

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Aim and Purposes

St Paul's Parochial Church Council (PCC) supports our interim Priest in Charge the Rev. Chris Lavender in promoting the pastoral, evangelistic and social mission of the church in the parish. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church and halls, which are all part of the same building at St Paul's Boxley Road, Maidstone.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC seeks to serve our parish and the wider community in Maidstone and beyond in various ways. Our Vision Statement reflects this: *"Becoming Christian Community – serving the wider community."*

Through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament, activity and silence, our worship is at the heart of who we are. We are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Paul's and to become part of our church community. To this end, the PCC maintains an overview of our worship, and regularly discusses our pattern of services.

In line with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and the particular guidance on charities for the advancement of religion, we try to enable ordinary people to grow in faith and live it out as part of our church community. As well as providing opportunities for worship, we do our best to help people deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, and their relationships with God and others.

We offer pastoral care for those living in the parish and for others who are part of our church community. We seek to reach out in various ways, and to contribute to the needs of the wider world.

Like every church, we are all too aware that we are not all that we could be. That is why our vision is about *"Becoming Christian Community..."* We are a work in progress, seeking always to better reflect the life of Jesus Christ in our life together, and no truly Christian community exists for its own sake. We are not a private club; of course we do our best to look after our own, but it goes much further than that. Hence *"serving the wider community."*

One of the primary ways in which we serve the community is to make our premises available not just for worship, but for a range of activities which contribute positively to people's quality of life. With two halls and a kitchen as well as the worship space itself, we have flexible facilities which we are continually seeking to improve.

The PCC has complied with Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults).

Achievements and Performance

Reviewing our Church Life, Worship and Prayer and Ministry

The last couple of years has been challenging for the church in general. St Paul's has been further challenged by an interregnum as the Priest-in-charge, Andrew Sewell, moved on to become the Archdeacon of Maidstone.

This took place during the course of the Covid pandemic; however the parish ably worked its way through such difficulties by providing online worship using Zoom, and then physical worship, utilizing visiting priests when restrictions allowed.

In August 2021 the Revd Chris Lavender (Priest-in-charge of St Nicholas, Allington) was licensed to the parish as Interim Priest-in-Charge for a period of two years to accompany the parish during a period of potential change in Maidstone Deanery, and as training incumbent to Revd Anthea Mitchell. Chris would like to thank everyone for the welcome, and guidance, he has received, particularly from churchwardens Brian and Mark.

Anthea was ordained deacon in July 2021 and licensed as Assistant Curate to the parish and as a Minister in Secular Employment. Anthea had contributed to the parish by way of lay ministry and has now taken up the role of an ordained minister – she will be priested in July 2022.

Since her ordination and the licensing of Revd Chris, we have been attempting to review the life of St Paul's Church with a return to regular physical worship and in the light of the outworkings of the pandemic on those able and willing to attend, whilst also seeking to reach out to the community.

Thought has had to go into the Worship side of church life, and we are still discerning the best way forward and how things might evolve. For the present we have settled on a 10am mid-morning Sunday service that is different each week. The first Sunday is Café style, second Sunday is All Age Communion, third Sunday is Morning Worship, and fourth Sunday is Holy Communion. For now, this provides a variety of worship to meet the needs of a wide spectrum of worshipping styles that also gives flexibility and space for creativity and the development of others in leading and assisting. All are welcome to attend our regular services. The average Sunday Attendance for the year numbered 29 adults and 3 children.

In terms of pastoral care and the prayer life of the church our Pastoral ALM, Jenny Clifton, has provided a report below that shows how she is working to re-establish that side of church life, including work with the local care home and home communions. Others have also worked with Jenny to develop after service prayer as a time to pray about the ongoing life of St Paul's.

Gwyn McPherson, our Worship Leader ALM continues to work within the deanery as the project manager for Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter and as volunteer at Maidstone Homeless Care food bank. Gwyn is also a Maidstone Street Pastor so when the Saturday night patrols resumed on 4th July was with others providing emotional, spiritual and practical support to all those who are part of the town's night time economy.

