

ST MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE



St. Mark's Church, Woodcote

ANNUAL REPORT

2022—2023

CONTENTS

Report	Page
Officers, Committees and Staff	3
Vicar's Report	4
Churchwardens' Report	7
PCC Secretary's Report	9
Deanery Synod Report	9
Director of Music's Report	10
Liturgy Report	11
Hall Lettings Report	11
The Thursday Group Report	12
Church Flower Group Report	12
Coffee Group Report	12
Prayer Group Report	12
Gift Aid Report	13
Women's Circle Report	13
First Woodcote Rainbows/17th Brownies Report	13
2nd Purley Guides	14
25th Purley Scout Group	15
Treasurer's Report	16

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE AND STAFF

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Revd. Fiona Weaver
Julian Pearcey
Tom Jamieson-Craig
Brenda Knight
Ian Robinson
Susan Carter

Vicar
Licensed Reader
Churchwarden
Churchwarden
Treasurer
PCC Secretary

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Revd. Fiona Weaver
Brenda Knight
Tom Jamieson-Craig
Julian Pearcey
Tony Tucker
Steve Dawson
Eudareen Moncrieffe

Sarah Chartres
Ian Robinson
Edwin Singaratnam
Martin French
Sue Carter
Deirdre Lea
Diane Van Dromme

FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE PCC

Revd Fiona Weaver
Terry Cairns
Sarah Chartres
Tony Tucker
Ian Robinson

STAFF

Rev'd Fiona Weaver
Martin French
Sue Young

Vicar
Director of Music
Parish Secretary

VICAR'S REPORT

Matthew 5:

13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 14 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

It continues to be a privilege and a challenge to be the vicar of this benefice. The past year has seen some very difficult and draining times - it has also seen some wonderful affirming moments of grace. The many acts of kindness and support that I am shown personally in so many varied ways continue to contribute to my feeling blessed to be called to serve here. I apologise to all those who feel I have not visited or listened to their concerns; I do the best that I can.

I continue to be grateful to everyone who contributes to the life of St Mark's no matter how great or small you feel your contribution is, please be assured that it is valued and included in my daily prayers. Some of that work is reflected in the reports that I commend to your reading, much of it is not, as so many tasks happen behind the scenes. In the litter picking in the church grounds, polishing, and cleaning, visiting, security checks, tasks of administration, help with the craft days—the list is endless -tasks done in love and service which bring us daily nearer to God. I know I am not good at remembering to thank people individually, I hope that between myself and the wardens no one slips through the net of APCM thanks!

Brenda Knight and Tom Jamison Craig have served us well as our wardens. I have constantly consulted with them over many issues, their wisdom has been invaluable. Brenda now hands back her keys to this kingdom, she has served with humour, dedication and more than the occasional raised eyebrow since picking up the keys from Edwin quite a few years ago. At time of writing, I am praying that someone with the right skill set will feel called to pick them up and volunteer to stand with Tom. I am indebted to the new treasury team of Ian Robinson and Sarah Chartres for the vital role they play in managing our finances and them presenting them in an understandable format and Terry Cairns who manages our Gift Aid scheme.

I appreciate the ministry of our Licenced Reader, Julian Pearcey who has continued to be supportive and understanding. This year more than ever as he provided cover when no clergy were available. His sense of humour, wise counsel, and organisational skills have, on more than one occasion, kept my sanity. Although I am not sure what effect I have on his! I am grateful for continued dedication of the Thursday group and give thanks for all they do and advice they share. We are blessed that I do not need to preach every week I am sure you will agree that both Julian Pearcey and Richard Gunning give us much food for thought with their excellent sermons. I am also grateful to them both for their liturgical input. Martin our musical director has continued to share his expertise with us and keep the choral tradition of this church going. It was with sadness that Guy left us this year- I will return to this later.

The experience, and wise counsel that each member contributed to the PCC, standing and strategy committee has been invaluable. There have been many constructive lively debates regarding the governance of and future direction of our parish. Thank you to Sue Carter in her role as PCC secretary and in managing our hall and church bookings and looking at new ways that they might bring in revenue. We are fortunate that we have Sue Young in our Parish office without whom I would not be able to function, her calmness, sense of humour and willingness to say yes when asked to do a huge variety of tasks and keep up to date with the changing legalities and protocols that go with Baptisms Weddings and Funerals is invaluable to the parish.

I also thank Richard Gunning for inducting new people into the mysteries of the sacristy so our team of people able 'lay up' and prepare the altar and clear away after the Eucharist. One example of how a few people can make a huge difference.

We have continued to support the vital work of the Purley Food Hub in donations and volunteering along with the support for the mammoth 'Sandwich making' task for Night watch. It is a blessing to be with a parish that takes its social responsibility seriously.

There is no denying that we are facing a difficult year ahead, however there is much to be positive about. We are in a stronger position than some churches post covid. We are hosting more music events, Purley Classics is proving to be very popular, and we already have bookings for 2024.

The 'Place to be' café is just over a year old. It is gaining in strength and reputation our volunteers come from the community as well as the congregation-it is also covering its costs and attracting grants. we need to capitalise on this and look at what else might develop from it i.e., the inclusive carol service we held this year.

I have recently been approached and asked if we could host -Health and spirituality week in July working with Heart-light who lead Group and individual work based around movement meditation and we are looking at how we could tailor something for us. It is vital that we make more of such events to promote St Mark's and draw others into faith. All these initiatives need to be seen as signs of hope and possibly directions we might focus on in the future. Opportunities for us to shine our lights so others may learn about all the good work we do.

Every Christian has two primary duties in life. First, we must strive for personal holiness. And second, we must work to help others achieve this same degree of holiness. This is what it means to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world."

Going forward If we are to thrive, rather than simply survive we must all be willing to put in the work that this takes. As a benefice as parishes and as individual the time has come to make changes in how we are called to serve God in this community.

I said in my patronal festival sermon. *It is faith and trust that continues to give me hope as I see the potential that there is in both parishes and as a benefice. And I do have hope that we can be in a stronger place this time next year, but our place of strength may not look the way we expect it too and there are difficult decisions possibly courageous decisions and conversation ahead for both parishes.*

I have mentioned a few times in recent months about some difficult decisions that I have had to pray about and consider. Decisions will need to be made in the coming months by our PCC, also as a benefice with the 2 PCC's working together. One that I need to share now was brought about by Guy's resignation. I am sure many of you are wondering what is happening.

The process of appointing a new organist requires us to follow correct procedures and fulfil our legal obligations, it has been a slow process. After much prayer, reflection, thought and discussion with the standing committee and Diocesan Human Resources, team 2 proposals were drafted. In all honesty it has also been one of the most difficult processes I have had to undertake in my 10 years here. Martin had first sight of these proposals and has been given the opportunity to share his thoughts. The PCC will be discussing the implications of the 2 proposals:

- 1-Stay with current situation and simply appoint an organist.
- 2-Join our 2 'music' positions and create a new one – this would be in line with most churches in our situation ie making both the Organist and Musical Director Post redundant.

This is not for open discussion at the APCM, however please do share your thoughts with the wardens or myself and the PCC.

