsman. The Ombudsman requested three steps be taken, but to date Octopus Energy (successor to Bulb Energy) has not provided the last step, the rebill for the period when figures were not clear to the layman (including the period when the church was closed during lockdown).

In 2023 charitable donations were made to: A Rocha International; A Rocha UK; Agapé France; Money for Madagascar (Akany Avoko); Barnabas Fund; Friends of the Holy Land; Intercontinental Church Society; Kenilworth Youth for Christ; and the Royal British Legion.

All Saints CofE Academy PTFA and the Leek Wootton Scout Group were invited to organise and therefore benefit from running the refreshments at Church Teas on 7 May and 2 July respectively.

The balance of the General Fund is basically on a par with 2022. All the Restricted and Designated funds show healthy balances with the Heating Appeal still retaining just over £6,000 at the year end. Whilst the balance of funds held is healthy at £62,250 it should be noted some 52% of that amount is held in Restricted or Designated funds.

**Lesley Eldridge (Treasurer to the PCC)** 



## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A	ndependent Examiner's R	eport				
Report to the trustees/ members of	LEEK WOOTTON PCC					
On accounts for the year ended	31 DECEMBER 2023	31 DECEMBER 2023 Charity no (if any)				
Set out on pages	IER2023 PAGES 2-5					
Responsibilities and basis of report						
	I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.					
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:  • accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or					
	<ul> <li>the accounts do no</li> </ul>	t accord with th	e accounting	records		
	I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.  * Please delete, the words in the brackets if they do not apply.					
Signed:	Mand	_	Date:	14/02/2024		
Name:	G J STEVENS				Ī	
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FCCA					
Address:	10 THE MEADOWS					
	LEGICILIOGETTON					

IER 1 October 2018

LEEK WOOTTON
WARWICK CV35 7QQ

1. Receipts and Payments - (A) GE	ENERAL FUND	£	2023	£	£	<b>2022</b> £	
Receipts		£		L	L	£	
Planned Giving Collections and Donations HMRC Repayments		28,36 5,15 7,96	54	41,483	11,	215 613 978	42,806
Fundraising Events (net) Fees Received (net)		92 2,28		3,214		558 503	4,061
Interest Sundry Receipts No	te 1			1,426 903			401 631
То	tal Receipts			47,027			47,899
Payments							
Parish Share				35,000			35,000
Cost of Services (net of Honoraria & Maintenance & Repair No Insurance Heat, Light, Water, Telephone & Inter Churchyard (net)	te 2	30 1,35 3,09 1,23 62	59 95 86	6,618	3,; 2,;	593 320 225 878 828	7,844
Incumbent's and Vicarage Expenses Printing & Stationery (exc Magazine)		13 69		834		205 479	684
G	te 3 te 4			1,791 2,332			1,624 1,337
Bank Charges (incurred on HSBC A/	(C before closure)			0			102
То	tal Payments			46,575			46,591
Surplus / Defecit Opening Balance				452 29,347			1,308 28,039
Closing Balance				29,798		=	29,347
2. Receipts and Payments - (B) FA	ABRIC FUND			<b>2023</b> £ 10			<b>2022</b> £ 222
Opening Balance				7,230 7,240		<u> </u>	8,100 8,322
Expenditure Closing Balance			_	985 6,255		_	1,092 7,230
3. Receipts and Payments - (C) BE	ELL FUND			<b>2023</b> £			<b>2022</b> £
Income Donations Fees				75 100			200
Opening Balance			a <del></del>	5,118 5,293			4,918 5,118
Expenditure Closing Balance				5,293			5,118

