

**The Parish of  
St. George, Benenden  
Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council  
for the year ending  
31st December 2022**

**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**

We have a wonderful church family at St. George's. Without the efforts put in by many people, we would not be the church that we are. Today is a time to remember all the good things that have been achieved – are being achieved – and to be grateful for it all, and all the people who make things happen. But we also need to remember that since our last APCM we have lost some dear members of our church family. We remember Tracy Claridge and Iain Thomson; we remember them with love and with gratitude, for all that they contributed to the life of St. George's Church over the years

From a personal point of view, the time since our last APCM has been "interesting":

- I have had my sabbatical; three months off, from mid-July to the beginning of October, to re-charge the batteries.
- And, I have been appointed Area Dean; and learning all that this role involves.

My sabbatical did exactly what I hope it would do.....it allowed me: to stop; to remember why I became a priest; to relax and re-charge; to read; and to come back feeling refreshed and ready to continue my ministry. Thank you to everyone who allowed this to happen: the Ministry Leadership

Team, the Churchwardens, my Deanery colleagues and the Archdeacon. I have *felt* the benefit; I hope you have *seen* the benefit.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> March, I was commissioned as the next Area Dean of The Weald Deanery – but the work started before that. I have been learning (and continue to learn) what it is to be Area Dean, and what is involved. It is an honour to be asked to undertake this role; but it is also a steep learning curve, and it takes me away from some parish things. Little did I think, when I was ordained, that I would be Rector of two parishes, a training incumbent, the local Surrogate, Area Dean, and the Mayor's Chaplain. But "the Lord moves in mysterious ways....!"

Earlier in the year we had the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Followed later in the year by the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Her death occurred whilst I was away on sabbatical. So we need to say a particular thank you to Revd Ylva Blid Mackenzie for her pastoral support of the community at this unique moment in our history. And whilst speaking about Ylva, we also recognise that she is coming to the end of her training curacy – in July this year; I am delighted to let you know that Ylva will be staying with us in the benefice as an Associate Priest. I particularly value her pastoral ministry within the benefice; and in the summer, we need to mark her transition from training curate to associate priest at a suitable service.

Other things that have occurred since our last APCM have included:

- Another wonderful village fete in support of St. George's Church. Organised by a great Committee and by Athena Cripps in particular and so many volunteers on the day! Thank you.
- 18 weddings! No mean feat whilst I was on sabbatical and away for nine of the weddings! Thanks to Revd. Ylva Blid Mackenzie and Deanery colleagues.
- We held a successful "newcomer's lunch" back in October
- The church "project" is gathering a bit of momentum thanks to the team working on it. In January we had a successful "open meeting"; the feedback has been taken on-board and proposals will be put to the PCC in April. Following which there will be consultations with the DAC. Once they are on-board, plans (and some form of graphical representation) will be published.
- We have, over the three months of January to March, run a Warm Welcome Space in the Memorial Hall. The irony being the first few weeks of opening, the temperature went up! There wasn't a great take-up; but the social side of it was appreciated by those who did
- We started an informal monthly family service on a Saturday afternoon, "Connect Four"; this is attracting a number of families. We hope to be confirming some youngsters later in the year.
- And, finally, we have returned – pretty much - to pre-Covid services. On Easter Sunday we returned to using the common chalice, but with everyone having the option of whether to receive from it or not.

All the things that we do at St. George's, do not "just happen"! They need people to make them happen. The APCM is our opportunity to recognise and say thank you to everyone who makes things happen, and who makes St. George's the church that it is. The number of people involved, and the number of tasks that are undertaken for our church to function and thrive is astonishing.

There are a huge number of tasks that are being done. But we also need more people. Firstly, to simply to spread the load; to take the load off those who have been doing tasks for years. But secondly, for some specific tasks that it would still be good to be able to share:

- A communications "officer"
- An IT person to maintain the Cloud-drive of our church computer files; maintaining the performance of the office computer and clergy computers. (This is becoming important!)
- We are also in need of Deanery Synod reps from this parish. (If you're not happy with the Church of England, don't grumble, get involved! Deanery Synod is a place to do that.
- We will also need a Project Manager and a Fund Raiser for the church project

We have a wonderful church family at St. George's. Thank you all for all that you do. If any of the other things that have been mentioned are of interest..... pray about it; come to church frequently; get involved; be part of making things happen in your church. The main Easter service was a great example of how the "feel" of a service is enhanced by more people being in church.

## **Fabric Report**

I am pleased to report that the footpath through the churchyard was completed in the late summer. It has been approved generally and proved most welcome during the period of wet weather just before Christmas.

