THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WITH ST PETER GREENHILL

England & Wales · Charity number 1134604

Details

Other names	ST MARTINS PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	35 Curtis Wood Park Road Herne Bay CT6 7TZ
Phone	01227373879
Email	sheila.gough@tiscali.co.uk
Website	www.st-martins-herne.co.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Religious activities for all agesPastoral care to residential and domicillary homesProviding Community facilitiesMissionary and outreach workSupporting Schools and other educational establishmentsSupporting local charities and charities in the UK0001

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£195,403	£195,301	-	-
2023-12-31	£133,301	£137,217	-	-
2022-12-31	£180,368	£174,440	-	-
2021-12-31	£127,218	£128,479	-	-
2020-12-31	£104,858	£108,017	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew John Gough		2019-04-14
Anne Ackland		2022-05-09
Deborah Ann Waller		2020-10-04
Douglas Bubb		2017-04-23
Fiona Jane May Anelay		2025-04-27
John Albert Bennett		2025-04-27
John Andrew Dilnot		2026-05-10
PRISCILLA HILARY COX		
Peter Frost		2021-06-27
RICHARD ROBERT CHANT		2024-04-21
Rev Christopher Richard Carnaby-Denyer		2026-05-10
SHEILA ISABEL GOUGH		
Sarah Catherine Bingham		2018-04-21
Susan Record		2017-04-23
Wendy Ann Dinley		2024-04-21

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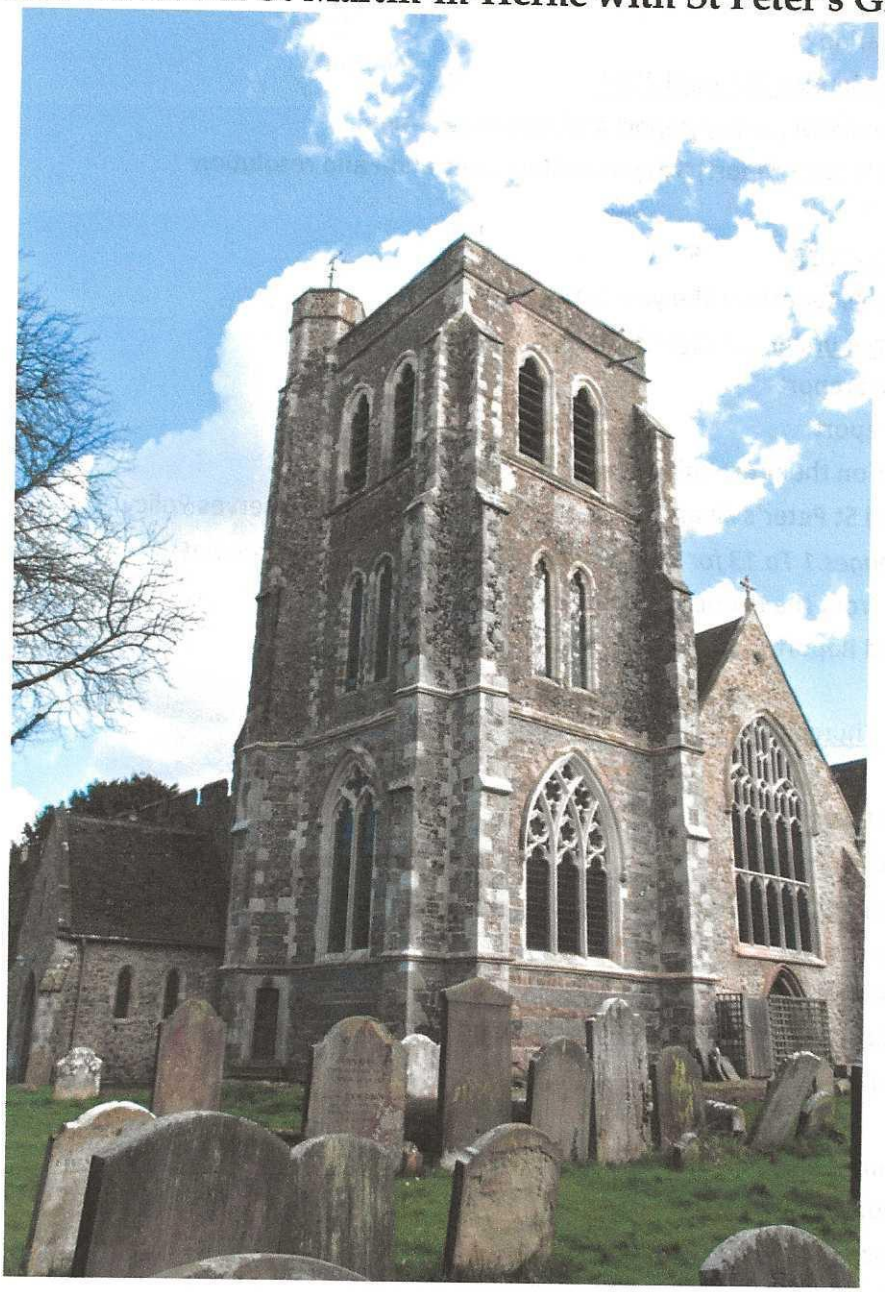
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134604

Accounts

The Parish Church of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 27th April 2025, at 11.00am, St Peter's Church Greenhill

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THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

THE 2025 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Peter's Church Greenhill on Sunday 27th April 2025 at 11.00 am or as soon thereafter

AGENDA for 2025

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence. Declarations of proxies if any

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 21st April 2024
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of churchwardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies and procedures
2. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 21st April 2024
4. Matters arising from minutes

Mandatory reports required under the Church Representation rules 2024

5. Churchwarden's and incumbents report
6. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 27th t April 2025
7. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2024
8. Churchwarden's report
9. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2024 accounts
10. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's (proposal is PG Lemon LLP)
11. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
12. Fabric Committee Report

Mandatory elections

13. Election of Deborah Waller in her capacity as Lay reader to be an ex officio member of the PCC
14. Election of PCC members. To include
    a. Appointment of deputy/assistant churchwardens

b. Election of three PCC members (if nominations received) for 2025 to 2028 (being three retiring) *

**This is calculated on the assumption that the new Electoral roll will have more than 50 names but fewer than 100*

c. Election of one PCC member to take a casual vacancy not filled in 2024

NB Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting so no election required

General reports

15. Reports from church organisations
    a. August Activity days
    b. The Bellringers
    c. Children's and Sunday School report
    d. The Choir
    e. The Churchyard maintenance team
    f. Community Café
    g. The Flower arrangers
    h. Gift Aid
    i. Little Fishes
    j. Messy Church
    k. Pastoral report
    l. Safeguarding
    m. Schools
    n. St Martin's Church Institute
    o. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
    p. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
    q. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
    r. Worship at St Peters Greenhill
    s. The Worship Band
16. Date of first meeting of the new PCC: Monday 28th April 2025 7pm at St Martin's Church
17. Any other business
18. The Blessing

CHURCH INFORMATION 2024

ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE with ST PETER, GREENHILL,
Registered Charity No 1134604

1st January-31st December 2024

St Martin-in-Herne Church
Herne Street
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent

St Peter's Church
Herne Drive
Greenhill
Herne Bay
Kent.

INCUMBENT
Vacancy until 30th July 2024 and then the appointment of Priest in Charge Revd. Christopher Carnaby Denyer

CURATE
None

BANKERS
St Martin-in-Herne Church
Lloyds, Herne Bay

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House, 85 Queen's Street, London, EC4V 4ET

St Peter's Church

Santander Account
(for receipt of rental monies only)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

P.G. Lemon LLP 22 – 26 Bank Street Herne Bay CT6 5EAL

BACKGROUND
The parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter, Greenhill extends to the railway in Eddington to the North, includes Broomfield, Talmead Estate, Greenhill, Still Water Park, Herne Common and Blean Woods in the South. The population is approximately 16,000 and, in addition, there is new housing in the east of the parish.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended.

The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2024.