We have also been keen to re-establish links with the local Primary Schools. Revd Anthea took a Harvest Assembly in Sandling Primary in 2021. Revd Chris has visited all of the local schools, Sandling, St Paul's & Northborough and we wait to see how such connections go forward.

We are also hoping to start a toddler group at St Paul's in May of 2022. This will be on one Friday each month and will be led by Sarah Lavender and assisted by others from the parish.

It cannot be denied that there is much uncertainty about the future as we learn what it is to be a post-Covid church. Resources, both physical and financial, have been impacted. In addition, the world is now being significantly challenged by the increasing cost of living and the outworking of conflict in Ukraine. However, St Paul's has a good heart, a sound spiritual base and willing people. This will be significantly enhanced through the presence of Revd Anthea as she gains experience and comes to be priested, an event that we all look forward to with great joy.

We have continued to build stronger and deeper relationships and to make St Paul's a welcoming place. But, as people inevitably move on there are signs of numerical decline over the last twelve months.

We must not forget the other ways in which members of St Paul's seek to make a difference in the world through their own ministry at work, at home, as volunteers and in the wider community, in all sorts of ways too many to name.

Pastoral care

St Paul's has always believed that care for others must play an important role in the way we live, and that we should reach out not only to our families, friends and church family, but also to the wider community. We have a dedicated pastoral team, led by Jenny Clifton, our ALM Pastoral Assistant, which keeps in touch with those who live on their own or who are unwell or struggling and we are, once again, offering home communion to members of the congregation who are no longer able to get to church. We have one Care Home in our Parish which, before Covid, was regularly visited, with residents being offered communion and services at special times of the Church year.

Our prayer life continues to thrive and recently Jenny has worked with others to develop after service prayer as a time to pray about the ongoing life of St Paul's and the local community. She produced a prayer diary each week which gives the congregation and those who access our website a focus for their daily prayer. These prayers can also be included in our Sunday intercessions. We continue to encourage small church groups to pray for current issues and for anyone known to them who is in need of God's love and care.

Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod.

Revd Chris stood down from his role as Area Dean when licensed to St Paul's in August 2021. The Lay Chair to the deanery had already finished her time in the post in April 2021. As a result, the deanery has not had a leadership structure, or met as Deanery Synod, for a significant period. However, Revd Phil Goodey, from Boughton Monchelsea, was recently appointed to be Area Dean, in an oversight capacity – he is also Area Dean of North Downs Deanery. A new Lay Chair has also recently been appointed and a Deanery Synod arranged for 7th April 2022.

Social, Fundraising and Outreach Events

As the covid restrictions gradually lifted the church community were able to celebrate important events in the life of the church, Revd Anthea's Ordination Licensing and later in the year the Revd Chris' Licensing to the Parish as Interim Priest-in-Charge. We look forward to being able plan further events and be a welcoming community.

Use of the Halls

The premises are in use every day of the week, in a variety of ways which we believe contribute to the social well-being of our community.

We see the hospitality that we offer to all who cross our threshold as central to our mission and are always looking for ways to make them feel more welcome. Leaving the doors to the worship space permanently unlocked allows parents to take advantage of the low seating area at the back of church whilst the children play in the children's area. It also means that everyone can have access to the worship space.

The pandemic and its restrictions continued into 2021. Many of our hall users even if permitted, have taken a cautious approach to resuming their group activities. It is pleasing to note that by the end of 2021 nearly all of our regular users and some new ones are once again enjoying their leisure activities. All hall users have liaised with our Parish Administrator so that everyone still follows the COVID safe protocols as recommended by the Church of England.

Care of our building

High winds and general unpredictability still means the boiler does not always fire up reliably. This year however the boiler broke down completely and was out of action for several months whilst the engineers identified the problem and located the replacement part. The lighting controls in the church were also repaired and replaced where necessary. A small number of volunteers have helped keep the place in order, but we need to recruit more workers as numbers have dropped.