Another difficult discussion ahead of us is how we work as a benefice and how sustainable it is to have 2 churches – 2 PCCs etc with one incumbent. This is about being creative and courageous, it is about being honest about our situation and what it is possible for us to achieve.

If we do not make the changes and continue to simply 'pootle along' then in all honesty I am not sure what the future has in store for us. We will be like salt that has lost its flavour. We will need to undertake some blue sky thinking and looking at what we might realistically achieve working across the benefice and with support from the diocese. The strategy committee have begun a process of consultation with diocese to look at new ways of being 'church'. Whatever plans we might have, or might evolve they are useless unless they are grounded in prayer.

As we emerge into a new chapter in the life of our parish, we do so with confidence that our roots are grounded in faith and we have our hope in the light of the Risen Christ. Therefore, when we meet these challenges together, head-on, we will continue to grow and encourage one another in the love of the God whom we serve. I pray also that we will continue to live

God's love in our community and with the Spirit's help and guidance, breathe new life, joy, and enthusiasm into all that we try to do here in God's name.

Your Vicar Fiona

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

“Early duties of a Church Warden involved putting a stop to rowdiness and in some cases, fining and apprehending churchgoers who were being boisterous, riotous, or indecent. On the other extreme, the Warden’s staff was also used to lightly tap parishioners to wake them during services.”

We are delighted to report that none of the above was required at St. Mark’s during the last year. You all behaved very well. It was gratifying to note that slowly things were progressing towards getting back to normal, following the effects of the covid virus. This has made it easier for us to meet up again and to welcome new visitors as well.

One occasion we were able to do this was on 5th June when we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Although the weather was not too good, we were able to use the halls for our Jubilee Picnic. It was gratifying to see so many tables decorated with Union Jacks and flags of the Commonwealth as it was to see our friends from St. Swithun’s and to have many of our neighbours visiting as well. Our year of recovery was greatly boosted by our Arts and Music Festival which was an event with content that could attract a wide audience, reaching out beyond members of our congregation to those living in the local area regardless of whether they were church-goers or members of any faith or none. Art and music were to be the attraction for welcoming visitors to our church to show its beauty and welcoming spirit. Many who came to the events, even those who were regular visitors to our halls, expressed surprise that such a jewel was in their own back yard. Comments about the festival made and overheard, were a mixture of surprise that we had pulled it off and compliments on the quality of the entertainment and catering. Some 700 people attended one or more event. Excluding promotional materials our expenditure on events (fees to performers and catering) was £7,846 and income from ticket sales, donations and the bar were £7,462 – a very modest net loss of £384 (or 12 pence per visitor!). The events were varied and were designed to appeal to all ages. A tutored Cheese and Wine Evening, Trinity Boys Choir, African Drumming sessions and Polka Theatre Story telling were some examples. A wonderful website and beautiful brochure were produced by Diana van Dromme who headed up the committee running the festival. It was a huge undertaking, and we are very grateful for the enormous amount of work and time that she put into this and for the work and support of the committee, Denise Squires, Kirsten Mycroft, Emily Keating along with ourselves. We have learned some lessons along the way but still feel that music has been and should continue to be a draw at St. Mark’s.

The PlaceTo Be Café continues to go from strength to strength with more and more people attending every week. This is all due to the hard work of Lena, Evie and all their helpers. We congratulate them on their success in all they are doing for their visitors and for the way they are helping to get St. Mark’s on the map.

We have also continued this year to supply sandwiches to Croydon Nightwatch every Friday during February and March. This year Linda Makepeace organised all the duties and we are indeed very grateful to her and all our volunteers for making the sandwiches, donating snacks and delivering it all to the Croydon centre. Croydon Nightwatch are extremely thankful for all our efforts.

The Thursday group continue to tackle a host of minor repairs and general maintenance including repairs to leaky taps, broken toilets, faulty lights, and maintaining the grounds. Although their numbers have been severely depleted in recent years they still soldier on with great tenacity. We are very appreciative of all the work done by Mike Sanders' leadership with Terry Cairns, Mike Waters, Steve Dawson, Steve Hunt, and latest recruit Nick. There is always room for more to join them if anyone is willing.

Larger projects requiring external contractors last year included the overhaul of the grand piano that played to great effect in the festival. This is a very valuable instrument that we are extremely fortunate to own but it does require some expenditure to maintain. However, much pleasure is derived from it throughout the year for example in concerts such as given by Erato orchestra and events such as Purley Classics. Stormy weather damaged the main entrance to the halls and thus the doors and

windows of the foyer had to be replaced along with the windows of the small hall. However, these now give a far smarter appearance to the entrance of the halls. We do continue to struggle with the problems of our ancient central heating. One example of this was an outage on a very cold night of one of the festival concerts when the engineer sat in the boiler room until 11.00 pm ensuring that the heating was maintained. Were we grateful to him! While we are slowly getting to grips with the heating in the church, we have also now replaced all the heaters in the church halls which is still ongoing.

We continue to have problems with the crumbling masonry at the front of the church and to the north side and with a quinquennial inspection later this year we will have to face large costs for dealing with this. Unfortunately, we continue to experience leaks from the roof in both the church and the halls and this is not being resolved by merely replacing tiles. Due to modern technology, we have now been able to look at the roof through the camera on a drone, which does considerably reduce the cost of erecting scaffolding. Speaking of cameras, we have now replaced and updated our CCTV security which is now a far more improved system.

We have had considerable capital expenditure this year and this underscores the huge importance of the revenue from the hall lettings. We would like to express our gratitude to Sue Carter for all the work and effort she puts in to keeping the hall lettings coming in and organising the upkeep. This is not an easy job, and we are very appreciative of all that she does. Sadly, we have received two resignations this year. Our organist, Guy Norris left and is now pursuing different paths. Our LPA Diana van Dromme left us to extend her teaching career. We thank them both for the significant contribution they have made to our church life and wish them every success for their future.

We would like further to record our appreciation to Maureen Eddy for maintaining church flowers despite worrying times for her, to Adrian Frost for his continued support in so many ways and to Martin French and the choir for all their work. Finally, a big thank you goes to Julian Pearcey for his efficient organising of our services and to Rev. Fiona for all that she does in managing to keep two churches running and for her guidance to us and her excellent outreach in our parish. Who knows where the future is leading us? However, by working together, praying together and putting our total faith in the Lord we will go forward.

Brenda Knight Tom Jamieson-Craig

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

Another year flown by featuring 6 PCC meetings which are held bi-monthly and, with one exception, in person. This year saw the arrival of our new Treasury Team, Ian Robinson and Sarah Chartres. They agreed expenditure for Halls' improvement, namely the double glazing of the foyer and small hall frontage which has not only improved the warmth of the Halls but given the hall buildings a more contemporary appearance which seems to have been well received. Also, and crucially, the Treasury Team responded swiftly to complaints from hirers about how cold the Halls were during the Winter and early Spring months. Our electrical supplier, Skiltons, quoted to install a brand new

heating system featuring energy saving LED heaters and this was discussed at a Standing committee Meeting. The meeting approved the quote which the PCC then ratified at its next meeting. Skiltons were able to install the heating in the Easter break, therefore

causing minimum disruption to the hiring schedule. There have been many favourable comments about the effectiveness of the heating. Quotes have been received and progress is being made on the refurbishment of the old office to create a self-contained, small/medium size meeting room which will be known as the Norris Suite. The CTTV system was updated and we saw the appointment of Jenny Blair-Ford as Benefice Safeguarding Officer with assistance being offered by Linda Makepeace. *Sue Carter*

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

This report was kindly compiled by the Deanery Synod's excellent Secretary, Chris Babbs:

After two years of disruption, we were able to hold all of our 2022 meetings on a "face-to-face" basis. The main theme of our 10th February 2022 meeting, at Christ Church was "How We Can Find Strength in Difficult Times" This was led by Rev Paul Roberts (Area Dean) and featured group discussions; reflections by Rev Doug McHardie; Prayer

Stations devised by Rev Justine Middlemiss; a session on Praying in Solitudes led by Rev Lisa Fairman-Brown; and private prayer opportunities.

