

St Luke's and St Mark's AGM Reports 2025 (AGM 2026)

Vicar's Report:

The past year has seen significant change for both St Luke's and St Mark's which has brought much encouragement and hope for the future. After consultation with the two congregations and DCCs, with the PCC (for the whole Parish), and with the Bishop and Archdeacon, St Luke's and St Mark's began to formally operate together, bringing structures and operations in line with the day-to-day reality. This will make things much easier from an operational perspective.

St Mark's: St Mark's Sunday services ceased at the end of 2024 (22nd December 2024 being the final Sunday service at St Mark's) and we shifted our focus to weekday worship and Fresh Expressions. These included the existing Messy Church and Thursday Wellbeing Service as well as exploring new options. As part of this change several funding applications were submitted to support this initiative. Unfortunately, most of these applications were unsuccessful, but we were able to secure funds to appoint a Mission and Outreach Worker to support the growth of these new services. The post holder started in January 2026, so we look forward to seeing how this develops. 2025 was very much a year of securing foundations, dealing with issues and preparing to launch these projects, with new services launching in 2026, including an act of worship at the end of Toddler groups and a new weekday evening service. A highlight of 2025 for St Mark's was the Messy Church baptism which took place in June and saw 5 adults and 9 children baptized, as well as 2 adults renewing their baptismal vows. This raised the profile of St Mark's considerably and drew the attention of the national Messy Church and Church of England Comms teams.

St Luke's: With the ending of the St Mark's Sunday service I have been able to put more focus and attention into St Luke's Sunday service. This has allowed me to be present more often and to work on the culture at St Luke's, which has born positive fruit. St Luke's grew over 2025 with a number of new people joining and becoming an integral part of the community. This has led to an increase in our average Sunday attendance from an ASA of 20 to an ASA of 35 and a renewed vision and appetite from mission and growth. Our consistent prayer that God would raise up and send to us people who love Jesus, Downham and the local church, seems to be answered!

Our community work continues to be a vital aspect of our life together and are growing once again after a dip in numbers, though funding remains a challenge. The impact of these projects has been recognised by the wider community and statutory services, as we have been commissioned as the coordinator for the South of Lewisham for community support.

The Future: Looking to the future, we long to continue to grow our impact, both serving the community, helping people meet their potential, and especially seeing more people following Jesus and growing in faith. Our greatest needs are to increase our financial resilience, to become better known in the community (people still comment that they didn't know about the work we do), and to grow in numbers and depth.

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Occasional Offices: In 2025 St Luke's baptised 4 children and 1 adult and St Mark's baptised 11 children and 5 adults. No funerals took place in either church, but memorial services took place for three people at St Luke's in 2025. Our clergy conducted 16 funerals at the crematorium/cemetery. St Mark's had one wedding.

Church Wardens: The District Church Council (DCC) has continued to provide leadership and oversight of church life across St Luke's and St Mark's. It has met regularly to review activity, make decisions, and ensure the church is run in an organised and accountable way.

Worship has continued consistently throughout the year, with a gradual increase in numbers and some new families joining the church. Seasonal services such as Christmas and Easter were delivered across both sites, although attendance at some services suggests there is a need to review how and when these are held. Arrangements have also been put in place to ensure services and pastoral care continue during periods when the vicar is unavailable.

The church's Mission Action Plan remains the main guide for its work, focusing on building community, strengthening faith, and encouraging participation. This plan is currently under review to ensure it continues to reflect the needs of the church and the wider community.

Work with children, young people, and families has remained an important part of church life. Regular activities such as toddler groups and Messy Church have continued, with ongoing involvement from families. While attendance has varied at times, new initiatives have been introduced to improve accessibility and support, particularly for children with additional needs.

The church has continued to play an active role in the local community through a range of outreach activities and partnerships. Existing programmes remain in place, and new opportunities are being developed through external funding and collaboration.

Financially, the position at the end of the year was stronger than expected, with income exceeding projections. However, there are still funding gaps across several areas, and the DCC continues to focus on careful financial management, securing grants, and making informed decisions about spending.

Building maintenance has been carried out to ensure the church remains safe and functional, including essential repairs and improvements. Due to financial constraints, larger development work is being planned in stages.

Staffing arrangements have been reviewed to reflect current needs and available funding, including the appointment of a Mission and Outreach Worker. Safeguarding remains a priority, with appropriate policies in place and no significant new concerns reported during the year.