Maintenance of the building continues to be a significant drain on our resources.

Communication

We endeavour to keep in touch with our worshipping community, hall users and the wider community by a variety of means. The Parish magazine was produced at Easter and at the end of July and was available by e-mail, as hard copy (in church and taken to those without electronic access), and on the church website. The website has been a crucial means of keeping everyone up to date and of passing on notices and news and it has been expertly managed by our Parish administrator. Church members also support each other using a church WhatsApp™ group and house groups (both virtual and in person when permitted). Members also support those without IT access by telephone or visits in person where these are within regulations. A weekly update was introduced at the beginning of November which includes a message from Revd Chris, service information and notices about upcoming Events.

Planned Giving

Planned giving occurs in two different ways, by standing orders and by envelope. By 2021 most planned givers had changed from giving by envelopes to giving by standing order as Church access was restricted. During periods of Church closure, most envelope givers were kind enough to give directly by cheque or by bank transfer and we are very grateful to them for helping our cash flow. By the end of 2021 only six envelope givers remained.

In 2021 the total for planned giving was £29,891 of which £2,405 was in envelopes with the remainder by standing order, bank transfer or cheque. We have been able to claim gift aid on nearly all this sum.

Using the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme, we were also able to claim on anything in the open collection, which is an individual gift of £30 or less. This is a very good scheme, but we encourage regular givers who are taxpayers to give using a standing order or envelopes.

We are very grateful to all who give.

Financial Review

Planned giving reduced by 10.7% (2020 3.6%) and due to the continued inability to hold services during part of the year, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, collections at services reduced by a further 65% (2020 nearly 60%). The total for giving was £30,459 (2020 £35,128 and 2019 £38,786), a decline of 13.3% in the year.

Gift aid and gift aid on small donations receipts banked were £6,634 (2020 £9,485). £1,311 (2020 £1,280) was outstanding on donations received in the year.

Hall Income was £18,093 compared with £12,359 in 2020 and £31,477 in 2019 and it remained sad to have the halls, normally so well used by the community for such a great range of activities, closed or with limited usage this year during lockdowns and when only limited social contact was allowed. However we were fortunate to be awarded two discretionary grants by Maidstone Borough Council totalling £12,002 towards loss of hall fees suffered due to Covid restrictions.

The most significant item of expenditure, the Parish Share, was paid in full. The cost is for ministry and central costs within Canterbury Diocese. The amount reduced in 2021 compared with 2020 due to the reduced allocation from 50% to 40% for our incumbent and the removal of a paid Area Dean post in Maidstone Deanery for which we along with other churches paid a proportion of the cost.

The notes on page 3 of the accounts show details of collections for charities, interest and dividends, the latter two items being split between unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds.

We were fortunate that other payments were either as expected or reduced due to the limited usage in 2020 and 2021 with reductions for electricity and telephone. Fortunately, following exceptionally high expenditure in 2020, building maintenance and repair costs were modest.

Excess receipts were £6,459 (2020 excess payments £45,754).

The second page of the accounts identifies the movement of funds. As at 31 December 2021 there was £33,605 (2020 £27,146) in current and deposit accounts.

Our investments performed well, the value of our shares increased from £71,303 to £81,503, an increase of 14.3%.

Adding gift aid recoverable and a small liability, our total assets at 31 December amounted to £116,403 (2020 £99,728) of which £79,537 (2020 £69,609) was in restricted funds.

However, we still urgently need to replace the funds used for the cost of replacing the small hall ceiling and loss of income due to Covid 19 and otherwise and then build reserves so that we can continue to maintain our building for worship, mission and community use.

Finally, we must thank Jan for continuing to look after planned giving and tax recovery, Margaret who counts and banks the cash and Tracey, our administrator, who looks after the hall users.

Volunteers

Most of our members take an active role as volunteers in many aspects of church life. In particular we would like to mention our churchwardens who have continued to undertake extra responsibilities during the interregnum until Revd Chris' appointment in August.

