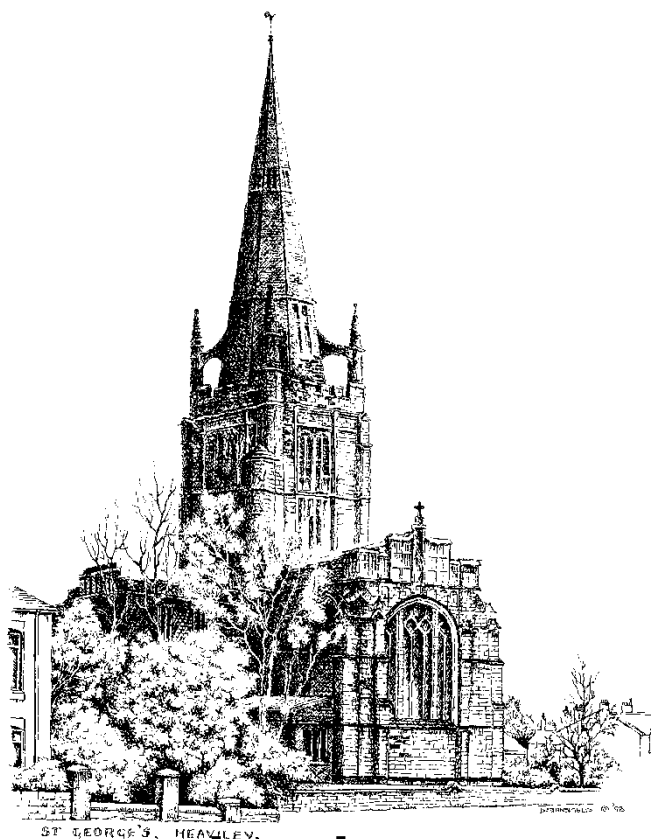


The Parish Church of St. George, Stockport.

REPORT and ACCOUNTS of the Parochial Church Council



**presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

24th April 2022

ANNUAL REPORT for 2021

Administrative Information

The Parish Church of Stockport St George is located on Buxton Road, Heaviley, and the daughter church of St Gabriel is located at Clover Avenue, Adswood. The parish is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England.

PCC members who served during 2021, with future retirement dates in brackets after each name, are:

<i>Vicar</i>	Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall	Chair
<i>Assistant Curate</i>	Revd Dr Janine Arnott	
<i>Reader:</i>	Mr Peter Hall	<i>also Diocesan Synod</i>
<i>Wardens:</i>	Dr Andrew Regan Mrs Hazel Jenkins	
<i>Deanery Synod:</i>	Mr David Foulkes Mr John Sutcliffe	
<i>Diocesan Synod:</i>	Mr Ian Roberts	
<i>Elected members:</i>	Mrs Penny Bisby (2024) Mr Will Hesson (2024) Mrs Janet Neilson (2024) Mrs Morag Ranson (2024) Mrs Louise Clark (2023) Mrs Sue Cordingley (2023) Mr John Hardy (2023) Mrs Dawn Hesson (2022) Mr James Hibbert (2022) Mrs Kim Regan (2022) Ms Andrea Webb Reilly (2022) Mrs Phoebe Macleod (2021) Mr Richard Parr (2021) Mr Peter Smith (2021)	<i>Safeguarding officer</i> <i>PCC secretary</i>

Independent Examiner: Mr Paul Clancy

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, number 1134170.

This report covers the activities of the two churches and of St George's Church Stockport Preservation Trust. The Trust was constituted under a trust deed dated 1st

August 1990. While legally a separate charity, the Trust is regarded by the Diocesan Authorities as a connected charity, consequently its transactions and dealings are included in the accounts of the PCC.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All members of the two churches are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This fulfils our public benefit requirement.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees and project groups, which meet between meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Preservation Trust

The objectives of the Preservation Trust include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church and buildings. The Trustees may also finance other work connected with the voluntary aided school, youth work in the parish, or as agreed by the trustees.

The full PCC met 6 times during 2021 by Zoom with an average level of attendance of 70%

Achievements and performance

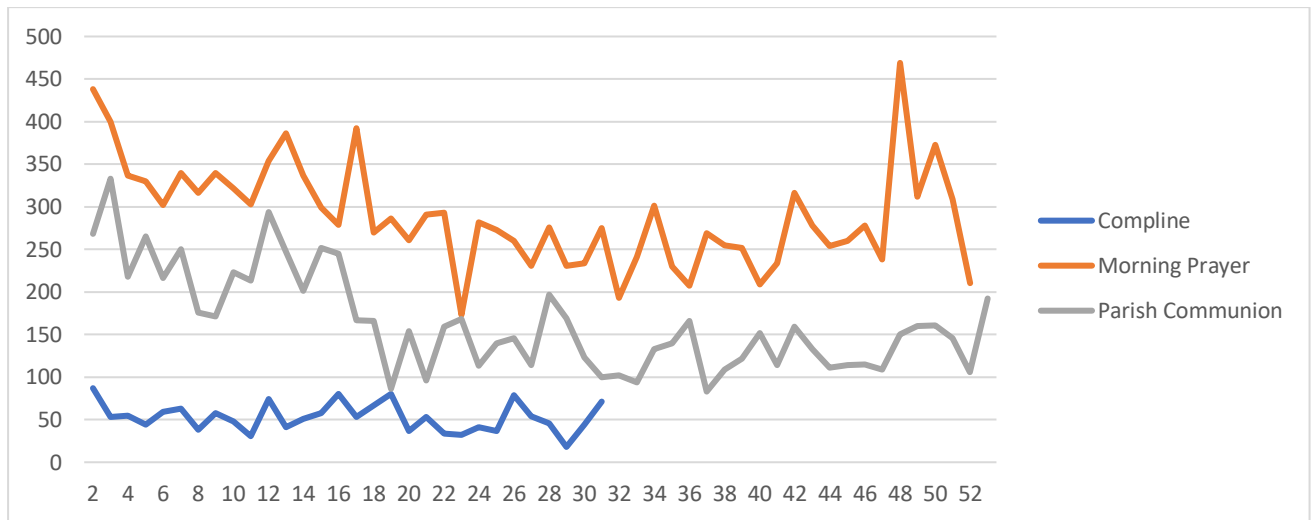
Church attendance

The Electoral Roll total for St. George, Stockport PCC was 181 in total at the end of 2021.

The average weekly attendance, at church, for St. George's was:

Choral Evensong	24.3
Early Communion	13.6
Parish Communion	63.6
Praise & Play	31.9
Wednesday Communion	13.6
Wednesday MP	6.1

Our online profile (number of views) in 2021 is shown below.



Safeguarding Report

We have been grateful to Will Hesson who has been operating as our Safeguarding Officer. He stepped down towards the end of 2021 and James Hibbert has stepped into the role.

PCC members have been consistently encouraged to engage with the Basic awareness level safeguarding training and have been provided with safeguarding information.

Safeguarding has been on every PCC and Standing Committee agenda and the safeguarding information has been read out at the PCC and APCM.

It has been stressed that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone, especially those who work with children and vulnerable adults on behalf of the Church. They are encouraged to undertake the Foundation level safeguarding training.

All certificates need to be sent to the Parish safeguarding Officer.

Safeguarding contact details are in all parish buildings.

This parish follows the parish safeguarding handbook form the Church of England.

Baptism Assistants Team

At the beginning of 2021 we were still in a national lockdown and Holy Baptism Services were suspended. Since the relaxation of the Covid rules in the spring of 2021 we were able to resume. Some catching up had to be done and numbers attending were limited. Strict safety measures had to be followed and it was a difficult period for everyone involved.

Going forward it is hoped things will return to normal now that all Covid restrictions are being lifted. Normal sounds so good. Three new members have joined the team and three existing members have left including the co-ordinator Kim Regan plus Joan Armstrong and Mavis Plummer. With the approval of all team members, it is agreed that Pat Birch, Marion Johnson and Brenda Swindells will now share the co-ordinator duties. Everything is running well with the services with no complaints from anyone. The timing of the service at 12.30pm is ideal.

