

Christ Church In the Parish of Erith



Annual Report & Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31 December 2022

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Christ Church in the parish of Erith, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical throughout the parish.

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church Hall which is adjacent to the Church.

We are privileged to worship God in a beautiful church building and we strive to profess and live out the Christian faith in the local community. Our church is open to everyone – we are inclusive of all and you will be most welcome.

Our Vision is to Grow Church by sharing Christ's peace, love, joy, and hope.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Christ Church is part of the Diocese of Rochester within the Church of England and is situated in Erith.

The correspondence address is: Christ Church Vicarage
Victoria Road
Erith
Kent DA8 3AN

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1133966.

Bank

HSBC Bank

High Street
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1DG

Independent Examiner

Martyn Burt ACMA CGMA
Adventus Accounting Solutions
Ashby Acres
Chapel Lane
Ashby-cum-Fenby
Grimsby
DN37 0QT

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Christ Church was in interregnum between July 2021 and November 2023.

Appointment to the PCC is in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020. All those who attend church services are encouraged to register on the electoral role and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members including ex-officio:

Vicar – Vacancy till 14th November 2022 when The Reverend Anthea Harris-Faulkner was Licensed and installed.

Wardens

Mrs. Doreen Ives

Mrs. Diana (Natalie) Slator

Representatives to Deanery Synod

Mr. Okechukwu Iwuagwu

Mr. Roderick Johnson

Elected Members

Mrs. Gwen Fayemi (re-elected April 2022, Treasurer to May 2022, deceased May 2022)

Mrs. Claire Perkins (re-elected April 2022, Secretary to July 2022, Treasurer from July 2022 onwards)

Mrs. Patricia Iwaugwu (re-elected April 2022, Secretary from July 2022 onwards)

Mr. Ayodeji Akande (re-elected April 2022)

Mr. Paul Hyde (re-elected April 2022)

Mrs. Sylvia McLean (re-elected April 2022)

Mrs. Heather Taylor (elected April 2022)

Mr. Ben Milton-Cole (Co-opted July 2022)

Licensed Lay Minister & Licensed Anna Chaplain

Mrs. Funmi Makanju

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) continued to meet via Zoom at the start of the year. With the Covid-19 restrictions lifted, the PCC began to meet in person in the Quiet Room of the CCE Hall from 20 July 2022. The PCC have continued to meet in person since then.

The APCM was held in April, and since the church was in interregnum, this was hosted by Doreen Ives as Acting Chair.

The following officers were elected by the PCC for 2022:

- Vice Chair of PCC – Paul Hyde
- Secretary – Claire Perkins
- Treasurer – Gwen Fayemi

Roderick Johnson and Okechukwu Iwuagwu both continue as Deanery Synod reps.

Heather Taylor was elected as a PCC member.

Natalie Slator and Doreen Ives agreed to continue as Church Wardens and continued to be great leaders of the Church.

Unfortunately, in May 2022 our treasurer Gwen, suddenly became ill and sadly passed away in the same month. She was a long-standing member of the Church, who in the past held positions of Warden, Social Committee Lead, chorister, helped set up the Erith food bank, and was involved in various fund-raising activities for the Church and the Erith community. It was a sad and difficult time for PCC and the church as a whole. In the interim, Claire Perkins took up the role as Treasurer in conjunction with her role as PCC Secretary.

As we had a post vacant, in July 2022 Ben Milton Cole was co-opted to PCC.

In July 2022 Claire Perkins was appointed as Treasurer and Patricia Iwuagwu appointed as Secretary.

The working groups remain as the Social Committee, Hall Committee, Christmas Tree Festival Committee, Friends of Christ Church Erith (FOCCE) and a Media/Magazine Committee.

The vacancy for a vicar for the Parish of Christ Church Erith and St Johns was formally advertised and interview process carried out by representatives of both churches. In August, it was announced by the Bishop of Tonbridge that The Revd Anthea Brenda Harris-Faulkner was to be appointed as the interim priest in charge of the benefice of Christ Church and the Benefice of St John's Erith. In November Revd Anthea was licensed as the interim priest in charge for both churches.

Rev Anthea attended her first PCC meeting in November.

It has been wonderful to have a priest in charge and we pray to continue to work together in unity for the betterment of Christ church and the community of Erith.

SAFEGUARDING

As a church we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and we are committed to ensuring our church and hall buildings are safe places for all. With the exception of one member, all PCC members have completed their DBS checks. All those with responsibilities to the congregation have been encouraged to complete the various levels of safe guarding courses required by the Anglican Church. The combination of COVID and the absence of a permanent active minister for over two years meant serious disruption of normal Church procedures. Christ Church aims to make sure all the necessary courses are completed by volunteers and the necessary monitoring is carried out by those appointed to oversee this.

Notwithstanding the difficulties mentioned above, many new community activities were introduced in Christ Church in 2022 and for each one a Risk Assessment document was produced.

Throughout this difficult time all those with specific responsibilities strived to ensure the safety of all who came to Church and to continue with our previously established mission to grow a Church firmly rooted in the spiritual message of the Christian faith.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Christ Church is below the audit threshold under the Charities SORP regulations, we are not required to report, neither are we reporting on risk management.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Report from the Church Wardens - Doreen Ives & Natalie Slator

Throughout the year of 2022 the team has kept the church running, we hope without too many hiccups. Some of the services were led by members of the local deanery and retired ministers. Funmi, our licensed lay minister, was given permission to do communion by extension during the interregnum.