Overall, the DCC has maintained steady oversight of church operations while supporting

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gradual growth in attendance and community engagement. The main priorities moving forward are financial sustainability, continued growth, and effective delivery of the church's mission across both sites.

Church Wardens: Norman Flemming and Dave McKlow

Deanery Synod: Deanery Synod is the coming together of our local parishes forming bridges in the local community. They are the intermediary between PCC and the Diocesan Synod. They focus on mission and ministry and mutual areas of concern and interest. They comprise of both clergy and Lay members and often chaired jointly by the Area Dean and an elected Lay chair.

The Southwark Mission from 2024 to 2035 is to:

- Value all Parishes and enable them to be equipped to minister to their congregation and local community.
- Maintain the highest number of Stipendiary clergy and Lay ministries.
- Grow the level of church to surpass Pre-Pandemic.
- Encouraging Diversity, both young and Minority ethnic groups to take up Positions in the church.

In 2025, I attended 3 Synod meetings. First at St Mary –Lewisham, then St Margaret Lee, and finally, St Andrews – Catford.

Given the aforementioned Mission and goals ahead, the Synod discussed issues regarding recruitment drive of Lay Preachers as well as Stipendiary Clergies. There was a speaker present and the floor was opened for questions and ideas. We were also given flyers for our individual churches, I brought one here as well as posting it on the WhatsApp. Since then, a number of training courses is now taking place across the diocese. Amy and John are embarking such courses.

My next Synod meeting took place at St. Margaret –Lee. The Theme of this was on Racial integration and Racial Justice and our guest speaker was the Diocese's own Racial Justice Development Officer Weisi Dennis. She spoke extensively about how racism is still embedded in our society and our churches, giving her own account as an example. There were a couple of ladies from the Lewisham community Racial Equality as well with very strong input and opinion. A lengthy Statement from the Archbishop was also looked at and strategies for enhancing ethnic diversity and inclusion in Anglican Church. He highlighted on structural inequalities that existed within poorer and richer Countries as well as our communities during the Pandemic and the impacts it had in the marginalised. At the same time an African American George Floyd was callously murdered lived on Television - which sparked the Black Lives Matter Movement.

In short, Diocesan Management and the Diocesan Minority Committee (DMEACC)are working hard towards inclusion of minority groups into our governance, Parishes, Schools,

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Liturgy, Preaching, Teaching, Prayers and everyday actions as we live out God's love in the world. This will of course include working in partnership with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) and our schools to acknowledge their long-standing equality policies which emphasise recognition and respecting difference and celebrating diversity.

My last meeting was at St Andrews church. The main Item was: Panel discussion on mission and outreach, especially with young people. The Panel consisted of 5 who in short spoke about how they manage to impart the Christian faith and God's love into their lives. Most of these clergies have church schools and they tend to pay frequent visits to the school and engage them in diverse Christian activities. Others take some young people to pilgrimages, especially The Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage. Others have church choir which encourage and commit the young people to a duty as well as bonding them together in the Christian Faith.

St Andrew's involve their youth in the Eucharists, ie Bible reading, welcoming group, etc. This was something we used to do at this church and perhaps we can revisit. I did say how difficult it is for St Luke's to get our teenagers to sit on the pews on Sunday due to sports activities, although we have a Youth Group. Their response depicts that most churches are also experiencing the same problems. However we should try to instil God's love, faith, equality, respect and justice in them during our interactions.

As a whole' it appears that The Southwark Diocese is working very well with other partnerships to achieve their vision and objectives

That brings me to the end of my summary of last year's Synod Meeting.

Thank you so much, Felicia Asante

Safeguarding

St Luke's and St Mark's continue to receive safeguarding reports from members of our community. Almost all of these incidents are things that have not happened on our sites but people feel safe to come to us and ask for help. This is good news as the church should always be a safe environment for people to seek support. We work with families sometimes referring to social services or other support services and often we refer to our own in house support services. We have built a good team of support staff meaning many safeguarding situations don't escalate to the point of being reportable.

Staff and volunteer training and DBS checks are regularly carried out and monitored.

St Marks Hall

St Marks hall is busy with lots of hirers and our own activities. We have enjoyed hosting the market this year which has been a valuable source of income as well as a wonderful way to invite the community in. We have made changes to party hires, banning DJ's and reducing the hours that the hall is available to hire to afternoons only. This has reduced issues with excess noise and complaints from neighbours which we were receiving earlier in the year.

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The building needs some cosmetic repair such as painting, new taps and repairs to the flooring. We hope to carry out some of these repairs over the next year.