THE TASK OF THE PCC
The Synodical Government Measure 1969 states clearly:

> *It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance in the parish.*

It then sets out a number of functions of the PCC, of which perhaps the most important – and certainly the widest – is that the primary objective of the PCC is:

Co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical

The incumbent and the PCC each have their own particular rights and responsibilities in the life of the church, but the important theme here is partnership and co-operation. More specifically the PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and churchyard, and, with the incumbent, for deciding how the church's money is to be spent and overseeing safeguarding. The PCC is formally the employer of the church's paid workers, for example our organist, St Peter's caretaker and administrator. The PCC will have on it one or more members of the Deanery Synod, who have an important role in linking the parish into the wider structures of the church, and also Churches Together in Herne Bay.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either (a) ex officio (on the PCC because of their role in the parish church) or (b) co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or (c) elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

From 1st January 2024 and specifically from the APCM on the 21st April 2024 in addition to Revd Chris 14 persons served as members of the PCC and all are also trustees:

(a) Ex-Officio:

Revd. Christopher Carnaby- Denyer	Priest in charge (from 30th July 2024)
Priscilla Cox	Church warden from 21st April 2024 and Deanery Synod Rep
Chris Exley	Church warden from 21st April 2024
John Bennett	Deputy Churchwarden from 21st April 2024
Sarah Bingham	Deputy Churchwarden from 21st April 2024
Deborah Waller	Licensed Lay Reader from Autumn 2021 and Deanery Synod Rep

(b) Co-opted members/invitees

- Susan Record (choir and organist)

(c) Elected being 8 PCC members

Elected 2024: so, they will retire in 2027

- Wendy Ann Dinley
- Richard Chant
- One casual vacancy remains

Elected 2023: so, they will retire in 2026

- Sheila Gough
- Peter Frost
- Ann Ackland (safeguarding officer)

Elected 2022 term of office expires 2025 (So, there are now three vacancies to be filled)

- Doug Bubb
- Andrew Gough
- Hilary Burnage

That means in 2025 there will be vacancies for the following positions to be elected:

- 2 Churchwardens (an annual appointment)
- 2 Deputy/assistant church wardens (an annual appointment)
- Election and appointment of Deborah Waller to the PCC in her capacity as lay reader (and not as an elected lay member)
- Elected PCC Members representing the laity–
  3 vacancies for office 2025-2028. However, this is predicated on the assumption that the new Electoral roll will have more than 50 names but fewer than 100

  1 casual vacancy for office until 2027

Current Officers

Revd Chris	Chair
Specific roles on PCC	
Sheila Gough	Treasurer
Andrew Gough	Gift Aid Secretary
Andrew Gough	PCC Secretary
Ann Ackland	Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod Rep each for a three-year appointment on 16th April 2023 so they will retire at the APCM in 2026

- Priscilla Cox
- Deborah Waller

COMMITTEES

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 direction by the Council. It consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer and at least another PCC member, in our case preferably a representative of St Peter's. It acts as another committee and reports back to the PCC. It can also discuss and set the next PCC agenda although this can be set by the incumbent alone.

By a resolution of the PCC passed on the 19th October 2020 it has authority to spend up to £250 for equipment or in relation to any other issue brought before it and may commit to an aggregate expenditure of £500 only, subject to the details of the individual and aggregated expenditure being brought to the next PCC meeting following the standing committee. This resolution has not been revoked.

Members: Priscilla Cox and Chris Exley (as churchwardens) and Sheila Gough (Treasurer), Deborah Waller (lay reader) both appointed by the PCC. Andrew Gough (secretary) attends to take minutes. The two PCC members should be appointed by the PCC at the first PCC meeting after the APCM

All members of the PCC are expected to sit on a committee.

Other Committees in 2024 were:

Finance and Stewardship	**Fabric – St Martin's, Institute Hall, St Peter's and reordering at St Martin's**	**Social**	**Communications & Publicity**
• Sheila Gough (Chair) • Priscilla Cox • Andrew Gough	• Priscilla Cox • Clifford Goble* • Doug Bubb • John Bennett • Steve Jackson* • Roger Jackson*	• Sarah Bingham (chair)	• Anne Lehane* • Sarah Bingham

*Denotes non- members of the PCC

In addition:

- Mission & Evangelism Team
  This had met for the first time on March 19th 2019 as a result of Herne Parish becoming one of the first to be invited to join the Diocesan "Changed Lives Changing Lives Conversations".
- Safeguarding coordinator: Anne Ackland
- Gift Aid Secretary: Andrew Gough
- Electoral Roll Officer: Andrew Gough
- Health & Safety Rep: Doug Bubb

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR 2024

[NB: Figures in brackets denote previous year's figures]

Church attendance averaged 55 *(55)* adults and 6 *(6)* children across the year on normal Sundays during 2024, with larger numbers at festivals and when schools were involved in services. Being without a vicar for part of the time has affected the numbers of baptisms and weddings

Attendance for additional events	
Baptisms	20 *(28): 8 (10)* infant,12 *(15)* children; 0 *(3)* adults
Weddings	4 *(4)*
Funerals	5 *(15):* 4 *(10)* in church, 1 *(5)* at crematorium or cemetery

Attendance for services	Adults	Children	Total
8:00 and 10.00 am Sunday Services Average Attendance	55 *(45)* (*estimated* 39 aged 18-69 years and 16 aged 70 years plus)	6 (10)	61 *(55)*
Easter Services Total Attendance	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	122 (93*)*
Christmas Total Attendance	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	917 *(740 includes Midnight Eucharist presided over by the Archbishop)*
Special Services during Advent 2021, e.g. nativities and carol services	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	Congregation and local community: 455 *(1405).* civic and school-specific: 725 (558*).*

Joiners and leavers:
12 *(8)* adults and 2 *(2)* children and young people joined our worshipping community during 2024.
3 adults and 0 children and young people left our worshipping community during 2024.

Other mission and ministry to Children & Young Families:

(A) We have ***two thriving toddler groups***: one on Tuesdays in Herne Church Hall (88 *(88 in 2023 too)* registered families - 36 *(36)* regulars; average 18 adults + 21 children; and one on Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill (both weekly in school term time).

(B) Monthly Messy Church *at St Peter's Greenhill* averaged 30-40 people attending.

(C) August Activity Days *on 4 Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill* averaged 50 children + adults each week.

A full copy of the Statistics for Mission return is available on request.

Electoral Roll
At the APCM on the 21st April 2024 the number of people on the St Martin's Electoral Roll was 92. There were three losses after the APCM so as at the 31st December 2024 the roll is confirmed at 89. The numbers on the roll following the rewriting of the roll in March 2025 will be announced at the APCM

Andrew Gough
Electoral Roll Officer

PUBLIC BENEFIT

[1]The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, [3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour

The vision of our parish is stated within our mission statement:

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

We are registered with the Charity Commission by virtue of the fact that we "Advance Religion for the Public Benefit", and are required to state our aims in their terms as below

Encouraging and facilitating the practice of Christianity by existing followers and seekers.

Place of worship, including:

- For the practice of Christian faith, the provision and maintenance of two buildings, and adjoining hall and meeting rooms used for related activities, e.g. religious instruction for children.
- The conducting of religious ceremonies, e.g. Eucharist, Baptism, Weddings, Blessings and Funerals.
- The maintenance of two public churchyards with one garden of remembrance and war memorial.
- Provision of Public Worship throughout the year as well as at times of national importance (Remembrance).
- Bereavement care, prayers, visits and worship.
- The provision and maintenance of Christian devotional artefacts and items used in religious services.
- Maintaining a grade one ancient building for the nation.

Raising awareness and understanding of religious beliefs and practices, including:

- Advancing the Christian faith.
- Providing a Christian resource for the community (information, teaching and library).
- Promoting and providing the study of Christian teaching, practice and scripture.
- Supporting schools and other educational establishments, including three theological training colleges (student placements), which provide education in accordance with the principles and practices of the religion.
- Support the Diocese in the provision of ministry and Diocesan services through payment of the Diocesan share.
- Working with (worship, education, pastoral care) and governance of our two church schools in Herne.
- Encouragement and worship in one Community Primary School and also our Secondary School.

Religious devotional acts, including:

- Visiting the sick and administering the sacraments to the sick and dying.

Missionary and outreach work, including:

- The provision of chaplaincy services; for example, to Strode Park, Canterbury and District Scouting and Canterbury Cathedral).
- Hospital visiting.
- The provision of pastoral care to residential and domiciliary homes.
- Cultural and community activities provided in the place of worship and in the buildings attached, e.g., community facilities, community care, toddlers, and community Cafe.