4. Receipts and Payments - (D) CHOIR FUND	<b>2023</b> €	<b>2022</b> £
Income Donations	125	-
Fees Opening Balance	0 707	707
Expenses	832 55	707
Closing Balance	778	707
5. Receipts and Payments - (E) FLOWER FUND	<b>2023</b> £	<b>2022</b> £
Income	241	-
Opening Balance	82 322	82 82
Expenditure Closing Balance	52 270	82
6. Receipts and Payments - (F) ORGAN FUND	2023	2022
Income	£ 75	£ 300
Opening Balance	6,141 6,216	5,841 6,141
Expenditure	0	
Closing Balance	6,216	6,141
7. Receipts and Payments - (G) CHILDREN & YOUTH FUND	<b>2023</b> £	<b>2022</b> £
Income Opening Balance	0 198	438
Expenditure	198 15	438 241
Closing Balance	183	198
8. Receipts and Payments - (H) HAND BELL FUND	2023	2022
Income	£ 190	£ 170
Opening Balance	1,658 1,848	1,488 1,658
Expenditure Closing Balance	<u> </u>	1,658
9. Receipts and Payments - (J) LEEK WOOTTON LINK	<b>2023</b> £	<b>2022</b> £
Income Opening Balance	5,136 5,976	5,116 5,734
Expenditure	11,112 5,583	10,850 4,874
Closing Balance	5,529	5,976
10. Receipts and Payments - (K) 2022 CHURCH HEATING APPEAL	2023	2022
Income	£ 0	£ 14,649
Opening Balance	6,118 6,118	13,210 27,859
Expenditure Closing Balance	<u>37</u> 6,080	21,742 6,118
The state of the s	<del></del>	

		2023		2022	
Balances of Funds	at 31 December	£	£	£	£
1. Unrestricted	General Fund		29,798		29,347
2. Designated	Bell Fund Choir Fund Flower Fund Organ Fund Children and Youth Fund Hand Bell Fund	5,293 778 270 6,216 183 1,848	14,587 <u> </u>	5,118 707 82 6,141 198 1,658	13,904
3. Restricted  Income over Expe	Fabric Fund Leek Wootton Link 2021 Church Heating Appeal  nditure (ALL FUNDS)	6,255 5,529 6,080	17,864 62,250	7,230 5,976 <b>6,118</b>	19,323 62,574
	Total Income Total Expenditure	55,791 56,115	-324	71,874 77,856	5,982
Bank Balances at	31 December				
	Lloyds Current Account Lloyds Second Account CCLA Deposit Account Petty Cash Account		28,662 940 32,298 350	_	30,604 832 30,881 257

		<b>2023</b> £	<b>2022</b> £
Note 1	Sundry Receipts		
	Sundry Sales Tea & Coffee (net) Other	485 -62 480 903	672 - 41 - 631
Note 2	Repairs and Renewals		
	Vestry Works General	0 1,359 1,359	320 320
Note 3	Donations		
	A Rocha International A Rocha UK Agapé France Money for Madagascar (Akany Avoko) Barnabas Fund Friends of the Holy Land Intercontinental Church Society Kenilworth Youth for Christ Kenilworth Youth for Christ (stopped cheque from 2019) Royal British Legion Leek Wootton Scout Group (Teas) The Children's Society (Christingle Service) BEN Support for Life (Funeral Collection) All Saints Cofe Academy, Leek Wootton PTFA (Teas) Myton Hospice (Funeral Collection) Cancer Research UK (Funeral Collection)	100 100 200 200 100 200 100 300 0 200 73 113 105 0 0 0	100 100 200 200 100 200 100 300 - 120 200 51 - 106 45 42
Note 4	Sundry Expenditure		
	Licences Honoraria Other Sundries	483 500 1,034 315 2,332	383 500 384 70 1,337

#### PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Diocesan Safeguarding team continue to improve the support available to Parish Safeguarding officers (PSO) in many ways; this includes the technical resources available, the structuring of the personnel in the team that support us and by holding regular forums.

I attended an in-person forum for PSOs in the diocese over the summer and it was good to talk to people fulfilling a similar role. Some statistics for Coventry diocese were presented and it was truly shocking to see the number of incidents of abuse occurring. Sadly, abuse does happen in our diocese and while Leek Wootton is a lovely place to live we must not become complacent. A service was held in October using materials provided by Thirty one eight, an organisation that support Safeguarding teams, to reinforce this.