Buildings

We continue to carry out regular maintenance checks at both churches, which means we can budget and plan ahead. We ensure our compliance is up to date including fire extinguisher checks and PAT Testing. We were successful with some grant funding which helped toward the costs of removal of asbestos in the boiler room at St Luke's in November. At St Marks the buildings are showing their age and a lot of time and money is needed for repairs, redecoration and maintenance. Lucie and the team do a great job of improving the appearance but there are still major works that need doing, including the fence.

Our gardener Hannah does an amazing job upkeeping the gardens at both churches and we have been successful with some funding that will help to transform the back garden at St Luke's, including putting a picnic table and bench in the space to have a nice area to sit in.

The building development plans at St Luke's have stalled somewhat due to the lack of capital available for this work and the discovery of asbestos. However, in 2026 we have been recommended for a Church of England funding stream to contribute towards Net Zero; and by a Social Value project to explore supporting our community work through building development – both of these hold some promise to resolve our most pressing issues with the heating.

Electoral Roll

The combined Electoral Roll for St Luke's and St Mark's stands at 52, 38 at St Luke's (up from 31 last years) and 14 at St Mark's (the same as last year)

DCC

The role of the District Church Council (DCC) of St Luke's is to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The DCC consists of the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Deanery Synod, Safeguarding Officer and elected representatives from the congregation as well as staff members who may be appointed to the committee as appropriate.

The DCC met 4 times in 2025 and discussed a variety of topics related to the business of the church including regular updates on finances, HR, buildings, community work, safeguarding and children, youth and families.

Children, Youth and Families

Busy Bees & Little Lanterns

The year has been positive for our toddler ministries. There were times when our numbers were up and down according to the winter weather, half terms etc. We have had a steady amount of new people join and have had visitors from outside organisations come to visit us, such as One Life Lewisham and Parent Village as well as our Parish Nurse. Parent Village has successfully run Parenting Workshops during our groups and we have had great

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feedback. This year we have decided to introduce an act of worship in to both our sessions which will allow parents caregivers and children a chance to connect with spirituality and explore their faith journey

SEND Family Friday

A very slow start to this project which has not been well attended at all. We know that there is a need for this provision but unfortunately we were unable to connect with the community on this occasion. We are still promoting the group in the hope we can reach some families who need this very important group.

XLP

We have seen big changes to XLP this year. Josh has taken paternity leave for a year and we have a new bus driver Tizz working on the project. We have lost access to the project bus so the sessions had to move to St Luke's church during the winter months. Which has been very helpful for XLP and enjoyable for the young people. We have also had some new staff members join us meaning we are able to support the young people's needs better.

Messy Church

Messy Church monthly sessions have been fun this year with myself and the parents and their children involved with the planning of the themes and the activities. The last few sessions have been great where we have learned about the Christmas Story, Epiphany and The Good Samaritan. We were filmed by the Church of England and the Messy Church article and recording is now live on the website and is available to watch and read.

Sunday Ministry

Our Sundays have grown throughout the year with lots of new families attending. We have expanded the children's area to use the bigger tables and chairs now that have more children.

We are still going to keep the blue tables as an additional table in case we have younger children attend. It's also been nice to have new updated sensory resources pens and fidget toys included into our accessibility area and children's tables. We have had some volunteers step in and help us on particular sundays which has been very useful.

Training

We planned an in-house training session called Pioneering Foundations for those members of our church and congregation to learn more about fresh expressions and outreach work. It was well attended and everybody left feeling positive and motivated about putting their new found learning into action.

Looking ahead to 2026

We have several exciting initiatives lined up including:

- Forest Church which is scheduled for 4th April.
- I will work with The Diocese of Southwark to collaborate with St. Paul's Church in Kennington to develop their children and youth ministry.
- There's potential for a partnership with Signal to establish a special needs group at St. Mark's, focusing on pre-teen children.

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- I will be working with Steph at St. Mark's Toddler Group to integrate worship meditation sessions and promote our church activities. The worship meditation will also run during St Luke's Toddler Group too but just with myself and not Steph.
- We also are potentially collaborating with Brook Lane Church on their children's programs in 2026.
- We also have a new connection with "home start". They have asked us if we would like to collaborate with them so we are able to offer parents the chance to learn more about them and how they can receive support if needed.
- We also have a visit planned from Tracey who runs Women's Project to promote that work and spread awareness on Domestic Violence
- We will have some visits from a mental health organisation during youth cafe and XLP.