Work for reconciliation, building community and peace across the parish.

Religious communication, including:

- Sermons, talks, meetings and conferences and the provision of religious material via the internet website.

Retreat and pilgrimage, including: A place for short and day retreats.

Advancing religion generally including:

- Charitable giving to many different peoples in need, both near and far, (e.g., Help for Heroes, Christian Aid, Crisis, Children's Society, Catching Lives, Seafarer's Mission etc.)
- Seeking to safeguard creation through moral use of resources and the ways we manage our graveyards.

These aims are fulfilled as evidenced in the reports that follow.

Signed:

Revd. Chris Carnaby- Denyer and a Church Warden

Date; 7th April 2025

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11.15am at St Peter's Church, Greenhill.

THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Peter's Church Greenhill on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11.00 am or as soon thereafter

AGENDA as finally agreed at the Annual meeting (blue amendments)

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence

PCC Secretary's Introduction to the adoption of proxy voting and the Deputy Church Wardens Scheme and why these were considered necessary and why the agenda needed to be amended to take into account these matter

The Vestry Meeting

Part 1

1. Apologies for absence
2. Adoption of proposal for Proxy voting
3. proxy votes received
4. Adoption of the Deputy Church Wardens Scheme[1]
5. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 16th April 2023
6. Matters arising from the minutes
7. Election of churchwardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

19. Apologies and procedures
20. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
21. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 16th April 2023
22. Matters arising from minutes

[1] Topics in blue were agreed at the APCM as amendments to the original published agenda

Mandatory reports required under the Church Representation rules 2020

23. Lay reader's report in the vacancy
24. Churchwarden's report
25. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 21st April 2024
26. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2023
27. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2023 accounts
28. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's. Proposing PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA
29. Fabric Committee Report
30. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Mandatory elections

31. Election of Deborah Waller in her capacity as Lay reader to be an ex officio member of the PCC
32. Election of PCC members. To include
    a. Election of 2 Deputy Churchwardens
    b. Election of three PCC members (if nominations received) for 2024 to 2027 (being two retiring and one vacancy remaining to be filled)

    NB Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting so no election required

General reports

33. Reports from church organisations
    a. August Activity days
    b. The Bellringers
    c. Children's and Sunday School report
    d. The Choir
    e. The Churchyard maintenance team
    f. The Flower arrangers
    g. Gift Aid
    h. Little Fishes
    i. Messy Church
    j. Pastoral Matters
    k. Safeguarding
    l. Schools
    m. St Martin's Church Institute
    n. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
    o. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
    p. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
    q. Weddings report
    r. The Worship Band
34. Date of first meeting of the new PCC: Monday 28th April 2025
35. Any other business
36. The Blessing

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11.00am at St Peter's Church Greenhill.

Agenda

The meeting actually commenced at 11.05

Opening Prayer

Deborah Waller welcomed those present and led those attending in an opening prayer

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Anne Ackland, Keith and Susan Record, Sarah Bingham, Sarah White, Tony Millard, Fiona Aneley, Linda Carter, Joan Ball, Philip Dixon and possibly Shirley Frost who might have to leave the meeting.

Proxy voting forms had been received from Anne Ackland, Keith and Susan Record, Sarah Bingham, Fiona Aneley and Shirley Frost (who possibly might have to leave the meeting early).

Preliminary Issues presented by the PCC Secretary

Andrew Gough as PCC secretary explained that two preliminary matters had to be agreed upon at the commencement of the meeting. This would affect the terms of the agenda which had been published in the APCM booklet.

(a) The Proposed Adoption of Proxy voting and why

Andrew Gough confirmed that in the past proxy votes had been offered at annual meetings particularly during the Covid crisis. The PCC had unanimously agreed that proxy votes should be permitted at this meeting but ultimately the final decision would be that of the members at this annual meeting as they had to agree the procedure and conduct of the meeting pursuant to the Church Representation Rules. Previously no proxy votes had been received but this time there were six proxy forms that had been given to the PCC secretary (as above). If proxy voting was not permitted then these voters would be disenfranchised.

(b) the second issue that had to be considered was the status of the Deputy Churchwardens. An explanation of the problem that had arisen was given to the members present. *A synopsis of the issues is given as a briefing note to these minutes.*

A formal Deputy Church Wardens scheme had been agreed by the PCC and this was presented to the members present. It was explained that if the scheme was not adopted then the position of the Deputy Churchwardens would be in doubt and effectively, they would only be sides people. This was not what had come to be expected by those holding the role.

The form of the Scheme is attached

The PCC secretary briefly went through the principal points of the scheme.

It was agreed that the agenda would have to be revised to take into account the possible approval of the proxy votes and the deputy churchwarden scheme.

Full minutes and reports (including accounts) were available in hardcopy form if required by those present. The electoral roll was available for inspection at the back of the church.

The minutes would be signed off if approved.

Part 1 Chaired by Deborah Waller

The Vestry Meeting

Deborah Waller explained that historically the vestry meeting would often be held privately but nowadays churches hold it in public as part of the full APCM.

1. Apologies as above
2. Adoption of Proxy Voting

   It was agreed unanimously that proxy votes should be permitted if required. This would apply to the vestry meeting and the annual meeting

3. Proxies had been received as above
4. The Adoption of Deputy Church Wardens Scheme (see scheme attached)

   The scheme was unanimously adopted by those present. It was signed and dated by the chair of the meeting and Priscilla Cox as churchwarden. It would be filed with the Diocesan Secretary and the Archbishops Council.

5. The minutes of the vestry meeting held on 16th April 2023 were agreed as a correct record. Proposer Andrew Gough. Seconder Sheila Gough. They were unanimously approved
6. There were no matters arising
7. Election of Churchwardens (two positions vacant)

   Andrew Gough confirmed that three candidates had originally put their names forward for the two positions of church warden; Priscilla Cox, Christopher Exley and Wendy Dinley. The [illegible] had, prior to the meeting, discussed the position with Wendy who had put her

Accordingly, two candidates had put their names forward as Churchwarden.

Priscilla Cox for re election
Proposed by Anne Ackland
Seconded by Hilary Burnage
Robert Christopher Exley (Chris Exley) for re election
Proposed by Susan Record
Seconded by Richard Chant

There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, both candidates were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

Deborah Waller thanked Priscilla and Chris Exley for their considerable work as Churchwardens during the year and also to John Bennett and Sarah Bingham for being such a willing and able support as Deputies.

There being no other business the vestry meeting was concluded.

Chris Exley thanked Andrew Gough for his research and identifying the problem of the appointment of Deputy Churchwardens and offering a solution.

Part 2 Chaired by Deborah Waller

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies were given as above.
2. Church information as given in the APCM booklet was taken as read. Also, the general reports were taken as read
3. Minutes of the annual meeting held on Sunday, 16th April 2023. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda.
5. The Lay Reader's verbal report was given.

Deborah thanked everyone for the support that she had received during the year. We had all worked well together during the vacancy and dealt with all challenges admirably. We should all congratulate ourselves in our achievement ad we were now looking forward to welcoming our new Vicar Revd Chris Carnaby Denyer on the 30th July at his licensing.

Whilst Deborah wanted to thank everyone who helped and did so much for the church she

Priscila and Chris for their roles as church wardens. It was not easy to find presidents for our services but Priscilla seemed to be able to do this and we had the great excitement of welcoming the Archbishop to our church at the Christmas midnight eucharist. Thanks to them both for leading ordinary services on Sundays.

Thanks to Sarah and John for the considerable help in running the church and the worship band

Thanks to Andrew for his role as PCC secretary and Sheila as treasurer

Thanks to all the members of the PCC for their contributions throughout the year

Thanks to all who give so much help and time to the church and its activities as evidenced by the reports in the APCM booklet.

6. Andrew Gough in his capacity as electoral roll secretary confirmed that at the APCM in April 2023 there had been 90 members on the electoral roll. Subsequently following (and including the latest revision in March 2024) five people had been added to the role but three had been removed. Accordingly, there were now ninety-two (92) members on the electoral roll which meant that there were still nine lay places available on the PCC.