I couldn't attend the November forum where the new Church of England Safeguarding Standards were brought to our attention but these were reinforced at March's online forum.

#### The 5 standards are:

- 1. Culture, Leadership and Capacity
- 2. Prevention
- 3. Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk
- 4. Victims and Survivors
- 5. Learning, Supervision and Support

In the near future, the Parish Dashboard that I complete on behalf of the PCC will be amended to support these new standards, and the Diocese will be audited against them in 2025. There will also be a new Safeguarding hub that tracks training and DBS checks which will hopefully make the Vicar's and PSO's jobs easier.

Coventry diocese was selected to take part in an external review of Safeguarding practices with the focus on how we can be more effective and transparent, and the report is expected in August.

DBS checks and training courses expire and as the church introduces new activities it is important to ensure the risk assessments are made or reviewed, and new helpers trained. The premise remains that anyone involved in a group aimed at, or who can form a relationship with Young People or Vulnerable Adults, should be recruited under 'Safer Recruitment' and have a DBS check.

While abuse in its many forms tends to spring to mind when people talk about Safeguarding, we must not forget the basics that risk assessments address. For this reason, all church activities require a risk assessment which is not just a piece of paper but a living document shared with all adults involved. Feel free to ask the leader of any activity that you or your children participate in to see the assessment and mitigating actions to reduce any recognised risk to an acceptable level.

Knowing that we will be in an interregnum next year makes it imperative that we are up to date with the requirements on the PSO dashboard. The keeping of records is probably the item most impacted by the interregnum and the PSO, like all PCC officers, is working to move records to a central location.

I will continue to support the PCC and the leaders of the various groups and organisations who work with children, young people under 18, or vulnerable adults, in ensuring that best practice procedures are followed for the safety and wellbeing of all. Together with the PCC, I continue to work to review parish practices to ensure that all the relevant Safeguarding Training is undertaken by those in different roles within the church, and that suitable risk assessments are in place. The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and, to this end, has Safeguarding as a statutory agenda item at each meeting.

**Lesley Allen** 

#### **CHURCHWARDENS REPORT**

#### Statutory – Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The Churchwardens have examined the Terrier and completed the Log Book for 2023/24. The main updates have been to record the work to the heating system and the donation from Helen Eldridge of a kneeler for use a wedding services.

#### Church

The main weekly service continues to be at 10.00 on a Sunday morning, with typically around 25 attending. The service is also usually live-streamed on zoom with one or two choosing to join in this way. A communion service is held at 8.45 once each month with a smaller congregation of usually around 10.

Twice a month the Mosaic children's group meet during the 10.00 service, with participation possible either in person or via zoom. Numbers for this group have reduced slightly, with typically fewer than 5 children joining.

A reduction in numbers joining online weekday morning worship has led us to stop this, though compline continues online each Wednesday evening with a few people typically joining the vicar.

#### **Church building**

There has been no major work on the church building this year, though minor maintenance work has continued. The church building remains in generally good order.

#### Churchyard

Continuing maintenance has been undertaken and the churchyard is looking well-kept and attractive. The church car park remains well-used by local walkers.

#### Open church

The church remains open for visitors and private prayer and continues to be visited regularly by locals and those from further afield, many of whom have some connection with the parish.

The visitors' display, which had been unavailable since the Covid pandemic is now operational again and we have had materials to encourage prayer on the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine and during Holy week and Easter. Refreshments are available to visitors.

#### School

The link between Church and School has continued, with Jim continuing to lead school assemblies and the school using the church for their Easter play and participating in the Christmas Carol service.

#### **Thanks**

The Churchwardens would like to express their thanks to all the volunteers who have continued this year to maintain the churchyard, clean the church, decorate the church with flowers, etc. and include also the organist, bell ringers, sidesmen and readers. They would also like to particularly thank our vicar Jim, and all those who have helped lead worship during the year including John Price, Andrew and Christine Haines, Audrey Rowberry and Nicola Perryman.

