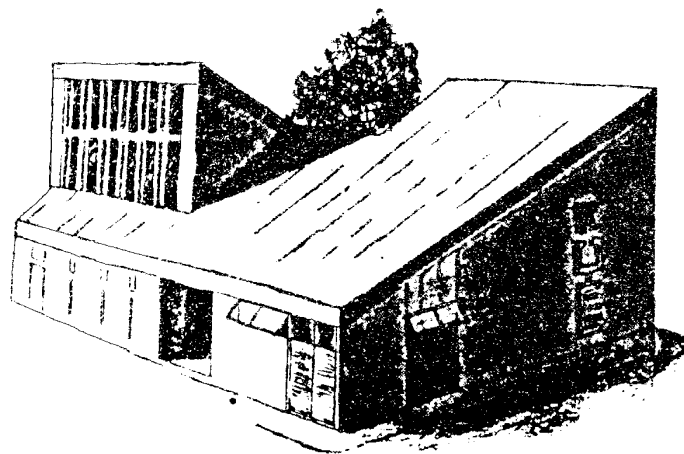


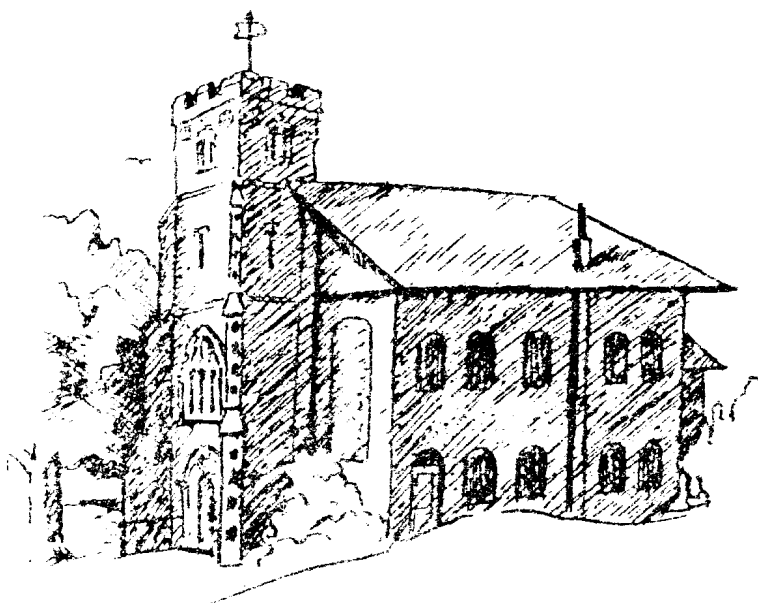
Parish of Rochester

St Peter with St Margaret



ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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1. Parish of Rochester Annual Report for 2021 - Introduction

Administrative Information

This report is for the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Rochester (the PCC), registered with the Charity Commission as charity number 1132260. The PCC is a body corporate, and the governing documents of the PCC are the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules 2017. This report covers the period from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

The Parish of Rochester is in the Church of England diocese of Rochester. The correspondence address is St Peter's Church Parish Centre, Delce Road, Rochester, ME1 2EH.

Aims, Objectives and Activities of the PCC

The PCC is responsible for working with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Joel Love, in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of churches and other properties in the parish, which are currently:

- The St Peter's Church Parish Centre, Delce Road, Rochester
- St. Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Street, Rochester
- The Matthews Memorial Hall, Castle Avenue, Rochester
- A residential property at Hathaway Court, The Esplanade, Rochester

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to enjoy full participation in the parish community. The PCC, through its committees and groups, maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions as to how our services can involve the any social groups that live within our parish.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to deliver the responsibilities of the PCC in our parish community through, amongst other things:

- Worship and prayer
- Teaching and learning about God
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and those involved with the church
- Mission and outreach work to our community and beyond
- Working with other churches
- Working with other community organisations for the benefit of the local area

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the buildings listed above. Please see all detailed reports in this annual report for information on how our activities are planned, managed and carried out.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At the Parish of Rochester, the PCC consists of the incumbent (the vicar), an ordinand, a Licenced Lay Minister, the two churchwardens elected at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, and two Deanery Synod representatives and nine ordinary members elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Three deputy churchwardens, and honorary treasurer and an honorary secretary are appointed by the PCC and may be co-opted to the PCC if they are not already elected members.

All those who attend our services or are otherwise involved in the life of the church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll.

PCC Members During 2021

Ex Officio Members (throughout 2021 unless otherwise noted)

The Reverend Dr Joel Love (Vicar)
The Reverend Ade Lawal (Associate Priest) July – October
Mr Peter Cornell (Churchwarden)
Mr Douglas Seth-Smith (Churchwarden)
Mrs Angela Cornell (Deanery Synod Representative)
Mr Michael O'Connor (Deanery Synod Representative)

Elected Members serving until April 2021

Mrs Lindsay Ward

Elected Members serving throughout 2021

Mr Aidan Dooley
Mrs Pam Moss (Deputy Churchwarden)
Mr Stuart Pearson (Deputy Churchwarden)
Mr David Porter
Mr John Portman (Deputy Churchwarden)
Mrs Bonnie Chandler
Mr Alex Sime

Elected Members serving from April 2021

Mrs Joy Wilson

2. Minutes Of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Held at St Peter's Church and on Zoom, on Sunday on Sunday 25th April 2021

Election of Officers

Churchwardens (Charity Trustees) for one year only

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Douglas Seth-Smith | Proposed by Pam Moss, Seconded by Jayne Pearson |
| 2. Peter Cornell | Proposed by Jayne Pearson, Seconded by Pam Moss |

Both carried unanimously.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held at St Peter's Church and on Zoom simultaneously
On Sunday 25th April 2021

1. **Apologies.** These were again waived this year due to the coronavirus pandemic as many people could not join either by person or by Zoom.

Present – in church

Rev Joel Love (chair), Monica Aldridge, Michael O'Connor, Douglas Seth -Smith, Christine Seth-Smith, Miriam Evans, Tina Evans, Corrigan McGuire, David Porter, John Portman, Joy Wilson, Aidan Dooley, Miriam Dooley, Peter Cornell, Angie Cornell.

Present – via Zoom

Julia Hawkins, Pam Moss, Alan Moss, Sally Bragg, Nicky Timlick, Avril Sime, Jayne Vousden, Bonnie Chandler, Mary Jeffreys, Rachel Pearce, Gordon Millar, Stuart Pearson, Jayne Pearson.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Election of PCC Members

Joy Wilson	Proposed by Monica Aldridge Seconded by Stuart Pearson
David Porter	Proposed by Jayne Pearson Seconded by Monica Aldridge
Aidan Dooley	Proposed by Peter Cornell Seconded by John Portman

5. Election of Independent Examiner

Michael O'Connor proposed that Rob Trice continue, seconded by Angie Cornell. Carried unanimously.

6. Reports

All reports were handed in on time, a very unusual occurrence.

Joel added to his report that there will be a memorial service later this year when it is safe to do so for all those who have died over the past year.

Pop-In. Pam, Margaret and Jacqui have decided not to continue to run Pop-In when things open up again. Joel gave a vote of thanks for her 30 years of dedicated service to running it. Julia asked that

we should give her some sort of recognition when we can, and Bonnie asked if people whose lives had been reached by Pop In could contribute to it. Avril offered to help in the future with Pop In.

Peter also thanked those who had been running Neighbours for 40 years, including the editorial team, those who helped with the Crease and those who delivered it. Joel also thanked the Safeguarding team – Nicky Timlick, Martin Bament and Kevin Holloway for their work.

Joel said that the PCC is doing a Called to Grow campaign where we can see how we can all help our community grow.

There are 74 people on the electoral roll, one more than last year.

7. A.O.B.

Pam Moss thanked Joel for all he has done over the last year under very difficult circumstances and thanked Jayne for keeping things going in the office.

Corrigan asked about the future of Neighbours but it was explained that this would be looked at in the future.

Christine asked about reading a list of names of those who had died, but these were not to hand and they will be read out at a later memorial service.

Date of next APCM

TBA – probably next April

The 20-minute meeting ended with The Grace.