   Three places were now available for nominations. He confirmed that the full electoral roll was available for inspection at the church during the APCM.

   There were no questions. He confirmed that after the APCM congregants could join the electoral roll at any time and not merely at the time of any revision before an APCM. However, next year the electoral roll would be completely rewritten (this was done every six years) and everybody would have to reapply. However, full notice of this would be given to the parishioners in good time so that preparations could be made.

7. The annual report of the proceedings of the PCC during 2023 was taken as read. There were no questions. Thanks were given to all the PCC members for their dedicated service over the year

8. The Churchwarden's Report was taken as read. Priscilla Cox and Chris Exley had nothing to add.

9. Sheila Gough, as treasurer, introduced the 2023 financial reports for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill.

   a. A full set of audited accounts is at the back of the APCM Report.
   b. Again, a challenging year for us. Our voluntary receipts which include our planned giving, collections at services and gift aid donations were all down on the previous year by over £9,500.
   c. Gift Aid is still a very useful source of income for the church but there was a slight decrease in 2023 for various reasons.

d. Sadly, two of our congregation died who were both generous givers; two members left and we have not been able to make up the shortfall in their giving and being able to claim gift aid on those donations.
e. Gift aid recovered last year was down by £1,200.00.
f. There was an increase in fundraising thanks to the Funday Sunday organised by Sarah with the Parish Council.
g. There was a reduction in the number of weddings, funerals and baptisms which meant that our fees for those services were also reduced.
h. Our total income for the year was £129,011.
i. Moving onto expenditure, as usual our biggest expense was the Parish Share to the Diocese. The church has paid this in full but again we had to use reserves of £18,578 plus funds from the Church Hall account.
j. Our direct ministry expenses were down mainly due to the fact that we did not have an incumbent for 8 months of the year.
k. Church running expenses including utilities, insurance and general maintenance increased by over £5,000 but we had to spend money on the church doors and also having one of the trees cut down in late Autumn.
l. In respect of the two Halls, we had to use funds from St Martin's account to pay towards the Parish Share which meant that there was a deficit last year of just over £4,000.
m. St Peter's had a small surplus last year.
n. Total expenses last year were £137,217 which meant that we had a deficit of £8,206 in the general fund.
o. All of our outreach projects, Mothers & Toddlers, Little Fishes and Messy Church continue to bring in funds although these are not included with the general fund but have their own count.
p. Statement of Assets and Liabilities – at the end of the year we had £14,428 in unrestricted funds across our three accounts.
q. Unrestricted funds in our CCLA investment account were £73,496 and restricted funds were £58,848 making a total of £132,344.
r. Thanks, should be given to Wendy Dinley and Jean Dilnot for continuing to administer the rentals for the two halls and thanks also to Andrew Gough for administering the Gift Aid applications

As a point of record John Bennett made those present aware of the fact that the rental agreement for the telecommunication mast would come to an end in 2031. This currently provided an income of £9000 per year (this could be indexed). So, we had to prepare ourselves for the loss of that possible income in seven years' time.

The accounts were proposed by Sheila Gough to be approved and seconded by Wendy Dinley They were unanimously approved by those present.

Sheila Gough was specifically thanked for her hard work and diligence

10. Appointment of Auditors for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill

a. Sheila Gough proposed that PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA should be re- appointed as independent examiner for the present financial year.
b. This was seconded by Deborah Waller Those present voted unanimously for the reappointment.

11. The Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod was taken as read and there was nothing to add. Thanks were given to Priscilla Cox and Deborah Waller for their considerable service.

12. The Fabric Committee report was taken as read. There was nothing further to add. Thanks were given to the Committee members for their stewardship of the church buildings throughout the year.

13. Deborah Waller as licensed lay reader to the parish can be elected to the PCC in her own right as an ex officio member of the PCC
There were no objections to that appointment being made and this was agreed.

14. Appointment of members of the PCC
    a. Election of Deputy Church wardens
    Following the adoption of the Deputy Church Warden scheme it was now possible to legitimately appoint two deputy churchwardens.

    Those nominated were
    John Bennett
    proposer Wendy Dinley
    seconded Sheila Bennett

    Sarah Bingham
    proposer John Bennett
    seconded by Sheila Bennett

    There being no other candidates for the positions John Bennett and Sarah Bingham were approved unanimously.

    Deborah Waller gave thanks to John Bennett and Sarah Bingham for being such willing and able supporters as Deputies during 2023.

    b. Two candidates had been nominated to take positions on the PCC.
    Richard Chant
    proposed by Philip Dixon
    seconded by Alan King
    Wendy Dinley
    proposed by Andrew Gough
    seconded by Sheila Gough

There being no other candidates who now wished to put their names forward Richard Chant and Wendy Dinley were duly appointed as members of the PCC

c. Deborah Waller confirmed that the sides people would be appointed at the PCC not at the APCM.

Thanks were given to those who had been PCC members and to those continuing on the council

15. Deborah Waller then introduced the reports from the Church Organisations and Committees. They demonstrated the diversity of interests and responsibilities that people took on within the life of the church. She hoped that reading the reports would encourage people to join some of the organisations or offer support. All reports were taken as read and there were no questions. Thanks were given to all persons who contributed to the life and administration of the church. We all worked hard as a team.

16. Deborah confirmed that the Parochial Church Council would be commissioned on a date to be agreed. The date of the first PCC meeting after the APCM will, however, be Monday 13th May at 7pm in the Ridley Room.

17. Any Other Business. Deborah Waller invited questions from the floor.

John Bennett particularly welcomed Jean Dilnot to the annual meeting. She was still unable to get around readily after her accident. However, her ability to get in and out of her house had been hugely improved because Peter Frost had built a wooden ramp for her to get to and from front door. Many thanks were given to Peter for his work.

Andrew Gough as PCC secretary asked the annual meeting to confirm now if proxy voting would be permitted at the next annual meeting in 2025 if the PCC thought it appropriate. This would mean that proxy votes could be given and each donor of the proxy would know that his or her vote would be counted (if required) and they would not have to rely upon the members at that annual meeting agreeing to the proposal.

This proposal was unanimously approved by those present

Chris Exley thanked Deborah Waller for all the hard work that she had put into her role as lay reader and particular presenting the church services. It was a considerable task and we should all be grateful for Deborah's skill and dedication.

18. There being no further business the meeting was concluded and Deborah Waller led those present in the grace.

The meeting concluded at 11 50am

PCC Secretary's explanation to the annual meeting as to why the deputy Churchwarden scheme was required. Briefing note (not transcript)

A question has been put to me by a member on the electoral roll for consideration at the annual meeting. This can be done under the Church Representation Rules 2022. The Question is

"At what point in the APCM are deputy churchwardens elected?"

You may appreciate that the APCM falls into two parts. The vestry meeting (effectively a parishioners meeting) where churchwardens are elected and then the annual meeting where members of the PCC and representatives of the deanery Synod etc are elected.

I've looked back at earlier AP CM's and it is clear that the deputy churchwardens were only ever appointed in the annual meeting and not at the vestry meeting. Revd Carol changed that pattern in 2018 and said that the deputy churchwardens should be elected at the vestry meeting. That seems odd given the difference between the two electoral rolls and that deputies are not holders of the bishop's office. The issue was questioned at the time but she said that this was the correct procedure. I assumed that this was because there was some scheme registered at the Diocesan Registry setting out how and when deputy churchwardens were appointed and any other powers that they might have. That would have covered the point.

Now that this question has been put again, I decided to refer the matter to the Diocesan Secretary. He has informed me that there is no scheme registered which formally permits the appointment of deputy churchwardens nor explains what they do. Nor is there a District Church Council Scheme appointing deputy church wardens. This surprised me because, as the Diocesan Secretary says, it means that the appointment of a deputy churchwarden is an informal arrangement only. Moreover, unless the deputy is also an elected member of the parochial church council (whether as a member of the PCC or elected in some other capacity) the deputy churchwarden does not have any voting rights. Nor is the deputy a member of the PCC by virtue of the position of deputy churchwarden. A deputy is only a member of the PCC if there is a formal scheme or District Church Council scheme in place. Otherwise, a deputy may be a member of the PCC only if he or she holds other elected positions.