A full list of members for 2022 is shown below.

Morag Ranson
Brenda Swindells
Dawn Hesson
Peter Pilbeam
Stephanie Burrows
Pat Birch

Rita Waters
Marion Johnson

Bell Ringers

Though it had been possible to ring on Christmas morning 2020, by the New Year we were in lockdown again, and all ringing was once more suspended. As restrictions gradually eased, we were able to resume ringing for service on the morning of Palm Sunday. Fortunately, since then, it has been possible to continue with service and practice ringing increasingly back to approaching normal. Our spacious ringing room and windows openable on all four sides have been an important factor in enabling this.

We rang the bells half muffled on the Sunday morning following the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and tolled a half-muffled bell on the morning of his funeral (17th April).

As the restrictions were also eased on weddings, we were additionally able to ring at eight of these for which the bells were requested.

With our usual Monday evening practices becoming somewhat intermittent, we received a complaint, not so much about the sound of the bells, but that our 9:00pm finishing time was rather late. The complaint was treated seriously, and the Vicar and I arranged to meet the complainant to explain the necessity of practices and the impracticality of starting them earlier. It was further noted that a 9:00pm finish is almost universally adopted in the majority of towers, both locally and nationally, and considered acceptable. It was stressed that we attempt to be "good neighbours" as far as the time and duration of ringing is concerned, and that the Sunday morning service and Monday evening practice ringing rarely exceeds a total of one-and-a-half hours a week. Our meeting was concluded amicably, but it is an indication of the difficulties the resumption of ringing after periods of suspension during lockdowns can present. It was, on the other hand, reassuring to receive messages from local people welcoming the sound of the bells again.

Our main concern for the future of ringing at St George's is having no new recruits. During the last two years of Covid restrictions, teaching learners would not have been practical, but attracting interest was difficult even before the pandemic. The situation is made all the more problematic by the nature of the bells themselves, which are among the heaviest in the diocese, and resultingly difficult on which to teach. Nevertheless, if ringing is to be maintained in the coming years, finding interested people (of any age) is essential, though how this can be achieved has exercised us for some time without success.

Andrew Mayes – Ringing Master

Choir

Our first major Service of the year was the Epiphany Carol Service. A much-reduced service compared to normal. This would be our last choral service for a number of weeks as acts of worship were paused again just two weeks later.

A return to virtual choir activities commenced, and the ministry team and members of the choir were involved in putting together our biggest project to date – an

entirely virtual service of Choral Evensong for Candlemas with both sung and spoken recordings being put together to form an entirely virtual service.

Once services resumed the Choir continued to provide all of the music at Services whilst government guidance restricted congregational singing during acts of worship. This allowed us to introduce some new repertoire to the congregation, some of which has continued to be used during communion services since.

A period of time around Lent and Holy Week saw a further reduction in the number of singers we were able to use during services due to restrictions being reintroduced. Some beautiful Holy Week services were put together with very limited resources. There was much positive feedback from members of the congregation during the period up until Easter, when outdoor hymn singing was permitted for the first time.

As spring progressed into summer, the Choir was able to return to something more akin to the format it was used to performing in. We continued to perform whilst being spread across the chancel and sanctuary. The number of singers now being limited to how much space we had to perform in.

Given the amount of time we had been unable to sing for as a full choir during the early part of the year we decided to forego the usual Summer break during August and continued to provide fully choral Services during this time.

On the last weekend in August the choir achieved a huge milestone. We had been invited to sing for Saturday and Sunday Services at Worcester Cathedral. This was the choir's first tour to an English Cathedral for over 30 years. A lot of organisation went into making the tour a success, and we received a framed image, and a note of thanks from the Dean and Chapter – now hanging in the Vestry.

The Autumn Term was possibly the busiest on record for the choir. As well as our regular Sunday commitments the choir sang for at least nine additional services and concerts at which the choir performed. Notable occasions included; Mattins for the Heritage Open Day, Memorial Services for Olga Jones and Michael Coupe, The RSCM Chester Area Festival at Chester Cathedral, Civic Services for the Battle of Britain memorial weekend and Royal Navy Sea Cadets, a fully-choral BCP Wedding, a concert with the Fairey Band, one of Britain's most prestigious Brass Bands, and the Diocesan Service to welcome Bishop Sam Corley to Stockport.

Considering this was such an exhaustive schedule for any Parish Church Choir, members of St. George's Choir should be proud of themselves for the standard of music they continued to provide, particularly during such a busy period.

The year ended with our first full Advent and Christmas schedule of services and events since 2019. An enjoyable evening of carol singing at the Christmas Tree festival was followed quickly by a successful Advent Carol Service, and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in the presence of the Bishop of Stockport.

Sung services for Christmas Eve Christingle Services & Midnight Communion, Christmas Day, and the Feast of St. Stephen brought a very busy, but rewarding, year to a close.

The Choir has continued an unimaginable increase in numbers during 2020. We have welcomed six new members, children and adults, who have joined the choir during the year, along with at least three returning members, along with our ever-increasing pool of occasional singers, from other choirs, who join us as and when commitments allow. A lot of choirs who have struggled to emerge from the pandemic, but these new choir members have all contributed to us growing, both numerically and in musical standards.

After a number of years in which we haven't been able to fill vacancies 2021 saw the appointment of two Pilling Trust Choral Scholars. We still have two vacancies remaining.

I continue to enjoy working with such a talented group of singers and musicians, and thank each choir member for their dedication and commitment, week in week out, in contributing to make the musical reputation of St. George's Church known throughout the local area, and beyond!

Finally, thanks must go to two former Directors of Music at St. George's, Andrew Dean and Roger Briscoe.

Andrew Dean has recently retired, after 50 years working as an organist and choir trainer. His support since 2019 has been greatly appreciated by all, and we wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement from Church music. Andrew was presented with gifts from the choir on Sunday 26th December 2021 during the morning Service.

2022 mark's 50 years since Roger Briscoe first came to St. George's for lessons with Arthur Rooke, starting to play the organ for Services shortly after, and his continued association with St. George's Church is of huge benefit to us all.

Roger has accompanied the choir and congregation at various important services during 2021, including the Choir Tour to Worcester Cathedral.

My thanks to him for his continued support.

2022 already looks to be an exciting year for the Choir, and I'm looking forward to what it brings.

James Hibbert (Director of Music)

Christianity for the Curious

The course was held over six weekly sessions by Zoom from February to March 2021. It covered the following aspects of faith:

- 1) What is the Bible?
- 2) God the Father.
- 3) God the Son.
- 4) God the Holy Spirit.
- 5) What did Jesus say and do?
- 6) What do Christians do?

Those involved found it to be a is a great Christian basics course which gave an insight into the Christian Faith and explored areas which people might not have considered.

People came from all different backgrounds and stages in their Christian faith including those who used it as a refresher course.

Christmas Tree Festival

In the summer of 2021, we started planning our Christmas Tree Festival for the week leading up to Advent Sunday. We were very conscious that we had no idea what might be happening with the Coronavirus and certainly had no inkling of Omicron. However, in all planning, the safety of our own church members and all visitors was paramount. We changed the route around church and in particular the refreshment area, allowing tables to be more widely spaced and food handling as hygienic as possible. We purchased 2,000 face masks in case people didn't bring them and we do still have a large box full in the crypt because most people were very well prepared. The number of stalls was reduced to a raffle and a 'Guess the Name of.' Entertainment was a little more limited as schools were still very constrained by what they were able to do and lastly, we had fewer trees.

However, to our complete delight it all worked amazingly well. So many people came through the door exclaiming 'Oh it's so good to be back' or 'Oh we did miss you last year'. The trees were all lovely and Nicola's Prayer Trail was particularly appreciated especially with take home booklets of the prayers used in the trail. So, many many thanks to everyone who was involved in whatever way, it really was joyous to be able to do it all again. The final icing on the cake was that we made about £7,000 profit for which we are very grateful at the end of a very challenging year for the finances.