3. Vicar's Report

2021 began with new variants of Covid-19 and a spike in funerals in January and February. In total, we took 18 funerals during the year, 4 of which took place in Church. There were two weddings and no baptisms. We held a memorial service in November for everyone who had died in the last three years. We used a grant from 2020 to train a number of volunteers in the Acorn Christian listening model and we hope to offer a listening service from early 2022, with a special focus on those who have been bereaved.

We were able to worship in Church throughout 2021, with numbers gradually increasing in line with our Covid risk assessments. We returned to the pattern of 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at St Peter's and 2nd and 4th Sundays at St Margaret's. It was a joy to hear the newly renovated organ at St Margaret's being played again. When the technology allowed, we livestreamed our Parish Eucharists on Zoom with people also being able to watch them on YouTube afterwards. A huge thank you to Michael and his team of volunteers for making this happen. Thank you also to Rachel Pearce for coordinating our daily prayer intentions and posting them on the WhatsApp group and to Pam Moss for her work behind the scenes with the prayer chain.

Alan Moss and John Noakes kept the website updated with weekly notices, sermons, and intercessions. Our services have been advertised through local magazine *It's the Biz*. Revd Joel created a parish Instagram account and a mailing list for sending out regular email updates using MailChimp. If you are not on this list, please let Joel know. Communication remains an issue for us as we look for new ways to connect with the thousands of people who live in our parish and let them know that they are invited to our many activities.

We tried several new initiatives in 2021:

- St Margaret's Community Weekend in July, including Shakespeare in the churchyard from Play on Words Theatre Company, an exhibition of local artists' work, and an open day with reflective walks and tower visits.
- Rochester Local Heroes in October, with over 70 nominations and an award ceremony at St Margaret's.
- Family Time & Toast as a way to reconnect with our young families. Ruth, Rachel, Bonnie, Derrick and others have helped to make this happen.
- 'Carols in the Carpark' at St Peter's on Christmas Eve.

Ruth Pyrke, our ordinand on placement, announced in November that she will be joining us as our curate from August 2022. We are thankful for the impact she has already had, and we look forward to her developing ministry among us.

In June, Joel was licensed as priest in charge of our neighbouring cluster parish of Borstal St Matthew, in addition to his role as vicar of Rochester St Peter & St Margaret. Revd Ade Lawal was licensed as associate vicar in July to work collaboratively with Joel. She was already well known across the cluster, and especially to the BCP congregation at St Margaret's. Unfortunately, Ade died at home on 14 October. Ade's ministry made a big impact and across the cluster and she is missed.

Covid continued to take its toll in 2021 and at Christmas Revd Joel tested positive. Thank you to everyone who stepped in to cover services and events, and a big apology for everything that had to be changed or cancelled at the last minute. On the plus side, we have welcomed new people at both Churches, and we are looking for opportunities to grow. Expect to hear a lot more about our Called to Grow vision and the Five Marks of Mission in 2022.

Revd Joel and several members of our congregation are involved with 'A Seat at the Table' which meets at Rochester Cathedral every other month. This is a worshipping community of explicit welcome for LGBTQIA+ people and allies and is in keeping with our parish values of welcome and inclusion, community, worship, and spiritual growth. Joel is also involved with the campaigning group Movement of Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church (MOSAIC) and was appointed by Bishop James as diocesan chaplain to the ongoing *Living in Love and Faith* process. In October Joel was elected to represent the diocese at the General Synod of the Church of England.

Revd Joel also gives his time to the Bishop's Certificate course which trains Licensed Lay Ministers (like Christine) at West Malling, and to the training and supervising of spiritual directors. In 2021, Joel led a film

quiet day at the centre for spirituality at 65 Maidstone Road in Chatham and also showed the film to some men from our congregation. Expect more film nights in 2022...!

A huge thank you to Jayne Pearson and Monica Aldridge for their ongoing technical and administrative support as well as the work they do behind the scenes, and their reliable friendly welcome. Also, to our Churchwardens and deputies, and Michael O'Connor our treasurer. Thanks also to Christine Seth Smith, Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff, Mark Ball, Neil Thompson, Alan Le Grys, and Helen Burn and Adam Pyrke from St Justus, all of whom have taken services for us in 2021.

Rev Joel Love

4. Churchwarden's report

When reflecting on this last year the first thing that came to mind was the joyful welcoming and so shortly afterwards the sad departure of Revd Ade Lawal. I had known Ade through work for a number of years before she started to support our church and subsequently join as Assistant Minister. She was always friendly, supportive and dedicated and had the most infectious laugh. May she rest in peace. We will miss her.

It has been another year of dealing with the pandemic and all that that has thrown at us, but it has been a joy to be able to return to church to worship in person. It is especially good to see Family Time back so thank you to all those involved in making that happen. I feel for those who have not been able for whatever reason to come to the services and hope that we will be seeing you again very soon. I am so glad that we have had the ability to stream our services to reach some of those who have remained at home but appreciate that there are still some who have continued to miss being together for worship and fellowship.

The worst of the pandemic is, it would seem, behind us but it has been an unpredictable virus and we sadly cannot be certain it will not return. We must therefore continue to pray that the amazing work the scientists have done with vaccines will be enough to keep the worst of the effects at bay and enable us to return to something like our normal ways.

Thank you to the Churchwarden team for their continued dedication and hard work and to the Welcomers for managing under difficult circumstances. Thank you also to all those who keep the church going, the tea makers, those who clean and tidy, the flower arrangers, Derrick our Caretaker, Mary for the music, Jayne for all the administration work, Michael for keeping our finances in order, and to the committee members whose work is seldom seen but is vital. It takes many people with a variety of talents to make our church what it is so please. whatever *your* talent please consider using it to help the running of your church.

We are all of course indebted to Joel and Christine as our Licenced Ministers for all the work that they do and to all those who help and support us by stepping in to lead services. We look forward to welcoming Ruth as our Curate later this year after enjoying her talents and enthusiasm during her placement with us.

Finally, thank you for being part of God's family and part of our family. I pray that you all continue to live your lives in the joy of Christ and be a witness to His love for us all.

Peter Cornell

5. Treasurer's Report

Financial Review

The cash balance on the general account at the beginning of the period was £15,685. Total receipts on unrestricted funds (excluding income from the Listed Places of Worship scheme which was recovering VAT on expenditure on the organ refurbishment at St Margaret's) amounted to £72,107 (down £6,236 from 2020 and £31,231 or 30% from 2019). Gift aid recovered accounted for £5,755 (down from £7,242 in 2020). The freehold property at Hathaway Court which the PCC lets to private tenants provided a gross income of £14,461 over the year which is at the upper end of the range of income expectation.

A total of £79,390 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry in the parish, in all its forms. This included a parish offer to the diocese of £35,000 (down from £47,206 in 2020). The parish offer provides for (amongst other things) stipends, housing and training for the clergy, and funding of diocesan

activities (including a contribution to the national Anglican Church). The cash balance on the general account at the end of the period was £7,013.

During 2021 the PCC received the Independent Examiner's management letter for 2020 and this contained no reservations about the state or management of the parish finances.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted reserve funds which equates to at least six months unrestricted payments during a typical year, which is approximately £65,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

In 2021, £10,000 was spend from reserves to fund the deficit created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and a similar value is forecast for 2022. It is clear that if income does not return to normal levels this can only be sustained for a short while before significant restructuring will be needed.

Conclusions

The parish finances in 2021 continued to be negatively affected by the pandemic. For a second year, fundraising events were severely restricted. The overall deficit in 2021 was £18,672, of which £10,000 was funded from reserves and the remainder from the general account.

The PCC chose to set a deficit budget for 2021, to retain the employments of the parish's three part time staff and to provide a parish offer of £35,000 to help the Diocese of Rochester with its budgetary challenges. This approach is not sustainable in the longer term in the absence of a recovery in income.

We continue to be most grateful for all donations received, but particularly for regular giving by standing order and other regular giving schemes because this provides a firm basis for financial planning. In addition, the Friends of the Churches of St Margaret of Antioch & St Peter provide continuing support, without which we would not be able to fund major projects, for example the restoration of the organ at St Margaret's.

There are signs of recovery, and several of our usual hall and church hirers have returned to normal activities and we look forward to a better year in 2022 when we hope to resume many activities which not only raise funds but also of themselves form part of the mission of the Church. If you are able, please support these events however you can, with time, money, effort and ideas.

Michael O'Connor

6. PCC Secretary Report

January

Our PCC meetings continued to be held on Zoom.