I have looked back at the minutes of earlier APCM meetings before and after 2017 and there have been several instances over the years where deputy wardens have been elected but were never voted as members of the PCC nor were they ever co-opted to the PCC. Holders of the position may, at the invitation of the PCC address the PCC or else may have tasks to do but they would not have a right to vote. I do not know whether they actual did vote, However, we have apparently been working on a false premise for many years.[2]

Clearly this anomaly is unacceptable. It also has to be corrected before Revd Chris takes up his position. I pointed out to the Diocesan Secretary that it is possible for the annual meeting to agree a scheme under rule M34 which formally provides for

"The election or choice of one or two deputy churchwardens .....and that the deputy or each the deputies is an ex officio member of the PCC."

[2] At this point Jean Dilnot said that when she was appointed a deputy churchwarden, she was told that she had no right to vote at the PCC. However, it is unclear how other holders of the post may have acted. Since 2018 deputies have voted at PCC meetings.

Such a scheme would bring legitimacy to a practice that has existed for many years.

He agreed with me but took legal advice from the Diocesan Registrar; she is a partner in a major firm of solicitors in Westminster that provides legal advice to the Diocese. She agrees that this is the best way forward and indeed drafted a simple scheme to cover the position. A draft of that scheme has been distributed to the meeting today *(see attached)*. I have amended to cover our particular requirements.

The terms of the scheme also state when the churchwardens are elected (putting the voting as part of the annual meeting which I think is correct under rule M34) and grants each deputy PCC membership.

So, in order to rectify the position as PCC secretary I propose that this scheme be adopted immediately and to apply at this meeting. This proposal is designed to get us out of a legal and administrative confusion in the simplest way possible and to preserve the status quo.

DRAFT SCHEME (as approved and signed off at the meeting)

The Parish of Herne in the Diocese of Canterbury

Scheme for Deputy Churchwardens Made pursuant to Section B of the Model Rules

Church Representation Rules 2020

Whereas:

a) There are two or more churches or buildings licensed for public worship in the parish of Herne (the Parish) in the benefice of Herne in the Diocese of Canterbury

b) The Parochial Church Council of the Parish wishes to make a scheme for the election of representatives of the laity to the PCC in a way that is intended to make due provision for the representation of the congregation of each church or building

c) The Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("the Annual Meeting") of the Parish, therefore in exercise of the powers conferred by Section B (paragraph M34 (1), (2)(a), (b) and (c)) of the Model Rules contained in the Church Representation Rules 2020 ("CRR"), hereby makes the following scheme: which shall come into effect immediately:

1. The Annual Meeting each year shall elect two deputy churchwardens ("the Deputy Churchwardens") as representatives of the churches of St Martin's Herne and St Peter Greenhill.

2. A Deputy Churchwarden will, subject to paragraph 6 below, hold office for the annual period that begins with the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which the person was elected and which ends at the conclusion of the Annual meeting following their election, unless they are re-elected for a subsequent term of office.

3. The Deputy Churchwardens shall exercise such functions relating to the churches of St Martin's Herne and St Peter Greenhill as the Vicar or Priest in charge of the parish (the Incumbent) and the churchwardens of the Parish may from time to time direct.

4. The Deputy Churchwardens shall be ex officio members of the PCC with voting rights.

5. Only persons who are not disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden under the Churchwardens Measure 2001 may be elected as Deputy Churchwardens.

6. A Deputy Churchwarden who during their term of office becomes disqualified from holding office as a churchwarden under the Churchwardens Measure 2001 ceases to be a Deputy Churchwarden on the date on which such disqualification takes place.

7. In accordance with CRR M34(5), a copy of this scheme will be filed in the diocesan registry and sent to the secretary of the Archbishop's Council and standing committee.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of Herne:

(LS) Deborah Waller..... Chair

Name

(LS) Priscilla Cox .....Churchwarden

Name

Passed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish

For Unanimous

Against

Dated: The 21st day of April 2024

THE APCM REPORTS FOR 2024

Priest in Charge's Annual 2024 report for St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

It is such a joy to write my first APCM report as your new Priest-in-Charge. It feels like the first seven months have whizzed by! Thank you for welcoming me, as well as Sophie and all the family, into the heart of the church community.

Needless to say, as we look back on 2024, there is a great chunk of the year that is time "BC" ... "Before Chris"! I hope that all those who ensured the ministry and mission at St Martin's and St Peter's continued during the interregnum, and those involved in appointing a new priest for the parish, feel that their hard work and dedication is very much appreciated. So, I must begin with a huge thanks especially to the Wardens, Priscilla and Chris, and the Deputy Wardens, John and Sarah, as well as our Reader, Deborah. My thanks go particularly to Chris Exley as he steps down as Church Warden for new adventures ahead. One thing I have learned as I settled into the parish, is that there are so many dedicated volunteers who contribute in a myriad of ways to the life, ministry and mission of our two churches and the communities we serve: to each one of you, thank you.

I sneaked across before we moved to enjoy the Herne Community Fun Day – what a fantastic event enjoyed by so many from the community and which spoke (with the church very visible in orange "Church Team" T-shirts) of our care and involvement in the place we are called to be and to serve. Well done, and thank you (with a special thanks to Sarah and her team). Not long after I was licensed here as Priest-in-Charge, it was soon a joyful summer of spending Fridays at St Peter's for the Activity Days: free fun activities for families, whereby I found myself frequently supervising (and trying out!) the bouncy castle. What a great gift we were able to offer local families again, with thanks to all the team involved.

The summer gave way to a new school year, and we were able to welcome over 110 people to join our Back-to-School service, with children (and a headteacher!) receiving a blessing for the year ahead. This set a pattern for our first Sunday service, with a focus on inviting families back to the all-age service each month with a special focus for our worship, the next being a joyful Harvest celebration. In December, this first Sunday service featured a Christingle led by Worship Leaders from Herne Junior School with the assistance of Denise Parrett at the school, working alongside Deborah Waller, and attended by 165 people.

I was told that Herne marked Remembrance in a big way: what a gathering it was to behold as around 500 people came together in remembering those in the community who gave their live in service, as well as to pray for peace in our world today. Many thanks to Cllr Alan Marsh for organising the road closure and his support in this final year of his involvement.

After arriving in the summer, it seemed that Christmas was suddenly upon me. Advent began with a wonderful Christmas Tree Festival that saw St Martin's become a winter wonderland of beautifully decorated trees as the community came together to take on the challenge to dress a tree or to come and support the event. It was a great launch of the festive season, with singing, refreshments and even Father Christmas. Many thanks to all involved, particularly Sarah Bingham and Deborah Waller, and to Vincent Nurseries for the generous donation of the trees. The start of Advent also saw the annual Memorial Carols, with over 200 people coming together to remember those we miss

especially at this time of year, again supported and facilitated by the generous team at Welch's. The huge tree looked marvellous (thanks to the team who wrestled it into place) and many stars were added to it with the names of loved ones right up to the end of epiphany.

Christmas was a wonderful time for me to really feel welcomed into the heart of the community and the church here. Singing carols under the yew tree was a fantastic way to begin to celebrate the season and the message of Christmas, with a warm cup of mulled wine in hand, with thanks to all who made this possible. We had a total Christmas Eve/Day attendance in church of 917 (compared to 740 in 2023). The introduction of a 5:30pm Christmas Eve Carol service received positive feedback and a huge attendance, along with the popular Nativity (thanks again to all the team involved and our brilliant young actors). It made me smile to see that in Herne, Baby Jesus gets his own parking space!! The increased attendance at events and services may have been a result of all the effort in delivering 5000 Christmas Cards to the communities we serve, with an invitation to join all on offer. Well done and thank you to all the delivers, and to John Bennett masterminding all the rounds.

As I mention services, it is of note that our average attendance was up on the year previous year even in a time of interregnum (average attendance of adults was 55 in 2024, compared to 45 in 2023). It is particularly pleasing that attendance had increased over a year that included the vacancy, and again much appreciation is given to all who made this happen by leading services, especially our Reader, Deborah. Thanks also to Chris Exley for also sharing the leading of 8am services with Deborah.