Jonathan Kingston and Nigel Stallard – Churchwardens

#### **DEANERY SYNOD**

We are part of Kenilworth Deanery and during the year we met 3 times as a synod jointly with Coventry South Deanery. The main focus during the year has been to get to know more about the various parishes in the deaneries and to spend time praying for each other. At each meeting the host parish and 3 others give a presentation of what is going on in their parish, using the format of Battle – Breakthrough – Blessing, Followed by prayer for them in various different formats.

In February we met at St Oswalds Tile Hill, in May at St John's Kenilworth and in October St James Styvechale.

During the year we have also had presentations about the diocesan mission hubs, Alive 2023 (the large praise party for the diocesan schools) and the lay ministry training that is available within the diocese. We have set up Deanery Leadership teams with a representatives from each benefice, to try and draw up a deanery plan for further discussion in the parishes.

**Nicola Perryman (Deanery Secretary)** 

#### **VICAR**

With the expectation that I will, in due time, tender my resignation from my post as Incumbent of this parish as of 31 January 2025 and begin my retirement from stipendiary ministry after nearly 37 years, this is my last report to the APCM. However, I will not make any 'retirement speech' here, sticking to the task in hand of reporting on the past rather than the future.

This past year has seen the Diocese say goodbye and thank you to both our long-standing and much loved Bishops. Bishop John left in July to begin his well-earned retirement and, more recently, Bishop Christoper obeyed the 'call' of King Charles to take on the role of Dean of Windsor — a role that is already seeing him in the public gaze, but more importantly in the private support of the Royal Family in their own significant challenges of recent months. We wish them and their families every blessing for the future and, while much appreciating the caring oversight of Bishop Ruth, we look forward to the appointment of a new Bishop of Coventry, hopefully later this year or early next and, soon after that, the appointment of a new Bishop of Warwick.

My working pattern remains as a 50% stipendiary vicar of this parish, and a two days per week 'Short-Term Mission Manager' for the Intercontinental Church Society (ICS), based at their offices on the Westwood Business Park in Coventry. I am grateful to both 'employers' for allowing the flexibility of time to allow me to undertake both roles, focussing more on the necessary tasks rather than a strict timescale. Where possible, I continue to perform some parish duties while travelling abroad for periods of time for ICS, and am very greatly for the support of my clergy and reader colleagues, Andrew and Chris Haines, John Price, Nigel Stallard and Audrey Rowberry who cover any services that I am missing for as well as share the task of ministry at other times.

During 2023, I changed my normal pattern to give better availability to the School and for the Churches Together group, which has also proved beneficial in other ways. I am on Parish duty Sunday, Tuesday (instead of Monday), Wednesday and Saturday (and often Monday and/or Thursday evenings); ICS duty Monday and Thursday office hours, and seek to maintain the discipline of a day off duty on Friday.

I continue to fulfil the role as Assistant Area Dean of Kenilworth deanery, where I tend to carry the Deanery-focussed responsibilities of the Area Dean role but not the Diocese-focussed ones. This includes offering pastoral care and support to the other clergy of the deanery, most of whom have limited ministerial experience, so I hope that this will prove to be a beneficial investment for the future life of the churches. I have also had the responsibility for the oversight of administration of the churchyards during interregnums which has included Hatton, Meriden and St Nicholas Kenilworth. I am pleased to say that all posts are now filled and so my responsibility has reduced to an advisory role only as the incumbents build their understanding and experience of this highly complex topic, fraught as it is with the potential for serious pastoral and public difficulties.

I am pleased to say that my health issues which affected the latter part of 2022 and the early part of 2023 are no longer causing any impact on my working life, nor on any other part of my life, but greatly appreciate the love and care shown to me by so many during the months following my operation while I got back up to full speed.

