

**The Parish of
St. George, Benenden
Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ending
31st December 2020**

Rector:

**Rev David Commander
The Rectory
The Green
Benenden
Kent TN17 4DL**

Secretary:

**Mrs J Collard
7 Fuggles Court
Benenden
Cranbrook
Kent TN17 4EF**

Charity No: 1132696

Aim and Purposes

St. George's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, the Revd David Commander, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

When planning our church activities for the year, the Rector and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:-

Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Mission and outreach work

Our mission statement, adopted two years ago, is:-

"To know and love Jesus, and make his love known to all"

Review of the year.

Only 8 months since our last APCM and Reports, but the extraordinary times have continued. It has been a time of working out how to be church when we couldn't meet face-to-face, when the church building was shut, when we couldn't visit people at home, when we couldn't have people to the Rectory for pastoral meetings. It's been a time of frustration for priestly ministry.

From a church services point of view, the pattern of services through Covid changed. There have been less services, and they have alternated between the parish churches. However, the main 10 o'clock service has also been recorded every week and made available on-line. During lock-down this averaged 115 "views" each week. Coming out of lock-down, congregation figures are up and we are still getting 35-40 views per week. The Ministry Leadership Team has also made a scripture verse and reflection available every day throughout Covid – both on-line via the websites, and outside St. George's Church and outside the Mission Church. Other prayer resources/links have been available on the website.

As good as these things may have been, they have not been as good as being able to worship freely, and just be with people. Thank you though to everyone who has kept things going during these extraordinary times: the Churchwardens and the MLT in particular.

Not being with people has also affected many other things, for example:

- The 20-20 Project
- “Real” Home Groups have not been able to meet
- The Toddler Groups and “Blend” (the after-school group at Sandhurst) had to stop
- Revd Ylva’s “deacon year” has been nothing like Ylva, I, or the Diocese imagined! I have been learning how to be a Training Incumbent, and how to guide a Curate. And we (Ylva, I and the Diocese) have had to learn how to do that in a pandemic – everyone was learning from scratch!

So I am sorry if some things have been dropped; if some things have not been done as well as they could have been. It has been an extraordinary time that we’ve all tried to adapt to and come through as best we could.

However, we are approaching the time of coming out of Covid restrictions! This is an opportunity for fresh ideas; to rebuild; re-imagine; re-energise what it is we are as Church, and what it is we feel we are called, by God, to do in this place, at this time. Part of this reviewing is the *inward things*: i.e. what we do *in* church; the “Sunday things”. As important as they are, what about the other 6 days of the week? The *outward looking things*? The *outreach*.....the *mission* of our church?

The Diocese recently worked on plans across every Deanery. A document has been published entitled, “*Towards a flourishing and sustainable future.*” (You can find it on their website; or there is a link on our church website.) A lengthy document. Not a great read, because of the financial picture it painted; but it is a message that has to be heard and taken to heart: How are we going to be church moving forwards?

The Vision of the Diocese (....and we are the Diocese!) is:

By God’s grace we want to be a people who are:

...confident & creative disciples of Jesus Christ

...rooted in scripture & drenched in prayer

...living gratefully, giving generously, caring for creation & sharing the gospel

...growing in number & expectations – of God & ourselves

...motivated by justice & love, open to the Spirit & ready for adventure!

And it concludes: “*Therefore we will.....*”; it is a sentence that is deliberately left unfinished. This is for us to complete; “*Therefore we will.....*” do what? Here is an opportunity for us.

How about, “*Therefore we will:*”

- Restart the weekly Toddler Groups? (*But also work out how we build on the good relationships that we have created?*)
- Find out what it is that families want in terms of “church”? (*Rather than what we’ve offered in the past....because that clearly doesn’t work now.*)
- Re-launch and energise a weekly community Coffee Morning? (*In the Memorial Hall and in the Mission Church. And why not see if we can attract younger people too?*)
- Begin a “Community Choir” – to bring people together to sing, whatever their ability? (*Well, it’s starting on 24th June, in St. George’s through Carla Smith. Now postponed until 22nd July due to Covid restrictions.*)
- Here’s a radical thought, how about, “*Therefore we will pray*”? We commit some time to prayer, and find out what God wants us to do! Anyone like to join me once a week for, say, 4-6 weeks to pray?

It would also be good to have a think about the gifts and skills we each have, (and that we see in others) and how we might use them for the outreach and growth of the church.