On 8th June at St Andrew's, we welcomed Rev Dr Tim Astin, Episcopal Area Environmental Adviser. Tim Talked about Care for Creation (one of the Five Marks of Mission) and how churches could pursue that, in the context of the Church of England's general aim of being carbon neutral by 2030. The focus was on the practical – what we could actually do to promote Care for Creation, which might often involve taking small steps first and building up to bigger issues.

The 11th October meeting was held here at St Mark's, Woodcote. The key theme was Inclusive Church – How to Make Church Worship and Activities Accessible. Rev Fiona Weaver and members of the St Mark's and St Swithun's teams gave us fascinating examples of how they were making church accessible, focusing on the Dementia Café at St Mark's and St Swithun's work with Carlen House, a care home for adults with a variety of special needs. A lot of practical examples and material were made available. Synod also elected Mr Gerry Daley (St Andrew's) to the Deanery Leadership Team, in place of Mr Peter Burton (also St Andrew's) who had been compelled to resign for health reasons. We are very grateful to Peter for his years of service, and to Gerry for taking on the role.

The first meeting of 2023, and the last of the 2020-23 triennium, was held at All Saints', Kenley on 9th February. Jack Swan, Community Organizer for Croydon Citizens, and Alex Enaharo (St Luke's, Woodside) gave us a very challenging and thought-provoking presentation on moving on from the "charity of mercy" (ie dealing with the symptoms of problems) to the "charity of justice" (tackling their root causes). This is the distinctive theme of Citizens UK, of which Croydon Citizens is the local association. Examples were given of work in Croydon North Deanery and in mental health. We need to give deep consideration to the implications for the southern part of the Borough of Croydon.

Also in February we marked Rev Paul Roberts' last Synod as Area Dean, with a reception kindly organized by Rev Justine Middlemiss and the All Saints' team. Paul is standing down as Area Dean at Easter, prior to retirement from full-time ministry in September. Our lay Chair, Indrani Balachandran, is also standing down at the end of the triennium but, sadly, was unable to be with us at the Synod meeting. We are very grateful to Paul and Indrani for their leadership, particularly in the last few, very difficult, years.

This year's APCMs are due to elect members of Synod's House of Laity for the 2023-26 triennium. We do hope people will be minded to stand for election, particularly as we ended the 2020-23 triennium with a significant number of vacancies. The diocese has published a leaflet giving information about Synod membership – featuring a photograph of one of our sessions and a quotation from Indrani – which is available in all churches.

Ian Robinson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC'S REPORT

Previous reports of mine over the last few years have highlighted that the organ is showing signs of age and how it is becoming increasingly unreliable. The long-term solution to this problem is a major rebuild to renew the leatherwork (a lot of it dating back to when the organ was built in 1915) and changing the original flawed tubular-pneumatic action to a reliable modern electric action. However, in the last year, the PCC has decided not to pursue this course due to the costs involved.

This year saw the resignation of Guy Norris, who had been our organist since the eighties. His long experience and flair with the organ enabled him to work around the many problems with the instrument that often occurred during services. His departure is a great loss to St. Mark's. While we are without a full-time organist, we have three very experienced players (Angela, Robert and Martin M.) who join us on a rota basis. I am very grateful to them for providing this cover and coping with the vagaries of the organ. I would like to thank the choir for all their efforts over the last year. Before we found our regular three stand-in organists, we had to sing unaccompanied on many occasions—this being extremely hard work as there are so few of us. It is gratifying to hear so many of the congregation enjoy the hymns and psalms and the contribution it makes to worship.

Up in the choir stalls we can hear hearty singing from the congregation and we would greatly appreciate some new choir members—you will be very welcome. We only ask that you can sing in tune—the rest you can learn. Please come and speak to me after the Sunday service if this appeals to you. *Martin French*

LITURGY REPORT

The Liturgy Team is responsible for managing the services of the church, and is a sub-committee of the PCC, to which it is answerable.

In 2022-23 its members were:

Revd. Fiona Weaver (Chair)
Martin French (Director of Music)
Tom Jamieson-Craig
Julian Pearcey (Reader, Secretary & Rota Manager)
Tony Tucker (Treasurer)

Its duties are wide ranging:

Planning the liturgy over the year;
Reviewing services that have taken place;
Staffing services;
Producing orders of service;
Deciding on musical requirements;
Managing the Vestry;
Overview of the sidesmen, readers, intercessors, servers and chalice assistants.

The meeting agenda always covers a review of the previous months' services, and plans the next few months.

Other areas covered in the last year include:

Working on new ways of delivering the liturgy.
Ways of making services available on line for those unable to attend church.

In the last year the group has met three times. *Julian Pearcey*

HALL AND CHURCH LETTINGS REPORT

2022 has been a good year for halls and church lettings. We have also picked up some new hirers : Art Classes on Tuesday mornings are well attended, Watendone is now well established on Tuesday afternoon having moved the previous year from evening meetings. In July this year we are hoping to welcome a new Puppy training Class, which will be taking place in the Lodge on Monday evenings, 6 week courses, running across this year. Once again Younger Generation had to cancel their bookings due to lack of numbers responding to audition sessions. They are hoping to run a week long Musical Theatre Workshop during the summer holidays. Children's parties are still popular in our halls on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. The hirers were very appreciative by the determination of church officers to resolve perennial issues with hall heating and the new systems have been very well received. We continue our appreciation of all the hard work the Thursday Group does to keep the halls well maintained despite nature's best attempt to foil them. The halls and kitchen will be closed for a week in August to allow a complete re-decoration. We continue to have hall hire space available for a regular class on Thursdays, so do please spread the word. *Sue Carter*

THE THURSDAY GROUP

Quite a lot has happened over the past year. We had a drought in the summer and snow and rain in the winter months, during which we managed to keep most problems under control. At the rear of the church we have been busy cutting and trimming the trees and bushes that border our neighbours behind all the huts—with never-ending trips to the tip! The grass is cut regularly and the memorial garden has been completely weeded including the front and south side of the hall. One major job completed was lining the west side of the large hall roof with PVC sheeting. This has now stopped water penetration. We are organising a major painting project to the large and small halls and general tidy-up to be carried out in August which has not been done for some time. Could we ask all users of the halls, if using sellotape on the walls, to please remove it as we cannot paint over it. Thank you. With the regular use of the church halls we have been able to fix leaks, clean out drains, repair locks, replace lights, mend chairs and replace anything old or broken. Bearing mind the age of the church—and all of us - the jobs seem to be getting larger and they take longer to complete, but we do enjoy what we do. As I stated in my previous reports our motto is to “Save the Church money”! *Michael Sanders*