I have the privilege and joy of leading school assemblies each week at All Saints Academy and, due in part to having stepped down at the end of 2022 from my role as Governor, I am able to have a greater role of pastoral care towards the Executive Head Teacher and the other staff, often spending a time in the staff room following the assembly. I know that one of our Foundation Governors, Tricia Reeve, also gives a large amount of time in voluntary support there and the school community is very appreciative of the strong link between them and their Parish Church. I hope that ways will be found to maintain and to build on this in the coming years.

We have continued to maintain a regular pattern of worship, although it has been decided to reduce the early communion service to just one each month, and we did not hold an Ash Wednesday service this year. The other regular service which is struggling is the monthly Wednesday morning communion, and I would like to encourage people to consider joining in this time – especially for the benefit of the two or three 'regulars' who are unable to take part in other services and value the chance to maintain a link with the parish that has been so much a part of their lives. Sadly age, infirmity and, in some cases, death, have taken many from us of what was, until quite recently, a very thriving worshipping community and maybe there are others who would benefit from being part of this community into the future.

The Leek Wootton Link continues to be an excellent church publication which serves, and works in partnership with, many other community groups including our Parish Council. Lesley and Helen Eldridge do an amazing job as voluntary editors, and the team of volunteer distributors, under the leadership of Adrian Morris, faithfully and efficiently ensure that every home in the church and civil parish, and many others from the surrounding area, or with a close association with the church here, are kept informed of the many activities which take place within the community, as well as the life of the church at the heart of it. It has been a joy to be involved in the delivery to homes on the Pavilions estate at the northern edge of our parish and to see this area of housing grow to the point now where the last few houses are on the point of completion and occupation. Good positive links with many families on the estate have been built over this past year, with Baptisms and Banns of Marriage taking place. We held an open-air Carol service beside the children's play area shortly before Christmas, which was well attended, and there have been 'Stations of the Cross' and 'Stations of the Resurrection' trails set up around the footpaths of the estate for Holy Week and Easter 2024.

Graham and Joan Stevens have continued to be great servants of the fellowship through music and flowers, and we appreciate them very much. I would like to express my huge gratitude for the many years they have spent bringing joyful sound, colour and beauty into the church. For Graham, this is a very much a solo effort, other than around Christmas. Joan has a faithful, though shrinking, team working week by week through the seasons and particularly for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. I hope that others will join the rota and also step forward to take up the reins in due course to ensure that the church fellowship will be enabled to maintain this valuable ministry in the years ahead.

As others have felt unable to continue in various roles, more and more seems to end up with the same faithful servants, namely Jonathan and Katie Kingston and Nigel Stallard – which is not a sustainable solution. I hope and pray that others will volunteer to share in the privilege of service and help to ease the workload of these folk who – it must be remembered – are also volunteers who would be perfectly at liberty to step down at any time (though I hope they don't!). They are likely to also have extra responsibilities during the interregnum, so please don't take them for granted. Our PCC continues to have vacancies, as does our lay representation on the Deanery Synod. It has been an encouragement that people have come forward recently to take future responsibility for some of the tasks performed by Nicola over the years, recognising that when I retire, we will both be leaving! But there are certainly plenty of opportunities for people to offer their time and talents to serve God and one another in a whole range of practical ways – none of which need to be onerous in themselves, but become so when added to too many other tasks and roles. I would love to see the joy of serving shared more fairly in order that the associated blessings may also be shared.

I want to end by expressing my gratitude not just to those already mentioned, but to the PCC members who have made many wise decisions and been a great encouragement to me personally over this year, to Lesley Eldridge for her sterling work as our Treasurer and to Chris deWolf for his faithful service as PCC secretary; to Lesley Allen who fulfils the Parish Safeguarding Officer role so well, keeping us aware of good practice and working with the Diocesan Safeguarding team to

endeavour to ensure we offer the best environment for the protection of children and the vulnerable within our church and the wider community; and to those who read the lessons, act as Sidespersons, serve refreshments and keep the church clean and the churchyard tidy.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my wife Nicola who keeps (or tries to) me on the straight and narrow with helpful 'reminders' of tasks not yet performed, while herself performing so many tasks within the church, the Deanery, the Diocese, the School and the local community – and still being an amazing wife, mother and grandmother – and a pretty decent gardener too.