Mission and Outreach

My projection for 2026 would be to engage more within the community to raise the profile of St Marks and make more people aware of all the services that St Marks currently have to offer, I'm hoping to achieve that by doing in person work to meet people at local public places that maybe don't have access to the internet so they can get a feel for the team who works at St Marks. I also would like to raise the online presence through networks I already have access to and help the online community to get a feel of how welcoming the space at St Marks is, all while listening to the needs of the Downham and wider community, to try to ensure that people have access to helpful resources that will support them and help create a better quality of life. I also will continue to support the activities that run at St Marks in practical ways by ensuring I'm present when needed and attendees are engaged with and taken care of.

Women's Project

Over the previous year we have supported women to safely navigate and escape domestic abuse, helping them safely access support that they otherwise wouldn't have without our services. We have referred clients to specialist services in our local area to ensure they receive the wider help they need. We have advocated on housing matters, challenged incorrect advice and helped secure safe accommodation. Our work includes safety planning, practical guidance and sharing specialist knowledge whilst also supporting recovery. We have run a walk-in service once a week for on the spot specialist help and advice, additionally we have opened a coffee morning to reduce isolation and build supportive networks. I have completed the OCNLR Level 3 certificate in domestic abuse prevention and early intervention as well as the Own my own life facilitator course, strengthening the support we provide to the community. We have also extended our services to reach men by appointment.

In the coming year we plan to continue our walk in service and coffee mornings with the potential of opening more days a week further providing much needed support and guidance to our local community. I have plans to connect with the local food banks and toddler groups in hope to try and expand our reach so that more people know we exist and understand the support we provide and how to access it when they need it most. We will deliver the Own my own life programme locally, empowering women with confidence and education aiding recovery and fresh starts. I have created a survey to better understand

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what our local community feel they need, want and are missing in relation to support to help us tailor our services to best meet their needs. I also plan on furthering my education to enhance the support we provide.

Welcome Club and Recovery Group

The Welcome club at St Marks provides activities, games, hot meals, and friendly company for everyone in the community. At Welcome Club, we facilitate a weekly wellbeing group that provides a safe and supportive space for individuals to share how they are feeling, discuss personal challenges, and access peer and facilitator support. We also run the recovery course once a month. This is a Christian 12 step course that is designed to support individuals on their journey towards emotional, spiritual and behavioural recovery within a faith based framework.

We have successfully collaborated with several external organisations to deliver training, information sessions and workshops that have benefited our local community.

We partnered with Alzheimer's Society to provide dementia awareness training for members, staff and the general public to attend. We ran the training sessions on two different dates making sure the sessions were accessible. Many of our members had questions regarding spotting early signs within themselves, caring for someone with Dementia and coping with a loss. Prior to the training session, a co-coordinator from Alzheimer's society came to Welcome Club to offer advisor support and was able to signpost some of our members who were interested in volunteering with them.

We partnered with The Deborah Ubee Trust to deliver a Stress and Anxiety workshop for our members during one of our wellbeing sessions. The workshop explored the history and science of anxiety, providing participants with a deeper understanding of how stress affects the mind and body.

The diocese delivered unconscious bias training within our community, equipping participants with greater awareness and understanding of bias and different ways in which people can experience prejudice or biased treatment against disability, gender, race, class and other characteristics.

We also received autism awareness training from Resources for Autism, strengthening our understanding of autism and enhancing our ability to provide inclusive and appropriate support within our community.

In 2026 we will continue to strengthen and expand our support for the community through structured wellbeing initiatives, targeted training, and collaborative partnerships.

We will continue to deliver our weekly wellbeing group, providing safe and supportive space for individuals. We will continue to partner with external organisations to provide wellbeing support to help our members reduce isolation, improve emotional health and build peer connections.

We will continue to expand our partnership with external organisations to bring specialist workshops and training to our community.

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St Luke's Finance Overview 2025

After a difficult financial year in 2024 which ended the year with a negative unrestricted balance and a worrying outlook, 2025 represented a recovery in financial position. Improved financial controls, increased rental income from the updated nursery lease, a restructuring of staff roles, and a significant push for grant funding were the main drivers of this improvement.

Income:

Planned giving increased slightly in 2025 (from £7,371.88 to £7,779.34) whilst loose collections (which also includes card giving) dropped slightly (from £4,509.54 to £4,161.52); Gift Aid was also slightly lower than 2024 (£2,438.68 from £2,442.37). Overall voluntary giving remained stable with the intention to undertake a stewardship campaign in 2026.