The 2021 budget was approved by the PCC. It was proposed that we sell the Matthew Memorial Hall as it costs more for its upkeep than revenue. There are many hurdles to face but this will be put in motion. Bishop James granted a dispensation regarding services and Holy Communion until 17th February but we will ask him to extend it until 28th March inclusive (Palm Sunday).

We will be doing a Zoom Lent course.

It was brought to our attention that St Peter's School had won the Medway district award for best home school literacy initiative, so a letter of congratulations from the PCC was sent to the school.

March

A letter was sent to Meronden Designs regarding the glass at St Margaret's.

The organ refurbishment is going to plan.

It was proposed that church re-opens on Easter day, which is the end of the extension of the Bishop's dispensation, with a maximum of 12 people in the congregation, and to be reviewed in May. Masks, hand sanitisers, track and trace and social distancing all to be observed. The services will continue to be put out on Zoom and You Tube.

Pam and Alan asked for help with cleaning the brass ready for Easter.

May

It was decided to send reminders to Meronden and also a letter to the diocese regarding the Goodwin legacy. It was agreed that numbers at church should be raised from 12 to 30, to be reviewed on 21st June, and a Bring and Share lunch at St Peter's for the patronal festival there, and an open day at St Margaret's for that patronal festival.

The hall will be available for hirers as from the end of July, and the Dementia café will recommence in July. Hirers will each have to do their own risk assessments.

It was agreed that we send a donation for Bishop James's retirement gift.

July

A final letter will be sent to Meronden as their response was not satisfactory. Numbers for church services will remain the same, as will the wearing of masks etc. This will be reviewed in September. Ade will be our assistant priest. Ruth Pyrke has been offered the position of curacy with us when she has finished her training.

We will be holding an awards ceremony in October in conjunction with The Biz for people nominated for helping people out over the last year.

September

Safeguarding training will begin again in October.

The organ work has been paid for and we have applied for a grant for video and audio equipment. Social distancing will be eased a little for services and we will resume the normal custom of having services at St Margaret's on 2nd and 4th Sundays and numbers will be increased to 60. As usual any changes will be discussed at the Standing Committee. Services will continue to be live streamed. Richard Coyle has stood down from Mission and Outreach and for the moment this is now under the umbrella of the PCC.

We will be having a Family Time "breakfast" service on the first Sunday of the month at St Peter's. It was decided to go ahead with the Toy Service (online donations again), the Carol Service and Midnight Mass.

November

Joel was absent from this meeting as he was attending the General Synod.

Lay assistants will be re-licensed.

It was decided that up to 80 people could attend services, with up to 150 at the Carol service which will be ticketed, and also Midnight Mass. Masks are still recommended, and Track and Trace will continue. Refreshments after services will recommence next week.

Douglas is getting information about getting the monuments at St Margaret's repaired.

Ruth Pyrke has agreed to have her curacy with us.

General Information. Covid safety was discussed at every PCC meeting regarding the wearing of masks, social distancing, track and trace recording etc for the safety of everyone, especially the vulnerable.

Monica Aldridge

7. Deanery Synod Representatives' Report

In 2021, there were two meetings of the Rochester Deanery Synod.

In the May 4th meeting:

Training Opportunities for Recovery Phase: Within the three Deaneries we have run training courses together before and this was discussed. In Rochester Deanery a course called The Wellbeing Journey was running currently which included eight groups from four churches.

St. John's Chatham: A video tour of the work that has been undertaken at St. John's and this was shared with everyone.

March Diocesan Synod Feedback: There was a report on the Called Together strategic review. Bishop Simon and his team are reviewing this, and their re-focussed priority is 5 Marks of Mission: Enabling, Helping, Supporting, Energising and Protecting. The national Church of England strapline is "Simpler, humbler, bolder". There was a discussion on a covenant for clergy care and wellbeing. Each Diocesan Synod will pass a motion and adopt a covenant. There was a Diocesan finance update and, as expected, the finances continue to experience a downturn. The Vacancy in See was discussed and there will probably not be a new bishop in place until the summer of 2022. There was a Safeguarding update - as a result of the IICSA report there will be an emphasis on listening more to victims. The Bishop's lead of Safeguarding will become a 3 yearly rotating post held by the Archdeacons.

Taste and See: This is a Deanery Mission event that was agreed ages ago and planned for October 2020 but has been on hold during the pandemic.

In the 20th October meeting:

- Claire Boxall to talked about the latest developments in Called Together.
- Some time was spent in small groups, sharing ideas, hopes and prayers
- New standing committee members were elected
- Updates were given on the General Synod and Diocesan Synod
- A further update was provided on progress with building work at St. John's, where, in summary, much work has been done, but much remains to be done.

Michael O'Connor

8. Cluster Report

The Cluster and Without Walls committees have been meeting every 2 months during the last year initially via Zoom but since September in person (finally!!)

Our usual agenda is to discuss events, issues and areas where we might mutually support each other so that we can continue to maintain the close relationship between our congregations and leadership. Although some activities including cluster wide Dementia work have been somewhat curtailed these are now beginning to open up again and there have been some fantastic online courses over recent months including ones relating to Wellbeing, Living in Love and Faith, Science and Faith, Bible course and others.

Without Walls has still managed to support a couple of trips run by Emma Gates for underprivileged families and we are very grateful to Aidan and Miriam for providing a number of free tickets to their Christmas show.

Without Walls raises money from various fund-raising bodies to support specific projects so if you do have some thoughts regarding an event, some equipment or other idea that might need some backing then please don't hesitate to discuss this with myself, Joel or Jo.

Gary Ward

9. Churches Together In Medway

Churches Together in Medway have had a relatively quiet couple of years due to the pandemic restricting gatherings, but a lot has still been going on behind the scenes. Church Leaders Breakfasts are now back on as are the Leaders Prayer meetings. The regular and popular Saints Alive was held as an open meeting and attracted a good crowd, for the first time this was not held in the Cathedral because of the increasing costs. The Christmas Connect Event at the KICC also went ahead with support from CTIM.

Peter Cornell

10. Walsum Partnership

The 'big group' visit from Walsum (originally scheduled for April 2020) was postponed again. It is not clear when or if this will happen in the way we were accustomed to in pre-Covid times.

Similarly, the 'small group' retreat did not happen in 2020 or 2021. Instead, members from both Rochester and Walsum have been meeting online for evening prayer and conversation on a monthly basis.

There have been several changes of personnel in Walsum Aldenrade: Pastors Austen & Ulla have retired but remain involved, while Pastor Sabine Gradtke has retired and moved away. A new pastor called Sabine Roeser-Blase has joined Andreas Mann and the two of them have been sending out weekly reflections by email throughout the pandemic.

It is unclear when and how the link will re-emerge post Covid. Revd Joel is in contact with Andreas about this.

Rev Joel Love

11. Buildings Report

Our two Church buildings continue to be used for worship and other activities when Covid rules have allowed this to happen. However, regular working parties have not been possible for most of the pandemic. The brass in both churches has been cleaned periodically by kind volunteers but we would be *most grateful* for more people to join in with this.

Routine replacement of light bulbs and emergency lights has been ongoing to comply with safety regulations, and outside firms have contracts to maintain the gas, fire extinguisher, kitchen and communication services.

The heating has been used less in both churches during to the pandemic which has saved significantly on energy bills. Thank you to everyone for dressing up warmly!

St Peter`s Church

A faulty toilet cistern was replaced, and the heating system needed a couple of 'call outs' to replace a 3-amp fuse which intermittently fails.

Car park access was needed to reach the new flats behind the church so that a large crane could fit steel balconies onto the building. The weight of the crane dislodged some paving slabs and opened up a very large hole in the car park as it uncovered old church workings. The crane contractors made good this hole and fitted new slabs and surface to make our car park better than before, at no cost to the Church!

The sheds in the garden have had some felt replaced which had been stripped away by winter gales. The trees at the front have been pollarded to prevent any damage to our buildings.

St Margaret`s Church

The refurbishment of our magnificent organ was undertaken when the Church was out use due to the pandemic. This is now nearly completed apart from minor electrical works, waiting for specialist new parts but still able to fully function.

It is such a joy to have the organ working so well and it must be one of the finest in the local area.

The audio amplifier has been repaired to a workable state, but we still need to sort out the link to the hearing aid loop.