The service pattern established before the interregnum was reviewed and continued with a weekly 8am BCP Communion, an all-age first Sunday service, a 2nd and 4th Sunday Communion and the service at St Peter's became "Sausage Sarnie Sunday". There were also special evening services on the first Sunday linked to festivals and occasions in the church year, such as "Sing Harvest". A weekly midweek Communion on Wednesdays at 9:15am was also introduced. Having mentioned some of the attendance data, I must also point out that earlier I the year (BC!), Easter Services had a total attendance of 122 people, compared to 93 in 2023.

Beyond Sundays, Messy Church continued to welcome and offer a different format of church for families each month on a Saturday (thanks to the hard-working team), and our toddlers groups met each week in term-time: on Tuesdays at Herne and Fridays in St Peter's. Now both toddler groups are called "Little Fishes"; we look forward to celebrating 50 years of the toddler group in Herne in 2025. At St Peter's, the weekly Tuesday morning café welcomed the community in for refreshments and a chat – as well as the excitement of the raffle.

The PCC had an away day in November, which was an opportunity to reflect and pray on what good things were going on in the parish and what we might like to build on. The theme was "looking at the garden with God", and we thought about our ministry and mission through this metaphor: what things were growing well, what might need some nurturing, what may perhaps need pruning, how do we look after the gardeners? This has informed our mission action planning process, where we are continuing into 2025 to build a clear vision for the future, and we invite you to support that with your prayers and participation, as well as financial support to enable plans to come to fruition and to grow the church numerically and spiritually. We plan to have a vision for growth that you are invited to buy into ready for later in 2025.

Our school's ministry is a real strength, with close relationships between St Martin's and the infant and junior schools in Herne. It was good to welcome both schools into the church for special services throughout the year, and to offer the space for the Red Zebra drop-in to give support and advice to parents. Collective Worship has been led by members from the church as well as visiting clergy in the interregnum, and since September I have been able to share this with Deborah. After taking up post here, I have been able to establish links with the newly renamed Thornden Wood School in Greenhill and led assemblies there, as well as having been invited at the end of 2024 to explore a Governor role at Herne Bay High School (which I have taken up in 2025). Alongside a number of dedicated members of our church community, I serve as a Governor of Herne Infant and Herne Junior School. Lots of work has been done in both schools in partnership with the church preparing ready for SIAMS (the inspection framework for Church of England and Methodist schools in England) that took place in 2025.

We have seen many celebrations of special life events at St Martin's over 2024, with 18 baptisms, 4 weddings and 5 funeral services.

Our church family has seen 12 adults and 2 children recorded as joining the worshipping community in 2024 (compared to 8 adults and 2 children in 2023), however we have been pleased to see many familiar and new faces at services in the latter part of the year as people have come back to the church.

What a great year in the life of St Martin's and St Peter's, and the communities we serve, and we look forward to so much more to come in 2025.

With blessings

Revd Chris Carnaby- Denyer
March 2025

REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES 2024

The Church wardens APCM report for 2024

Have you heard? We've got a new Vicar! (Not too much exuberant cheering please, because we still have a job to do.) – Technically his correct title is Priest in Charge of course.

Yes, it's true. Our vacancy is over, we have survived pretty well, and now we are beginning to get to know Revd. Chris, to learn his ways and to look forward to his enthusiastic and insightful new ideas.

In referring to the end of the vacancy (back in July, in case anyone hadn't noticed), it is important that we pay tribute to all those people who had any part in keeping things going. There are far too many to name, but we acknowledge everyone who helped in any way to maintain 'church' as close to normal as possible. That said however, we must not rest on our laurels. Since Revd. Chris arrived, we have seen increasing numbers of people attending church, which is encouraging (and on looking at the church registers around Christmas, there was a period of three days when, including our two Schools, well over 1000 people came through the church doors), but having more people means we can spread the load. I therefore commend Revd. Chris' 'Job Vacancies' leaflet to everyone. It doesn't matter how small the task, your help counts, so offer up a little prayer, and as Isaiah said, say 'Here I am Lord, send me!'

Since July, when Revd. Chris arrived, we have begun to get to know him, we have seen a few new initiatives – the return of the 8.00 service to Communion every week, the return of the Mid-Week Communion on Wednesdays, a re-vitalising of the monthly service at St. Peters (where attendance has also increased). There is more to come, and I repeat my remarks from a few weeks ago, when I referred to the words of the late David Watson 'For what has been, thank you, and for what is to come – Yes Please!

Unfortunately, this past year has not been all good news. As can be seen from Sheila Gough's Financial Report, we are not in the best state of health, partly because of the cost of maintaining the ancient building where we come together each week, the cost of heating and lighting, and the ever-increasing amount we have to pay to the diocese. While many of us perhaps do not understand our financial obligations, we must commend Sheila for her work over a good many years.

In mentioning the cost of maintenance, I should say something about the Fabric Committee which operates under the guidance of Priscilla Cox. Formally the Churchwardens have the care of the Church's fabric as part of their authority from the Bishop, but the work of this committee should be recognised, as they face a constant battle with repairs to the structure of the buildings, the churchyard. It never fails to surprise me that we achieve as much as we do through 'I know a man who can.....(*assist with whatever the task is, often at minimal cost to the church).* There are times when we have to go through the proper authorities, such as recently, when we were required to have our 5-yearly (or Quinquennial) inspection by the Architect, the results of which could impact our finances from now until the next report is due in 2029, as we works through the repairs identified. The Fabric Committee report will tell us more.

And so, to conclude the Churchwardens report, I say again, thank you for all you do for St. Martin's and St. Peter's. Please carry on doing it, and try to encourage a few more to join you. As we look forward to Revd. Chris' developing ministry in our busy and growing parish, pray for him, encourage

him, and travel the journey of faith with him, remembering some words from the old hymn, 'Loving Shepherd of thy sheep.' – 'Where thou leadest, I would go.'

Chris Exley & Priscilla Cox
Churchwardens March 2025

NB the churchwarden's report on the fabric of the church is given by the Fabric Committee and acknowledged as such.

Report from the Electoral Roll Secretary as at 31 December 2024

At the APCM in April 2024 there were 92 members on the electoral Roll. As at December 31 2024 we had 89 members on the roll as three had left the parish. No complete revision had taken place.

The numbers on the roll following the January 2025 complete re-writing/republication of the roll will be given orally at the APCM and that will determine the number of PCC representatives to be elected.

Andrew Gough, Electoral Roll Secretary
March 2025

An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during 2024

Andrew Gough continued to act as PCC secretary for the year.

There have been seven meetings during the year all being face-to-face meetings. We missed a meeting in March 2024 as this was delayed to April to finalise the arrangements for the APCM due to be held that month. Meetings in July and August were postponed to enable Revd Chris to review PCC meetings during the remainder of the year

There is guidance for the conduct of online and if votes are taken, then those voting must be present at the on line the meeting itself. On line Zoom meetings are usually recorded with the consent of the participants. The recording is expunged once the minutes have been approved at a PCC meeting.

Also, emergency business has been conducted online by on line correspondence. This is again permitted pursuant to the Church Representation Rules 2020 (now 2024).

The PCC has continued to conduct its business efficiently and thanks must go to all PCC Members. They always read the agenda and supporting documents (or so they tell the PCC Secretary) and debate all issues with much consideration, politely and with good humour. We prefer face to face meetings as this enables debate to be undertaken fully and we usually have cake at the refreshment break which is much appreciated!

All minutes (unless confidential) are available for inspection from the PCC secretary.