CHURCH FLOWER GROUP

Like the cost of living flowers are now expensive. However, we are extremely lucky that people have donated very generously towards the cost. We have very few flower arrangers left now due to ill health and age. My thanks go to Elizabeth Pope, Mary Taylor, Kirsten Baker and also Edna Lack, who sadly died recently. I hope all the ladies enjoy their retirement. If anyone would like to help with arranging pedestals I would be happy to offer tuition. *Maureen Eddy*

COFFEE GROUP

Many thanks to all members of our dedicated team and welcome to the newcomers. As our lovely friend Pat Teasdale said in her report last year, “having a chance to chat and catch up with everyone after the service is much appreciated”. This time on Sunday mornings is important to so many of us and without you, our team, a valuable opportunity to socialize and support each other would be sadly missed. *Deirdre Lea*

PRAYER GROUP REPORT

“It is in fact the most normal thing in the common Christian life to pray together.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

This group has been going for many years now and you may like to know how our meetings are conducted. We meet regularly on a Tuesday afternoon just across the road from the church at 9 Church Road. We come together to pray not only for ourselves and the church but for all people in need and for the coming of God’s Kingdom. Following our opening prayer in which we ask for God’s presence with our gathering, we have a bible reading. We then discuss, often in quite a lively fashion, what we have just read particularly in respect of its meaning in the present day and in our own lives. This is followed by intercessory prayers to which we bring our concerns for people or situations which may require our love and support. In addition, from time to time we play some music that one of us has chosen. Our meeting ends with a closing prayer in which we thank God asking him to send us out in the Spirit. All are welcome to our meetings so just let Glorie Singaratnam (020 8763 1961) know if you wish to come. Alternatively, if there is something or someone you wish for us to pray, then just let Glorie or myself know.

Don’t forget we are here to pray for you or with you. *Brenda Knight*

GIFT AID REPORT

I am pleased to report that the level of giving for St Mark's has continued to improve and is very supportive of our church with some £54,000 coming from our regular donors in 2022. Cash in the collection plate is down on pre-pandemic levels as may be expected, but has begun to improve now that our congregation has begun to return to worship. Cash pre-pandemic was in the region of £6,000. This fell to below £3,500 in 2021 but increased to £5,000 in 2022. A further £11,000 in Gift Aid was claimed. All these figures are approximate. The use of our contactless machine is also proving more acceptable to people and this method of giving is also on the increase (the actual amounts are included in the figures above). As Gift Aid is claimable on these payments as well as for cash in the plate, St Mark's benefits from both and is suitably grateful. I am also grateful to those of you who responded to my plea for an increase in giving to offset the losses due to Covid. Undoubtedly your generosity has helped save the day. Our Treasurer's report provides more detail elsewhere in this Annual Report.
Terry Cairns. Gift Aid Recorder.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE REPORT

Our membership now stands at 38 and we have enjoyed a full year of monthly meetings with excellent lunches and interesting talks. We are delighted to welcome Revd Fiona to our meetings and guests to our Summer and Christmas Lunches. Our Leader Robina Holmes has been sending out monthly newsletters to everyone to keep in touch with the group and to remind members to give their apologies in advance to help with the catering. We are very grateful to all those who provide our excellent lunches. This year our Charity of the Year was "Canine Partners", and we very much enjoyed our visit from Pat Hewett in September, who spoke to us about the work of the charity and introduced her dog, Beau. This season we have welcomed back Colin Jones and Sue James and have enjoyed a talk on bee-keeping. In March the Rev'd Fiona spoke about her recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Now we are now looking forward to one of our members speaking on "Pleasure Gardens and Spas in London and Surrey" and later on our old friend Sue Henning returns to tell us about "Bhutan – Land of the Thunder Dragon". A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to join the group and to any visitors. For more details see the St Mark's website and the Uplander. *Deirdre Lea*

FIRST WOODCOTE RAINBOWS/17TH BROWNIES

1st Woodcote Rainbows -The Rainbow Unit is still quite small; our numbers have yet to recover from the pandemic. Since October 2022 Girlguiding UK has allowed us to accept girls from the age of four, but many of that age are not ready to follow the Guiding programme and we have had to simplify most of the designated tasks to earn the badges. We played lots of games and did a lot of singing to help the girls to settle not the Unit. During the course of 2022/2023 the Rainbows have learned about helping others, and who to ask for help. They have also learned about different charities.

They spent time learning about first aid kits and the importance of hygiene whilst learning first aid, and they had great fun treating each other for fake injuries. They also learned about the importance of eating a varied diet. They made crowns for the Jubilee and found out more about Queen Elizabeth. We had a Teddy Bears' picnic to celebrate the Jubilee, and made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We also had an Easter Egg hunt.

17th Purley Brownies

The Brownie Unit is beginning to grow with some girls new to Guiding joining us at various ages, as well as those who have come through Rainbows. We follow the Brownie Programme so the girls can earn interest badges and theme badges as well as celebrating various events throughout the year. This year we have covered three themes; Be Well, Have Adventures and Express Myself. The activities included a mixture of different types of craft, scientific experiments, dance and cooking. All of which give the girls and opportunity to work together in various groups and develop a variety of skills. We made soda bread for harvest festival, pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and did some outdoor cooking for the older girls as part of their leaving celebration. We made individual Jubilee trifles and held an indoor street party to mark the Platinum Jubilee which the girls planned and catered for themselves. As part of the Have Adventures theme, we took a small group the Docklands Scout Project for a day of watersports which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. In April 2023 we will be joining with the 2nd Purley Brownie Unit for a 3 night Brownie holiday. We encourage girls to move through to Guides and three girls moved on to the Guide unit at St Mark's having reached the maximum age for Brownies. Both Units are fortunate to have the facilities offered by St Mark's available to use which gives the girls lots of opportunities to have fun, learn new skills and make friends. *Lindsey Ithell*

2ND PURLEY GUIDES AND RANGERS

Over the last year we have increased both our Guide and Ranger numbers from 20 Guides and 7 Rangers to 34 Guides and 11 Rangers. We have had a busy 12 months and the girls have achieved many badges and awards over this period including Navigator, Media Critic, Backwoods cooking, First Aid, Mixology, Natural Remedies, Bushcraft, Festival Goer, Personal Brand, Genealogy and Cooking. We have enjoyed several residential trips, including 3 sleepovers: completing it's a knockout games, playing adventure golf, completing a challenge night hike, learning to light a fire using a steel and flint, whittling a piece of wood into a tent peg and identifying different bird and animal tracks. Plus 2 holidays and a week-long pirate themed summer camp where we enjoyed loads of different activities including climbing, zip wire, low ropes, archery, cooking on open fires, water games, tie dye and several girls made their promises. We have also enjoyed a couple of day trips, the Rangers went to Brighton for an i360 promise and a pier rides promise and the Guides enjoyed a trampoline session before our March sleepover.