The day after the Rector started his sabbatical we suffered a plaster fall from the ceiling above the south aisle. Mercifully there were no injuries but it caused some alarm. Temporary repairs were soon made but a full restoration is planned early in 2023. With the large number of weddings which took place in 2022 a new carpet was laid along the chancel rail to smarten its appearance.

Consideration has been given to installing an alarm on the church roof to deter the theft of lead and copper. It should enable our insurers to offer the Treasurer better terms.

## **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 £104,423, 20 % up on budget with the very successful fete and auction( fete profit £14,574, auction profit £3,118) together with some very generous donations up 91%(£13,367) being the main causes for the favourable outcome. Planned Giving was 2% down compared to last year which was itself 5% down.

#### **Expenditure.**

Total Expenditure was £78,095, 3% above budget. The main overspend was minor repairs which included two years worth of fire protection £700, Electric light bulbs £850 and boiler maintenance/repairs £650. Trinitas has taken over from Ecclesiastical as the church insurers resulting in a saving of some 30%. Insurance costs include the first six months of next year because the premium was paid in one go. Next year the annual cost will be circa £3500.

The surplus on the General Account was £26,328 enabling £13,164 to be transferred to both the Fabric and Mission funds.

### **Budget for 2023**

#### **Income**

Planned Giving is forecast to remain at about £32,500 (Actual 2022 £32,457) Fees will show a decrease now that the Covid postponed weddings have taken place that were scheduled for 2020 and 2021. The annual fete will be held in June and is forecast to make £10,000. With interest rates rising fund income will increase to over £16,000. The total income is budgeted to be £91,400 compared to 2022 £104,300.

#### **Expenditure**

Total expenditure is forecast to be £80,800 about £3,000 up from last year. The main reasons are the large price increases expected in electricity and oil costs some of which will be offset by the lower insurance premium.

The 2023 budget is forecast to give a surplus of £10,500

## **Fabric Fund**

The two main items of expenditure were the quinquennial repairs bill (£15,431) and footpath (£25,764) which were generously sponsored by the Friends of St George's and the KCC/Primary School respectively. Surplus from the general account enabled the fund to make a £6854 surplus.

## **Other Funds**

The **Magazine fund** made a surplus of £1,500 for the second year in a row with demand for advertising remaining buoyant. This allowed the dividend to the general account to be increased to £1000. The **Rollings Interest fund** was not used this year enabling the fund to make a gain of £26,300. **The Poor/Hardship Fund** paid out £1,788 to various needs. The **Memorial Hall Fund** broke even helped by very low repair costs. Hirers are beginning to come back but increased energy costs will put pressure on margins. Rates will be increased by 50p/hr in June.

Nearly all funds have exposure to the equity markets with some £185,00 decrease in market values offsetting most of the £199,000 increase last year.

**The overall result for St George's combining all funds shows a profit of £55,464 for 2022.**

## **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 £4.152 is held for future maintenance work including specific sums for church bells.

At the end of the year unrestricted assets stood at £228,723 which is more than required to provide working capital. £124,578 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 2022, 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 2022								
					Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS
					Funds	Funds	Funds	2022
					£	£	£	2021
			Note		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES								
Voluntary Income			3		73538	41905	0	115443
Activities for generating funds					24065	0	0	24065
Income from investments					15362	26363	0	41725
Church activities					19842	3220	0	23062
Other incoming resources					238	0	0	238
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES					133045	71488	0	204533
RESOURCES EXPENDED								
			4					
Costs of generating voluntary income					0	0	0	0
Fund raising costs					3747	0	0	3747
Church activities					98116	47206	0	145322
Governance costs							0	0
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED					101863	47206	0	149069
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES								
					31182	24282	0	55464
Gains on investment assets:			5					
on disposal					0	0	0	0
on revaluation					-29943	0	-155277	-185220
NET Repayment of Loan between funds								0
								0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			6		1239	24282	-155277	-129756
BALANCES B/FWD 1 JANUARY					356985	135327	1354151	1846463
BALANCES C/FWD 31 DECEMBER					358224	159609	1198874	1716707



## **Notes to the financial statements**

### **For the year ending 31 December 2022**

#### **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 2022.

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

<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>General a/c</b>	<b>Mission Fd</b>	<b>Fabric Fund</b>	<b>Legacy Fd</b>	<b>Total</b>
Voluntary income	56518	20	-	17000	73538
Activities for generating income	24065	-	-	-	24065
Income from investments	15362	-	-	-	15362
Church activities	19842	-	-	-	19842

  