Hazel Jenkins

Contentious Christianity

Throughout May and June, we hosted 6 online discussion sessions called Contentious Christianity. The aim of the sessions was to provide a forum to learn more about and discuss some of the issues that challenge and inspire us in the Church today. We invited guest speakers from across Chester Diocese to talk to us about issues in which they had a special interest, and we asked our guest speakers to pose some questions that would challenge us and encourage us to think more deeply about the issues. The sessions we held covered the following topics:

1. The Church and the Gender (Julie Withers and Nikki Eastwood)
2. The Church and Women (Liz Shercliff)
3. The Church and the State: Power and Politics (Ian Bishop)
4. The Church and Power (Jenny Bridgman)
5. The Church and Life (Chris Burkett)
6. The Church and Fractured Communion (Rob Munro)

Sessions were chaired by either Elaine, Janine, Peter, or Chris Dawson.

The sessions were held on Zoom. Each session opened in prayer and then the guest speaker gave a talk about their topic. Each talk lasted approximately 30 minutes. We then had the opportunity to discuss and debate some of the issues raised by our guest speakers. Sessions can be accessed via YouTube. Over 70 people requested information about the live or recorded sessions and approximately 20-30 people attended each session live.

Garden Gnomes

The effects of the Covid pandemic continued to impact on our gardening activities over the last twelve months, but as time has passed by we have been able to get back to relative normality. One big plus has been the ability to have our coffee break indoors, particularly as we have had a very wet winter period this year.

For a variety of reasons, the number of Gnomes able to attend regularly has reduced, but we have a core group of five regulars, who attend on Tuesday mornings, to carry out the tasks of planting, tending flora, weeding, pruning, collecting and composting the autumn crop of fallen leaves, and generally tidying up the church grounds.

Stan Berry has stepped down as the leader of our group, and we would like to thank him for the part he has played over many years. We are also sad to report the deaths of two stalwarts of our team, Jean Davison and Brian Walton – good friends and very knowledgeable gardeners, whose presence we miss.

As well as dealing with gardening activities, we also have a role in keeping the grounds clean and free of litter. Currently, there is no regular programme for emptying the bins at the West end of the church which we use for disposal of the waste. Without access to the waste bins in the school playground, which we have been able to use in the past, this is an ongoing problem that needs to be resolved.

We have also struggled to keep the North Avenue presentable, due to the activities of the building contractors on the former Vicarage site. Some major restoration work will be needed once activities near completion.

In the past, the gardening team were able to carry out pruning of the various trees on the church grounds, but in recent times this has become beyond our capabilities. We were able to provide advice on suitable contractors for the work, and hard pruning of the South Avenue trees was carried out in the school half term break in February 2022, together with limited pruning of a couple of larger trees which were becoming a problem. As growth on the North Avenue trees had been significantly less, work on those trees was deferred for the time being.

The pathways around the church are also reaching a point where major weed and moss treatment is necessary, together with the addition of new gravel.

We would like to express our thanks to all those who have given donations of bulbs, plants or money to help us maintain a colourful display in the church grounds.

Special thanks go to Kate Stephenson who has been the prime mover in organising the display bed in the West End garden, with its floral “125”.

Finally, if any of our readers would like to spend time on a Tuesday morning, helping us in our various activities, you will be very welcome, and rewarded with coffee/tea and biscuits, and friendly chat at our midmorning break. You don’t have to be especially skilled in gardening terms – there are plenty of other ways in which you can make a useful contribution to making our church grounds look attractive to church members, visitors and passers by.

Walter Stead – Novice Gnome

Grapevine

During 2021 we continued to produce a digital version of *Grapevine* with the usual 24 pages. In addition, we again published an ‘extra’ August edition, this time of 18 pages, in order to help our readers keep in touch with St George’s during the pandemic. We were able to produce the traditional 28-page December/January edition, including the usual 2-page photographic record of the year’s events.

The digital format allowed us to continue with the use of expanded colour in the magazine. We were very pleased in February 2022 to be able to return to printed copies of *Grapevine*, while also continuing to make the magazine available online in digital form. With the permission of the PCC, we have taken the decision to continue with the widespread use of colour in *Grapevine*, feeling that it greatly enhances the magazine. We have increased the cover price to £1.20 to help cover the increased cost of colour. This is the first price increase since February 2016.

The new format provides four pages in black and white to accommodate those advertisers whose adverts normally appear in black and white or have little colour. Several advertisers wished to remain in colour, and they have been included elsewhere in the magazine. I should like to thank Rosie Stead for her long-standing work in attracting advertisers and dealing with the finances, and also for the additional work involved in arranging for both colour and black and white adverts. Grateful thanks to both Rosie and Judith Swift for their work in sending out postal copies of the magazine.

As always, also, the magazine would not exist without the incredible talents and commitment of Andrew Regan, who not only takes upon himself the task of making sure that the layout of the magazine is prepared for publication, but who has had much extra work in sending out the digital editions, to the Committee, and then to all our readers and subscribers. Apart from all this, Andrew can also solve any technical issues with copy, from finding and inserting appropriate graphics, to improving the quality of photographs, and enabling all our copy to be presented as effectively as possible. How he finds time to combine all this with acting as a Church Warden and the Church Treasurer is beyond me, but he manages everything with efficiency and good humour. His sole reward is to be allowed each month to choose ‘Andrew’s Cartoon’!

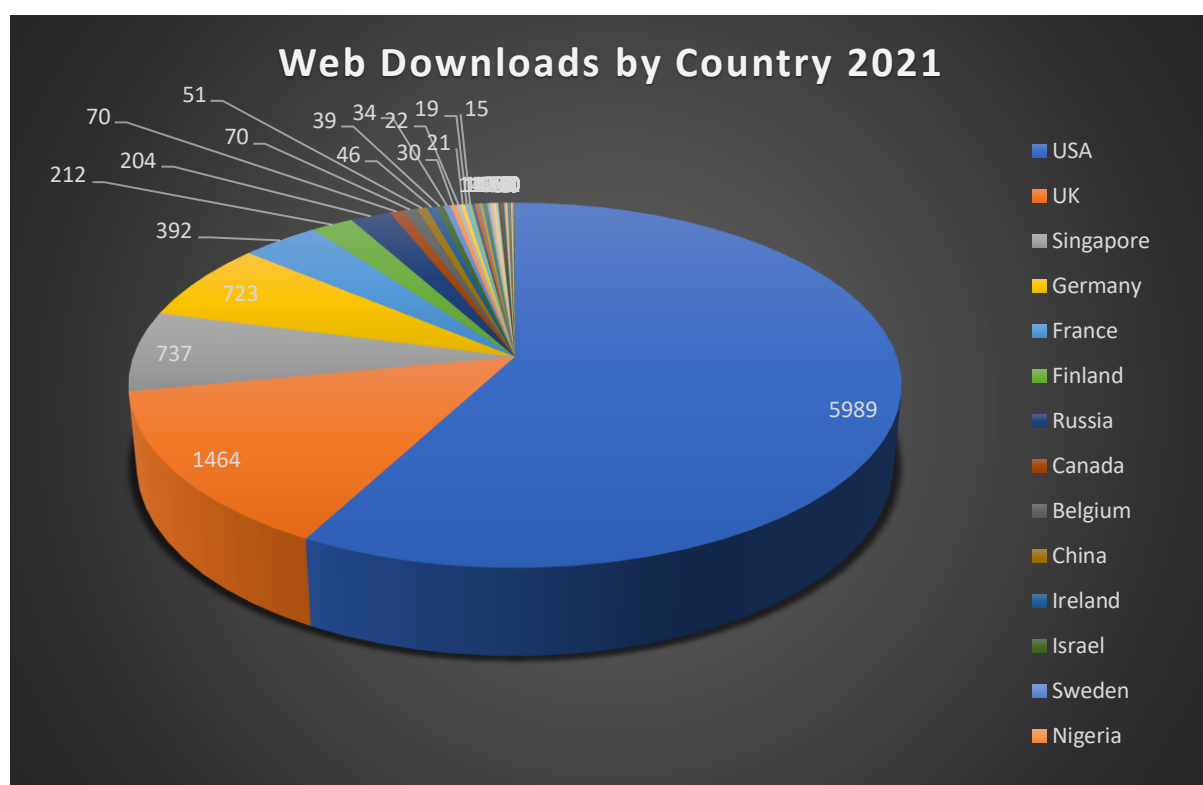
Grateful thanks and admiration again to Angela Foulkes, whose skill and diligence in proof-reading is only matched by her ability to write interesting and original articles.