No – final thanks must, of course, go to our loving Lord Jesus, without whom there would not only be no church, but also no hope. May he be served and glorified at All Saints, Leek Wootton for many generations to come.

Jim Perryman

#### **CHOIR**

Our choir activity as you will know is restricted to that of singing at the 2 Christmas Carol Services.

This year it was pleasing to see some new faces. We had a choir of some 25 enthusiastic singers, and I believe all enjoyed their singing. We are however always short of tenors and basses to match the altos and sopranos. Special thank you to Liz who stood in as conductor whilst I played the organ. Most of the choir singing was unaccompanied – well done everyone for your perseverance.

So thank you, all that sang for Christmas 2023 and we look forward to more happy times together singing the Christmas music.

**Graham Stevens** 

#### **ECO CHURCH**

In June 2023, as part of the Churches Count on Nature/Cherishing Churchyard, we held a Moth evening (plus an early morning view of the moth trap emptying), wildflower walk, lichen talk, and bird singing id app demonstration and minibeast hunting.

Cycle racks have been installed.

Permission for a water butt has been granted and it is now in place, awaiting connection.

The Eco Church survey has been redone and recently discussed at PCC. Ideas about how we can progress this are welcome. It would be great if we could get a silver award by the end of the year.

Nicola Perryman

#### **FLOWER TEAM**

We are so grateful to all the people who supply flowers for the altar. 2 vases on the altar cheer it up considerably I feel. Also, a big thankyou to the small team that help with the decoration of the church for the special festivals at Easter Harvest and Christmas. We had a special event at harvest this year as Ros's granddaughter and husband had a marriage blessing in church and we were able to benefit from her lovely flowers.

Again, I say thank you so much to the ladies for their time and enthusiasm.

Joan Stevens

#### **HOME (BIBLE STUDY) GROUPS**

#### **MONDAY GROUP**

2024 MONDAY GROUP met up usually monthly, on a dry Monday afternoon to walk from All Saints Church via areas like the arboretum and golf course. Surrounded by God's beautiful creation or back in our lovely church building over a cuppa, made an ideal time for fellowship and sharing for our chosen topic; prayers, readings, hymns and thoughts. After each session we shared some of our ideas with the wider group so all were included.

We enjoyed an evening wintertime social around Jean's fire.

If you'd like to join in do let us know.

Janet Jackson

#### THURSDAY GROUP

The Thursday homegroup meets to study the Bible, share fellowship and pray together on a Thursday evening, usually once a fortnight. Having been meeting via Zoom since lockdown, during this year we have returned to meeting face to face, usually either at the Vicarage or Reading Room Cottage.

Our meetings this year have been following Bible study series on Ephesians, an Advent series on the early chapters of John's gospel and a Lent series on Philippians.

There are around 5 of us, but new members are always welcome, so if you would like to join us, please speak to Nigel Stallard or Nicola Perryman, who can give you more details.

**Nigel Stallard** 

#### ALL SAINTS LEEK WOOTTON MOTHERS' UNION FRIENDSHIP GROUP

ALL SAINTS LEEK WOOTTON MOTHERS' UNION FRIENDSHIP GROUP is made up of Diocesan MU members who are linked together through All Saints Church and our village. MU in our diocese and worldwide supports family life, women and communities. Annual membership subscriptions help to support MU's work, there is news in Link magazine and we can participate in events in our wider area

Individual members in everyday life endeavour to support community life and have also supported the Leek Wootton Baby & Toddler and Young at Heart village groups, the diocesan exhibit 'Souls of our Shoes' by displaying some of this in church around the time of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, provided gifts for prisoner's children, knitted items for shoebox gifts and fundraised for the work of MU through making greetings cards

Contact: mu@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

Janet Jackson

#### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

#### **MOSAIC**

We have met twice a month most months except for school holidays. Whilst we still have the facilities for children to join on line, this has not been used.