<b>Restricted</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Rollings</b>	<b>Hardship</b>	<b>Mem Hall</b>	<b>Total</b>
Voluntary income	800	41105	-	-	-	41905
Activities for generating	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments	-	-	25988	181	194	26363
Church activities	-	-	-	-	3220	3220

  

<b>Endowment</b>	<b>St Margaret's</b>	<b>Rollings Capital</b>	<b>Total</b>
Income from investments	0	0	0

### 4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>General a/c</b>	<b>Mission Fund</b>	<b>Fabric Fund</b>	<b>Legacy</b>	<b>Total</b>
Costs of raising voluntary income		-		-	
Fund raising costs	3747				3747

  

<b>Restricted</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Rollings</b>	<b>Hardship</b>	<b>Mem Hall</b>	<b>Total</b>
Church activities	800	41195	-	1788	3423	47206

  

<b>Endowment</b>	<b>St Marg &amp; Century</b>	<b>Total</b>
Church activities	0	0

## 5. GAINS ON INVESTMENT ASSETS

	Variation to Book Value		Movement in Year
	2022	2023	
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
Mary Wilkins Fund	111343	86622	-24721
General Fund Investment Account	5907	4601	-1306
Fabric (designated) Investment Shares	29522	25605	-3917
			<u>-29944</u>
<b>Endowment</b>			
St Margaret's/Inc Shares	102507	69178	-33329
Anonymous Gift Investment Shares	41000	35039	-5961
Gladys Bateman Investment Shares	3271	2595	-676
Rollings Capital Investment Shares	594500	486336	-108164
Rollings Capital Accumulation Shares	57673	50526	-7147
			<u>-185221</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**

Creditors

Sandhurst PCC Expenses      0

<b>St George's Parochial Church Council, Benenden</b>							
<b>Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022</b>							
			Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
			Funds	Funds	Funds	2022	2021
	Note		£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>							
	Tangible	7	44023	360000	0	<b>404023</b>	404023
	Investments		241407	0	1187115	<b>1428522</b>	1597743
			<u>285430</u>	<u>360000</u>	<u>1187115</u>	<b>1832545</b>	<u>2001766</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>							
	Stock		0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
	Debtors	8	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
	Short-term Deposits		72262	159994	8098	<b>240354</b>	224036
	Cash at Bank and in Hand		31883	15949	0	<b>47832</b>	24716
			<u>104145</u>	<u>175943</u>	<u>8098</u>	<b>288186</b>	<u>248752</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
	Creditors: amounts due in			0	0		0
	one year		0	0	0	<b>0</b>	27
	Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		104145	175943	8098	<b>288186</b>	248725
	Total Assets less Liabilities		389575	535943	1195213	<b>2120731</b>	2250491
	Creditors: amounts due after		0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
	one year						
	<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>389575</u>	<u>535943</u>	<u>1195213</u>	<b>2120731</b>	<u>2250491</u>
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>							
	Unrestricted		389575	---	---	<b>389575</b>	384991
	Restricted		---	535943	---	<b>535943</b>	515010
	Endowment		---	---	1195213	<b>1195213</b>	1350490
			<u>389575</u>	<u>535943</u>	<u>1195213</u>	<b>2120731</b>	<u>2250491</u>
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on the 27th March 2023							
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 114 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll for 2022, 28 of whom are not resident within the parish.

### **St George's Benenden Statistics 2022** (showing the effect of the Covid pandemic)

Easter communicants 126

Easter attendance 199

Average church attendance on a Sunday (October count): 51 adult; 2 under 16

Christmas Eve/Day communicants – 95

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day attendance – 373

Baptisms Under 1 year old – 4

Age 1-12 – 6

Age 13+ - 0

Marriages – 18

Blessings – 0

Funerals – held in church – 10

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Rev David Commander	Chairman
<i>Curate:</i>	Rev Ylva Blid-Mackenzie	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mr. David Collard	
	Mrs Sue Fisher	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs Hazel Strouts	Elected 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr David Barnes	
	Mrs Julia Collard	
	Mrs Jane Davies	
	Mr Richard Fisher	Resigned 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
	Mr David Harmsworth	Co-opted 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
	Mrs Janet Kelly-Vickers	Resigned 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
	Mrs Sally-Ann Marks	Elected 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
	Mr. Martin Pexton	Resigned 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
	Mrs Catherine Presgrave	Co-opted 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
	Mr Ian Malaugh	
	Mr Richard Stubbins	Elected 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
	Mr. Charles Trollope	Treasurer

Approved by the PCC on the 22nd May 2023 and signed on their behalf by the Chairman of that meeting.