I am also grateful to all our regular contributors, whose hard work enhances the magazine each month. Elaine, Rosie Stead, Pamela Ferguson, Angela Foulkes, Chris Dawson, Walter Stead and the other Garden Gnomes all faithfully produce copy, as do other talented writers. The photographers whose work graces the cover page as well as other pages, deserve special thanks, especially Andrew Regan, as well as Louise Clark and Andy Clark and Janet Neilson among others.

I should also like to thank all our faithful advertisers, particularly for their loyalty during the pandemic, including, of course, Kevin, our printer, with whom it is a pleasure to be able to work again. And of course, grateful thanks to the other *Grapevine* Committee members, whose help and advice is always valuable.

As this is likely to be my last Annual Report as Editor, I am sure that whoever replaces me will rely on the same support from dedicated and talented people that I have been lucky enough to enjoy. Thank you to everyone.

Richard Parr



Handbell Ringers

Sadly to report, the handbells have remained unringed all year. In 2020 Debbie and John Heaton gave up the leadership of the group, just before Covid-19 struck. So for most of that year we were unable to gather as a group. We lost one of our regular members in 2020 reducing our numbers and then in 2021 the time certainly wasn't

right to think about searching for a new leader and reforming the group. So hopefully that is the challenge for 2022.

Hazel Jenkins

Lent Breakfasts

These were held on five Saturday mornings in Lent, beginning on the 20th February and finishing on 20 March. Being subject to the pandemic restrictions, we held the sessions on Zoom. So, it was 'bring your own breakfast'! This did not seem to discourage people from attending. For four out of the five sessions we had 20 or more participants, with 13 attending the last session.

The question, 'What has Covid done for me?' enabled us to look at the positives as well as the negatives of the pandemic. Morag Ranson led this first session in which she considered the challenges of Covid and the lockdown we were all experiencing. One of those challenges was, of course Staying Connected, which Janine Arnott addressed in the second session. Undoubtedly the pandemic and the lockdown have provided some Positives and Opportunities, which Elaine Chegwin Hall explored in the fourth session. A subject brought to the fore by the Covid experience has been the state of our mental health. Counsellor and therapist Jonathan Lloyd joined us to share some thoughts on how we can look after ourselves. The final session took the form of an open discussion under the title, 'What has Covid Taught Us?

Thank you to all those who gave their time and energy to leading the sessions.

Chris Dawson

Linen Guild

During what has been another different and at times difficult year for many, the small group continued to look after the various items of church linen all with their own specific use in the church and services. We hope that people are pleased with the look of the seating area now we have been able to put the new cushions in place.

Pat Rigley

Messy Church Craft (January 2021 to December 2021)

Messy Church (craft) continued monthly between January 2021 and June 2021.

Monthly sessions followed the lectionary readings and also special session, such as a session on the environment. As we came out of lockdown and as schools reopened and Messy Church prepared to reopen in person, it was decided to end Messy Church monthly craft sessions to focus resources on in person children's ministry. The last session took place on 3rd July and included a special montage of all the Messy Church sessions. The Messy Church online Light Party that aired in 2020 was aired again in 2021.

National Day of Reflection

On the 23rd March we, at St George's, along with the rest of the country joined in a National Day of Reflection. The day's events were:

9:30am Extended Morning Prayer (online)

10:00am to 12:30am for private prayer (in the church)

11:50am to 12:10pm for prayers and reflection (online and in church)

5:00pm St George's Church: A year in review (online)

The year in review captured the previous 12 months – 12 months of Covid lockdown and it was humbling and inspiring to see how the church had pulled together and risen to the challenges of Covid. The review can be accessed online via YouTube.

Mothers' Union

We have experienced another different year and continued to keep in touch with all the group with the regular telephone calls and cards. Over the period we have sent out in excess of 700 cards. We think that the phone calls and cards were very important in keeping the group together and all renewing their membership for 2021. We were able to start meeting in Church in September with a communion service led by the Vicar and then we had visits by Rev. Glenys and the Diocesan MU president Wendy Sykes and finally celebrated Advent with carols and readings. Unfortunately during the year two of our members have had to go to live in residential accommodation, and two have been housebound we miss them all and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Praise And Play

Praise and Play restarted in September. Following discussions in the summer the decision was taken to move Praise and Play to Tuesday mornings in term time and to relocate it to the west end of the church. This allowed the children's area to be used for play and to have craft activities across the back. The coffee area is a quiet space to have the story, songs and prayers at the end of the session. It is also more convenient for serving refreshments as these no longer need to be carried to the side chapel. Another change is that it now runs from 10:00 to 11:00. This shorter session is more manageable for the leaders.

The restart and relocation of Praise and Play also provided an opportunity to sort through the resources that had built up over the years. Toys, books and dressing up clothes that were surplus to our requirements were offered to Praise and Play members when we restarted. Some were then donated to St. George's pre-school and others were taken to charity shops.

We were pleased to see a number of carers return when we restarted, though inevitably they brought new children with them as several of the children who we had seen in March 2020 had moved on to pre-school or to primary school. We have also welcomed back young children who we previously knew as babies and toddlers.

It has also been a delight to welcome new families to the group. We regularly have between 14 and 18 children each week and between 8 and 12 adults, not including the leaders.

Janet Neilson decided that it was time to move on from leading Praise and Play. Thank you, Janet for your ministry over the years, we were sorry not to have had the chance to say a formal farewell to her. We have welcomed Rita Waters as part of the ministry team.

During the term the children were introduced to a number of Old Testament stories as well as the Nativity story, in December. We made decorations for our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival and had a visit from Father Christmas in the last session before the Christmas break.

Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain has been active right throughout the pandemic.

Powerful prayer has been said regularly for those who have requested prayers for their family, friends and/or themselves.

It has been a privilege to do this because I know that, at some level, healing has taken place, not necessarily curing.

The prayer chain consists of 12 members of the congregation and this number has been relatively constant.

We should be delighted if we could add a few more links to the chain and invite you to contact me if you wish to join us.

Information is passed from Elaine to me, usually. This is always in total confidence and we only know the person we pray for by their first name.

There are no forms to complete or money to pay. All you do is set aside time whenever you can to remember the people on the list.

Phoebe MacLeod marshyreeds@gmail.com 07828755674

Singing Group

Due to the ongoing suspension of All-age Services, the Singing Group hasn't met, and hasn't provided music for any Services during the last year.

James Hibbert

Storytime

Story time seems to be well received and averages around 40 views each time. It's been an opportunity for both Elaine and Janine to demonstrate their creative sides, with both taking turns to write a story each month. It would be helpful to have reviews from parish members who do watch it, to see if there is anything we could improve on.

Nicola Pennicott-Hall

St Gabriel's

The annual quinquennial was requested by Chester Diocese in May and was carried out by Richard Williams who was approved as the quinquennial architect at the previous PCC meeting.

A comprehensive report was made available and there are some items to action.

Aside from the financial implications of what the work is going to cost and needing to seek quotes to enable the work to go ahead, there is always the missional aspect of such a document. Reflecting on documents such as these helps us to think about how we use and maintain our buildings.

We hadn't been able to worship at St Gabriel's during the lockdown and prior to that, the congregation had diminished due to ill health, moving away or who had sadly died. We continued to keep in regular contact with the former two sections by phone, Zoom, letter and email and physical visiting when that was possible.

Much thought has been put into the way forward and conversations have been had with Revd Lynne Cullens, now Bishop of Barking, who has a particular interest in estate ministry and serves with a team of people acting on behalf of the archbishop.

We have also had a conversation with Revd Peter Frogatt who is the Director of Outreach for Chester Diocese and who worked alongside Emily Allen, the buildings missionary for the Diocese. This proved useful in considering what possibilities may be out there. They pledged their support in whatever we decide to do.