The toilet hand basin (which was previously wobbly) has been fixed more securely to the wall.

The outside security light has been replaced due to the sensor failing.

The lychgate seat woodwork has been more effectively secured to the wall, and the notice boards have had new acrylic panels fitted as they had deteriorated with the sunlight.

Matthews Memorial Hall

This building is no longer used by the Church, and we are awaiting permission from the Diocese to proceed with its sale. Meanwhile the electricity supply has been disconnected.

67 Hathaway Court

This continues to be occupied by a tenant and is providing a regular income for our Parish.

Douglas Seth-Smith

12. Congregational Giving Mission and Outreach

Date	Event/Beneficiary	Donations
September	Ride & Stride	£400.00 (50% each to Friends of Kent Churches and The Parish of Rochester)
Harvest	Medway Foodbank	£117.40 plus online donations
November	Royal British Legion	£30.00
December	Toy Service	£120.00 to The Children & Family Hub
And online donations to the All Saints Community Project		
	Christingle	£148.85 for the Childrens Society

Jayne Pearson

13. Pastoral Care and Community Vision report.

This last year has seen the church unable to open its doors to the local community to any great extent due to Covid restrictions for most of the year. It did however hold a successful and enjoyable Christmas Bazaar in November for the Friday evening only. The event raised some funds for the church but was also like a breath of fresh air after times of restrictions. We have seen the return of the Tuesday Coffee shop as well. The Dementia café has also returned as have the Singing for the Memory sessions.

Pastoral Care has not been arranged in any formal way. Members of the congregation have continued to support each other and people on the peripheries of our community in various ways. Home communion has been given where appropriate. We have recently run the Acorn Listening course and are now working with a small team of volunteers to build a listening service. With the lifting of restrictions and fall of infection rates we will hopefully be able to see where our support can be most appropriately used.

Angie Cornell

14. Electoral Roll Report

As at the 31st December 2021 there were 73 people on the Electoral Roll.

48 were resident in the Parish and 25 were non-resident. Changes occur when people move into the Parish, get married, die, choose to worship elsewhere or move away. It should be noted that every six years each parish is required to prepare a new electoral roll when those who habitually attend public worship in this Parish had to reapply to have their names entered onto the roll.

Jayne Pearson

15. Supporting older people and people living with Dementia.

The Parish of Rochester continues to provide valuable services to support older people and those living with dementia and their carers and supporters within our local community and further afield. Most of these services had to be cancelled because of the covid pandemic in March 2020 but were able to restart in the autumn of 2021

The Rochester Dementia Memory Café. The Rochester Dementia Memory Café has been running since November 2015. It is normally held in the Parish Centre on the 4th Friday of each month. During the pandemic contact was maintained with most of those registered with the Cafe with the monthly online Zoom Cafe Chat. This continued until the actual Cafe restarted in July.

The Cafe welcomes people living with dementia and their Carers as well as those with disabilities or who have become isolated. It is recognised in Medway as a valuable community service and is much appreciated. It is supported by Medical and Care professionals. Users confirm that they gain much from attending as it provides a friendly social occasion where both the person with dementia and the carer or friend can relax, exchange experiences. Advice and information are offered, and refreshments are served. We are fortunate in having many experienced and committed volunteers who welcome and support each person attending. Attendance is lower than it used to be before the pandemic but is slowly increasing

The Rochester Carers Group. The Carers Group is a service for all Carers. It is run in partnership with Carers First who are represented at most of the meetings. These are held in the morning of the 2nd Tuesday of each month within the Tuesday Coffee Shop. It provides information, guidance, support and social contact to the Carer. The group offers to support the person being cared who can also be brought along to be looked after by a volunteer.

Singing for the Memory Medway. This group is run on the second Friday of each month and restarted in September. It is for people with dementia and other cognitive impairments, their carers, and their friends. Sessions are led by experienced singers and folders with the words for more than 30 songs are provided. Refreshments are served during an interval.

Dementia Gardening Group. The gardening group for people living with dementia and their carers/supporters meets every Friday morning in the gardens of Eastgate House, Rochester. It is arranged in partnership with the Adult Education Department with the support of a gardening tutor and is led by 2 volunteers. Gardening tools and equipment are provided. The group maintains the Dementia Sensory Garden as well as working in other parts of the gardens at Eastgate House.

Create Well Medway. Summer activities led by Music4Wellbeing. It is planned that we will be holding activities in 2022 on the third Friday of each month.

Funding and support. The Zoom account held by the parish dementia team, the reprinting of the leaflets for the cafe and the carers group, and the printing of the song sheets for the Singing Group have all been funded from the Frankie Kember Fund administered the Rotary Club of Rochester. Donations from participants in the Cafe cover the small charge hire charge made for the use of the Parish Centre.

John Portman

16. Dementia Friendly Worship and Anna Chaplaincy

Dementia Friendly Worship, which is a Cluster event, restarted in October 2021 during the later stages of the Covid pandemic. However, the venue has changed as we are now holding the services at *St Justus Church* on the second *Tuesday* of each month at 2.30pm. The hall at St Peter's was required for hire by a group requesting use of our facilities every Monday afternoon, so the day has also been changed.

We have settled in happily at St Justus and the elderly people who attend are very pleased to be with us again. The services are taken on a rota basis with St Justus and St Matthew's, but we all support one another. It is a combined team effort which works well. Having had the three services in October, November and December we then had to cancel in January and February 2022 because of concern with the Omicron variant. We plan to restart in March.

To our great delight, we now have a keyboard player for the services, who is himself living with dementia. He is a blessing to us all, and on a good day we are treated to some jazz after the service during tea and cakes!

As an Anna Chaplain I attend four hub meetings each year led by Julia Burton-Jones. These are either on zoom or we meet at different churches in the Medway area. We are able to feed back on what is happening locally and share ideas.

I liaise with local care homes on a regular basis, visiting when possible and keeping them up to date with Dementia Friendly Worship and other linked activities.

It has been a great joy and privilege to be able to visit people who are housebound and take them Home Communion. They are always very appreciative of this, and their insights and wisdom are of value to us all.

Christine Seth-Smith (Anna Chaplain)

17. Caretaking

Due to the covid lockdown and restrictions the year 2021 has been very quiet in respect of church hiring and letting. However routine maintenance was carried out on an as and when basis with the carpark being cleared of weeds and undergrowth late in the year. Nothing special is planned for the coming year.

Derrick Solly

18. Catering

Due to the covid pandemic there were no events held which required any catering. We look forward to more normal service during 2022.

Pat Price

19. Eco Church

Eco Church has gathered momentum in the past year with many different activities. During the autumn and winter months (2020/21) a number of volunteers had kindly grown seeds ready to plant in the wildflower meadow at St Margaret's which we duly did on Saturday 17th April. Four families with young children came to lend a hand which was brilliant. The churchyard is maintained by Medway Council, and we liaise with Norse regarding the grass cutting so as to protect the wildflower meadow. Norse is very co-operative and supportive of what we are doing!

At the end of May, FoRCE (Friends of Rochester Churchfields and Esplanade) organised a Litter Pick and gardening activities starting from Backfields (or Churchfields). Some of our congregation joined in with this, thus representing Eco Church.

A national survey of churchyards, called 'Churches Count on Nature' asked churches if they would use the week between Saturday 5th and Sunday 13th June as a springboard to start recording the wildlife within our churchyards. We met at St Peter's Church on 5th June (which was also World Environment Day) and also on 12th June at St Margaret's. The data collected has been sent off to 'Caring for God's Acre', including Sue

Poyser's superb and detailed spreadsheet of plants in our wildflower meadow, carried out on 2nd June. The total number of plants identified was 92 – an increase of 21 since Sue's first list of species in August 2020. Half a dozen people attended the count at St Peter's, and there was an excellent turnout of 17 at St Margaret's the following Saturday. We were extremely grateful to them all.

On Saturday 19th June the inspirational parents and young children built a second bug hotel – this time next to the far wall at St Margaret's, using natural materials.

The St Margaret's patronal festival was held on Sunday 25th July. As well as organ playing and teas, there were reflective walks around the wildflower meadow and churchyard with stopping points at the lych gate, the tower and church, and the yew trees. There were passages of scripture for reflection, snippets of history and short prayers and it proved a very peaceful, thought-provoking activity.