St Paul's members have continued to support Maidstone Homeless Care through prayer and donations of food and money. We are grateful that Allert and Rosemary have arranged for their house to be used as a collection point and deliver the food on agreed dates.

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a body corporate established by the Church of England. (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. There are 68 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll of which 47 are non-resident within the parish.

St Paul's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the interim priest in charge, the Revd Chris Lavender, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Centre complex of St Paul's.

The full PCC met ten times during the year with an average level of attendance of 86%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary with particular emphasis on worship, finance, fabric, outreach and mission.

Administrative information

St. Paul's Church is situated in Boxley Road, Maidstone. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Paul's Church, Boxley Road, Maidstone, ME14 2AN. Registered charity number 1131270.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio Members:

Incumbent Interim Priest-in-Charge Revd Chris Lavender from 24th August 2021

Deacon Revd Anthea Mitchell from 3rd July 2021

Warden Mr B Beswick
Mr M Turner Vice Chair

Deanery Synod Mrs J Clifton Pastoral Assistant
Mrs A Mitchell 3rd year Ordinand until 2nd July 2021
Mrs R Riepma from 27th July 2021

Elected members:

Mrs J Hudson	Gift Aid Secretary
Mr P Hudson	
Mrs C Kirrage	Parish Disclosure Officer, Parish Safeguarding Officer until July 2021
Mrs A Lewis	Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mr A Riepma
Mrs M Thomas
Mrs J Turner
Ms S Vale
Mrs C Wylie

Reader Emeritus
Secretary, Electoral Roll Officer
until June 13th 2021

Co-opted Member:

Mrs S Willmott

Treasurer

Approved by the PCC on 20th April 2022 and signed on their behalf by



PCC Chairman

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PAUL, MAIDSTONE (Charity Registration No. 1131270)

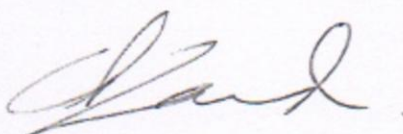
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts regular giving						
Planned giving		£29,891.50			£29,891.50	£33,482.60
Collections at services		£567.30			£567.30	£1,645.90
Gift Aid recovered		£6,502.00			£6,502.00	£8,612.69
Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme		£131.91			£131.91	£872.81
		<u>£37,092.71</u>	-	-	<u>£37,092.71</u>	<u>£44,614.00</u>
Other voluntary receipts						
Sundry donations and Legacies	3a)	£536.00			£536.00	£2,920.00
Donations for flowers		£50.50			£50.50	£158.50
		<u>£586.50</u>	-	-	<u>£586.50</u>	<u>£3,078.50</u>
Receipts from activities for generating funds						
Fund raising					-	£784.80
Hall Income		£18,093.25			£18,093.25	£12,358.75
Miscellaneous						
		<u>£18,093.25</u>	-	-	<u>£18,093.25</u>	<u>£13,143.55</u>
Receipts from church activities						
Fees & Charges		£309.00			£309.00	-
Collection(s) for charity	3b)	£65.10			£65.10	-
		<u>£374.10</u>	£0.00	£0.00	<u>£374.10</u>	<u>£0.00</u>
Income from investments						
Interest	3c)	£1.54	£0.73	£0.79	£3.06	£48.55
Dividends	3d)	£65.56	£2,002.81		£2,068.37	£2,434.54
		<u>£67.10</u>	<u>£2,003.54</u>	<u>£0.79</u>	<u>£2,071.43</u>	<u>£2,483.09</u>
Other						
Miscellaneous	3e)	£12,004.40			£12,004.40	£58.00
		<u>£68,218.06</u>	<u>£2,003.54</u>	<u>£0.79</u>	<u>£70,222.39</u>	<u>£63,377.14</u>
PAYMENTS						
Parish Share		£36,601.00			£36,601.00	£45,592.63
Clergy expenses					-	£462.52
Mission giving and donations	3f)	£3,175.00			£3,175.00	£1,588.25
Administration and cleaning staff		£10,866.00			£10,866.00	£10,746.50
Organist, Choir, Organ etc.		£354.00			£354.00	£601.80
To Maidstone Deanery					-	-
Upkeep of Services		£1,137.95			£1,137.95	£833.52
Children's work	3g)	(£351.90)			(£351.90)	£492.50
Flowers					-	-
Gifts/subsidies		£318.85			£318.85	£107.64
Fund raising expenses					-	-
Heating, Lighting, etc		£3,140.74			£3,140.74	£6,649.97
Insurance		£2,628.32			£2,628.32	£2,841.45
Repairs & Maintenance	3f)	£3,233.64			£3,233.64	£33,547.64
Hall Expenses etc		£1,444.20			£1,444.20	£2,937.20
Fees for contactless giving		£3.40			£3.40	£8.11
Administration & sundries		£844.27			£844.27	£1,897.71
Parish website		£115.79			£115.79	£486.13
Fees to the Diocese					-	£86.00
Independent Examiner fee		£252.00			£252.00	£252.00
Total payments		<u>£63,763.26</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	-	<u>£63,763.26</u>	<u>£109,131.57</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<u>£4,454.80</u>	<u>£2,003.54</u>	<u>£0.79</u>	<u>£6,459.13</u>	<u>(£45,754.43)</u>