Gradually our much-diminished congregation began to return.

On our first service of 2022 on 2nd January, we had a congregation of 2 children under 10 and 56 adults following, what was to our normal size congregation over that period, a low attendance on 24th December 2021 consisting of 1 under 10, 1 under 16 and 46 adults. On 25th December 2021 2 under 10 and 15 adults. During 2022 our numbers fluctuated between low 40s to mid 50s. Christmas brought in 20 under 10s, 10 under 16s and 142 adults to the carol service, Midnight Mass on 24th 20 under 10s, 10 under 16s and 72 adults. Christmas Day Holy Communion 11 under 10s 2 under 16s and 42 adults. We were also able to hold baptisms, weddings and funerals with the help of visiting clergy.

In November our new vicar Anthea Harris-Faulkner was appointed as Priest in Charge of St John's and Christ Church making a large Erith Parish and we look forward to working with and for her to make the parish a vital part of the community.

Building and Fabric

The church heating appeared to be a constant problem throughout the Winter, Spring, Autumn and onset of Winter with the boilers continually breaking down to be repaired by our service engineers at British Gas. During the year British Gas ended their service contracts with the business sector of their operations and we had to look for another firm, our contract is now with Berkeley Heating who seem to have solved the latest problem.

We also underwent a Quinquennial inspection in August and though there were no emergency repairs to be carried out we have a list of repairs that need to be sorted out as soon as we can raise funds to cover them. One of our main concerns is the damage to the South wall caused by damp penetration.

We were lucky enough to receive 2 requests for filming in the church which brought in much needed funds and hope to be able to provide facilities again.

With the help of the diocese personnel and a firm called Bishop and Sons we have been able to bring the organ back to life. Our hope is that we will be able to hold recitals and concerts to bring in more funds.

Electoral Roll - Davison Simbagegavi, Electoral Roll officer

The Electoral Roll for Christ Church Erith in 2022 shows a total number of 120 members. Sadly we had one of our member passing away last year but we also had seven new members applying to enrol on the church electoral roll. Effectively we had six more members compared to the previous year number of 114. Numbers were affected by Covid restrictions in the past years and the anticipation moving forward since the lifting of Covid restrictions last year is that numbers will continue to steadily creep up.

There is a possibility that some people could just be worshipping with us who are still to apply for enrolment. Engagements need to be stepped up to bring them to the fore possibly by making weekly announcements in Church.

Report from the Deanery Synod Secretary - Okechukwu Iwuagwu & Roderick Johnson

There were two Deanery Synod meetings held this year. One in June and one in November.

The meeting in June was held at St John's Welling. This was the first in person meeting since the lifting of Covid restriction so as intended the meeting had a BBQ. A brief business meeting was held announcing that the new Bishop of Rochester would be attending Erith Deanery Synod meeting in November to introduce himself and address the meeting on his journey and vision. It was further announced that this would be a joint meeting with the Sidcup Deanery.

This year saw the appointment of Jim Bennett as the new Area Dean of Erith.

The joint meeting with Erith Deanery and Sidcup Deanery was held in November at St Mary's Bexley. The meeting welcomed The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Gibbs – Bishop of Rochester. A Deanery synod rep and Rev Anthea were in attendance.

Rev Jim Bennett gave a description of Erith Deanery which has 13 Parishes. The Sidcup Area Dean, Rev Mell Jemmett spoke about the Sidcup Deanery.

The bishop then addressed the meeting. He spoke about himself and gave a history of his ministry journey. He explained his vision for the diocese of Rochester as one of "Change and Growth."

There was a Q & A session where the bishop explained his vision. He stated that his focus was on embracing diversity and the younger ones as he sees this as the way forward for growth in the Church. He referenced his enjoyment of Rev Anthea's induction ceremony at St John's Erith.

This was Rev Anthea's first Erith Deanery Synod meeting as priest in charge of Christ Church and St John's Erith.

Anna Ministry Report - Funmi Mekanju LLM Christ Church Erith Anna Chaplain

We are trying to explore other areas to develop this ministry. We have lost connection with Meyer House and we are making plans to reactivate services and engagement with them. I have carried out pastoral care to the elderly ones in church and visited them in hospital giving prayers and support. This ministry will need support as we find that dementia and old age-related issues are common due to the elderly ones in our church community.

I have spoken with Margaret at St Johns and hope we can work together on a project involving the community of Erith and Bexley at large.

I have also liaised with the Baptist Church and waiting for a positive response from them.

We as a church have hosted the Bexley Anna ministry Hub and we look forward to having more sessions.

Report from Kids Club - Marlene Busayo Elegunde, Kids Club Lead.

After a period without kids club due to lack of volunteers, kids club resumed back in March 2022 with three volunteers and had a staggered start due to availability of volunteers. It gradually gathered momentum by Mid May 2022.

Kids club has six leaders and it is attended by an average of six children with a maximum attendance of 15 children noted. It currently runs on most Sundays except the first Sunday of the month, holidays (Easter and Christmas) and when there are insufficient leaders to cover. A minimum of three leaders is required for kids club to commence on a Sunday and kids club leaders have to be CRB checked as an essential criteria.