In line with the Church of England we held a Climate Sunday service on September 5th at St Peter's. It was an all-age, non-Eucharistic service with the children taking part with readings, prayers and posters made beforehand now on display at St Peter's Church.

I am happy to report that the Parish of Rochester has now achieved the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award as we have fulfilled the relevant criteria for this. It is very exciting, and we now need to set our sights on the Silver Award!

Christine Seth-Smith

20. Steeple Keeper's Report

This year I am pleased to report that the bells and ropes have continued to be in good order. My duties as Steeple Keeper have been lighter than normal due to the continuing Covid pandemic. However, I was able to put the muffles on for Remembrance Sunday in November (2021), and the ringers and visiting bands are starting to return to a more normal pattern with the bells having more use.

Douglas Seth-Smith

21. Bellringing

Bellringing continued to be paused for most of 2021 due to the Covid pandemic while we completed formal recruitment of bellringing volunteers and safeguarding disclosure for members. This was completed in August, and I also completed the safeguarding for leadership course in October. We returned to ringing practice on Friday evenings in August. Practice evenings have been well attended by ringers from surrounding towers. We have focused on relearning bell handling, call changes, plain hunt and the simpler methods like Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

We returned to Sunday Service ringing at St Margaret's in November, but we are struggling to get six ringers because several members of the home band have not yet returned to ringing following the pandemic. This makes it difficult to ring anything very musical, but thanks must go to Alan, Sian, Phil and Doug for continuing to support service ringing. We have rung for a couple of weddings, there have been a few visiting bands, and we also rang for the Christmas Carol service.

Derna Brown

22. Parish Buildings Development Group

Plans for the development of the Parish Centre, including the sale of the Matthews Memorial Hall, have been largely on hold during the pandemic and will remain so until we can get a sense of the Parish's long-term requirements in the post-pandemic world. Already it has become clear that some radical re-thinking of our plans may be necessary to take account of: -

a) post-pandemic changes in social and economic circumstances leading to changed requirements in the future use of our buildings by the church and by the wider community; and

b) the urgent need to make our buildings more compliant with modern heating and insulation standards, a task which would involve major and expensive interventions in the existing Parish Centre building.

During the year covered by this report Rev Joel has engaged with the Diocese in some informal discussions with these thoughts in mind. Following those discussions, the Development Group has begun looking at a different approach which would involve the replacement of the Parish Centre building and the vicarage, with a multi-storey building comprising a new church with community facilities, and residential accommodation in the form of apartments. Such a scheme would also still involve the sale of the Matthews Memorial Hall site.

A meeting was held at St Peter's on 23 November between members of the Development Group and representatives of the Diocese and a potential developer, Spacelab. Spacelab have experience in developing schemes of this sort and currently are in the process of preparing a report on their findings, including the financial viability of such a project. It is envisaged that, if it went ahead, the developer would fund the work and reap financial benefit by the sale or lease of the apartments.

Clearly such a radical new approach would need very careful consideration by the Development Group, the PCC, the Diocese and the local planning authority, before the project could move in that direction.

A further report will be made to the PCC when the Development Group have heard from Spacelab and the Diocese.

Alan Moss

23. Family Ministry

Although it has been a year full of change and disruption, there is much to be thankful for. Family ministry at St Peter's & St Margaret's has maintained some contact through the lockdown period through various events and is strengthened each month through our newly deployed Family Time and Toast monthly Sunday school.

24. Pancake day 2021

We had the pleasure of hosting a well-attended zoom party across the cluster to explore what pancake day means and why we celebrate it. Some of our Family Time children and people from the wider church family took a leading role in presenting a video and then interacting with questions which made everyone feel included and informed.

25. Easter Walk

There was an Easter Walk adopted from Scripture Union resources placing checkpoints around the parish which encouraged families to engage with the Easter story through downloading links at each point.

26. Family Time and Toast

We have had a wonderful start to our freshly deployed Family Time, family Sunday school which takes place the 1st Sunday of each month during term time. There has been an average of 5- 7 families in attendance each week and we have been exploring the same scriptures as the wider church through the lectionary. We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers who have expressed their interest in continuing this ministry and we give thanks to God for them.

Thanks to a joint bid with our cluster churches, we have been awarded family bibles for each family and will give them out in March along with a Lent Family Time bible plan for families to engage with.

We seek to continue the current pattern and review it at the end of this academic year to see if any adjustments or increases need to be made. Our hope is also to integrate Eco Church elements again in Family Time and will pursue this in the coming months.

Every blessing

Ruth Pyrke

27. Flowers in Our Churches

As the use of our churches has been more limited during the last year, we have had less opportunity to decorate them. We have also generally done more modest arrangements. We have been privileged to do arrangements for the funerals of some much-loved parishioners honouring their loyal service and faith. We were pleased to do arrangements for such special occasions as Remembrance Sunday. We greatly enjoyed decorating our churches for Christmas and welcomed the extra help we received. It was very heartening to see the festive results after some of the dark times we have all experienced in the past year.

We hope to have many more chances over the next year to use flowers to enhance our worship and to thank God for Nature's gifts.

28. Julia Hawkins and Lindsey Ward.

Gardening

A lot has been happening in the gardens this year; the front and back grass has been mown regularly thanks to Gordon and Stuart.

From late Summer onwards Jayne and I met every Monday to cut back the overgrown shrubs, clear weeds and the overhanging branches in the car park. We also tidied up Nigel's Memorial Garden and pruned all the roses. The result being a much tidier garden and car park. I cannot thank Jayne enough for all the work she put in over this period, I could never have done this by myself.

You will also have noticed that the trees and large bushes in the front garden have been pollarded.

We aim to continue our 'garden rescue' in 2022.

Pat Price

29. Stewardship Report

Thank you to **ALL** who give to the Parish in any way; financial or with their time and talents and often, all three!

- In 2021 we had 41 individuals/couples who had signed up to regular planned giving via a monthly or quarterly standing order.
- 30 of these signed a Gift Aid declaration.

As there were now just a handful of people who made their donations via the envelope scheme it would not have been cost effective to continue to have the boxes of envelopes printed. People were therefore asked to make their donations via a monthly standing order instead.

In 2021 we successfully reclaimed tax paid by members of this congregation totaling just over £5754. This is effectively free money for The Parish, and I would ask that if you are a taxpayer in any way, that you consider signing a Gift Aid declaration.

As always, I would respectfully ask that you review your giving to the Parish throughout the year and if you haven't already done so consider making regular donations to the parish via a monthly standing order.

Once again, thank you for your continuing support. It is very much appreciated.

The Responsibility Is Ours!

Jayne Pearson

For more information about making a regular contribution, setting up a standing order or signing up to gift aid, please contact me in the Parish office: office@parishofrochester.org.uk or phone 01634 848900.

30. Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry team, like much within our church community has had to put its work on hold for most of this last year. We met online over the summer months to pray for people and situations that needed prayer support. Thankfully, with the ability for our congregation to return to church we are now able to provide prayer ministry after the services.

Angie Cornell

31. St Margaret's at Troy Town School (SMaTT)

Collective worship has been online for part of the year but also in person in the school hall. Joel and Ruth have led collective worship and spoken to individual classes both in school and at St Margaret's Church. Several services and events had to be cancelled in December due to the aggressiveness of the Omicron variant.

Revd Joel continues to serve on the Local Governing Body of the school, where he takes a lead on wellbeing, whistleblowing, and the SIAMS agenda. (SIAMS is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This includes RE, worship, governance, behaviour, and standards. SMaTT is due to have a SIAMS inspection soon. Joel was also called into school to help when an Ofsted inspector came on 1 December. The school has appointed a new headteacher (from January 2022) who is keen to keep working with us. There is a noticeboard for parish notices and the school office is happy to forward communications from us to all SMaTT parents.

32. Other schools

In addition to SMaTT, Revd Joel is involved at the Pilgrim School in Borstal parish, which is part of the same multi-academy trust as SMaTT. Within the parish of Rochester, Joel also leads collective worship at St Peter's Infants' School and St Andrew's School. He visits Trinity School and preaches several times a year to the King's School. Our very own Mary Jeffreys is a school governor at the Pilgrim School and children from our Church community go to a number of other local schools.

Rev Joel Love

33. Servers

Due to the pandemic, we have not had servers at any of the services.