All 3 sections also had the opportunity to take part in the national Girlguiding photoshoot for our recent rebranding. We took part in the Harvest Parade, making decorations for the church, we participated in the Remembrance Parade at the Lord Roberts memorial, and we attended the Mothering Sunday parade and held a bake sale afterwards. Thank you to the congregation of St. Mark's for supporting us with that. We also celebrated the Queen's jubilee by completing some of the Queen's favourite activities from when she was a Guide, including designing and completing obstacle courses, and celebrated her life with a thanksgiving ceremony and learning about the Royal Family.

During our weekly meetings we first worked on our Have Adventures theme, learning about the stars and planets, playing capture the flag, completing a penny hike, and travelling around the world, then during the Autumn term we spent several sessions learning about first aid, including how to perform CPR, how to put someone in the recovery position and learning to treat many different medical emergencies. We are now looking forward to summer camp at Picketts Wood, we are preparing for our Gangshow, being held the weekend of 22nd / 23rd September, to which everyone is invited, to help us raise funds for our trip to Switzerland in August 2024, where we will be joining with other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world at Our Chalet World Centre and will be completing lots of exciting activities as well as a service project to help the local community. We are also working towards our Take Action and our Skills for my Future themes over the next few months. *Clare Wallis.*

25TH PURLEY (ST. MARK'S) SCOUT GROUP

The 25th Purley (St. Mark's) Scout Group was registered with the Scout Association on 1st December 1951 and has been delivering Scouting to the young people in our local community at St. Mark's ever since. What is Scouting? It isn't an activity club with a single activity; it isn't a sports club focusing on one sport and it is so much more than after school activities. We prepare young people with skills for life and everyone is welcome. We're talking about teamwork, leadership and resilience and making memories that will last a lifetime. All in a safe and secure environment where there's loads of laughter and where just being together is key. At the 25th Purley we pride ourselves on inspiring the next generation; on supporting our families, local community and church and in working in partnership with our parents so that our young people can achieve and be the best that they can be. Thank you to our outstanding and amazing volunteer Leader Teams in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and to our Group Executive - Alex, Rakesh and Kay. All our Leaders and Helpers give outstanding service to Scouting in our local community and we hope that they will continue to do so for many years to come.

St. Mark's is our church family. We are sponsored by St. Mark's and are proud to carry your name. Thank you to St. Mark's for providing us with somewhere to meet and for your support throughout the year – with special thanks to Rev'd Fiona. 2022 saw the return of several activities, camps and parades that we had been forced to put on hold during Covid. Many a happy evening was spent last Summer at Park Farm, Banstead, our favourite local Scout Camp Site, where we enjoyed some great weather and our young people had loads of fun.

Summer Camp was held for the first time since 2019 for all 3 Sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Our young people took part in nonstop adventurous activities at Blackland Farm - albeit very hot at times! The food was superb - thanks to Matt Greenslade, our chef - and our volunteer Leader Team was fantastic throughout. We organised, led and ran our first full parade since Christingle 2019 on Remembrance Sunday at Woodcote Village Green. We followed this up with the Christingle Service in December and then Mothering Sunday in March. For many of our families, it was the first time that they had attended St. Mark's as they joined us after the first

lockdown. This year, our Scouts were able to attend their first Winter Camp since February 2020 with fantastic food and amazing activities both on and off site.

We have an action packed diary for 2023 and are looking forward to summer evenings at Park Farm; celebrating the Long Service and Merit Awards earned by several members of our volunteer leader team that are so richly deserved; a water activities day at Longridge, near Marlow in June and Summer Camp in August for all three Sections.

In addition, we have an International Camp in Kandersteg, Switzerland to look forward to in 2024 - 10 days in August. We have 30 young people signed up to go and we are busy fundraising. It has also been another sad year with the loss of Martin Banks last August. He will always be associated with the Jumble Sale and his lifetime commitment to the 25th Purley will never be forgotten. He started the Jumble Sale and was always to be found in the Bric a Brac section; he was an Instructor and Leader in the Troop and served as treasurer, auditor and as a Vice President.

Finally, a massive thank you to Kerr - from Scouting and from me.

On the 17th April, Kerr's birthday, he celebrated 50 years continuous service to Scouting as a leader and 2 more before that as a Young Leader. What a fantastic achievement - although I'm not sure he wants to be reminded!

Kerr has provided generations of young people with amazing adventures – at home and abroad – with memories to last a lifetime. He has also mentored numerous new leaders, passing on his skills, experience and wisdom. We are all so very proud of and grateful to Kerr for all that he has done and for all that we hope he will continue to do in the future.....*Barbara McKinnon, "Akela" and Group Scout Leader.*

TREASURER'S REPORT ENDING 31 DEC 202

The 2022 financial results for the Parish showed a modest surplus of income less expenditure of £2,173 compared with £14,948 in 2021, both figures before unrealised gains and losses on investments. Income, including investments, rose by 17.6%, whilst expenditure grew by 30.2%, resulting in the lower surplus. The income from donations, with associated Gift Aid, held up well and hall income increased by 53% over 2021 as Covid restrictions ended and our Hall Lettings Manager Sue Carter successfully promoted the use of the halls and lodge. Two major unbudgeted items of expenditure were approved in 2022: the refurbishment of our grand piano (£7,236); and the replacement of the wooden hall frontage and windows (£14,800) following significant storm damage, the vast majority of which was unclaimable on insurance. Both items have been charged to our restricted reserve funds. The impact of much higher energy costs is evident and increased rates of inflation were seen across the board. We look forward to falling inflation in 2023.

Our investment portfolio had no additions or withdrawals but the year-end valuation (£315,738) was 13.8% lower than at the close of 2021 (£366,283). It must be emphasised that this is an unrealised loss, required to be shown by the relevant accounting standards, and no actual cash has been lost with the portfolio. The portfolio is diversified to a considerable extent but was hit by stock market falls in almost every country in 2022, triggered by market worries over rises in inflation and interest rates.

In 2022 the church paid £59,000 to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund. The diocese have advised that on average across the diocese this funding is allocated in these proportions: Ministers' pay, including National Insurance and pensions, £28,900; Ministers' housing £7,100; training and other ministry support £10,600; and wider support for parishes £12,400. The PCC has pledged £62,300 to the Parish Support Fund for 2023, which exceeded the contribution suggested by the diocese.

Note 13 provides more detail about the reserves policy and major risks. On the latter, although our planned giving has held up remarkably well thanks to the continuing generosity of parishioners, the age profile of our major donors is of increasing concern. A further risk is that the church relies on the letting income stream to avoid using our financial investments, therefore it is essential to keep the hall and lodge as functional and welcoming as possible. This can result in sizeable and unpredictable expenditure emerging. The halls are nearly 60 years old and significant expenditure on electrical works is underway in 2023 to keep our offering to hirers competitive.