During the club, the children say the prayer and listen to the sermon. Most times the sermon is in line with the word in the adult church. After the sermon, the children are involved in various activities such as colouring, drawing and craft related to the sermon of the day. Kids club lasts for about 35 - 40 minutes and takes place in the hall. The children are guided back into the church to join the communion and the close of service.

Parents of children that attend kids club are required to fill a consent form. A big thank you to all the leaders - Claire, Miranda, Jeblina, Selam and Sarah.

SDF - Toddler Church, Messy Church & Carers Group from Jacki Clement's quarterly reports

Toddler Church continues to grow, our average attendance is now around 50, the most we have had so far is 63. We always have Christian music on in the background and this really makes the atmosphere nice. We have slightly

changed the format as a structured session was not keeping the children's attention (the majority of our children are around 2 years). We now start, as before with free play, then prayers with bubbles, but instead of reading a bible story we watch bible stories on Youtube, which is a great hit. We then give out Collection bags, and finish by giving every child an instrument to join in with our Caribbean Lord's Prayer. This is so popular we need to buy more instruments! The craft table is set up with instructions, so the child and carer can use it at any time during the session. There is either a picture to colour, a craft to make or playdough on the table and it is very popular. Also we leave the children's snacks and drinks on a table for them to choose anytime during session. The coffee and tea for adults is available throughout the session as well. We were visited by Bexley Surestart Representatives earlier in the year and they were very impressed and we are on the 'recommended' list of Toddler Groups for Bexley.

Messy Church is very popular, attendance ranges from around 100 down to 43 in December (in the snow!). We obtained a grant from the CYP fund for hot food provision, which is on hold at present until Messy Church can move into the church hall so the meal is still buffet style cold food, which is not ideal but is enjoyed by the children anyway!

The new headmistress of Christchurch Primary has visited Messy Church and is most supportive, leading to many new faces coming.

Due to the cold weather and dropping numbers, and some concerns from Carer's Support Bexley we have suspended the Carers Groups until warmer weather returns. Plans are in place for a café at St John's in a warm hall with a kitchen to be the new site for our Carers Group. Meanwhile I remain in contact with Joanne Flitton and I am keeping her up to date with developments.

The Christmas Party (funded by CYP grant) was a great success, we made up 90 meals and all were eaten, and purchased 90 calendars from The Meaningful Chocolate Company, only 2 were left over and were taken by a congregation member for her neighbours children who were unwell and unable to attend. We had a wonderful disco run by Karl Hebblewhite, and member of our congregation and the dancing and singing by the children was hugely enjoyable. Also we had lots of craft tables and all the volunteers at these were kept very busy. Total attendance was around 160 people, and flyers for Messy Church and Toddler Church were given out.

The Crib Service was hastily put together and was great fun, an unrehearsed Nativity Play was definitely a highlight, and was well supported.

The weekly walking group continues, we have had 2 new members join us and come regularly, the mums enjoy the walk with buggies and toddlers, and we all enjoy a cup of tea and a chat at the end. Numbers vary, especially as weather has been unpredictable but averaging around 6. 2 of the dogs are best friends now as well! Anyone who walks with us who is new is invited to services, as yet there has been no uptake of this but we carry on asking. Our

latest member reported feeling isolated and says she loves the company of the walks.

Carers and Former Carers Group and Carers and Cared For Group continue to be popular, these run on the first and third Thursday of the month. We run these in conjunction with Carers Support (Bexley), they provide all refreshments and resources. Again these groups are only asked for donations, on average we receive around £8. Our old time singer has been booked to attend every month as we were given a grant from Orbit Housing to pay for 12 singing sessions, this is great news for our Cared For attendees as they thoroughly enjoy her singing. The group remains small, around 10-12 people, but is becoming closer, more friendships are being made and last session we discussed the life of one of our members, who is now non-verbal following a stroke, but his wife told of his very interesting life, as an extra in many films, a boxer, a bouncer and a friend of celebrities! The Carers and Former Carers group is also becoming closer, with 2 new members attending our last session. Due to the cold weather and dropping numbers, and some concerns from Carer's Support Bexley we have suspended the Carers Groups until warmer weather returns. Plans are in place for a café at St John's in a warm hall with a kitchen to be the new site for our Carers Group.

Hall Report - Ayodeji Akande, Hall Manager

The year 2022 saw an increase in hall hire for Saturdays compared to the previous year. We also signed up a new hirer who runs a children's playgroup involving roleplay.

We installed additional security lights around the hall premises.

The hall curtains rail was replaced at no cost to the Church, thanks to Doreen and Chris for sorting. New toilet roll dispensers was also installed in the toilets by Chris.

The hall is still in high demand for Saturday hiring and is still used by the wider community and Christ Church for community events.

Thanks to the committee members for their support and most especially Chris for his help in managing the hall. Thanks to Doreen and Natalie for their help in dealing with hall enquiries.

If you can help maintain our hall or join the hall committee in some capacity, please feel free to contact any member of the hall committee.

Report from the Bellinger's - Natalie Slator, Tower Captain

2022 has brought further decimation of our group with Liz and Les Brett moving to Carlisle to be near their daughter and family which has left us with 4 regular Sunday ringers and 3 who can attend Monday night practices.

Deryck Jones who helped us so much in the past died after undergoing treatment for cancer that just could not prevent its spread. We miss him, his advice and his help teaching terribly.