We continue to partner with the local authority as we can, and we have looked at opportunities for rental although there are a plethora of halls and community buildings in Adswold. Two other expressions of interest from uniformed organisations about using the church as their base and an organisation who runs courses for those convicted of drugs and alcohol driving offences faded into nothing.

In the past we have considered using the building to partner alongside statutory or voluntary agencies: dementia church/café, provision for those with additional need/autism, loneliness, family support, poverty and providing affordable meals for families etc. but that had stalled during lockdown.

Rockup2sing, the community choir, returned in the later part of the year on a Tuesday night.

There are lots of things that have been considered but there doesn't necessarily seem to be the capacity to take on extra endeavours at the church at present given the heavy demands on people already. Other agencies, charities or churches may be able to help.

We continue to work closely with our ecumenical colleagues in Adswold for various services and events throughout the year, but they have similar problems with reducing congregations and limited people available to help.

A Christmas carol service was held in December and there are plans for a limited number of festival services to be held in 2022.

23rd January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 3pm.

4th June Pentecost breakfast at 9 am.

9th October Harvest service at 4pm.

11th December Carol Service at 3pm.

This will maintain our insurance on the building. There is a wider discussion to be had over what repairs etc need doing, the cost and the ultimate outcome for the building.

We were limited in looking at the deeds for land use and the church due to Covid but we hope to be able to present a fuller picture once these have been perused.

We have explored many avenues to keep St Gabriel's going and have really tried our very best to find a solution.

The Diocesan Outreach staff posed the question, 'If you had all the money to put it right, would that be the end of your problems?'

St George's School

We continued to work alongside St George's School during 2021 and inserted videoed segments into their festival services as there were restrictions on gathering.

We also took part in virtual assemblies and encouraged families to access on line Storytime, Messy Church and Messy Church Bake Off.

We supported staff in prayer and in regular pastoral contact and continued to be part of the governance structure as part of the Governing Board.

Sunday Clubs

Due to continued Covid restrictions and low numbers of children there were no Sunday Clubs sessions during 2021. Staff planned a Light Party for 31st October but due to high numbers of regional Covid cases in the target age group and health

considerations of several of the helpers this was cancelled with the hope that it can be offered next year.

During December 2021 it was agreed that we should resume offering a basic story and craft session in the children's corner at the back of church during the Sunday 10:15am service to any young attendee present. Craft or colouring activities based on the Liturgy were also still provided during school holiday Sundays. Staff are due to meet to finalise plans and resume in January 2022.

Louise Clark

Telephone Buddies

The Telephone Buddies have continued informally, reporting back with any concerns and bringing people to church when that has been possible. They have endeavoured to keep people in the picture with things and to let them know that they have a listening ear when they are feeling lonely. Grateful thanks to all concerned.

Curate's Report

Like many people, I had hoped 2021 would be the start of the end of Covid and restrictions would be well and truly behind us by now, but that was not the case. Instead, I continued my strange but fruitful curacy – it wasn't what I imagined but it was better in many ways.

Lent and Easter provided more opportunities for creative online services in response to the continued restrictions. In March, like many other churches, we took part in the National Day of Prayer. I put together a video montage of the church activities during the previous year (the first year of lockdown) and it was a poignant moment; a moment tinged with sadness at what we had endured but a moment also tinged with pride and joy in what we had achieved.

It was the year we ran Contentious Christianity online; a series of talks and discussions that grappled with some of the more difficult questions the church faces today. It was a wonderful development opportunity and a fascinating series to be part of.

Outside St George's, I began contributing to teaching readers in training in Chester Diocese and also became part of a team in the diocese offering training on unconscious bias. My IME2 training (the training all curates undertake) continued online with a new IME2 officer (just one of many staff changes in the diocese during the year).

As restrictions began to lift in the summer, we took the decision to end Messy Church (craft) and Compline online to focus my time on the in person services that were opening up such as school assemblies and Messy Church. As the autumn rolled on, things began to look a little more normal. The Christmas Tree festival ran again and our Christmas services also ran in full.

As I look back, I am aware of just how unusual my curacy has been. I had 9 months of 'normality' before we went into lockdown and the rest of my curacy has been restricted to varying degrees at different times by Covid. However, despite this I have managed to fulfil all requirements and have learnt more than I could ever have hoped for. Covid, despite its challenges has provided me with many opportunities. As I prepare to move on from St George's in 2022, I do so feeling that I've been blessed to have been at St George's during my crazy curacy.

Report from the Vicar 2021

2021 proved to be an unusual and challenging year due to Covid. There was a lot that we couldn't do but a lot we **did** do thanks to so many people extending themselves to overcome some of the difficulties that were presented to us.

Not only were we able to maintain most of the key functions set before us, we were also able to plan for the future, including for our 125th anniversary year in 2022.

The year evolved with almost all of our meetings being held virtually and that included our commitment to discipleship and outreach. Courses such as: Christianity for the Curious, Lent Breakfasts when we looked at "What has Covid done for me?" and Contentious Christianity where speakers from across the diocese shared their thoughts on "The Church and..."

It was in September that a group of us, joined a large group of people for "Feasts of Hope" part of the "Ripples of Hope Festival" which celebrates the power of people to make human rights a reality for all. This was organised by Stockport Council Library Department. Each person/group brought a dish of food that meant something to them and then they would tell their story. From our congregation, Nicola spoke about disability and Sareh and Sahar spoke about their journey from Iran and their Christian faith. I was very proud of them all.

Interviews for Life Events such as baptisms weddings and funerals were usually held online, at least in the early part of the year. It wasn't always easy for the bereaved families, but it enabled us to see each other as we planned for the most painful of situations, endeavouring to make them slightly more bearable.

The difficult decision to close the church for public worship came soon after the wonderful Confirmation service in January, attended by Bishop Mark, Bishop of Chester. This was due to seriously elevated coronavirus rates. We returned on Palm Sunday.

That meant that we weren't in a position to do baptisms and weddings for the early part of 2021. Our first baptism of the year was on 30th May and continued almost weekly with 27 children and 4 adults being baptised (2 by full immersion) with 2 who didn't turn up, so I'd like to thank the baptism team for all their love, care and support to the families and to the clergy.

Weddings started in May with 10 couples being married at St George's during the year with some restrictions still in place. This coincided with United Utilities digging

up the A6, which made things interesting. We were also presented with a change in marriage regulations. All training was done online and, somehow, we managed to navigate our way through it.

A total of 39 funerals, memorial services and burial of ashes took place over the year. Some people had been waiting for a couple of years for ashes to be buried or the funerals had been held elsewhere which meant that we offered a fuller service in church in an attempt to link to the earlier funeral.

We said goodbye to Richard Heap, one of our patrons and Jean Bull who had been the church cleaner for many years. We also mourned the loss of several church family members.

We also said farewell to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who died on 9 April 2021. The Church was immediately made ready for those who wanted to come and pay their respects and a series of services were held leading up to his funeral.

We consolidated our resources into keeping services online with the church being open for individual prayer which enabled people to come and collect the 40 or so, specially prepared, Lent packs at their convenience and some were hand delivered to those who would normally have received Home Communion.

Again, due to the coronavirus rates, we limited home visits to essential and end of life care.

We were part of the National Day of Reflection in March, acknowledging the enormity of the impact of the coronavirus on the lives of so many and reflecting on how people had worked together to bring so many positive things out of challenge.

The 8am service resumed from Easter Day; many people having come to the Wednesday BCP Communion Service. The 10.15am Parish Communion continued to be live streamed as well as in person and for the early part of the year, any evening services were live streamed only. The Wednesday Communion service resumed in person and refreshments were served for people to drink at tables.

In July we made the decision to stop Online Messy Church and Compline and Praise and Play would be on a Tuesday starting in person in September for a 1-hour session/service. Messy Church Bake Off and Storytime would continue as online services.

Despite the many restrictions on singing, our Director of Music, James Hibbert has done an astounding job to bring us singing in some form or another throughout the year and it is to be applauded that our wonderful choir were the choir in residence at Worcester Cathedral over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

2021 continued to be the year of the risk assessment which meant that any Life Event, regular service and specific festival or occasion services and events had a full risk assessment.