My thanks go to my long-serving predecessor Tony Tucker, whose range covered most operational aspects as well as the finances, for his continuing counsel and assistance. It has needed two people to assume Tony's many duties and I am very grateful to the Deputy Treasurer, Sarah Chartres, for taking on the day-to-day accounting and problem-solving, tackling items as varied as payroll, insurance and the increasingly important work involved with fuel costs - to name but three areas. I have appreciated her competence and energy as we get to grips with the roles. Terry Cairns continues his valued work with the banking and Gift Aid recoveries, a task made more complicated by the introduction of our card machines for donations. Sue Carter, Hall Lettings Manager, has rebuilt the letting income stream after the famine years of 2020 and 2021 due to Covid, and is constantly working to improve the offering for hirers. Sue is ably assisted by Geoff Knight with the accounting and banking connected with the letting income. I am also grateful to our accounts examiner, Andrew Harker, for his guidance on the process for producing these accounts and for general advice on making better use of our Xero accounting package.

C.I. Robinson Honorary Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TREASURER AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

FOR

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Page
Report of the Treasurer	1
Independent Examiner's Report	2
Statement of Financial Activities	3
Balance Sheet	4
Notes to the Accounts	5 to 13
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	14 to 15

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE
REPORT OF THE TREASURER
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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C. I. Robinson

C I Robinson, Honorary Treasurer

Date: *28 April 2023*

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and associated notes.

Respective responsibilities of the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for his year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:-

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- "to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andrew Harker FCCA

57 The Fieldings
Southwater
West Sussex
RH13 9LZ

Date: 28/4/23

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	78,866	8,261	87,127	85,110
Other trading activities	3	62,365	-	62,365	40,856
Investment income	4	<u>9,629</u>	<u>2,212</u>	<u>11,841</u>	<u>11,233</u>
Total		<u>150,860</u>	<u>10,473</u>	<u>161,333</u>	<u>137,199</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5				
Giving to Missions and Charities		3,480	-	3,480	3,512
Church expenses		85,731	2,428	88,159	52,986
Diocese contribution		59,000	-	59,000	58,000
Other costs		<u>8,521</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,521</u>	<u>7,753</u>
Total		<u>156,732</u>	<u>2,428</u>	<u>159,160</u>	<u>122,251</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>(39,651)</u>	<u>(10,893)</u>	<u>(50,544)</u>	<u>34,211</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>(45,523)</u>	<u>(2,848)</u>	<u>(48,371)</u>	<u>49,159</u>
Transfers between funds	13	<u>2,212</u>	<u>(2,212)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(43,311)</u>	<u>(5,060)</u>	<u>(48,371)</u>	<u>49,159</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>307,190</u>	<u>92,684</u>	<u>399,874</u>	<u>350,715</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>263,879</u>	<u>87,624</u>	<u>351,503</u>	<u>399,874</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

**BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	1	-	1	486
Investments	9	<u>246,191</u>	<u>69,547</u>	<u>315,738</u>	<u>366,283</u>
		246,192	69,547	315,739	366,769
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	7,898	-	7,898	9,971
Investments	11	2,029	15,000	17,029	10,029
Cash at bank		<u>14,692</u>	<u>3,948</u>	<u>18,640</u>	<u>27,223</u>
		24,619	18,948	43,567	47,223
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(7,803)	-	(7,803)	(14,118)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>16,816</u>	<u>18,948</u>	<u>35,764</u>	<u>33,105</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>263,008</u>	<u>88,495</u>	<u>351,503</u>	<u>399,874</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>263,008</u>	<u>88,495</u>	<u>351,503</u>	<u>399,874</u>
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				263,879	307,190
Restricted funds				<u>87,624</u>	<u>92,684</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>351,503</u>	<u>399,874</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16 April 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

L.G. Robinson
Trustee

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the church has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the church to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings - 3 to 7 years

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the church's objectives at the discretion of the PCC.

Restricted funds can only be used for purposes specified by the donor.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Planned giving - tax efficient	50,895	48,142
Planned giving - non tax efficient	360	455
Bequests	5,000	10,000
Gift aid refunds	14,753	12,234
Cash collections	3,987	2,746
Card reader donations	1,206	217
General donations	<u>10,926</u>	<u>11,316</u>
	<u>87,127</u>	<u>85,110</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Uplander Income & Expenditure	183	208
Church lettings	2,341	587
Annex income	6,231	9,935
Hall Letting income less deposit refunds	48,897	28,541
Fundraising	839	-
Insurance claim	1,108	-
Wedding & Funeral fees	<u>2,766</u>	<u>1,585</u>
	<u>62,365</u>	<u>40,856</u>

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest received	<u>11,841</u>	<u>11,233</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 6)	Totals
	£	£	£
Giving to Missions and Charities	3,480	-	3,480
Church expenses	88,159	-	88,159
Diocese contribution	59,000	-	59,000
Other costs	<u>6,871</u>	<u>1,650</u>	<u>8,521</u>
	<u>157,510</u>	<u>1,650</u>	<u>159,160</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Other costs	<u>442</u>	<u>1,208</u>	<u>1,650</u>

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	72,434	12,676	85,110
Other trading activities	40,856	-	40,856
Investment income	<u>9,213</u>	<u>2,020</u>	<u>11,233</u>
Total	<u>122,503</u>	<u>14,696</u>	<u>137,199</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Giving to Missions and Charities	3,170	342	3,512
Church expenses	52,986	-	52,986
Diocese contribution	58,000	-	58,000
Other costs	<u>7,753</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,753</u>
Total	<u>121,909</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>122,251</u>
Net gains on investments	<u>27,597</u>	<u>6,614</u>	<u>34,211</u>
NET INCOME	28,191	20,968	49,159
Transfers between funds	<u>2,020</u>	<u>(2,020)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	30,211	18,948	49,159
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>276,979</u>	<u>73,736</u>	<u>350,715</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>307,190</u>	<u>92,684</u>	<u>399,874</u>

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
COST	
At 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022	<u>23,300</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2022	22,814
Charge for year	<u>485</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>23,299</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2022	<u>1</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>486</u>

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Cash and settlements pending £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2022	366,283
Revaluations	<u>(50,545)</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>315,738</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2022	<u>315,738</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>366,283</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Certain investments are held by the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance (value at 31 December 2022: £69,546), which may only be used for capital expenditure of an ecclesiastical nature and not for meeting day-to-day expenses.

Investment income was also achieved from the various unrestricted Investments accounts held on behalf of the Parish by (values at 31 December 2022): CCLA (£165,519), Eden Tree Investment Management (£50,535), M&G Investments (£22,402), and Rathbone Management (£7,736).