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2020	2020
Opening balances		£24,156.28	£2,194.18	£795.06	£27,145.52	£52,899.95
Movement above		£4,454.80	£2,003.54	£0.79	£6,459.13	(£45,754.43)
Contingency fund - Sale of shares						£20,000.00
Interest Balson Endowment Fund		£0.79		(£0.79)	-	-
Closing Balances		<u>£28,611.87</u>	<u>£4,197.72</u>	<u>£795.06</u>	<u>£33,604.65</u>	<u>£27,145.52</u>
Statement of Assets and Liabilities						
Cash Funds						
Current Account		£ 20,357.21			£20,357.21	£23,681.66
Less funds held on behalf of Fellowship		(£131.42)			(£131.42)	(£131.42)
Cash in Hand		£24.75			£24.75	£294.75
Fabric Fund			£617.44		£617.44	£565.82
Contingency Reserve Fund		£11,127.96			£11,127.96	£1,126.42
Balston Endowment Fund	2			£795.06	£795.06	£795.06
Vicar and Church Warden's Account		£813.65			£813.65	£813.23
		<u>£32,192.15</u>	<u>617.44</u>	<u>£795.06</u>	<u>£33,604.65</u>	<u>£27,145.52</u>
Gift Aid and GASDS recoverable		<u>£1,310.58</u>			<u>£1,310.58</u>	<u>£1,279.75</u>
Amount owed to The Children's Society		<u>(£15.10)</u>			<u>(£15.10)</u>	
Investment Assets at market value						
Assistant Clergy and Randall Mercer Funds			£76,898.25		£76,898.25	£67,274.35
Fabric Fund			£2,021.45		£2,021.45	£1,768.46
Contingency Reserve Fund		£2,583.25			£2,583.25	£2,259.95
	1	<u>£2,583.25</u>	<u>£78,919.70</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£81,502.95</u>	<u>£71,302.76</u>
Net Assets		<u>£36,070.88</u>	<u>£79,537.14</u>	<u>£795.06</u>	<u>£116,403.08</u>	<u>£99,728.03</u>

Approved by the PCC on 20 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Rev. C Lavender
PCC Chairman



Mrs Susan Willmott
PCC Treasurer

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.
- The Endowment fund has to be retained as a capital fund, but the income is for ordinary church purposes and is paid to the current account.
- Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

Receipts

- There were no legacies received in 2021 (2020 £200).