Following that we decided to have a Community Carol Service at St Gabriel's, and a reduced version of the Christmas Tree Festival at St George's which was appreciated. We were grateful to John Hayden for the accompanying video from the Christmas Tree Festival which enabled those at home to see the decorated church.

We welcomed the renowned Fairey Band and our choir sang along with them making it a splendid occasion.

We also went ahead with three Christingles on Christmas Eve, plus the midnight service, plus the Christmas Day services plus the Boxing Day service on the Sunday. Thanks to the fabulous people who stewarded all those occasions and helped to sanitize the church between things.

I am also hugely grateful for all those who came along for the Big Clean Events which helped us to keep on top of our housekeeping.

The Churches and Parish Rooms have needed some attention. Roofing work was done on the chapel and reredos roof and in the corridor near the smaller of the parish rooms which had leaked comprehensively, possibly due to lead theft. Lights were also replaced in both parish rooms. St Gabriel's comes as a separate report.

We have worked alongside the developers in discussion with the easement in the North Venue which took up a lot of time and relied heavily on the insight of our diocesan legal people and the tenacity of our church Warden Andrew Regan and Deputy Warden John Hardy. This was to enable the developers to dig an access hole, check the drains and replace them as necessary. It meant that the responsibility for any repair or replacement in the future would lie with whoever the developers appointed to manage the site. We also look forward the North Avenue being reinstated and resurfaced.

The Strategy Group, working alongside the Standing Committee and PCC, have worked tirelessly, and I am exceedingly grateful for their contributions. Steve Kelly stepped down as treasurer having extended his tenure for longer than planned in order to cover the vagaries of coronavirus. He has done an amazing job and I will always be grateful for his help and support. Andrew Regan has kindly added to his portfolio of roles within the parish and has taken on the job.

Andrea Webb Reilly stepped down as the PCC secretary and we await a new appointment for this job. In the meantime, Hazel Jenkins, the other church warden *and chief cook and bottle washer*, has stepped up in the interim.

We have been grateful to Will Hesson for being our Parish Safeguarding Officer and I am delighted to welcome James Hibbert into the role. Please do assist him in sharing the responsibility that we all have for ensure our churches and parish rooms are safer places to be for children and vulnerable adults.

Along with our commitment to safeguarding, we had a raft of reports to consider: Wellbeing, Eco Church, a "Firm place to stand" (emerging through Covid) and the

Living in Love report. We also started to make plans for our 125th anniversary and the Heritage Open Day brought in 70 people.

We delighted in a flurry of Bishops (a bench of bishops?) in 2021. We had Bishop Mark in January for the confirmation and the bishops designate: Julie Conalty and Sam Corley on 28th May for a time of prayer. This occasion was part of their tour around the diocese. It was followed by lunch at the Funky Monkey which was enjoyed by all.

The rearranged date of Bishop Sam's formal welcome was on October 14th and we had a packed church for a wonderful celebration.

Not to be outdone, Bishop Sam joined us for our Carol Service on Sunday 19th December.

All things episcopal hadn't quite finished as we went to Chester Cathedral in October to formally welcome our new Reader, Rita Waters, to the parish. It was a fabulous experience.

As I said in the beginning: In 2001, there was a lot that we couldn't do but a lot we **did** do, and I am grateful to each and everyone one of you who has helped to not only keep things going but to enable us to grow and reach those in our community who may never have thought about coming to the church.

Thanks especially to our ever supportive Church Wardens who have held such a lot of responsibility over these past 2 years, to our Curate Janine for putting up with such a hybrid way of training, for Peter and Rita, our Readers and for all those who have led Morning prayer, live streamed for us and all those who have mucked in, responded to various bizarre requests in an effort to get things done. You are magnificent. Thank you.

With every blessing

Elaine.

Financial Review for 2021

The PCC recorded an increase in funds of £7,711 over the year. PCC unrestricted funds grew by £2,553. The Fabric Fund grew by £5,681 and St Gabriel's funds reduced by £1,361. The Choir Legacy fund (established in 2020 from a bequest of £5,000) had a balance of £5,451 at 31st December 2021. The Preservation Trust funds reduced by £110, and other restricted funds increased in the year by £511.

St George's unrestricted funds

St George's unrestricted funds showed a surplus, with income and capital gains exceeding expenditure by £2,553, compared with a deficit of £728 last year. This surplus was made possible only by a continuing suspension of our charitable giving from unrestricted funds, and by transferring an amount of £2,800 from the Fabric Fund into Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with our financial reserving policy, as detailed below.

Overall income increased by £16,914, recovering from a large decrease last year due to the effects of the pandemic. Total voluntary income, excluding legacies and grants, reduced slightly by £291 to £90,822 as almost all our regular giver scheme members continued with their support. Income received from letting the church and Parish Rooms increased by £3,779 to £12,136 as more activities resumed. Income from fundraising events increased by £6,938 to £8,336, mostly as a result of being able to hold the Christmas Tree Festival again. Grants totalling £9,287 were received, including £7,338 from Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council to help the PCC through the pandemic.

Overall expenditure increased by £6,333. Parish share costs increased by £482 to £67,478. Church running costs increased by £2,763, as usage of the building also increased, and church maintenance costs increased by £624. Upkeep of Services, including Music and Organ costs, increased by £2,049 to £4,486 as more services were held after the church reopened. Expenditure on the Parish Rooms decreased by £1,409 to £3,365. The cost of maintaining the curate's house increased by £164 to £3,736.

A transfer of £7,000 was made from St George's Unrestricted Funds to the Fabric Fund, this representing most of the net income from the Christmas Tree Festival. A transfer back of £2,800 was then required in order to comply with our financial reserving policy.

Designated Funds

St Gabriel's funds

There was a deficit of £1,361 for the year. Income for the year reduced by £159 to £1,462 including £821 voluntary giving (and associated income tax recoverable) and rental income of £210. Total expenditure reduced by £517 to £2,823, which included £829 contributed to St George's to cover its share of the Parish Share, clergy expenses, and Parish Office costs.

The reserves available to the church now stand at £10,032.

Fabric Fund

This fund was established in 2017, and received a further grant of £110 from the St George's Preservation Trust, plus interest and capital gains of £13,060. There was also a net transfer into the fund from Unrestricted Funds of £4,200. Expenditure for the year was £11,689, for repairs to the roof over the passage behind the reredos, the roof over the Parish Room corridor, and to the Parish Room lights. The fund currently stands at £126,844, representing an increase for the year of £5,681.

Choir Legacy Fund

This fund was established in 2020 with a £5,000 bequest from Frank Gee, a former chorister. After interest and capital gains of £864 and expenditure of £427 the fund stands at £5,451.

St George's restricted funds

The PCC is grateful for the continuing support of the Fearn Trust, which provided a grant of £20,000 to be used to cover the cost of insuring both St George's and St Gabriel's churches, and an additional grant of £1,440 towards minor repairs to the roof of St George's Church.

Charitable funds

The sum of £430, raised at the Christingle Services, along with a further £100 raised from a collecting box and £120 from carol singing, was donated to the Children's Society this year.

A further sum of £430 was raised from sales at a Christmas stall, and this was donated to Wellspring.

Music Fund

This fund was established to receive grants for musical activities. In 2021 we received a further £2,000 grant from the John Pilling Trust to support our choral scholars, now known as the John Pilling Choral Scholars.

Choir Music Fund

This fund may be used to cover the cost of the replacement of choir music.

St George's Preservation Trust

Full accounts for the Trust are available on application.

Income for the year was nil.

Expenditure this year comprised a grant to the Fabric Fund of £110, which has reduced the balance within the fund to £600. The Trustees have indicated their intention to pass the remaining balance to the Fabric Fund over the next six years.

Reserves and Investment Policies

The PCC reviewed its reserving policy in 2017. It is the policy of St George's to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs and an additional three month's salaries. At least one half of its minimum reserve should be held in Unrestricted

Funds. These reserves may be invested in funds which provide some protection against loss of value due to inflation. This may take the form of capital appreciation or income which can be re-invested.