Three of us tolled for the deaths of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. We have been able to ring at all the weddings and funerals where bells were requested with help from the surrounding churches and hope with the new enlarged parish to start to teach again.

Bell ringing is a great hobby as it just grows and grows. The more adept you become the more there is to learn.

If anyone is interested in learning, please do contact me and we will arrange a session for beginners with help from the district to which we belong. The county is split up into areas called districts and we belong to Lewisham which covers an area from Sydenham in the east to Dartford in the west and Farningham in the south.

Choir Report - Heather Taylor

My thanks to our regular choir members this last year, most of whom fall into the Senior role. We have sung throughout the year every week and kept our music going although it has been hard at times.

We did of course lose our former chorister Gwen, and it was good to see some former chorister attending her funeral.

Generally, life has continued as normal with our Sunday services. We had one wedding and Margaret Heald from St John's joined us as usual for that together with a member of our church family Evamae.

We must also thank Mathew Strassa-Williams who has played the organ for our services throughout the year. I personally was most grateful that I didn't have to "pitch" the notes every Sunday for the hymns.

Our new Vicar arrived at the end of November and joy of joys we had an added bonus with her husband who has a musical background and is a member of the Leoa Academic Male Voice choir.

With this connection some members of that choir came to sing with us at the Carol Service and their voices added a "Gravitas" to our singing.

We also had a visiting organist Festus who played for the service.

We look forward to a new year with hopefully some new choristers.

Parish Magazine Report - Paul Hyde, Editor

Overview

- Best-selling edition was June – the memorial edition for Gwen Fayemi. This edition sold a record breaking 290 copies in total.
- Printed copies produced in only A5 format from July/August

- Circulation continued to be affected the post-pandemic decline in church attendances.
- Advertising also affected.
- It is planned to make changes to both the magazine and pew sheet, to improve content and reduce costs.

Subscriptions

The number of persons subscribing to the magazine has remained broadly similar to those for the previous years:

Year (April – March)	Hand delivered	Postal	By email/PDF
2020/1	5	3	2
2021/2	8	3	3
2022/3	9	2	3

The June Edition

A special edition was produced to mark the tragic passing of PCC Treasurer Gwen Fayemi. The friends and family of Gwen were invited to submit their tributes, in both words and pictures. The result was a 36 page magazine which was published somewhat later than usual, to coincide with the funeral on 24 June. This edition was printed in the usual A4 format, plus for the first time A5 format, in roughly equal numbers.

This edition sold a record breaking 290 copies, with buyers often including a donation to the church in addition to the £1 cover price.

Circulation

With the exception of the June edition, this year sales of the magazine continue to have been reduced compared to pre- pandemic levels, in line with church service attendances. The magazine had historically sold about 50 copies each month. This figure dropped to about 20-25 during 2020/1, put picked up to around 35 for 2021/2. This figure has been broadly maintained during 2022/3, although the February edition managed sales of only 26. As usual, the Christmas Tree Festival produced an uptick for the December edition, which sold about 40 copies.

General content

The magazine this year has consisted of 20 pages per edition, with the following exceptions:

June 36
 October 24
 November 16

Due to the late publication of the June edition, a combined edition was published for July and August.

Following a successful trial with the June edition, all subsequent editions were printed in A5 format only. This produces a more pocketable magazine, and saves paper costs which have been badly affected by increasing general price inflation, especially so for A3 paper (used to print A4 magazine). However, parishioners who suffer from eyesight difficulties may request A4 copies – there have been three such requests for each edition.

Once again, my sincere thanks to the few parishioners who have sent me articles and other material which has been included in the magazine over the last year. My role as Editor is to compile and collate these into a consistent format so as to produce a unified magazine each month. As in previous years, I have myself contributed at least one article each month, ranging from the regular Town & Around piece, to occasional longer, more thoughtful articles.

Advertising

There were no paying advertisers after the one who advertised during 2021/2 did not renew his subscription. Two firms were granted free advertising in recognition of services provided to the church.

Plans for 2023

It is intended to review the production, cost and quality of the Parish Magazine in 2023. Also, there is a need to reduce the cost of printing, and in that regards possible changes to the Pew Sheet are in scope.

Report From Christmas Tree Festival (CTF) - Claire Perkins

We were very pleased that the Christmas Tree Festival could go ahead without any restrictions in 2022. We kept the number of trees at 50, since we are no longer using either porch. The Church still looks beautiful and full.

The Charity Fair took place on the Saturday, very well organised by Sarah Marchant-Heatley with a number of new stall holders all of whom were well received.

We were delighted to re-introduce the Saturday Evening concert – for the first time we were honoured to host the Leoa Academic Mens Choir who put on a fabulous performance followed by the ever popular Rock Choir who indeed Rocked the Church as always with dancing in the aisles!

With Rev Anthea in post, we were able to hold the full Sunday evening Carol Concert of Nine Lessons – this time in the heavy snow which only added to the ‘festive feeling’.

Thanks as always go to David Fitch for providing and installing all the electronic equipment during the weekend and to Danielle and Darryl Mercer at Bexley Garden Centre for providing the wonderful trees.

Thanks to all those who offered their time and gifts as volunteers, but as always the committee needs new volunteers and a new Chair with fresh enthusiasm and ideas to take the festival forwards. Please do consider if you are able to help this year.

As always, any money raised is split between the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice and Church funds.