Income from these investments realised £11,841 this year compared with £11,233 in 2021.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	3,426	6,117
Tax	2,236	2,368
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>2,236</u>	<u>1,486</u>
	<u>7,898</u>	<u>9,971</u>

11. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Central Board of Finance Deposit	<u>17,029</u>	<u>10,029</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>7,803</u>	<u>14,118</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.22	Net movement	Transfers	At
	£	in funds	between	31.12.22
		£	funds	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	71,616	17,461	2,212	91,289
Mission	78,703	(15,368)	-	63,335
Stonework and roof repair	30,032	(5,253)	-	24,779
Church Maintenance	24,444	(11,682)	-	12,762
Hall Maintenance	28,429	(16,123)	-	12,306
Halls Caretaking	37,818	(6,615)	-	31,203
Organ	34,754	(7,761)	-	26,993
Choir	<u>1,394</u>	<u>(182)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,212</u>
	307,190	(45,523)	2,212	263,879
Restricted funds				
Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance	79,569	(8,681)	(2,212)	68,676
Restricted Gifts & Special appeals	840	233	-	1,073
Bequest	10,000	5,000	-	15,000
Place to be cafe	<u>2,275</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,875</u>
	<u>92,684</u>	<u>(2,848)</u>	<u>(2,212)</u>	<u>87,624</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>399,874</u>	<u>(48,371)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>351,503</u>

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	146,989	(120,020)	(9,508)	17,461
Mission	-	(8,386)	(6,982)	(15,368)
Stonework and roof repair	-	-	(5,253)	(5,253)
Church Maintenance	1,999	(10,976)	(2,705)	(11,682)
Hall Maintenance	1,583	(15,097)	(2,609)	(16,123)
Halls Caretaking	-	-	(6,615)	(6,615)
Organ	104	(2,143)	(5,722)	(7,761)
Choir	185	(110)	(257)	(182)
	<u>150,860</u>	<u>(156,732)</u>	<u>(39,651)</u>	<u>(45,523)</u>
Restricted funds				
Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance	2,212	-	(10,893)	(8,681)
Restricted Gifts & Special appeals	233	-	-	233
Bequest	5,000	-	-	5,000
Place to be cafe	3,028	(2,428)	-	600
	<u>10,473</u>	<u>(2,428)</u>	<u>(10,893)</u>	<u>(2,848)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>161,333</u>	<u>(159,160)</u>	<u>(50,544)</u>	<u>(48,371)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	51,529	18,067	2,020	71,616
Mission	80,346	(1,643)	-	78,703
Stonework and roof repair	27,298	2,734	-	30,032
Church Maintenance	23,312	1,132	-	24,444
Hall Maintenance	27,214	1,215	-	28,429
Halls Caretaking	34,376	3,442	-	37,818
Organ	31,537	3,217	-	34,754
Choir	1,367	27	-	1,394
	<u>276,979</u>	<u>28,191</u>	<u>2,020</u>	<u>307,190</u>
Restricted funds				
Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance	72,955	8,634	(2,020)	79,569
Restricted Gifts & Special appeals	781	59	-	840
Bequest	-	10,000	-	10,000
Place to be cafe	-	2,275	-	2,275
	<u>73,736</u>	<u>20,968</u>	<u>(2,020)</u>	<u>92,684</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>350,715</u>	<u>49,159</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>399,874</u>

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	122,442	(109,535)	5,160	18,067
Mission	-	(9,689)	8,046	(1,643)
Stonework and roof repair	-	-	2,734	2,734
Church Maintenance	-	(1,203)	2,335	1,132
Hall Maintenance	(1)	(1,372)	2,588	1,215
Halls Caretaking	(1)	-	3,443	3,442
Organ	63	-	3,154	3,217
Choir	-	(110)	137	27
	<u>122,503</u>	<u>(121,909)</u>	<u>27,597</u>	<u>28,191</u>
Restricted funds				
Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance	2,020	-	6,614	8,634
Restricted Gifts & Special appeals	401	(342)	-	59
Bequest	10,000	-	-	10,000
Place to be cafe	<u>2,275</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,275</u>
	<u>14,696</u>	<u>(342)</u>	<u>6,614</u>	<u>20,968</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>137,199</u></u>	<u><u>(122,251)</u></u>	<u><u>34,211</u></u>	<u><u>49,159</u></u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	51,529	35,528	4,232	91,289
Mission	80,346	(17,011)	-	63,335
Stonework and roof repair	27,298	(2,519)	-	24,779
Church Maintenance	23,312	(10,550)	-	12,762
Hall Maintenance	27,214	(14,908)	-	12,306
Halls Caretaking	34,376	(3,173)	-	31,203
Organ	31,537	(4,544)	-	26,993
Choir	<u>1,367</u>	<u>(155)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,212</u>
	<u>276,979</u>	<u>(17,332)</u>	<u>4,232</u>	<u>263,879</u>
Restricted funds				
Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance	72,955	(47)	(4,232)	68,676
Restricted Gifts & Special appeals	781	292	-	1,073
Bequest	-	15,000	-	15,000
Place to be cafe	<u>-</u>	<u>2,875</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,875</u>
	<u>73,736</u>	<u>18,120</u>	<u>(4,232)</u>	<u>87,624</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>350,715</u></u>	<u><u>788</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>351,503</u></u>

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	269,431	(229,555)	(4,348)	35,528
Mission	-	(18,075)	1,064	(17,011)
Stonework and roof repair	-	-	(2,519)	(2,519)
Church Maintenance	1,999	(12,179)	(370)	(10,550)
Hall Maintenance	1,582	(16,469)	(21)	(14,908)
Halls Caretaking	(1)	-	(3,172)	(3,173)
Organ	167	(2,143)	(2,568)	(4,544)
Choir	185	(220)	(120)	(155)
	273,363	(278,641)	(12,054)	(17,332)
Restricted funds				
Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance	4,232	-	(4,279)	(47)
Restricted Gifts & Special appeals	634	(342)	-	292
Bequest	15,000	-	-	15,000
Place to be cafe	5,303	(2,428)	-	2,875
	25,169	(2,770)	(4,279)	18,120
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>298,532</u>	<u>(281,411)</u>	<u>(16,333)</u>	<u>788</u>

Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance

This fund arises from the sale of our former curate's house and a bequest. The SDBF holds the underlying investments on our behalf. The capital can only be used for capital expenditure of an ecclesiastical nature but interest and dividend income are released to us in order to meet parish running costs.

Restricted Gifts & Special appeals

This fund relates to both gifts restricted in their use and funds received by St. Mark's on behalf of other beneficiaries, for example Purley Overseas Trust or collections at funerals for third parties. This fund separates such items from church funds.

Bequests

This fund holds bequests which are for restricted purposes in a separate bank account - the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. Currently it contains £10,000 left by the late Penny Norris for renovation of the main hall 'office'; and £5,000 (part of a larger gift of £7,000) for an altar hanging donated by Gwyneth Frampton in memory of her late husband Clive Frampton. Both projects should be completed in 2023, on present plans.

Mission

This fund supports the mission activities and outreach of St. Mark's. A recent example was charging 80% of the costs of the Lay Pastoral Assistant in 2021 and 2022.

Stonework

This fund supports the financing of major capital works relating to the stonework of the church. Maintenance projects, for example regular drone inspections of the roof and guttering or lightning conductor checks, are charged to the Church Maintenance Fund, with small items charged to maintenance running costs.

Church Maintenance

This fund is used to pay for significant maintenance items. This includes costs such as boiler repairs and upgrades to our CCTV system. In 2022 this fund was used to pay for the major refurbishment of the grand piano (£7,236).

Hall Maintenance

This fund supports the same purposes as the Church Maintenance Fund but in relation to the halls and lodge. In 2022 the major charge to the fund comprised a replacement entrance and front windows for the hall foyer (£14,800) after storm damage. This exceeded the insurance settlement (£1,108) for the damage.

Halls Caretaking

This fund has supported capital expenditure in relation to periods when the church employed a caretaker. There has not been a caretaker for several years. The PCC will give consideration to merging this fund into a more suitable reserve.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Organ

This fund is used to pay for significant refurbishment work on our church organ and to take in organ fees in connection with funerals.