We meet in the upper room during part of the 10am service and screen, for watching animation retellings of bible stories, and also for songs we can listen to and join in with.

Apart from linking in with various festivals, we have had a series on Jeremiah and another from Ruth to David.

#### **POSADA**

The Posada took place again during Advent, with local families hosting Mary and Joseph crib figures.

#### **CRIB SERVICE**

Children dressed up and took part in the nativity at this service and some young people did the narration, imagining the ox in the stable in Bethlehem.

#### **MESSY CHURCH**

No Messy Church activities have been held this year.

Nicola Perryman

#### **BROWNIES AND GUIDES**

It has been another busy and exciting year for Leek Wootton Brownies and Guides.

The Summer Term of 2023 saw the approach of the King's coronation so we began a Midlands Region challenge called 'Cup of Kindness'. The challenge required activities linked to K – King, I – Influence and increase, N – Neighbours and D – Discover. We held a crowning ceremony and decorated biscuits; delivered daffodils to the doorsteps of our neighbours and donated to the local foodbank; and invited Dads along to one of our meetings.

We also worked on the Ramble around the Region challenge which included geocaching, a night hike and improving our map reading skills.

There were a several trips this year – watching The Little Mermaid at a Girlguiding Cinema takeover, a trip the Sealife Centre in Birmingham, pond dipping in Coventry, fire lighting at Hatton campsite, enjoying waffles at Delightful Desserts, watching Warwickshire Gang Show at the Spa Centre in Leamington, sampling the chip shops around Kenilworth, and climbing at Princethorpe College.

In December, the Guides enjoyed a weekend in London, staying at Girlguiding HQ, with lots of sightseeing including London Zoo and the Science Museum. During the weekend, they also earned their navigator interest badge.

This year, we've worked on several badges including the explore, first aid, innovate and live smart skills builders and photography and whittling interest badges.

There have been several joint meetings with both Guides and Brownies including watching the Young Farmers' Christmas tractor run, a visit from Curious Creatures who brought several reptiles, and an Easter egg trail.

To finish our Spring Term, we are looking forward to a camp at Rough Close Scout Campsite at the beginning of April, with the Guides spending 3 nights and the Brownies joining in with a 1 night sleepover.

**Hazel Turner** 

#### **TOWER BELL RINGERS**

#### **Annual Guild Striking Competition**

Every year, the Coventry Diocesan Guild run a competition for bell ringing and this year the event was hosted at Leek Wootton by the local band. In addition to the ringing, the day consisted of making sure the competitors were sustained with refreshments and considerable amounts of cake!

Eleven teams entered, for 2 sections: call changes and method ringing. We came third in the method ringing section.

#### Ringing for the King

To mark the coronation of King Charles III, towers across the country took part in a coordinated ringing event between 1st and 21st May, totalling over 5000 performances.

Leek Wootton was no exception and played our part, ringing on a number of occasions to celebrate this historic event.

#### **Teaching Accreditation**

In order to increase the number of ringers, the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) operates a scheme to train potential ringing teachers. It is a process that takes some time and is not an easy skill to acquire. Thanks to the scheme, we now have an accredited teacher at Leek Wootton and hope to be able to welcome new trainees.

#### Maintenance

The bells have continued to be maintained throughout the year by the team. In 2024, we will be working with the bell-hangers to get an independent inspection plus carrying out some minor remedial work.

#### **Quarter Peals**

We rung a number of quarter peals throughout the year, including establishing a monthly quarter every third Sunday.

#### **Visiting Ringers**

Not only have we been fortunate to be supported by ringers from other towers, we have been pleased to welcome visiting bands to help build the ringing community.

#### Summary

It has been another good year for the tower, building our skills and community; we look forward to furthering that next year.

**Nathan Gould (Tower Captain)** 

#### LEEK WOOTTON AND ASHOW HANDBELL GROUP

Leek Wootton handbell group was reformed in the mid 1990's. Susan Spencer, a local musician and a church organist, was persuaded to teach a group of interested locals. Some of us may have been musical, but no one had experience of handbells. Fortunately, Susan had mastered many instruments, including handbells. So, the first lesson was how to hold the bell correctly and then swing the arm to enable a sound to be made!