Report from Friends of Christ Church Erith (FOCCE) - Doreen Ives

Being in interregnum during most of 2022, meant my attention was very much taken up with making sure our Church services carried on uninterrupted and consequently FOCCE activities suffered. The only fundraising activity we undertook was the sweepstake for Strictly Come Dancing and the Grand Annual Draw, which was drawn in 2022 at the BBQ we hosted in late summer in conjunction with Queen Street Baptist Church. The lack of activity inevitably meant the response to calls for membership subscriptions also fell short this year.

Unfortunately, the handrail in the West Porch ramped entrance was also damaged during the BBQ so FOCCE funds were used to pay for the repair. Apart from that no funds were spent during the year.

Active membership does need to increase if FOCCE is to be able to function well and contribute towards the preservation of the Church building. Ideally, we want to encourage both Church members and others in the community who can appreciate the value of this iconic building, to join us and help to make the building weatherproof and the Wall Paintings protected against destruction from dirt and damp. If we can identify a realistic project on which to concentrate, it makes it easier to raise funds from supporters and charitable organisations focusing on preserving and improving historic listed buildings. The Toilet Project clearly demonstrates how this is true. We do need your ideas and help to organise fund-raising activities which will be well received by the Erith community. Please put the word around, encourage your family and friends to visit our Church to see just what a beautiful building it is. And get in touch with me if you have any fund-raising activity suggestions.

Social committee Report -Marlene Elegunde, Social Committee Lead.

Year 2022 was a busy year especially considering the absence of social gathering for two years due to the pandemic. Public confidence increased and participation in various functions organised in the community was encouraging. Engagements organised in the community has been in collaboration with Queen Street Baptist Church (QSBC). A WhatsApp group was created where discussions, updates and meetings were organised or agreed. The social committee had two collaborations with QSBC organising the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party and Summer BBQ party all aimed towards bringing the community together.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street party took place on Queen Street Road on the 4th of June 2022 and was very successful and well attended with approximately 150 people in attendance. Members of Sherwood house were invited and were involved in making the bunting that was on display on the day. Various teams and leads from both churches were created for different task including health and safety in order to execute a successful and safe event. Christ Church Erith donated £150 towards the event which was matched by Queen Street Baptist Church. Donations in Kinds were made by both churches.

The Summer BBQ party held on the 4th of September 2022 on Christ Church Erith ground was very successfully with over 250 people in attendance. This

was a fee-free event to encourage members of the community to participate and a way of giving back to the community. The event involved the kids' crafts corner which was coordinated by Jacki, various stalls jointly managed by representatives from both churches, Raffle draw managed by Doreen and Chris, Choriography by QSBC teens, Live music by Pastor Ronny, food and drinks stand managed by both churches. Generous donations in kinds and monies were received and managed by appointed members of both churches. A total of £922 was contributed towards the event as shown in table 1. Balance left from the donations was returned to respective church. After the event, feedback was requested and received. Suggestions made will be implemented in future gatherings.

The committee in collaboration with St Johns Church was involved in organising the installation ceremony of Rev Anthea which was a success.

The social committee was involved in the Christmas Tree festival managing the food and book/toy stall. A total of £240.61p was made from sale of hot food and drinks. £73.93 was deducted for food items bought leaving a balance of £166.68p. £13.50 was raised from the book/toy stall. A total of £180.18p was made as profit from the event.

The social committee continue to manage the rota for volunteers in designated groups involved in the reception of visitors and church members in the church hall after the service. This involves serving of light refreshments (Tea, Squash, Hot chocolate and Coffee, biscuits, cakes and snacks) and setting up the hall. Thank you to all group members, Scouts and the men of Christ Church Erith team.

A massive thank you to all members of the social committee (Ernesta, Funmi, Natalie, Ellen, Francis, Deji, Heather, Bolaji, Sylvia and Roselyn) for your commitment and dedication towards the success to all events or activities organised.

Our link with Christ Church (Erith) Church of England Primary School

A very busy year with many changes. The school as with many others had its share of absences through Corona Virus but by Easter they were back in a good place and the children were back in the classrooms learning. They were back to church for their usual end of term Easter Service which of course during the virus they had not been allowed to do.

One of the big events during the summer was the "Celebration Picnic" held for the "Queen's" Platinum Jubilee "to which children, parents and Governors were invited, it was a brilliant afternoon, there were bouncy toys, games, refreshments including a very popular Ice Cream Van, very welcome on such a warm day, also many Former Queens of Britain could be seen mingling, including Henry VIII ladies as staff had raided their costume cupboards to add to the event.

July the end of summer term also saw the end of an era. Mrs G Ball had been principal for some years and had guided us through the "Dreaded Ofsted"

inspection when our school had been assessed as outstanding. We wish her a restful and happy retirement.

The new Principal is Mrs C Hedman who took up her post in September and has visited church once for a "Messy Church" session and a few times over the Christmas Tree Festival. We wish her well and hope to see more of her in future

Report from Men in Sheds - Emily Willey

Session highlights include getting the funding for a new outdoor lean-to, which creates more space for members to complete their activities. Personal and commissioned project included repairing a dining room chair, making a wooden lampshade, and making Christmas decorations for the market Stall. In June, members had a barbeque in the garden space for the Queen's jubilee, where 18 members and volunteers attended. Activities, however, were not limited the workshop. The group went on a learning trip to the London Docklands Museum in November and a meal out at Christmas.