Choir

This fund supports the activities of the choir, including the cost of professional membership fees.

Place to Be Café

The church received a Croydon Episcopal Area Special Grant to be spent on "innovative pieces of mission in the local Church community". The PCC decided this would be used to create and run a programme for people affected by dementia, and their carers, which is called A Place To Be Café. A professional manager is employed and activities staffed by volunteers. This fund separates the café and church finances.

14. RESERVES POLICY AND MAJOR RISKS

Reserves Policy

This year's accounts have been presented incorporating the 2015 Statement of Recommended Practice and Financial Reporting Standard 102 for Charities. A detailed schedule of the movement in Reserve Funds is shown in note 12 above. This includes opening and closing balances in the various reserve funds as well as the income and amounts spent, transfers between funds and revaluation gains and losses of investments attributable to those funds. The notes at the foot of note 12 describe the purposes of the funds and provide examples of their use.

The Unrestricted general reserves stood at £91,289 at 31st December 2022, representing 57% (2020: 68%) of our total running expenses, including the costs of running the halls. The PCC regards a minimum of 33% as a prudent level of free reserves to hold against swings in income and unexpected expenditures in a given year.

Restricted Reserves of £69,546 held with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance arising from the sale of our former curate's house and a bequest, are held for capital expenditure of an ecclesiastical nature. The investments resulting from these reserves generated interest and dividend income of £2,212 (2021: £2,020) which can be used to meet Parish running costs. Other restricted reserves represent gifts set aside for purposes specified by the donor. Designated reserves are unrestricted and have been set aside for purposes stipulated by the PCC.

Major risks

Those facing the Parish from a financial point of view are:

Church Income and Expenditure. Although donations held up well in 2022 and there is encouraging growth in giving via card reader devices, the church remains vulnerable to slowly declining attendances at services as well as to the average life expectancy of our major giving parishioners. On the cost side, the ageing electrical systems and roof leaks continue to incur unbudgeted expenditure.

Halls: The halls and lodge provide the letting income for the church to meet its Parish Support Fund pledge and avoid liquidating its financial investment portfolio. The halls offering has to be maintained and developed to protect the income stream of regular and occasional hirers. This can involve heavy periodic spending. After a February 2022 storm damaged the wooden doors and frontage to our halls (which are nearly 60 years old), the PCC authorised the replacement of the frontage and windows with a more functional and attractive modern equivalent, at a cost of nearly £15,000. In another instance, as the electric wall heaters became increasingly unreliable and started to affect hiring bookings, in early 2023 the PCC authorised expenditure of over £9,000 to replace the old wall heaters with modern infrared devices. St. Mark's is in competition with neighbouring churches for letting income and at least one church has completely modernised its facilities in 2022. General repairs to both the halls and church have been ably and generously done for many years by our volunteer Thursday Group at only the cost of materials. However, they are advancing in age and maintenance work will increasingly have to be carried out in the future by employing professionals.

Restoration of the organ. The potential restoration options remain undecided, although the organ has benefited from continuing maintenance in 2022. Options range in cost from the tens of thousands of pounds up to full replacement, which would realistically cost over £400,000 in the light of recent sustained cost inflation. Progress would depend on a successful application to the Diocese for a Faculty and acceptance by the PCC of a project and business plan, and supporting timetable, crucially including determination of when and from where the funds to finance such a project will be obtained.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

14. RESERVES POLICY AND MAJOR RISKS - continued

Parish Support Fund. There could be a request from the Diocese for a significant increase in the Parish Support Fund, although contributions are voluntary. The Parish is asked annually to make a financial pledge of the amount they will give the following year to fund the ministry and mission of the Diocese (including the cost of clergy). The Parish pledged £59,000 for 2022 (2021: £58,000) which was allocated to Ministry pay and housing (£36,000); training and other Ministry support (£10,600) and a contribution to other parishes in the Diocese (£12,400). The PCC increased the pledge for 2023 to £62,300, which exceeded the suggested higher contribution.

Loss from financial investments. The value of our portfolio is subject to stock market turbulence - in 2022 our portfolio lost 13.8% in value, though that was an unrealised loss because no investments were sold. The problem would arise if the church had to liquidate investments to pay bills when markets were depressed and incurred a realised loss on investments. To mitigate this risk, the investments are diversified to a considerable extent across investment managers, geographics and sectors. In addition, the church maintains minimum current account balances sufficient to cover at least a month of normal expenditure.

Inability to fill key positions of responsibility. It is becoming more difficult to fill key roles from within a slowly declining, but increasingly elderly, congregation. The Treasurer role has been filled, shared between two people. The church currently has churchwarden capacity until 2024 but if no replacements are forthcoming there will need to be discussions with the Diocese about alternative governance arrangements.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Planned giving - tax efficient	50,895	48,142
Planned giving - non tax efficient	360	455
Bequests	5,000	10,000
Gift aid refunds	14,753	12,234
Cash collections	3,987	2,746
Card reader donations	1,206	217
General donations	<u>10,926</u>	<u>11,316</u>
	87,127	85,110
Other trading activities		
Uplander Income & Expenditure	183	208
Church lettings	2,341	587
Annex income	6,231	9,935
Hall Letting income less deposit refunds	48,897	28,541
Fundraising	839	-
Insurance claim	1,108	-
Wedding & Funeral fees	<u>2,766</u>	<u>1,585</u>
	62,365	40,856
Investment income		
Interest received	<u>11,841</u>	<u>11,233</u>
Total incoming resources	161,333	137,199
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Secretarial costs	5,964	5,520
Diocesan Contribution	59,000	58,000
Clergy expenses	431	757
Books & training literature	21	203
Charitable Giving	3,480	3,512
Telephone, Broadband & Office Costs	419	307
Organist & Music Director	5,957	3,593
Lay Pastoral Assistant	10,483	12,111
Organ Maintenance	4,078	1,046
Parish Events	(14)	(134)
Youth Ministry Costs	(207)	-
Repairs & Maintenance	28,269	5,436
Utilities	12,653	10,350
Cleaning	5,946	4,281
Security	1,323	1,062
Sundry Church Expenditure	885	939
Hall Letting costs	7,980	6,458
Printing Postage, Stationery	488	719
General Expenses	1,642	806
Insurance	4,775	4,600
Annex running costs	892	747
Sanctuary & Worship costs	617	231
Carried forward	<u>155,082</u>	<u>120,544</u>

ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	155,082	120,544
Place to be expenses	<u>2,428</u>	<u>-</u>
	157,510	120,544
 Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	442	356
 Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	723	851
Fixtures and fittings	<u>485</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>1,208</u>	<u>1,351</u>
 Total resources expended	<u>159,160</u>	<u>122,251</u>
 Net income before gains and losses	2,173	14,948
 Unrealised recognised gains and losses		
Unrealised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	<u>(50,544)</u>	<u>34,211</u>
 Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(48,371)</u>	<u>49,159</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. MARK'S CHURCH WOODCOTE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and associated notes.

Respective responsibilities of the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for his year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:-

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- "to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Andrew Harker FCCA

57 The Fieldings
Southwater
West Sussex
RH13 9LZ

Date: 28/4/23