The following is a summary of the principal business conducted

1. Overseeing the recruitment process for the new incumbent and the interview process and the licensing service
2. Continuing to review and approve the work of the Fabric Committee especially the potholes in the car parking spaces at St Martins and car parking at St Peter's Church (see separate report).
3. Arranging the quinquennial survey inspection of St Martin's Church
4. Formally appointing PC Lemon LLP as the independent examiner for the annual accounts
5. Approving the 2023 accounts (the 2024 accounts are approved at a PCC meeting in March 2025 for presentation to the APCM in 2025)
6. Considering the arrangements for the APCM in April 2024 (arrangements for the 2025 APCM are finalised in February/March 2025)
7. Following the October 2019 APCM resolution to give the PCC authority to arrange postal voting at an APCM the PCC resolved not to adopt postal voting at the APCM in 2024 (a discretion that was permitted by the APCM resolution).
8. Reviewing, at the May PCC meeting, the minutes of the APCM on 21st April 2024 which were considered to be accurate and confirming that these could be submitted to the annual meeting in April 2025 for approval
9. Agreeing the appointment of all church officers and the appointment of chairpersons to the various committees
10. Pledged Harvest collection to the work of Catching Lives (for the homeless in Canterbury) and the local food bank.
11. Arranging a PCC away day to reflect on the role of the PCC and a strategy for the church
12. Agreeing to open St Martin's church to the public at given times if possible
13. Resolving that the collection from the Carol Service around the yew tree would be for Porchlight and that from the Christingle Service to go to the Children's Society. All other collections for the church funds generally
14. Receiving safeguarding reports from Anne Ackland as safeguarding officer. See resolution and further declaration below.
15. Receiving updates on the church schools
16. Approving a revised welcome pack to be given to new residents at the new estates
17. Discussing potential repairs to the Church Organ, costings and alternatives to the pipe organ. Agreeing an immediate repair.
18. Passing the following formal resolutions
    a. Accepting the appointment of Anne Ackland as the new safeguarding officer and to apply the approved parish safeguarding statement (July 2024)
    b. Approving the appointment of sides persons to assist at church services
    c. Appointing Andrew Gough as a Foundation Governor to Herne Church of England Junior School

The PCC confirms that it has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 with regard to its duty to follow the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding Statement is available for inspection and is on the Church website. There is a separate report on safeguarding.

Andrew Gough, PCC Secretary
February 2025

Financial Review for 2024

These accounts are prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis.

Please see the annexe with the detailed Financial Statements.

Some points to note: -

1. We received a legacy of £40,000 from the Estate of the late Lydia Quilty.
2. There was an increase in our planned giving of £444.
3. Collections at services saw a slight increase of £19.
4. Gift aid recovered was down on last year, but this figure does not include the Gift Aid received for December 2024.
5. Voluntary receipts increased by £9,948 this increase is due to an anonymous donation of £10,000.
6. Fund raising events last year included, Community Funday which made a profit of £2,728
7. Wine & Wisdom made a profit of £847.
8. Christmas Fair made a profit of £706 and the Christmas Tree Festival raised £267

Both St Martin's and St Peter's halls continue to pay their way and the income from St Martin's Hall helps us to contribute towards the Parish Share.

With regard to expenses, we were able to pay our Parish Share in full but only by using £27,301 from our reserves and a further £16,154 from the hall account. We still have outstanding Parish Share of £43,215 for the years 2017/18 and 21.

Direct Ministry expenses increased by £541.

Church running expenses saw an increase in our insurance premium but a decrease in our utilities.

We paid for the repairs to the church organ and funds of £14,244 came from our reserve account to enable that repair to take place.
The net result for the year saw a small surplus of £102 on unrestricted funds.

The interest earned on our CCLA investments over the year amounted to £7,023.

I would like to thank Andrew Gough for continuing to administer the Gift Aid emoluments (including making the claim for rebate of tax); his help is invaluable to me.

Reserves Policy

We do not currently have a reserves policy. This means keeping a certain amount of funds in the bank account ring fenced to cover emergency situations for particular projects or future work. We do however have a CCLA Reserves account which currently has a balance of £91,524.

It is our policy to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Sheila Gough, Treasurer
March 2025

Report from the Fabric Committee for 2024 on the condition of the church buildings

This forms the Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric of the Church Buildings pursuant to section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

The Fabric Committee has continued to meet regularly and plan and discuss concerns with the fabric at St. Martin's, St Peter's and the Herne church hall. Many items are of regular maintenance such as everyday repairs and clearing of gutters. We are extremely fortunate to have a number of members of the congregation who are able to competently carry out many of these tasks and save us from having to engage local contractors.

A number of projects that we hoped to complete during the year were delayed due to poor weather conditions, and with any large projects we are mindful of the costs, and the shortage of available funds.

Tasks that were completed included the easing of outside doors and repairs to some guttering at St Martin's, and also the relaying of some flagstones that had been lifted by tree roots. A drone inspection of the roof was carried out and any areas of concern noted. Some potholes outside the lychgate were repaired to prevent accidents to cars and pedestrians. An excellent handrail was attached to the door on the screen between the Lady Chapel and the chancel.

On-going projects at St. Martins include the possibility of extending the hearing loop and the speaker system to cover the chancel and the back of the nave, improvements to storage, and the security of a garden shed and storage of mowers etc. The current shed has been painted with anti-vandal paint to deter intruders.

At St Peter's Steve King, the caretaker, continues to carry out minor repairs and maintain the grounds, and members of the fabric committee helped cut back overgrown trees in the land beside the church. The uneven state of the drive has caused concern and it is hoped that raking the gravel will help ease the problem. The children's slide was dismantled and repaired. Cupboards will be built in the meeting room beside the kitchen to improve storage and to help tidy the vestry.

A quinquennial inspection of St. Martin's in the autumn and the architect's report will help determine the projects that need to be addressed in the near future.

Priscilla Cox (and for churchwarden Chris Exley)
13th March 2025

A Report on the 2024 proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Members of the deanery met in February and firstly considered the function of the deanery and the format of future meetings. Meetings provide an opportunity for members to get to know others better and to share issues of particular concern in their parishes. Some meetings will be closed to elected members only while others will offer an open invitation to people to join to listen to speakers or join in discussion and share initiatives. In February discussion was still taking place about the appointment of a new incumbent to our parish. Members of the Deanery Mission and Ministry Committee (DMMC) were concerned that they had not been included in some discussions. Nearly all churches in the deanery struggle to pay their parish share, which is calculated in part according to

the number of paid clergy in the deanery. The DMMC tabled a motion for diocesan synod stating that deaneries need to be consulted before clergy appointments are made in that deanery.

At the meeting in June Revd. Lindsey Yates, Generous Giving Adviser for the diocese, shared ideas and advice about encouraging generous giving stressing that giving blesses the donor as well as the recipient, and should be central to everything.

In September members of the deanery were invited to join evensong in the cathedral, and refreshments in the Chapter House after the service provided an opportunity to meet together. Also, in September a deanery roadshow lead by the archdeacon and Bishop Rose visited Herne Bay and considered ways of reaching out to people and furthering the mission of the church. The diocese's target is 'Three Bold Outcomes' - for every church to show signs of revitalisation, to double the number of children and young people, and for 200 new Christian communities to be established. We were encouraged to do a few things well and to let everyone know our priorities.

The meeting in October began with an explanation of the Week of Accompanied Prayer initiative when church members commit to spending time in prayer during a particular week, with spiritual help from visiting mentors. The meeting also included a discussion on our churches' progress with work on the Three Bold Outcomes. At each meeting eco-church has been an item, sharing ideas, and in October we saw a short film about an eco-church in Norfolk. Safeguarding has also been an important item at meetings with advice on training, and the need for a national audit for which all churches will be checked.

Priscilla Cox and Deborah Waller Deanery representatives
March 2025

GENERAL REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

There is no report specifically on communications and publicity but during the year much has devolved to communications on line and the third edition of the church directory has proved invaluable.

August Activity Days

The activity days this year were a great success. Although quieter than usual this year, we welcomed lots of families for all or part of the days and we provided a wide range of activities suitable for a broad range of guests. These days were initially designed to capture and help families that struggle with the cost of entertaining their young families in an entertaining and safe way for 6 weeks over the summer holidays, and to ease the loneliness and parenting pressure for the carers over this break. It was clear that this was still a valid facility that still met these criteria and was enjoyed by all.

These days take a large commitment from our congregation both in planning as well as in volunteering for the days to make the facility a success, and I cannot thank you all enough for stepping forward to help with crafts, bouncy castle, refreshments and all of the other jobs that you so wonderfully engaged in to offer such a positive environment for our families over the summer break. You are amazing, thank you!

Sarah Bingham
March 2025

Bellringers Report for 2024

The bells are rung on Sunday for services, usually starting at 9.30am and for other additional services during the year, including Christmas Midnight Communion. We joined other towers across the country ringing for the D Day anniversary service on the 6th June 2024 at 6.30pm and for the Deanery Confirmation service that evening.