Men in Sheds Jubilee Barbeque



Men in Sheds Christmas Get Together

4 Outreach workshops delivered with The Exchange Erith and Danson Youth Centre

Men in Sheds ran 3 workshop sessions at The Exchange Erith in 2022 at their Here Comes the Sun and Erith Made festivals. Makes included bird boxes, hanging decorations and wind chimes. During September 2022, the project ran a four-week session with a small group of 12-19-year-olds from Danson Youth Centre. The young people made planters, home decorations and shelves. Over the course of 2022, the outreach sessions reached an additional 57 people. On working with the youth group, one Shed Member stated, "...It was a joy to see the club members responding to the input from our team...I think I may have got more from the project than the members".

Report from Beavers and Scouts

Since the Covid pandemic we have struggled with numbers in the Scout Group. The Beaver Colony is flourishing with approximately 20 Beavers but the Cub

Pack, Scout Troop and Explorer Unit are very low in numbers, having six members in each Section.

We are almost back to full Scouting, although we have not managed to fit in a camp yet. We are doing all the usual activities, learning new skills to gain badges and plenty of games. We have started offering outings but unfortunately are not getting the interest or support from the older Sections although we are going as a Group to the new District Camp Site (Cudham Shaws) on 22nd April for an activity day but there will only be a couple of members from each Section. Sadly, football and X-Box are more popular than Scouting these days.

We still try to serve the community as much as we can and one of our Assistant Scout Leaders, Charlotte Born, helped out at the Queen's funeral, looking after the public in the very long queue around the Westminster area.

In order to continue with Scouting at Christ Church we need more members and also we need more Leaders. We lost Kerry but have Akela and Nathan who have taken over but we still have no Leaders for the Explorer Unit. Our young people are from diverse backgrounds but there is no diversity among the Leaders and we would welcome adult help from all sections of the community. As you will know, several of the Leaders are of the older generation and we need younger helpers or Leaders to progress.

We are looking forward to the coming year and hope we can give a more successful report next year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

As is the case in the wider community up and down the nation, the number one challenge for Christ Church in 2022 was the payment of fuel bills. Our large, but beautiful church takes an awful lot of gas to heat and this is reflected in the utility charges. As a church we spent over £25k on utilities in 2022 for the church alone, coupled with a further £30k for the Hall.

Although we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Diocese for Energy costs of £3,831, this unfortunately did not last long.

Our main source of income remains donations from the congregation, more and more people are giving via standing order which is much appreciated as it allows for a more 'guaranteed' income. We are also heavily reliant on the income generated from the letting out of the hall to both regular hirers and those using the hall for celebrations on weekends.

The Christmas Tree Festival does generate a good amount of donations, but these were matched by an increase in the gas and electricity bill for the energy costs during the weekend.

We continued to pay a Parish Share of £500 per month, although not the amount requested it was one the PCC felt we could afford and able to maintain.

All restricted funds within the main account are fully preserved with a positive balance in the account to cover monthly fees.

There were no Gift Aid claims made in 2022 due to the absence of a Gift Aid Officer and change of Treasurer, but this will be rectified in 2023.

The PCC did arrange for a new, user-friendly card reader donation station to be introduced in Church allowing for contactless and chip and pin payments. This has already proved very beneficial especially over the Christmas Tree Festival weekend.

Without grants and investment income, we would not have been able to balance the books in 2022. We desperately need to increase voluntary giving and fund raising to keep up with our ever-growing bills. Please do consider how you can best help your Church.

RESERVE POLICY

Ideally, we would aim to maintain reserves equal to approximately two months unrestricted expenditure i.e £20,000. To help us achieve this, we will aim to put £1,000 per year into reserves from income until that level is achieved.

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Supporting Charitable Organisations

6 May 2023

**Independent Examiner's report to the Member/Trustees
of Christ Church Erith
Charity Registration Number 1133966**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on the pages following.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 the 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:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Burt B.Sc.(Hons), ACMA, CGMA

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ERITH CHRIST CHURCH					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES					
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022					
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	Note	£	£	2022	2021
				£	£
Income and endowments					
Voluntary income	2	34,301	6,847	41,148	60,995
Activities for generating funds	3	42,434	-	42,434	30,193
Investment income	4	5,114	54	5,168	4,905
Total income		81,849	6,901	88,750	96,093
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	5	87,519	6,842	94,361	82,903
Total expenditure		87,519	6,842	94,361	82,903
Net income/ (expenditure)		(5,670)	59	(5,611)	13,190
Transfers between funds					
		(2,332)	2,332	-	-
		(8,002)	2,391	(5,611)	13,190
Net movement in funds		(8,002)	2,391	(5,611)	13,190
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		43,691	8,640	52,331	39,141
Total funds carried forward		35,689	11,031	46,720	52,331
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.					
All income and expenditure derive from continuing operations.					
The notes on the pages following form part of these accounts.					