34. IT Report

Once again, this year IT has played an important role in maintaining communication with members of the congregation and the Parish. Notices, prayers, intercessions, readings and even the sermon are sent out weekly by email and stored on the website before the service to allow those physically or virtually attending the services and those that can't make them at all to at least have these to read at home and also to keep for future reference.

Services are still being shown live on both Zoom and YouTube, barring the occasional technical issues! With St Margaret's also now hosting services, Michael has installed some new equipment there including controllable cameras allowing for a skilled operator (currently Michael!) to focus on different parts of the service when required! Unfortunately, at the time of writing a safeguarding issue that has to be addressed has temporarily halted these recordings.

Facebook is still being used successfully to promote church events. I noted that a post advertising "Carols in the car park" was read by 135 people.

The church WhatsApp group has 46 members and is used daily to request and offer support and often... just for fun! Over 1700 messages have now been posted. We are particularly grateful to Rachel who takes the time every morning to thoughtfully suggest a subject for prayer that day.

Web Stats!

In the last year we have had...

31 Daily average page views.

Most popular pages were the Who's Who/Notices and Contacts pages.

Most searches came from Google

During the week beginning 5th February:

93% of visitors to the site came from the UK but seemingly from all over and not just Medway.

Repeat visits can be seen from Aberdeen, Balham, Birmingham, Bradford, Liverpool, Manchester, Spalding and several others just over this last week.

2% were from the US.

85% found the site using a search engine and 12% went directly to the site and over 50% of visitors used a mobile device rather than a PC or laptop.

Website: www.parishofrochester.org.uk

E Mail: office@parishofrochester.org.uk

Parish Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfRochester>

Cluster Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterClusterOfChurches>

Family Time: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/268342923346343/>

Without Walls Trips: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/479217192446841/?ref=share>

Cluster Partners:

St Justus: <https://www.stjustus.org/>

St Matthews: <https://stmatthewsborstal.com/>

Gary Ward

35. Music Report

The big news is that St Margaret's organ is now finished and back in use! There are one or two tuning problems with the Horn and Oboe pipes but, hopefully, these will be sorted out soon. In the meantime, it's usable on a Sunday and we are enjoying some good organ music from James and Andrew on the second and fourth Sundays.

We have, so far, been singing just two hymns on a Sunday at 10.30. By the time you read this, we shall be doing three hymns and a Gloria. During Lent, we shall change to three hymns and the Sanctus/Benedictus (no Gloria in Lent of course), gradually returning to the normal pattern from Easter.

Some of you will know that Rev Neil is a prolific hymn writer. He has given permission for us to use the material on his website and to include hymns and Glorias in booklets for the Parish.

I hope everyone enjoyed the opportunity to have an in-person carol service at Christmas even if it was somewhat different from our usual format because we had shortened versions of all the items. We did this so that we could include as many carols as possible.

Plans are now being made to have a music group playing at 10.30 on the first Sunday in the month. This will start regularly in September but there will be a first outing on 5 June.

Mary Jeffreys

36. Refreshments After Services

We did not have any refreshments after services until mid-November, so we are just getting back into the swing of things. We do not serve many cups of tea and coffee, but people are really happy to be able to stay after the service and chat. My thanks go to Angie Cornell, Avril Sime and Joy Wilson for their valued help in this.

Monica Aldridge

37. Welcomers

Our Welcoming team was on furlough during lockdown, then we were delighted to return to welcome the congregation back to church on Easter Sunday. Our duties remain the same as last year, mostly taking names and contact details when welcoming people into church for Track and Trace. These details are kept securely and privately in the safe for three weeks and then shredded.

Hymn books, service booklets and pew sheets are put out ready for the congregation to collect on entry. My thanks again go to Mark Pearce, Derrick Solly, John Portman, and our newest recruit, Joy Wilson.

Monica Aldridge

38. Safeguarding Report

Since the last APCM there have been no significant issues to resolve. However, we were made aware of one individual who was a matter of concern.

Safeguarding Risk Assessments

Safeguarding assessments have been done for most activities within the parish. This is ongoing as new activities and situations occur.

Safer Recruitment

Most of the safer recruitment procedures have been completed with only a few issues remaining. We asked people who only volunteer once a year at the bazaar to fill in a self-declaration form. This was a proportionate measure in these circumstances. Remember if you decide to volunteer regularly, then safer recruitment and training must take place.

Training

All but one current volunteer has undertaken the necessary initial training required and that is under review. However, many parish members will need to complete their courses again, as the three-year update is due. I will be writing to those of you who need to complete this. The good news is, that you only have to undertake the highest-level training that you need.

Recent devastating news about children who have been abused and have tragically died at the hands of those who should have been caring for them, and trials about sexual exploitation perpetrated by the rich and powerful, should serve to remind us that abuse can happen in every stratum of society. We therefore, must remain alert and undertake training to help us to know when there are causes for concern and how to report them.

In the summer, Joel and I undertook face to face training for people who were unable to access online training. This was quite successful, and participants were, to their own surprise, engaged in the process. This was open to anyone in the cluster. I also helped High Halstow Parish PSO with their face-to-face training.

General Issues

I have attended Zoom meetings with my fellow PSOs led by the diocese team and the meetings have been very useful. An issue that came out of the last meeting was about filming and photography in church, as the services are in the public domain and on YouTube. There will be more information on this in the coming months. The diocese has produced something called a Safeguarding Dashboard which will need to be updated by the team to self-assess what progress we are making and any areas that need further work.

I would like to thank Kevin Holloway (safeguarding vulnerable adults), Martin Bament (safer recruiting) and Joel Love for all their diligence and hard work this year. There is always more to do, and we must never be complacent but with your help and cooperation we will continue to move forward.

Nicky Timlick

Parish Safeguarding Officer (safeguarding children and young people)

Safeguarding adults

The Parish Safeguarding team held its first meeting on 9th June 2021 after a long absence due to the Covid pandemic of 2020-2021. The training needs were assessed relating to volunteers who have gone through the safer recruitment process, and it was agreed that those who have not adhered to the training requirements thus far pertaining to their role should do so as soon as practicable. Another important development regarding safeguarding training was that it will be delivered face to face in September for those who may have felt uncomfortable via the online training resource. It is important to remember that safeguarding is essential if an organisation has at its heart children and/or vulnerable adults using its services and as a consequence, strict safeguarding policies should be in place. Every individual should have the right to live their lives without the fear of harm, irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity and religion. It is worth remembering there are many types of abuse, sick people for example are open to neglect as they're unable to take care of themselves, mentally disabled people can be manipulated into doing things their disability inhibits them from refusing, and the elderly have memory issues which again makes them susceptible to abuse and manipulation. Safeguarding is therefore important to ensure abuse and neglect is not being missed and also to ensure safe practices are being employed to protect those who may be deemed vulnerable, and indeed individuals who may not fall into the conventional categories of being vulnerable or at risk. It is essential that safeguarding recruitment/training is undertaken by everybody whose roles require it and should be applied to all, not only for their own benefit but the benefit of those who use our services/resources who expect to do so in a safe and secure environment.

K Holloway

39. Social Committee

Unfortunately, once again due to the pandemic we were unable to hold many of our usual events.

We did, however, hold a community event at St Margaret's in July; On the Saturday evening the Play on Words Theatre Company put on a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream in the churchyard, with all proceeds going to The Friends of the Parish. It was a wonderful evening and very well attended. Special thanks must go to Miriam and Aidan Dooley.

Then, on Sunday the doors of the church were thrown open to the community, refreshments were served, and the newly refurbished organ was played. Gary and Martin also played a lovely duet. In the churchyard there were tours of the wildflower meadow. The tower was open once again for tours. Thank you to everyone who came and helped.

In November the Christmas Bazaar returned and much to everyone's surprise a staggering £2268 was raised. This was very surprising as we had decided to hold the event just on the Friday night and for only three hours instead of the usual six hours over two days. The gamble paid off and we were only £350.00 short of the amount raised in 2019. This change was also very popular with those who helped out and certainly one we will go forward with! Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help out.

During the Christmas Dickens weekend the church and tower were open to the public. We are hopeful that later in 2022 we will be able to resume some social events. As always, keep an eye on the pew sheets for details.

Stuart Pearson

40. Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of Rochester

I Report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out in this annual report.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you 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 required.

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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

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 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 matter has come to my attention, other than that mentioned below:

(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 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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.