Grants remain the most significant income stream, representing 65% of our income and funding most of our projects, grant funding increased from £139,221.29 to £166,435.23. This includes the continuation of existing grants from Lewisham Main Grant, Warm Welcome, the Diocese of Southwark and The National Lottery Community Fund. New grants were received from Garfield Weston (one off core funding), and Merchant Taylors, and Woodroffe Benton for Children and Youth Work.

The Nursery lease was renewed in 2024 which increased this source of income significantly to meet market rate as per surveyor valuation – between the tenant catching up with back rent and the increased rate this source of income increased from £20,249.96 to £42,749.98. Other trading income (rental of space, sales, etc) also increased from £8,567.43 to £9,873.77.

Expenditure:

Salaries represent the most significant expense representing 58% of our expenditure (which is a decrease from 71% of 2024 expenditure), salary costs dropped from £203,065.89 in 2024 to £129,101.99 in 2025, largely due to staff changes necessitated by the difficult financial position. Utilities (£12,250.74) and General running costs (£22,817.70) being the next largest regular costs, though both of these were lower in 2025 than 2024.

We also spent a significant amount of money on one off building repairs, including £18,780.44 having asbestos removed from the Plant Room (some grant funding was received towards this works but this was not paid until Feb 2026); and £8,496 of repairs on the hall as identified by a surveyor's report.

Conclusion and 2026 View:

2025 ran to a surplus budget with an income of £256,912.41 verses expenditure of £223,357.66. This has allowed some space to rebuild reserves and stabilise the financial position.

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2026 projections do show a deficit between anticipated income and anticipated expenditure, so action will continue to be required to balance the books and bring reserves up to the levels required by our policies.

St Mark's Finance Overview 2025

2025 continued the planned trend at St Mark's to spend to a deficit as the DCC committed to spend the Dalton Legacy on mission and community activities, as well as a programme of site maintenance. This entailed the sale of £30,000 of shares to fund this programme of spending.

Income:

Congregational giving dropped significantly from £5,913.15 to £3,768.89 due to the closure of the St Mark's Sunday service at the end of 2024; which meant loose collections and irregular giving stopped; however some giving by standing order remained.

Hall hire remains a significant source of income and increased in 2025 to £14,426 up from £13,004.50 in 2024. Trading income increased significantly to £8019.19 up from £1,702.99 in 2024 – this represents the introduction of Downham Market at St Mark's on Wednesdays, as well as an increase in eBay and Vinted sales.

Grant funding increased to £39,782.49 up from £20,012.93 in 2024 – this consisted of grants from The Parent Village, Warm Space Funding, Benefact Trust, Southwark Diocese, and Bishop Radford Trust.

Expenditure:

Salaries is the most significant expenditure for St Mark's, representing 59% of expenditure, although this has only increased a small proportion over 2024 (£69,879.68 up from £65,994.21). After this Parish Support Fund (£9,815); general Running Costs (£6,440.15); and Utility Bills (£4,065.80) were significant expenses; with £3,104.91 spent on maintenance and repairs.

A loan of £15,680.44 was made to St Luke's to cover emergency building works, including asbestos removal.

Conclusion and 2026 View:

The planned spend down of the legacy balance will be complete by June 2026 as per DCC resolutions, and so we will have to begin to make changes to bring expenditure in line with income. The outcome of a National Lottery Community Fund application, which is due to be decided in spring 2026, will have a significant impact on the future of projects at St Mark's. Once the outcome of this application is known, projects will need to either change or be wound down to match expenditure with income and grant priorities.

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Parish Nursing

During 2025 there were 216 consultations by the Parish Nurse, shared between 49 people.

Parish Nursing Service Activity:

Member consultations account for the majority of the time. These are mostly related to the physical, mental and spiritual health of the people who attend St.Lukes and St.Marks.

The continuity of care allows for a more individualised approach to healthcare. It is beneficial for people to be seen on a regular basis so that health can be monitored more efficiently and effectively.

Facilitation of and support at:-

Well Being Group and Addiction Recovery Group, both alternating on a Thursday morning at St Marks.

Occasional attendance at the Downham Market at St Marks to facilitate community outreach of the Parish Nursing Service.

Occasional home visits in the community.

General:-

- Health Promotion, i.e., diet, exercise, lifestyle factors etc.
- Blood Pressure checks
- Signposting
- Safeguarding
- Referrals, GP, Pharmacy, NHS 111, Specialist Community groups.
- Training/Team meetings
- Assisting people with booking of GP appointments, assistance with hospital letters and health related text messages.
- Liaising with community groups, particularly during events at St.Lukes.
- Attendance at Rainbow Rhymes and Busy Bees Toddler group:-
- Communication with parents/carers
- General Health Promotion, including child immunisation promotion.
- Basic Life Support training to parents and carers.