ERTH CHRIST CHURCH						
BALANCE SHEET						
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022						
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	Note	£	£	2022	2021	
				£	£	
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	7	768	-	768	1,536	
Current Assets						
Debtors	8	2,498	-	2,498	2,155	
Cash at bank and in hand		43,271	11,030	54,301	57,267	
		45,769	11,030	56,799	59,422	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(10,847)		(10,847)	(8,626)	
Net current assets/ (liabilities)		34,922	11,030	45,952	50,796	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	9	-	-	-	-	
Net assets/ (liabilities) excluding pension asset/ (liability)		34,922	11,030	45,952	50,796	
Net assets		35,690	11,030	46,720	52,332	
		1	(1)			
Funds						
Unrestricted Funds						
General funds	10	24,249	-	24,249	34,391	
Designated funds	10	11,441	-	11,441	9,300	
		35,689	-	35,689	43,691	
Restricted Funds	10	-	11,031	11,031	8,640	
Total funds		35,689	11,031	46,720	52,331	
The financial statements were approved by the members of the Parochial Church Council on _____ and were signed on its behalf by:						
-----				-----		
[name]				[name]		
The notes on the pages following form part of these accounts.						

**ERITH CHRIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The Ecclesiastical parish of Christ Church Erith, Parochial Church Council (the PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.2. Fund accounting

The Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. The Restricted Funds comprise amounts received where their application is for a specific purpose.

1.3. Income recognition

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under gift aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by fairs and similar events are accounted for gross when received. Sales of items are accounted for gross when received. Income from letting of church premises and use of facilities is recognised when the rental is due. Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

1.4. Expenditure

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish offer is accounted for when payable. Any parish offer unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

1.5. Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and 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 £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

ERITH CHRIST CHURCH						
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022						
2	Voluntary income	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £	
	Planned giving	17,534		17,534	20,926	
	Collections and other giving	9,018		9,018	2,813	
	Collections for charitable purposes	136	-	136	10	
	Gift Aid recoverable	1,440		1,440	8,443	
	Grants	5,784	6,666	12,450	17,583	
	Other Donations	389	-	389	-	
	Sanctuary Fund	-	-	-	131	
	Friends of Christ Church Erith (FOCCE)	-	181	181	3,739	
	Insurance Claim & Sundry Income	-	-	-	7,351	
		34,301	6,847	41,148	60,996	
3	Activities for generating funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £	
	49 Club	-	-	-	54	
	Sundry Income	736	-	736	347	
	Hall Income	30,877	-	30,877	19,133	
	Fundraising	422	-	422	182	
	Christmas Tree Festival	5,658	-	5,658	3,731	
	Income from magazine	-	-	-	447	
	Clergy Fees	4,741	-	4,741	6,300	
	Other income	-	-	-	-	
		42,434	-	42,434	30,194	
4	Investment income	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £	
	Income from interest on bank and investments	186	54	240	138	
	Income from Rant Bequest	4,928	-	4,928	4,766	
		5,114	54	5,168	4,904	

5	Charitable activities		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	Charitable giving		-	-	-	37
	Diocesan Share (Parish Offer)		10,928	-	10,928	9,866
	Church Running Expenses		25,483	675	26,158	20,123
	Church Repairs		1,960	-	1,960	4,649
	Quinquennial repairs		-	-	-	-
	Church Equipment		-	-	-	-
	Organ, organist & bellringers cost		2,470	-	2,470	1,010
	Organ repairs		1,200	-	1,200	1,116
	Toilet project		-	-	-	5,780
	Clergy expenses and stipend		1,097	-	1,097	4,402
	Accountancy & Independent Examination		850	-	850	- 200
	Memberships and Subscriptions		150	-	150	208
	DBF Fees		695		695	2,723
	Depreciation		768	-	768	768
	Christmas trees		2,580	-	2,580	1,505
	Admin & Sundry		4,161	-	4,161	4,930
	SDF Expenditure		-	6,167	6,167	3,917
	Sanctuary fund		295	-	295	- 98
	Fees Repayment		328	-	328	-
	Leaving Gift		-	-	-	-
	Miscellaneous Payments		-	-	-	-
	Hall Running costs & Management		34,307	-	34,307	16,077
	Hall repairs		247	-	247	6,090
	Total expenditure		87,519	6,842	94,361	82,908
6	Analysis of staff costs, the cost of key management personnel and remuneration of members of the PCC					
There were no personnel directly employed during the year or the prior year. Other than the clergy attached to the charity, who may receive stipend or housing benefits from the Diocese of Rochester, all of the charity's activities are carried out by volunteers.						
For related party transactions see Note 11						

7	Tangible Fixed Assets				Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	Cost						
	At 1 January 2022				8,537	8,537	8,537
	Additions				-	-	-
	Gains / (losses) on revaluation				-	-	-
	Disposals				-	-	-
	At 31 December 2022				<u>8,537</u>	<u>8,537</u>	<u>8,537</u>
	Accumulated depreciation						
	At 1 January 2022				7,001	7,001	6,234
	Charge for the year				768	768	768
	Disposals						
	At 31 December 2022				<u>7,769</u>	<u>7,769</u>	<u>7,002</u>
	Net book value						
	At 31 December 2022				<u>768</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>1,535</u>
	At 31 December 2021				<u>1,536</u>	<u>1,536</u>	<u>2,303</u>
8	Debtors					2022 £	2021 £
	Gift Aid					2,440	1,000
	Other Debtors					8	985
	Prepayments					50	170
	Total Debtors					<u>2,498</u>	<u>2,155</u>
9	Creditors					2022 £	2021 £
	Creditors liabilities falling due within one year						
	Toilet Project Fees					-	1,264
	Accounting Fees & Independent Examiner					850	500
	Utility Creditors					6,287	3,583
	DBF Fees					-	-
	Organ Repairs					-	-
	Miscellaneous Creditors					1,710	2,629
	Hall Hirers & Fees Paid in Advance					2,000	650
						<u>10,847</u>	<u>8,626</u>
	Creditors liabilities falling due after one year						
	Toilet Project Contractor Fees - 1 year retainer					-	-
	Total All Creditors					<u>10,847</u>	<u>8,626</u>