Qualified Statement

Between 2018 and 2021 a legacy was paid to the Rochester Diocesan Society and Board of Finance, for them to hold as a capital trust fund with the interest arising being applied for ecclesiastical or charitable purposes of the Parish of Rochester.

In my opinion this legacy created a Trust Fund with income to be applied for the benefit of the Parish. Although the PCC is not entitled to the capital the income should be included in the PCC accounts and a note concerning the Trust Fund capital added to the accounts. The Parish has received no income from the trustee.

The Diocese has claimed that "the PCC is not entitled to make a claim on the capital or interest". I believe this is incorrect as the PCC is the only beneficiary of the Trust Fund and automatically has the right to the income of the Trust Fund.

I have seen correspondence from Rochester Diocese that confirms that the legacy of £684,195 is held in cash and that "notional interest" is being earned. I am concerned that the investment of the Trust Fund capital is not appropriate and that as a result the Parish has lost out income that would otherwise have been due.

Consequently, I consider that the funds are not being applied for the benefit of the sole beneficiary, the Parish, and that the application of the funds is actually for the benefit of the trustee. I believe this to be a matter of regulatory concern for the Charity Commission.

Additionally, it is clear that the Trust Fund Capital is being used by the trustee for cash flow purposes and as a result I consider that the Trust Fund Capital is being mis-applied and is at risk and this represents a matter of regulatory concern for the Charity Commission.

10-May-22

Rob W Trice

Mr Rob Trice MAAT
210 King George Road
Chatham, Kent,

41. Statement of Financial Activities

Parish of Rochester

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ending 31st December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources											
Voluntary income	2	31,211	442	48,816	-	80,469	53,618	762	35,250	-	89,630
Activities for generating funds	2	3,047	-	-	-	3,047	721	-	-	-	721
Income from investments	2	16,464	14	-	-	16,481	13,640	14	-	-	13,660
Income from church activities	2	11,913	-	-	-	11,913	8,171	-	-	-	9,641
Other incoming resources	2	3,947	-	-	-	3,947	3,792	-	-	-	3,792
Total Incoming Resources		66,582	456	48,819	-	115,857	79,942	776	36,726	-	117,444
Resources expended											
Fund-raising trading costs	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Activities relating to the work of the Church	3	75,189	10,659	45,671	-	131,519	87,792	4,566	26,385	-	118,743
Governance costs	3	525	-	-	-	525	500	-	-	-	500
Total Resources Expended		75,714	10,659	45,671	-	132,044	88,292	4,566	26,385	-	119,243
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		(9,132)	(10,203)	3,148	-	(16,187)	(8,350)	(3,790)	10,341	-	(1,799)
Transfers		(3,401)	3,401	-	-	-	(601)	3,700	(3,099)	-	-
Gains & Losses on Investments		-	-	-	9,245	9,245	-	-	-	4,312	4,312
Net Movements in Funds		(12,533)	(6,802)	3,148	9,245	(6,942)	(8,951)	(90)	7,242	4,312	2,513
Balances brought forward at 1st January 2021		70,428	19,612	119,087	243,335	452,462	79,379	19,702	111,845	239,023	449,949
Balances carried forward at 31st December 2021		57,895	12,810	122,235	252,580	445,520	70,428	19,612	119,087	243,335	452,462

Parish of Rochester

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2021		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Unrestricted Designated Restricted Endowment					
	Note	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2021	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets											
Fixed assets property	4	-	-	105,575	175,715	281,290	-	-	105,575	175,715	281,290
Investment assets	5	342	-	-	76,865	77,207	341	-	-	67,620	67,961
		342	-	105,575	252,580	358,497	341	-	105,575	243,335	349,251
Current Assets											
Debtors	6	4,958	-	-	-	4,958	7,956	-	-	-	7,956
Short Term Deposits		46,559	12,358	14,981	-	73,898	68,771	8,459	1,522	-	78,752
Cash at bank & in hand		6,561	452	1,679	-	8,692	6,140	11,153	11,990	-	17,003
		58,078	12,810	16,660	-	87,548	70,587	19,612	13,512	-	103,711
Liabilities falling due within one year	7	525	-	-	-		500	-	-	-	500
Net Current Assets		57,553	12,810	16,660	-	87,023	70,087	19,612	13,512	-	103,211
Net Assets		57,895	12,810	122,235	252,580	445,520	70,428	19,612	119,087	243,335	452,462
Funds											
Endowment		-	-	-	252,580	252,580	-	-	-	243,335	243,335
Restricted		-	-	122,235	-	122,235	-	-	119,087	-	119,087
Designated		-	12,810	-	-	12,810	-	19,612	-	-	19,612
General		57,895	-	-	-	57,895	70,428	-	-	-	70,428
		57,895	12,810	122,235	252,580	445,520	70,428	19,612	119,087	243,335	452,462

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

2022 and signed on its behalf by:

42. Notes to the Financial Statements

Parish of Rochester

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC and comprise the following funds:

General Funds

In addition there are funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC:

St Peter's Church Repair Fund
St Margaret's Church Repair Fund
Hathaway Court Repair Fund
Pop in Group – closed in 2021
Bells Fund
General Designated fund – closed in 2021
Dementia
Saturday Social closed in 2021

The Church Repair Funds are held for the future repairs required for the PCC property. Other funds are held for specific purposes stated

These funds include:

Memorial (Trust) Funds
Development Fund
Organ Repair Fund
Fixed Asset for Church use

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Endowment funds represent funds of the PCC which have been received as an endowment whereby the PCC may only use the interest generated by the capital of the fund:

CBF Funds

Earmarked Funds

Hathaway Court

The accounts include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include accounts of church groups that owe affiliation to another body (e.g. Scouts), nor those that are an informal gathering of church members.

Incoming Resources

Income from donors and other voluntary sources

Collections are recognised when made.

Income tax recoverable is accounted for when the donation is made.

Grants and legacies are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified and that the receipt of the gift is certain.

Funds generated by fundraising and activities is accounted for gross.

Income from charitable and ancillary trading

Rental income is accounted for when due.

Activity, event and fees income is accounted for when received.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for on receipt.

Investment gains and losses

Realised gains and losses are recognised when the assets are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Grants

Grants and other donations are accrued in the accounts.

Activities directly related to the work of the church

All amounts are accounted for when payable. Any amounts committed but unpaid as at 31 December are shown in creditors in the balance sheet.

43. Notes to the Financial Statements

Parish of Rochester

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC or which require a faculty for disposal as the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement is written off.

Other land and buildings

Other land and buildings held for use by the PCC are:

St Peter's Church Centre
Hathaway Court
Matthews Hall

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Expenditure on office equipment is written off as it incurred.

Investments

Investments are shown in note 5 and are valued at their bid value as at 31 December 2021

Current assets and liabilities

Amounts owing to the PCC as at 31 December in respect of income tax & fees are included as income and shown as debtors.

Bank and cash deposits are held with the Cooperative Bank Ltd and the Diocese of Rochester.

Related Trusts

The Friends of the Parish of Rochester and the Knight Trust are separately registered and not included in these accounts.

44. Notes to the Annual Accounts

Parish of Rochester

Notes to the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2021 Total £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Planned giving	23,638				23,638
Income tax recovered	2,757	-			2,757
Non Gift Aid planned giving	-	-	360	-	360
Collections and other giving	1,987	-		-	1,987
Sundry donations	2,829	442	-		3,271
Grants	-	-		-	-
Friends of Rochester		-	48,456	-	48,456
JRS Grant		-			-
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Fetes bazaars etc	3,047				3,047
<i>Income from Investments</i>					
Dividends and interest	2,003	14	3		2,020
Hathaway Court Rent	14,461				14,461
<i>Income from church activities</i>					
Hire of Hall & rentals	5,396				5,396
Magazines					
Fees	6,517				6,517
<i>Other incoming resources</i>					
Insurance claims					
Other income	3,947				3,947
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCE	66,582	456	48,819	-	115,857

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2020 Total £
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Planned giving	27,709				27,709
Income tax recovered	8,779	-			8,779
Non Gift Aid planned giving	-	-	360		360
Collections and other giving	768	-		-	768
Sundry donations	4,294	462			4,756
Grants	8,448				8,448
Friends of Rochester			34,890		34,890
JRS Grant	3,620	-	-		3,620
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Fetes bazaars etc	721				721
<i>Income from Investments</i>					
Dividends and interest	2,207	14	6		2,227
Hathaway Court Rent	11,433	-			11,433
<i>Income from church activities</i>					
Hire of Hall & rentals	5,471				5,471
Magazines	-				1,470
Fees	2,700				2,700
<i>Other incoming resources</i>					
Insurance claims					-
Other income	3,792				3,792
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCE	79,942	476	36,726	-	117,144