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
b) Collections for charities					
Advent for Justice Appeal		£50.00		£50.00	
The Children's Society Christingle		£15.10		£15.10	
	-	£65.10	-	£65.10	-
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
c) Interest					
Fabric Fund		£0.31		£0.31	£2.80
Contingency Reserve Fund	£1.54			£1.54	£37.89
Balston Endowment Fund			£0.79	£0.79	£4.42
Vicar and Church Warden's Account		£0.42		£0.42	£3.44
	£1.54	£0.73	£0.79	£3.06	£48.55
d) Dividends					
Assistant Clergy Fund & Randall Mercer		£1,951.50		£1,951.50	£1,884.53
Fabric Fund		£51.31		£51.31	£48.99
Contingency Reserve Fund	£65.56			£65.56	£501.02
	£65.56	£2,002.81	-	£2,068.37	£2,434.54
e) Miscellaneous income includes £12,002 Discretionary Grants from Maidstone Borough Council towards the loss of Hall Income suffered as a result of the loss of use of the building due to Government restrictions to limit the spread of the Coronavirus.					

Payments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
f) Mission giving and donations					
Maidstone Deanery - Waypoint					
Friends of Canterbury Cathedral	£25.00			£25.00	£25.00
Homeless Care	£800.00			£800.00	£500.00
Kent Workplace Mission	£100.00			£100.00	
Maidstone Street Pastors	£500.00			£500.00	£250.00
Church Army	£500.00			£500.00	£500.00
Princess Project	£350.00			£350.00	
Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter	£250.00			£250.00	
CAST	£500.00			£500.00	£250.00
CDBF Advent Justice Appeal	£150.00			£150.00	
Other				-	£63.24
	£3,175.00	-	-	£3,175.00	£1,588.24
g) Children's work					
This includes a refund of £492.50 paid in 2019 for a place on course in Godly Play in 2020 which was cancelled due to Covid-19.					
f) Repairs & Maintenance				2021	2020
Boiler	£2,370.00			£2,370.00	
Lighting	£863.64			£863.64	
Small hall ceiling collapse - Asbestos removal and replacement					£25,056.21
Repairs and Clearing to Roofs & Rainwater Goods					£2,946.66
Repairs to Prayer room following water Ingress					£5,407.89
Sundry					£136.88
	£3,233.64	-	-	£3,233.64	£33,547.64

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MAIDSTONE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

I report on the accounts of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2021, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities and related notes set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of members and examiner

The members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members consider that an audit is not required for this 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;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

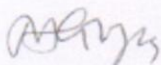
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement to show a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



61 London Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8TX

J A GRIGGS FCA
LEVICKS
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers

26 April 2022

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MAIDSTONE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

I report on the accounts of St. Paul's Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2021, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities and related notes set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of members and examiner

The members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members consider that an audit is not required for this 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;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement to show a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J A GRIGGS FCA
LEVICKS
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers

61 London Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8TX

26 April 2022

APCM 8 May 2022 Treasurer's Report

You have already been provided the accounts and the narrative in the Annual Report and unless there are any questions, I will do no more than to say 2021 was an easier year than 2020 as income exceeded expenditure by £6,459 (2020 expenditure exceeded income by £45,754).

Thankfully those who would normally bring their offering to church forwarded cheques or gave online during another year of disruption due Covid-19 restrictions. We are extremely grateful to all who give regularly and generously.

2022 will be a difficult year, we have seen a number of our congregation move away during the last two years and unless we grow our congregation and encourage giving generally, we face another year of potential decline. Whilst our Parish Share has reduced marginally for 2022, the cost of energy has been hit substantially by the world-wide increases as a result of the timing of the end of our previous contracts. Furthermore, we have to be mindful that our building is aging and the need for potentially substantial maintenance and repair costs is ever present.

We do however ask you to review your giving regularly.

I must thank Jan for looking after planned giving and gift aid recovery, Margaret for banking and assisting Tracey with hall users and Tracey for the work that she continues assisting Mark and Jenny keeping us and hall users Covid 19 secure as Government and Church of England Guidelines have changed and keeping us so well informed for services and the like I commend you to visit the website frequently. If you haven't done so recently you will be surprised by the wealth of information and its ease of use.

Susan Willmott