10 Funds						
During the year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:						
	Opening balance 2022 £	Incoming resources 2022 £	Outgoing resources 2022 £	Transfers in the year 2022 £	Closing balance 2022 £	
<u>General Unrestricted Funds</u>						
General Fund	34,391	81,808	(87,519)	(4,432)	24,249	
<u>Designated Funds</u>						
Church Repair Fund	6,723	41	-	2,100	8,864	
Hall Repair Fund	1,970	-	-	-	1,970	
Charities	606	-	-	-	606	
Total Unrestricted Funds	43,691	81,849	(87,519)	(2,332)	35,689	
<u>Restricted Funds</u>						
Friends & Toilet Project	-	181	-	0	181	
Church Path	1,900	-	-	-	1,900	
Organ fund	-	53	-	-	53	
School Bibles	696	-	-	-	696	
Community lunch	423	-	-	(89)	334	
SDF	1,554	2,837	(4,878)	960	473	
CYP	-	-	(1,289)	1,460	171	
Woollett	3,997	-	-	-	3,997	
Choir and Robes	71	-	-	-	71	
Energy Grant	-	3,831	(675)	-	3,156	
Total Restricted Funds	8,640	6,901	(6,842)	2,332	11,081	
Aggregate of Funds	52,331	88,750	(94,361)	-	46,770	
In the previous year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:						
	Opening balance 2021 £	Incoming resources 2021 £	Outgoing resources 2021 £	Transfers in the year 2021 £	Closing balance 2021 £	
<u>General Unrestricted Funds</u>						
General Fund	20,690	83,556	(72,090)	2,234	34,390	
<u>Designated Funds</u>						
Church Repair Fund	4,614	9	-	2,100	6,723	
Hall Repair Fund	1,970	-	-	-	1,970	
Charities	606	-	-	-	606	
Total Unrestricted Funds	27,881	83,565	(72,090)	4,334	43,690	
<u>Restricted Funds</u>						
Friends	-	8,805	(5,780)	(3,025)	-	
Church Path	1,900	-	-	-	1,900	
Organ fund	488	21	(1,116)	607	-	
School Bibles	696	-	-	-	696	
Community lunch	423	-	-	-	423	
SDF	3,686	3,702	(3,917)	(1,917)	1,554	
Woollett	3,997	-	-	-	3,997	
Choir and Robes	71	-	-	-	71	
Total Restricted Funds	11,260	12,528	(10,813)	(4,335)	8,640	
Aggregate of Funds	39,141	96,093	(82,903)	(1)	52,330	

Descriptions of Funds						
<u>Designated Funds</u>						
Church Repair Fund	Money set aside by the PCC for emergency repairs to church					
Hall Repair Fund	Money set aside by the PCC for emergency repairs to hall					
Charities	Money set aside by the PCC in previous years for transfer to various charities					
<u>Restricted Funds</u>						
Friends	Money raised by the Friends of Christ Church Erith to support the upkeep of the fabric of the church. These funds are included within the PCC accounts as any funds raised are for the benefit of the church and the PCC.					
Church Path	Money given towards repairs of the church path.					
Organ fund	Money raised for major repairs to the church organ. All funds were utilised in 2021					
School Bibles	Money given to buy bibles for children in the local school					
Community Lunch	The specific proceeds for the yearly community lunch to be carried over to future similar events.					
SDF	Grants received for expenditure on strategic development/ outreach work					
CYP	Money given to be used for youth work outreach activities					
Woollett	Proceeds of a legacy to support children and young families.					
Choir and Robes	Money given as donations for new choir robes and resources					
Analysis of net assets by fund						
		Unrestricted Funds				
		General	Designated	Restricted		
		Funds	Funds	Funds		2022
		£	£	£		£
Fixed assets		768	-	-		768
Current assets		33,914	11,855	11,030		56,799
Liabilities						
Amounts falling due within 1 year		(10,433)	(414)			(10,847)
Amounts falling due after 1 year						
		24,249	11,441	11,030		46,720
Analysis of net assets by fund at previous year end date						
		Unrestricted Funds				
		General	Designated	Restricted		
		Funds	Funds	Funds		2021
		£	£	£		£
Fixed assets		1,536	-	-		1,536
Current assets		40,117	9,400	9,904		59,421
Liabilities						
Amounts falling due within 1 year		(7,262)	-	(1,364)		(8,626)
Amounts falling due after 1 year						
		34,391	9,400	8,540		52,331
11 Transactions with related parties						
During the year the charity:						
a)	received donations totalling £4,329 (2021: £5,862) from related parties (which includes members of the PCC and anyone closely connected to them).					
b)	No expenses (2021: £nil) were paid to, or for, non-clergy members of the PCC (reimbursements for expenses incurred when acting as agent for the charity or incurred when undertaking employment duties not connected with serving as a PCC member are not included in this disclosure).					
During the year the charity made no other to, or for, related parties						

Accounts approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2nd May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Revd. Anthea Harris-Faulkner
Priest in Charge (Chair)