Reserves will continue to be held in the PCC's accounts with CCLA Investment Managers which is the leading fund manager for the assets of the church, charities and local authorities. It has a policy of engaging only in ethical investments and is owned by its clients – through the Boards of Finance in the case of the Church of England. The CBF Church of England Investment Fund is used which is highly diversified and balanced across many sectors of investment and is actively managed to achieve long term capital growth and steady income.

As at 31 December 2021 it was necessary for the PCC to transfer £2,800 from the Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Funds in order to comply with this policy. A further transfer may become necessary during 2022 if expenditure exceeds income.

It is also the policy to hold a reserve to cover the work for projects that have been identified as necessary. This reserve, which may be required at short notice, is to be held in secure funds that are not subject to capital risks. An income from these funds while desirable is not essential. The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund is used, which holds only funds with AAA rated organisations and is managed by CCLA. However, excess funds may also be invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund.

The PCC has set a target minimum amount to be held in the Fabric Fund. This is calculated as a percentage of the insurance valuation of St George's Church, and the PCC make transfers from Unrestricted Funds into the Fabric Fund with the aim of reaching the target minimum within five to ten years. The current target minimum level is £142,000

A number of potential projects have been identified by the PCC including:

St George's Church

- Review of the lighting and sound systems in church
- Repairs to the West Window
- Further investigations into the subsidence in the north east corner of the church, and any remedial actions required
- Repointing of churchyard wall
- Maintenance of masonry at roof level
- Development of kitchen and toilet facilities, with changes to the internal porches

Parish Rooms

- Redevelopment of the kitchen

The PCC believes that, at present, there are insufficient reserves available to cover all of these projects. Consequently, individual projects will commence only when adequate finance is available.

The reserves policy for St Gabriel's church was reviewed in 2016 and was amended to match that of St George's, i.e. the equivalent of three months general running costs. No major projects are envisaged in the near future, and the reserves are considered to be adequate.

The reserves are held on deposit with the church's bankers, or with CCLA Investment Managers.

Dr Andrew Regan
9th March 2022

Approval

The annual report was approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd March 2022
and signed on its behalf by:

Gaele Chapman Hay

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed

Paul Clancy

Date 11/4/2022

Paul Clancy, BA (Hons), ACA, MBA
19 Rosemoor Gardens
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 4RF.

Charity number 1134170
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	2020 £
<u>Income and endowments</u>						
Donations and legacies	2.a	100,169	1,247	23,870	125,286	131,087
Other trading activities	2.b	20,472	210	-	20,682	10,288
Income from investments	2.c	15	28	-	43	354
Income from church activities	2.d	9,754	-	-	9,754	7,232
Other income	2.e	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		130,410	1,485	23,870	155,765	148,961
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Expenditure on church activities	3.a	123,282	14,939	23,359	161,580	140,565
Expenditure on raising funds	3.b	375	-	-	375	153
Total expenditure		123,657	14,939	23,359	161,955	140,718
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/losses		6,753	(13,454)	511	(6,190)	8,243
Net gains/(losses) on investments	4.b	-	13,901	-	13,901	7,098
Net income/(expenditure)		6,753	447	511	7,711	15,341
Transfers between funds						
Unrestricted Fund to Fabric Fund	7.a	(7,000)	7,000	-	-	-
Preservation Trust to Fabric Fund	7.b	-	110	(110)	-	-
Fabric Fund to Unrestricted Fund	7.c	2,800	(2,800)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	8,9	2,553	4,757	401	7,711	15,341
Total funds brought forward	8,9	72,362	137,570	17,075	227,007	211,666
Total funds carried forward	8,9	74,915	142,327	17,476	234,718	227,007

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

BALANCE SHEET

at 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<u>Fixed Assets</u>						
Tangible fixed assets	4.a	35,500	-	-	35,500	36,000
Investment assets	4.b	-	93,496	-	93,496	79,595
Total fixed assets		35,500	93,496	-	128,996	115,595
<u>Current Assets</u>						
Stock		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	5	14,556	126	1,261	15,943	14,991
Short term deposits		12,545	47,254	-	59,799	79,762
Cash at bank and in hand		17,255	1,451	16,645	35,351	21,684
Total current assets		44,356	48,831	17,906	111,093	116,437
<u>Liabilities</u>						
Creditors	6	(4,941)	-	(430)	(5,371)	(5,025)
Internal balances		-	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		39,415	48,831	17,476	105,722	111,412
Total assets less current liabilities		74,915	142,327	17,476	234,718	227,007
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets		74,915	142,327	17,476	234,718	227,007
<u>Funds</u>						
Unrestricted		74,915	-	-	74,915	72,362
Designated	8	-	142,327	-	142,327	137,570
Restricted	9	-	-	17,476	17,476	17,075
Total Funds		74,915	142,327	17,476	234,718	227,007

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

23 March 2022

and signed on its behalf by

.....
(PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages A-3 to A-9 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, current Church Accounting Regulations and Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) together with the exemptions available to smaller charities under Section 1A. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the value of investment assets which are shown at market value.

They include all transactions for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. They are only expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

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

Designated Funds are unrestricted funds which the PCC has designated for a particular purpose, but the PCC retains the ability to use some or all of these funds for the general purposes of the PCC.

Income recognition

All income sources are accounted for gross. *Planned giving, collections and donations* are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. *Tax refunds* are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is recognised. *Grants and legacies* are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. *Dividends* are accounted for when due and payable. *Interest entitlements* are accounted for as they accrue. All *other income* is recognised when it is receivable.

The value of any *voluntary help* received is not included in the accounts but is described in the annual report.

Expenditure recognition

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. All *other expenditure* is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted gross.

Governance costs include any costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts and of any legal advice to the PCC on governance or constitutional matters.

Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(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 accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventories which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2001 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on *consecrated and benefice buildings*, or individual items under £1,000 or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2001 is written off. Other items of equipment with a purchase price over £1,000 used within church premises are depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

The Parochial Church Council consider that there are no material uncertainties about the ability of St George's PCC to continue as a going concern.

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	2020 £
2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS					
2.a Donations and legacies					
Tax efficient planned giving	56,555	-	-	56,555	53,941
Other planned giving	3,133	-	-	3,133	4,921
Collections at services	8,390	657	-	9,047	9,752
Donations, appeals, etc.	6,021	-	430	6,451	7,871
Income tax recoverable	16,783	164	-	16,947	17,157
Grants	9,287	426	23,440	33,153	27,245
Gifts of quoted securities	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	10,200
	100,169	1,247	23,870	125,286	131,087
<i>Note: Amounts collected from the St Gabriel's congregation, including planned giving, are shown under Collections at services (Designated Funds). This is necessary to ensure confidentiality given the small number of donors in some categories.</i>					
2.b Other trading activities					
Church lettings	2,329	210	-	2,539	1,187
Parish room lettings	9,807	-	-	9,807	7,653
Festivals, other fund-raising events	8,336	-	-	8,336	1,448
	20,472	210	-	20,682	10,288
2.c Income from investments					
Dividends and interest including tax recoverable	15	28	-	43	354
Rent	-	-	-	-	-
	15	28	-	43	354
2.d Income from church activities					
Bookstall	26	-	-	26	36
Magazine	2,687	-	-	2,687	3,377
Church fees for weddings and funerals	7,032	-	-	7,032	3,819
	9,754	-	-	9,754	7,232
2.e Other income					
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	130,410	1,485	23,870	155,765	148,961