If we want to grow our church (rather than see a gradual and continual decline to nothingness), then we have an opportunity to review, re-imagine, re-energise what it is we can do; both within church and without church; inward-looking things, and outward looking things. However, it needs two things: Prayer and People.

We can start with prayer, and ask God to lead us.

And we need an answer to prayer....and that could be you! You could have an outreach idea that together we can make work. It needs people coming forward and saying, "Therefore I will....." I will make this happen!

Thank you, everyone, for your support. Thank you to the PCC for your recent unanimous support with a particular issue. Thank you, Helen. I've now had enough of 12-15 months of not being able to get on and do things. I would be good to start moving forwards again; but in the direction God wants us to move! So pray. Let's trust God to lead us in the right direction; and let's also be prepared to be the answer to our prayers....and be prepared to make the things that God wants to happen - happen!

Revd David Commander

Rector

St. George's Church, Benenden

May 2021

Fabric Report

A quinquennial review of the church fabric fell due in 2020. Happily our architect did not find any serious problems and these will be addressed mostly next year. However he did wish prompt attention to the asphalt surface of the North porch roof which was dealt with straightaway.

Repairs to the stained glass windows above the altar and in the bell ringing chamber were attended to.

In the autumn rain water was discovered dripping into the bell chamber. This was traced to the flagpole which needed attention in any case. A new method of raising and lowering the pole was devised by Guy Hagan and the Rector, the leak repaired and a new lanyard fitted.

Thus the flag now flies happily and the new Christmas Star is more readily mounted.

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David Barnes

Financial Review

General Account

The general account is amalgamated into the full accounts which have been prepared to follow the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 together with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

Income.

Total Income for the year was £70,348, 24% down on budget with the Covid 19 pandemic being the main cause. Planned Giving held up very well with most donors opting for bank transfers and quite a few cash donors opting to change. With church services severely reduced, particularly over Easter and Christmas, collections and donations were 70% down. Many weddings were postponed, resulting in Parochial fees being 28% down. The annual church fete had to be cancelled with £8 to £10K being lost. With no Speech Day or Confirmation the income from Benenden School was lost but the school did give their normal £1K donation

Expenditure.

Total Expenditure was £69,741, 15% below budget. The pandemic together with Choir Director leaving resulted in choir and organists cost being 72% down. Most other costs like Heating were all down due to the reduced activity.

The surplus on the General Account was £608 enabling £304 to be transferred to both the Mission and Fabric funds.

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Budget for 2021

Income

Planned Giving is forecast to remain at the 2020 level at £35,500. Tax refunds will come to £9,400.

Fees will show a small increase with some weddings taking place that were scheduled for 2020. The annual fete will be held in September and is forecast to make £5000. The total income is budgeted to be £78,900 compared to 2020 £70,350 and more normally £90,000.

Expenditure

Total expenditure is forecast to be £73,900 about £4,200 up from last year. The main reasons are as follows. Parish Share is up £512 and churchyard costs (£1,500) include a tree survey that has to be carried out periodically. It is hoped that normal activity will slowly return to normal during the year and a new Choir Director will be appointed in the last quarter.

The 2021 budget is forecast to give a surplus of £5,010

Fabric Fund

The main spend this year was on the consultant's report on the new heating project (£4,332) other spends were Quinquennial repairs inc repairs to North Porch Roof (£2,721), Stain glass repair (£685) and Lightning Conductor (£468) . Income included a donation from the Friends of St George's (£1,610) and £1000 Legacy to the Bell Fund. The transfer from the general account only amounted to £304 which resulted in the fund making a deficit of £5,000.

Other Funds

The magazine fund made a surplus of £4,500 much of this was due to late payments coming in from the previous year when the fund made a loss of £300. The fund received a grant of a £1,000 from the Parish Council in case the revenue dropped from advertisers suffering Covid 19 problems. This sum will be held in reserve for the future. The Legacy fund received two legacies amounting to £5,120. The Rollings Interest fund was not used this year enabling the fund to make a gain of £23,000. The Poor/Hardship Fund was used to incorporate the Benenden Action Team initiative to assist those in the parish suffering financially due to the pandemic. The fund received £14,700 in donations and paid out £2,500. The Memorial Hall Fund made a loss of £636 owing to bookings being cancelled.

Nearly all funds have exposure to the equity markets with some £94,050 increase in market values surprisingly taking place in 2020.

The overall result for St George's combining all funds shows a profit of £34,538 for 2020.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy to allocate surplus unrestricted income at the end of the year equally between Fabric and Mission funds. These sums continue to be classed as unrestricted although the intention is that they will be held in reserve for the appropriate function.