Parish of Rochester

Notes to the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

3. RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2021 Total £
<i>Fund-raising trading costs</i>					
<i>Cost of fundraising</i>					
<i>Church activities</i>					
<i>Missionary & charitable giving</i>	917				917
<i>Clergy expenses</i>	3,059				3,059
<i>Parish share</i>	39,755				39,755
<i>Church running expenses</i>	9,129				9,129
<i>Church repairs & maintenance</i>	3,433		-		3,433
<i>Children & youthwork</i>		-	-	-	
<i>Parish magazine & bookstall</i>					
<i>Other property costs</i>	-				-
<i>Hall Running costs</i>	5,849				5,849
<i>Designated funds payments</i>		659			659
<i>Printing & stationery</i>					-
<i>Sundry expenses</i>	13,047				13,047
<i>Development fund</i>	-				
<i>Organ Repairs</i>	-	10,000	45,671	-	55,671
<i>Governance costs</i>					
<i>Independent Examiner's fee</i>	525		-		525
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	75,714	10,659	45,671		132,044
	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2020 Total £
<i>Fund-raising trading costs</i>					
<i>Cost of fundraising</i>					
<i>Church activities</i>					
<i>Missionary & charitable giving</i>	68				68
<i>Clergy expenses</i>	11,913	-		-	11,913
<i>Parish share</i>	47,206	-			47,206
<i>Church running expenses</i>	10,237				10,237
<i>Church repairs & maintenance</i>	3,351				3,351
<i>Children & youthwork</i>				-	-
<i>Parish magazine & bookstall</i>	-		1,386		1,386
<i>Other property costs</i>	-		-		-
<i>Hall Running costs</i>	6,593				6,593
<i>Designated funds payments</i>		4,566			4,566
<i>Printing & stationery</i>	-		-		
<i>Sundry expenses</i>	8,424		-		8,424
<i>Development fund</i>	-	-	780		780
<i>Organ Repairs</i>			24,219	-	24,219
<i>Governance costs</i>					
<i>Independent Examiner's fee</i>	500		-		500
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	88,292	4,566	26,385	-	119,243

Parish of Rochester

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

4. Tangible Fixed Assets	Freehold land & Buildings £	Hathaway Court £	Church Equipment £	Total £
Actual/Deemed Cost				
At 1 January 2021	105,575.00	175,715.00	10,342.00	291,632.00
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	105,575.00	175,715.00	10,342.00	291,632.00
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	-	-	10,342.00	10,342.00
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	-	-	10,342.00	10,342.00
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2021	105,575.00	175,715.00	-	281,290.00
At 31 December 2020	105,575.00	175,715.00	-	281,290.00

5. Investments

Investments are included at their bid value on 31.12.2021

	Market Value 2021 £	Market Value 2020 £
Endowment		
Fabric Reserve Fund		
1,164.96 CBF Investment Fund	27,245	23,819
1,487 CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund	2,349	2,515
CBF Investment Fund		
2,035.86 CBF Investment Fund shares	47,613	41,627
	77,207	67,961

6. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Gift aid tax reclaim	4,958	7,956
	4,958	7,956

7. Creditors

	2021 £	2020 £
Independent Examiner's Fee	525	500
	525	500

Parish of Rochester

DESIGNATED FUNDS

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Balance 1 January 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains on investments £	Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2021 £
Parish Buidings	6,285.79	13.94	-	-	3,700.00	9,999.73
Pop in	(270.01)	-	(308.48)	-	578.49	-
Bells Fund	2,172.86	410.00	(225.00)	-	-	2,357.86
General Designated Fund	10,000.00	-	(10,000.00)	-	-	-
Dementia	199.55	32.50	-	-	-	232.05
- Rochester & Strood DFC	220.00	-	-	-	-	220.00
Saturday Social	1,003.37	-	(125.42)	-	(877.95)	-
	19,611.56	456.44	(10,658.90)	-	3,400.54	12,809.64

	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains on investments £	Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Parish Buidings	4,704.21	13.98	(2,132.40)	-	3,700.00	6,285.79
Pop in	1,402.80	473.14	(2,145.95)	-	-	(270.01)
Bells Fund	2,137.86	185.00	(150.00)	-	-	2,172.86
General Designated Fund	10,000.00	-	-	-	-	10,000.00
Dementia	287.55	50.00	(138.00)	-	-	199.55
- Rochester & Strood DFC	220.00	-	-	-	-	220.00
Saturday Social	949.17	54.20	-	-	-	1,003.37
	19,701.59	776.32	(4,566.35)	-	3,700.00	19,611.56

Parish Buildings

The repair funds are accumulated savings for the quinquennial repairs to PCC properties.

Pop in

Income and expenditure for the Pop in group

Bells

For bells

General Designated

Part of legacy from Late Evelyn Shaul to be allocated

Dementia

For running costs of a dementia café.

Parish of Rochester

RESTRICTED FUNDS

For The Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Balance 1 January 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains on investments	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2021
Memorial (Trust) Funds	414.48	0.97		-	-	415.45
Development Fund	2,426.26	362.57	-	-	-	2,788.83
Organ Repairs	10,671.00	48,456.14	(45,671.00)	-	-	13,456.14
Fixed Asset for church use	105,575.00	-	-	-	-	105,575.00
	119,086.74	48,819.68	(45,671.00)	-	-	122,235.42

	Balance 1 January 2020	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains on investments	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2020
Memorial (Trust) Funds	412.82	1.66	-	-	-	414.48
Development Fund	2,841.83	364.43	(780.00)	-	-	2,426.26
Organ Repairs	-	34,890.00	(24,219.00)	-	-	10,671.00
Print Account	3,015.12	1,470.00	(1,385.91)	-	(3,099.21)	-
Fixed Asset for church use	105,575.00	-	-	-	-	105,575.00
	111,844.77	36,726.09	(26,384.91)	-	(3,099.21)	119,086.74

Parish of Rochester

RESTRICTED FUNDS

For The Year Ended 31 December 2021

Memorial (Trust) Funds	Carol Atkinson - for use by the choir Jack Shaul - for use in connection with St Margaret's organ Mary Hayward - for use by Sunday School to provide books Sundry Charities - an amalgamation of various small charities, used as the Vicar's discretionary fund.
Development Fund	Funds raised specifically for the rebuilding/upgrading of the two churches.
Organ Fund	Funds for the refurbishment of the organ at St Margaret's Church.
Fixed Asset for church use	St Peter's Church Centre and Hathaway Court.

Parish of Rochester

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

For The Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Balance 1 January 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains on investments	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2021
CBF Funds	67,620.09	-	-	9,244.46	-	76,864.55
Hathaway Court	175,715.00	-	-	-	-	175,715.00
	<u>243,335.09</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,244.46</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>252,579.55</u>

	Balance 1 January 2020	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains on investments	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2020
CBF Funds	63,308.30	-	-	4,311.79	-	67,620.09
Hathaway Court	175,715.00	-	-	-	-	175,715.00
	<u>239,023.30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,311.79</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,335.09</u>

CBF Funds

Investment of a legacy left for capital projects. Will eventually be used in the upgrading of St Margaret's Ch

Hathaway Court

Representing the book value of the property.

Goodwin Legacy

Between 2018 and 2021 a legacy was paid to Rochester Diocesan Society and Board of Finance, for them hold as a capital fund with the interest arising being applied for ecclesiastical or charitable purposes of the of Rochester.

	Capital sum	Interest	Total
Balance as at 31.12.2020	664,007.74	7,215.22	671,222.96
Final insatallment of legacy	12,516.72	-	12,516.72
Notional interest	-	355.68	355.68
Balance as at 31.12.2021	<u>676,524.46</u>	<u>7,570.90</u>	<u>684,095.36</u>

Notional interest is calculated at 0.0525% (average CCLA deposit rate)

To date no income has been paid to the Parish of Rochester.

The Capital of the Trust Fund is held on the Rochester Diocesan Board of Finance Current Account.