Parochial Church Council of St George, Stockport

Charity number 1134170

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	2020 £
3 EXPENDITURE					
3.a Expenditure on church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Overseas Mission Societies	-	-	-	-	-
Christian Relief & Development Agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home Mission & Church Societies	-	-	430	430	358
Secular Charities	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal</i>	-	-	430	430	358
Ministry:					
Parish share & deanery expenses	67,478	654	-	68,132	67,624
Other ministry costs	6,958	64	-	7,022	6,768
Church running expenses	16,021	248	20,525	36,794	33,540
Church maintenance	2,101	306	1,440	3,847	1,763
Upkeep of services	2,042	-	-	2,042	856
Music and organ	2,444	427	964	3,835	2,069
Upkeep of churchyard	3,363	1,440	-	4,803	2,699
Magazine and bookstall	79	-	-	79	813
Parish rooms - repairs, maintenance and running costs	3,365	636	-	4,001	4,774
Curate's house - repairs, maintenance and other costs	3,736	32	-	3,768	3,606
Salaries, wages and honoraria (see note 3.c)	11,485	39	-	11,524	12,406
Major repairs/replacements	-	11,053	-	11,053	-
Support costs	166	-	-	166	162
Administration	4,044	40	-	4,084	3,127
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of Annual Meeting	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	123,282	14,939	23,359	161,580	140,565
3.b Expenditure on raising funds					
Envelope printing	132	-	-	132	153
Fund-raising trading costs					
Fetes, bazaars and other fund-raising events	243	-	-	243	-
<i>Total</i>	375	-	-	375	153
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	123,657	14,939	23,359	161,955	140,718
<i>Staff costs</i>					
3.c Wages and salaries	11,473	39	-	11,512	12,406
Tax and National Insurance	11	-	-	11	-
	11,484	39	-	11,523	12,406

During the year the PCC employed a Director of Music and a secretary at St George's, both on a part-time basis. A part-time parish room cleaner was also employed for part of the year only.

The John Pilling Choral Scholars were funded from the Music Fund, from grants received from the Pilling Trust.

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NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2021

3 EXPENDITURE(cont)

3.d Payments to PCC members

James Hibbert was a PCC member throughout 2020 and 2021. In 2021 the PCC paid him a salary as the Director of Music (including payment for weddings and funerals) of £6,868 (2020: £4,580), and paid £240 (2020: £331) towards his professional development. He also received fees as a self-employed musician during 2021 of £0 (2020: £630) for weddings and funerals.

Hazel Jenkins was a PCC member throughout 2020 and 2021. During 2021 she received no fees (2020: £55 for acting as Verger for a wedding at St George's Church).

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

4.a Tangible fixed assets

		Freehold land and buildings
		£
Actual/Deemed Cost	At 01/01/21	52,000
	Additions	-
	At 31/12/21	52,000
Depreciation	At 01/01/21	16,000
	Charge for year	500
	At 31/12/21	16,500
Net Book Value	At 31/12/21	35,500
	At 31/12/20	36,000

The freehold land and buildings comprise the curate's house at 40 Beechfield Road, Stockport. The house was purchased in 1988 at a cost, after refurbishing, of £52,000. The building is being depreciated at £500 per annum from 2003 on the basis of its expected useful life of 50 years.

Those meeting rooms owned by the PCC are integral parts of the school premises and were donated by the Founder in 1901. As such the rooms are deemed to have no value for the purposes of these accounts.

4.b Investment assets

	2021				2020
	Designated Choir legacy	Designated Fabric Fund	Designated Total	All Funds	All Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Movements in the year:					
Opening market value	5,014	74,581	79,595	79,595	67,677
Purchases at cost, less disposals at carrying value	(427)	427	-	-	4,820
Net gains/(losses) on disposals and annual revaluation	864	13,037	13,901	13,901	7,098
Closing market value	5,451	88,045	93,496	93,496	79,595

No investment assets were held in Unrestricted Funds or in Restricted Funds.

Holdings at 31 December in CBF Church of England Investment Fund Accumulation Units:

	2021	2020
Choir legacy	93.33	100.84
Fabric Fund	1,507.59	1,500.08
Total	1,600.92	1,600.92

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		2021							2020	
		Designated Funds			Restricted funds				All Funds	All Funds
		Unrestricted	Choir Legacy	Fabric	St Gabriel's	Designated Total	PCC Restricted	Preservation Trust	Restricted Total	
5	DEBTORS									
	Tax recoverable	PCC	-	-	126	126	-	-	-	12,439
	Prepayments and accrued interest	12,313	-	-	-	-	1,261	-	1,261	2,212
	Other debtors	951	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,727
		1,292	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,292
	Total	14,556	-	-	126	126	1,261	-	1,261	15,943
6	LIABILITIES:									
	amounts falling due in one year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Accruals and deferred income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Creditors for goods and services	4,525	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,525
	Other creditors	416	-	-	-	-	430	-	430	846
	Total	4,941	-	-	-	-	430	-	430	5,371
										3,295
										1,730
										5,025

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7 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

- a An amount of £7,000 has been transferred from unrestricted funds to the Fabric Fund. This represents the regular transfers which the PCC makes to cover the cost of larger maintenance works.
- b An amount of £110 was transferred from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund. This represents grants made by the Preservation Trust to the PCC.
- c As the value of unrestricted funds fell below the minimum required by our financial reserving policy, an amount of £2,800 was transferred from the Fabric Fund to unrestricted funds as at 31/12/21 to restore the necessary minimum reserve.

8 DESIGNATED FUNDS

Designated Funds are fund set aside for a particular purpose. However, the PCC may resolve to use such funds for any other purpose.

The *St Gabriel's Fund* is used for all matters relating to St Gabriel's Church, and the PCC has given the St Gabriel's Committee limited financial authority over these finances.

The *Fabric Fund* holds monies set aside for the maintenance and repair of church buildings, including the Parish Rooms and the Curate's House. The PCC intend to make regular transfers into this fund from unrestricted income.

The *Choir Legacy Fund* was established in 2020 with a bequest from Frank Gee, a former choir member. It is intended to be used for the benefit of the choir.

Fund movements	Choir Legacy	Fabric Fund	St Gabriel's	Total Designated
Balance at 01/01/21	5,014	121,163	11,393	137,570
Income	-	23	1,462	1,485
Expenditure	(427)	(11,689)	(2,823)	(14,939)
Transfers between funds	-	4,310	-	4,310
Investment gains	864	13,037	-	13,901
Change in fund	437	5,681	(1,361)	4,757
Balance at 31/12/21	5,451	126,844	10,032	142,327
Represented by:				
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Investment assets	5,451	88,045	-	93,496
Current assets	-	38,799	10,032	48,831
Current liabilities	-	-	-	-
Internal balances	-	-	-	-
Total	5,451	126,844	10,032	142,327

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**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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9 RESTRICTED FUNDS

St George's Church Preservation Trust was established under a trust deed in 1990. The objects include the restoration and repair of the fabric and contents of St George's church, the parish office, the parish rooms and other PCC property.

In 2021 the trustees made a grant of £110 from the Preservation Trust to the Fabric Fund, and have stated their intention to transfer the remaining amount over the coming years.

The Preservation Trust is considered to be a connected charity, consequently the transactions and balances have been included in these accounts, but are restricted funds.

The *PCC Restricted Fund* represents donations given and monies raised for specific objectives.

Fund movements	PCC Restricted	Preservation Trust	Total
Balance at 01/01/21	16,365	710	17,075
Income	23,870	-	23,870
Expenditure	(23,359)	-	(23,359)
Transfers between funds	-	(110)	(110)
Investment gains	-	-	-
Change in fund	511	(110)	401
Balance at 31/12/21	16,876	600	17,476
Represented by:			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Investment assets	-	-	-
Current assets	17,306	600	17,906
Current liabilities	(430)	-	(430)
Internal balances	-	-	-
Total	16,876	600	17,476

Analysis of PCC Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/01/21	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Change in fund	Balance at 31/12/21
Charitable Payments	-	430	(430)	-	-	-
Choir Music	261	-	(98)	-	(98)	163
Grants: Fearn Trust	10,017	21,440	(21,965)	-	(525)	9,492
Music	6,087	2,000	(866)	-	1,134	7,221
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16,365	23,870	(23,359)	-	511	16,876

An annual grant from the Fearn Trust was received to cover the cost of insuring St George's Church and St Gabriel's Church. During 2021 the Fearn Trust also gave an additional grant of £1,440 towards minor repairs to the roof of St George's Church.

The *Music Fund* holds any grant income received in respect of musical activities.

A further grant of £2,000 was received from the Pilling Trust to support our Choral Scholars.