The balance in the Fabric restricted Fund of £6,080 is held for future maintenance work including specific sums for church bells.

At the end of the year unrestricted assets stood at £175,847 which is more than required to provide working capital. £96,983 of this sum has been invested in CBF Church of England Investment funds

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St. George's, Benenden

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 6 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare financial statements, 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.

Signed

Dated

Mr D Rogers
3/4 Fairview Cottages
Back Road
Sandhurst, Kent

St George's Parochial Church Council, Benenden

**Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	3	55115	3753	0	58868	93252
Activities for generating funds		0	0	0	0	13738
Income from investments		14894	33759	0	48653	34853
Church activities		16731	1189	0	17920	20370
Other incoming resources		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>86740</u>	<u>38701</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>125441</u>	<u>162213</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating voluntary income	4	86	0	0	86	62
Fund raising costs		0	0	0	0	3111
Church activities		76827	13990	0	90817	121044
Governance costs		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		<u>76913</u>	<u>13990</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>90903</u>	<u>124217</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		<u>9827</u>	<u>24711</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34538</u>	<u>37996</u>
Gains on investment assets:	5					
on disposal		0	0	0	0	0
on revaluation		<u>14149</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>79898</u>	<u>94047</u>	<u>180146</u>
NET Repayment of Loan between funds					0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	6	23976	24711	79898	128585	218142
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY		<u>282065</u>	<u>93230</u>	<u>1105981</u>	<u>1481276</u>	<u>1263134</u>
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER		306041	117941	1185879	1609861	1481276

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ending 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

These statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Endowment Funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained (excepting expendable endowments) only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted Funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not always invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis. Restricted funds are used to meet appropriate expenditure before utilising designated funds.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. Funds designated by the PCC are included in unrestricted funds.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2020.

The Memorial Hall, given to the church authorities and under the management of the rector and churchwardens as a parish hall, is included in the fixed assets for restricted funds. Similarly, the incoming and outgoing resources for the hall are also shown in restricted funds.

2. COMPOSITION OF FUNDS

These comprise:

Unrestricted Funds:

General account, with the exception of small sums specified for particular items expended in year.

Mission fund, all of which is designated.

Fabric fund, that portion which has been designated

Legacy Fund . The income from this fund (part cash and part invested) will be shown as income for the general purposes of the PCC.

Restricted Funds:

General account, small sums specified for expenditure in the year.

Memorial Hall fund, this operates on a separate bank account, but is included here as a means of recording its activities

Rollings interest fund, receives income from the Rollings Capital endowment, restricted to the upkeep of the interior of the church.

Fabric fund, restricted to the upkeep of the church fabric.

Hardship/Poor fund was set up in 2018 incorporating three church warden charities. In 2020 the fund was used to receive donations and make payments to parishioners suffering financial problems during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Endowment Funds:

St. Margaret's with Century Cottages, an expendable endowment for ecclesiastical purposes in the parish.

Anonymous Gift, income from which is for the general purposes of the PCC.

Gladys Bateman, income from which is restricted to the Fabric Fund.

Rollings Capital, income from which is held in the Rollings interest fund, restricted to the upkeep of the interior of the church.

3. INCOMING RESOURCES

Unrestricted	General a/c	Mission Fd	Fabric Fund	Legacy Fd	Total
Voluntary income	49995	-	-	5120	55115
Activities for generating income	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments	13919	-	975	-	14894
Church activities	16731	-	-	-	16731

Restricted	General	Fabric	Rollings	Hardship	Mem Hall	Total
Voluntary income	978	2775	-	-	-	3753
Activities for generating	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments	-	-	22979	10751	29	33759
Church activities	-	-	-	-	1189	1189

Endowment	St Margaret's	Rollings Capital	Total
Income from investments	0	0	0

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

Unrestricted	General a/c	Mission Fund	Fabric Fund	Legacy	Total
Costs of raising voluntary income	88	-	-	-	88
Fund raising costs	0	-	-	-	0

Restricted	General	Fabric	Rollings	Hardship	Mem Hall	Total
Church activities	898	8750	-	2488	1854	13990
Endowment	St Marg & Century					Total
Church activities	0					0

5. GAINS ON INVESTMENT ASSETS

	Variation to Book Value		Movement in Year
	2019	2020	
	£	£	£
Unrestricted			
Mary Wilkins Fund	74470	86035	11564
General Fund Investment Account	3904	4544	640
Fabric (designated) Investment Shares	23433	25379	1945
			<u>14149</u>
Endowment			
St Margaret's/Inc Shares	50695	67250	16554
Anonymous Gift Investment Shares	31733	34694	2961
Gladys Bateman Investment Shares	2220	2555	336
Rollings Capital Investment Shares	426354	480077	53723
Rollings Capital Accumulation Shares	39778	46103	<u>6324</u>
			<u>79898</u>

6. NET LOAN BETWEEN FUNDS

There were no outstanding loans between funds at the year end.