There are variations of activity from week to week, depending on what is happening within the church member community.

Plans for the future:-

I would like to continue to be available to the people of Downham, as I have over the past 22 months.

I would also like to see the Addiction Recovery Group grow and develop so that local people can get involved and feel like it is a safe place to attend when needing help and support.

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On a personal level, I feel like I have grown into the Parish Nursing Role and am looking forward to seeing how it will progress in the future.

Front Room Club:

Front Room Club provides a valuable services to a core group of 100 members. These services include free breakfast, and a low cost 2 course lunch. Activities include arts and crafts, board games, sewing club, and bingo. We have our parish nurse on hand to provide health advice, guidance, and moral support. Our staff adhere to safeguarding guidance, and members support staff in maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for current and new members. The club also provides provision for children and young people, by providing toys and sensory play activities.

Our staff members received benefits and advice training, allowing us to better support the needs of the Downham community. Support offered includes housing benefit applications, universal credit advice, and financial support.

The Downham Men's Group received funding in 2025, as is supporting the planning and implementation of a group tailored towards supporting men in the Downham area. We want to make the Front Room Club more appealing and accessible to local men, run art projects that provide them with an outlet to socialise and improve their mental health.

St Luke's continues to have a presence in the community and raise awareness of our services.

We were present at Downham Celebrates, running fun activities to raise money and awareness of our services, and to network with other organisations.

Events and trips:

We held a St Georges Day event that offered fun games such as bingo and a raffle. We provided a banquet of British staple foods. We also had a discussion with attendees about St Georges Day and the meaning of the day to them. The event was managed mostly by members, with staff provided additional support under their guidance.

Windrush Day- We provided a banquet of Caribbean cuisine and played Caribbean and British music of the Windrush era. We invited a range of local speakers to share information and history on the contributions that Caribbean and African people gave to the UK. Our event was developed and implemented by our regular club members, especially those of Caribbean heritage, who benefited greatly from the opportunities for socialising, celebrating shared interests, and strengthening community bonds.

We had a trip to Margate, which was a big success. We had great weather, and everyone had a great time on the trip.

Our summer BBQ was a big success. We ran a large number of activities, including selling donations, including clothing, toys, books and other items provided by our members and the

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wider community. We sold food and drinks, with support provided from our members. We also had a range of games for people of all ages to have fun and win prizes. The members played a leading role in these activities, helping us to manage the event, move equipment, and talk to the public.

We provided a Christmas dinner for the club members and the wider community. We held party games, Christmas bingo, and music. We also provided a free Christmas hamper to our attendees.

2026:

In 2025 we received funding to get the garden up and running. We plan to install a new tap, new benches, and create an oasis for club members and the local community to carry out gardening activities. We also want it to be a space for relaxing, escaping the stresses and noise of urban life, and to connect with nature.

More activities and trips are planned for 2026, including lunches at local cafes once a month, for our club members. We are also planning an overnight trip. Staff members are discussing options with club members, to decide what the best places to go, and how the trip will be planned. Our existing activities, such as arts and crafts, sewing club, and the Men's Art Project, are still in motion, and will be advertised more broadly to attract more attendees.

We will start to plan the Summer BBQ in the coming months and discuss with club members the activities they wish to run, food and drink options, and dates and times for the event. Club members will take the lead in planning this event and organising the various activities.

St Luke's will once again have a presence at the summer instalment of Downham Celebrates, selling donated items, running various activities, and raising awareness to our Front Room Club. Club members will take the lead in planning this event and organising the various activities.

Daniela Sbrisny will be carrying out cyanotype printing - a photographic process that uses sunlight to create blue-and-white prints. Sessions will begin in April, until September, and occur every two weeks.

Club members have shown an interest in doing more physical exercise. Chair exercises were suggested. We will begin running chair exercises at the club in the near future.

St Luke's co-working spaces are still open for booking at £10 an hour for any one interested. We will continue advertising this opportunity on our social media pages, and through word of mouth.

We continue to have members meetings with our club members, to gain insights into how they view the club, and find out what they want to do to maximise its benefits to themselves and the wider community. It has also been a valuable means of settling disputes amongst club members, and ease tensions through staff mediation. We intend to consistently run club members meeting every two months.