We meet once a week each winter to practise for Christmas. Over the years we have rung at carol services at All Saints', Ashow and Stoneleigh Churches. The number of handbells has grown to two complete sets by combining with the Ashow Church set. This means that some members have three or four bells to play – but not all at the same time! Each weekly practise in church lasts an hour and we do enjoy it!

Last year we were able to play at two carol services for All Saints'. We also performed at the Leek Wootton Sports club for their Christmas carol evening, which raised money for charity.

We welcome anyone who thinks they may like to try handbells. You don't have to be able to read music. We play several carols and some secular Christmas songs.... with "We wish you a merry Christmas" as a finale!

We are grateful especially to Jim and Jonathan for organising the bells each week and locking up the church. We have been lucky to still have Susan Spencer as our conductor. She obviously enjoys it too!

We look forward to the 2024 season.

Tricia Reeve

#### **ALL SAINTS' C of E ACADEMY**

All Saints' CofE Academy continues to be special place within the community that encourages the children to enjoy life in all its fullness.

We continue to aim for high quality education rooted in a Christian foundation ensuring the children not only have a clear academic focus, but a clear focus on personal and social education programme. Our AGC (academy governance committee) continue to have a clear overview of the strategic vision for the academy and offer that perfect balance of support and challenge.

We continue to be grateful for the support that Jim continues to give the school. His genuine care for all of the children is evident and his commitment to leading collective worships is appreciated. Jim takes time to learn about the vision and values for each term and intertwines his collective worships into these themes. Jim is also conscious to include the school into services and events that are occurring in the church. Examples of this are the Harvest and Christmas services and of course the on going weekly services which are promoted within school. The children do value this important link and the importance of their church community in their lives. As a school we are also grateful for the support and time that Tricia gives up as a foundation governor from All Saints' church. Not only does she contribute positively to the AGC, but is also a keen helper coming weekly to hear readers. This again fosters to the positive link between the church and the school. Having the link with the community is so important and this has allowed the children at the school to produce designs for the tiles that are going to be placed in the community garden. The school continues to have Forest School as a key part of what we offer the children within school. Each class has an opportunity to develop their love of the out doors and their creativity within this area. It is something that the children thoroughly enjoy at all ages. I have been particularly impressed with the children's creativity as they get an opportunity to be part of nature.

We have been enjoying opportunities to bring learning alive with the children. This has included dance workshops focusing on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Diwali with a traditional workshop on English dancing planned in the summer term. We have also enjoyed school trips linked to our Rainforest theme and a Polar experience day.

Our Christmas performance was once again enjoyed with the youngest children (KS1 and reception class) within our school taking the leading parts.

We continue to focus in school on developing our curriculum to ensure the children not only know all of the key requirements, but get to learn then in an enjoyable and fun context. We have enhanced many of the areas we study (such as history and geography) to ensure the children develop skills that are of the highest level and make them ready to be the next set of historians or geographers. Our Easter performance is planned to go ahead once again in All Saints' Church. The Easter performance is always such a moving service and Waller children once again leading this production. Rehearsals are looking really good and I can't wait to see the final performance.

To conclude we continue to be a school that is rooted in the community and aims to offer children opportunities to 'Live Life in all its fullness' and to enjoy a wide diverse of experiences set within the Christian foundation, that it is rooted upon. Our Easter performance is planned to go ahead once again in All Saints' Church. The Easter performance is always such a moving service and Waller children once again leading this production. Rehearsals are looking really good and I can't wait to see the final performance. To conclude we continue to be a school that is rooted in the community and aims to offer children opportunities to 'Live Life in all its fullness' and to enjoy a wide diverse of experiences set within the Christian foundation, that it is rooted upon.

Andrew Morris (Executive Head of the Green Leek Federation)