7. FIXED ASSETS

The fixed assets have not been revalued since last year.

Unrestricted

The plot of land known as the Beadle Platt, comprising 0.0951 hectares valued in 2014 at agricultural land values at £2045

Toilet and Store building (Known as the Owl House) constructed on the Beadle Platt at construction costs in 2002 £41978
£44023

Restricted

The building known as the Memorial Hall including the land on which it stands valued at insurance valuation (2014) £360000
Previous valuation £157,369

Not included in the Balance Sheet but recorded here for information is that parcel of land, adjoining the vicarage, known as the Glebe Field and comprising 1.095 hectares, valued at 2014 agricultural land prices at £23550. It should not be assumed that any of these assets can or may be disposed of at these valuations.

8. CURRENT ASSETS

Debtors

Sandhurst PCC Expenses	<u>240</u>
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St George's Parochial Church Council, Benenden

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2020	2019
		£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible	7	44023	360000	0	404023	404023
Investments		212940	0	1174119	1387059	1293013
		<u>256963</u>	<u>360000</u>	<u>1174119</u>	<u>1791082</u>	<u>1697036</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock		0	0	0	0	0
Debtors	8	240	0	0	240	243
Short-term		79760	102265	8098	190123	161129
Cash at Bank and in Hand		-1136	33575	0	32439	26891
		<u>78864</u>	<u>135840</u>	<u>8098</u>	<u>222802</u>	<u>188263</u>
LIABILITIES						
Creditors: amounts due in		0	0	0		0
one year		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		<u>78864</u>	<u>135840</u>	<u>8098</u>	<u>222802</u>	<u>188263</u>
Total Assets less Liabilities		<u>335827</u>	<u>495840</u>	<u>1182217</u>	<u>2013884</u>	<u>1885299</u>
Creditors: amounts due after		0	0	0	0	0
one year						
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>335827</u>	<u>495840</u>	<u>1182217</u>	<u>2013884</u>	<u>1885299</u>
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted		335827	---	---	335827	326856
Restricted		---	495840	---	495840	456123
Endowment		---	---	1182217	1182217	1102320
		<u>335827</u>	<u>495840</u>	<u>1182217</u>	<u>2013884</u>	<u>1885299</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on the 22nd March 2021
and signed on its behalf by the Revd David Commander (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 11 form part of these accounts

Structure, governance and management

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.

Church attendance.

There were 109 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll for 2020, 23 of whom are not resident within the parish. Due to the Covid pandemic the October count average weekly attendance, was 37 adults and 3 under 16.

St George's Benenden Statistics 2020 (showing the effect of the Covid pandemic)

Easter communicants 59

Easter attendance 61

Average church attendance on a Sunday (October count): 37 adult; 3 under 16

Christmas Eve/Day communicants – 34

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day attendance – 130

Baptisms Under 1 year old – 1

Age 1-12 – 0

Age 13+ - 0

Marriages – 3

Blessings – 0

Funerals – held in church – 9

Administrative Information

St. George's is situated at the top of The Green in Benenden. It is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, The Green, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4DL.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Rev David Commander	Chairman
<i>Curate:</i>	Rev Ylva Blid-Mackenzie	From 1 st Sept 2020
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mr. David Collard	
	Mr Tracy Claridge	To 23 09 20
	Mrs Sue Fisher	From 23 09 20
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs. Sue Fisher	To 20 05 21
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr Tracy Claridge	To 20 05 21
	Mr David Barnes	
	Mrs Julia Collard	
	Mrs Jane Davies	
	Mr Richard Fisher	
	Mrs Janet Kelly-Vickers	
	Mr. Martin Pexton	
	Ms Cristina Symons	To 23 09 20
	Mr Ian Malaugh	
	Mrs Heather Trollope	
	Mr. Charles Trollope	Treasurer

Approved by the PCC on the 26th July 2021 and signed on their behalf by the Chairman of that meeting.