We rang for the licensing of the Revd. Chris Carnaby-Denyer to the parish on the 30th July 2024 to welcome him and his family. The ringers were very pleased that he came to visit us at our practice the following evening and for his subsequent visits (especially his Christmas visit when he brought chocolates, a lovely surprise).

The ringers practice on Wednesday evenings, when we ring a variety of methods in addition to rounds and call changes. Visiting ringers come to join us while on holiday and we regularly have ringers from other towers in East Kent at practices each week, including a number of ringers who live in Herne Bay but ring at other towers on Sundays (their Sunday morning service ringing times are the same as ours). Our newest recruit is now ringing regularly for services and weddings, and is learning method ringing, starting with plain hunt.

The bells were rung for weddings during the year (in March 2024, June 2024, and August 2024) 2024

The ringers continue to attend meetings of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers which are held on the second Saturday of each month, and District practices, also usually held on a Saturday. We hosted a Surprise Major practice on Saturday 19th October 2024,

which was well attended and successful. Most of our ringers are members of the KCACR. Another member of our band was elected as a member this year. Members of our band ring regularly at local towers including Chislet and often join ringers at Sturry and Birchington.

A visiting band of ringers from St Margaret's, Rochester rang at St Martin's on Saturday 26th October 2024 during their ringing outing to towers in the area. Many of the ringers, and non-ringing friends and family who were on the outing with them were interested in the history of the church and bells. All the visiting ringers enjoyed their ring as our bells are a very fine ring of eight bells. Other ringing has included a quarter peal (ringing continuously for 45 minutes for 1260 different orders of the bells) in August 2024.

The ringers welcome anyone who is interested in learning about ringing or who wants to learn to ring to come and visit us in the tower

Susan and Keith Record
March 2025

Children's and Sunday School report for 2024

Children have continued to be welcomed at every Sunday service with shared table activities on the first and third Sundays, at St. Martin's and St. Peter's churches respectively. These have ranged from single poster type of words and pictures (usually displayed on the church display boards afterwards) to individual items such as puppets which may be taken home. All the activities are linked with the lectionary and/or theme for the service by regular communication with those leading the services. Grateful thanks to Shirley Frost and her creativity in organising these activities and providing the resources with support from Anne Post.

On the second and fourth Sundays and occasional fifth Sundays during term-time children are welcomed to the Ridley Room where they follow the ROOTs programme of learning which is again linked with the lectionary and service patterns throughout the church year. Anne Post supported by Shirley Frost continue in the leadership of these sessions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jamie Wraight for all of his past support in these sessions and offer prayerful support for him as he takes a break from this role.

Each Sunday service has a regular slot before the final hymn or song where the children are invited to come out to the front of the church and share their learning, this may involve explaining what they have learnt to the congregation or just simply demonstrating their creations after which the youngsters lead the congregation in a short appropriate prayer. On some Sundays, children also join whoever is leading worship during the reflection. The children's presence always brings great pleasure and often some very interesting comments are made which provide worshippers with a chance for an alternative reflection. We are all very inspired by the families who take part and grateful for their encouragement of the children that they bring along and pleased to see a number of new faces.

Deborah Waller
March 2024

The Choir Report for 2024

The choir has continued to sing for Sunday morning services, and for additional services. These included an Evening service for Candlemas on Sunday 4th February 2024, Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The deanery Confirmation service was on Thursday 6th June 2024 and there was an evening service on Sunday 16th June 2024.

The Licensing service for Revd. Chris Carnaby-Denyer and his family was on Tuesday 30th July 2024. There was an evening Harvest service on Sunday 6th October 2024 again with hymns, anthems and readings.

The choir sang at weddings at St Martin's church during the year (in March, June and August September 2024). The choir also sang at funerals (in February and March 2024).

The Remembrance Sunday service in St Martin's church included hymns and an anthem followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard.

The Memorial carol service was at the beginning of December 2024, including well known carols (with descants) and the choir sang Christmas anthems whilst stars were placed on the Christmas tree.

The choir sang carols, with descants, at the Nine Lessons and Carols service, and anthems which included a new setting of "In the bleak mid-winter" composed by Chris Exley. Christmas anthems were sung on Christmas Eve during Communion, together with Christmas carols.

One of our longstanding choir members moved away to be with her family during the year and she is missed. Other choir members have joined (or rejoined) during the year and an additional singer has joined for some services when he can. Any singers, or those who would like to learn are most welcome to come along.

Choir practices are on Thursday evenings in St Martin's church/ The choir has again put in much time and effort learning new pieces and rehearsing anthems in the repertoire to sing during services, including pieces composed by, or arranged by, our "in house" composer and arranger. Teams including choir members, with friends

Susan Record
March 2025

The Churchyard Team report for 2024

The Church yard gardening team have been working very hard on maintenance of the Church yard for both nature and all the humans that use it.

Our dead hedge at the back of the churchyard is now home to a family of hedgehogs as well as thousands of insects and mini beasts.
We keep adding to our hedge every time we weed or prune back.
We are creating another longer hedge to divide the public right of way footpath and the churchyard as well and this is blending in with its surroundings.

We now feel that we are nearly on top of everything and not chasing our tails each time.
This coming year we will be looking at clearing the brambles around the grave stones that are near the back of the churchyard and making them more accessible, but this is a huge task and may take a couple of years to complete, so please bare with us.

There is always lots to do and at the beginning of the year we spend all our time preparing and clearing for when everything blooms in the Spring and Summer. We're getting there and our little team are always looking for more helpers.

If you would like to join us please contact Claire at claire.stay@mac.com
We meet the first Saturday and the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except January because it's just too cold) from 10am-noon.
Whatever you can do will be perfect.
The extra incentive for coming on Saturday is that we stop for a short while to have a hot drink and cake.

Don't forget your thermals, wellybobs, waterproofs (especially during the winter months) and any basic tools like a trowel and fork, whatever you have.
No experience necessary.

A huge thank you to everyone who helps it's greatly appreciated.

Clair Stay, Churchyard team
February 2025

Community Café

Community Café has met at St Peter's every Tuesday morning throughout the year. A loyal group of people enjoy coming together to chat and share their news and views. The Community Warden is a regular visitor and is available to hear any local issues that concern people, and there have been occasional visits from the local policeman who has special responsibility for Greenhill. Everyone is pleased that Revd. Chris is also able to join us once a fortnight. At Christmas time we all enjoyed having lunch together in The Heron in Station Road.

Priscilla Cox
March 2025

The Flower Arrangers report for 2024

This past year we have managed to have floral displays in church and for the main events of Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas keeping costs as low as we can. We were not called upon for any flowers for the weddings that took place.

We are sadly getting fewer and age and illness is catching up with us all. I have a couple of ladies who help out when they can but we could do with some more willing hands.

Liz Sellen, Flower arranger
February 2025

Gift Aid Matters for 2024

Gift Aid continues to be a very helpful contribution to the church finances. Pay your income tax and the Church can get a 25% bonus on any donations that you make. As at the 31st December 2024 we still had 41 parties who have each made a Gift Aid declaration and also pledged their payments. Regrettably this has significantly decreased from 2022 when we had 54 gift aid pledges. If you are a UK tax payer then you can usually qualify and this is achieved simply by signing a declaration form which either myself or the treasurer can provide. We can claim Gift Aid on standing orders and planned giving. In addition, there are the individual donations made via the Gift Aid Envelope

Scheme which are given at collections taken at our services throughout the year. If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate tax payer in all cases you can even claim an extra rebate in your tax return.

Our treasurer records receipts for the month in which the payment is made. For the year ending 31 December 2024, St Martins reclaimed £7,429.00 from all sources, which is lower than last year. This sum includes repayments from the Gift Aid returns for December 2023 (credited in January 2024). The sums from December2024 are credited in January 2025 and will be shown in the 2025 accounts.

These sums include payments derived from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS for short). General money received in our church collection plates or by the bank card reader can qualify. Also. if you originally pledged your giving using the coloured weekly envelopes but are not a tax payer then I can count your weekly donation as part of GASDS and get more money that way. There is a GASDS limit of £8,000 which can be claimed in any tax year by any charity. Since June 2023 we have dispensed with the weekly envelopes except for the one-off gift Aid donations.

Please remember there are tokens that you can put into the church plate as evidence that you are giving. Donations can still be made in the plate. Also, we have a card reader.

Regular church goers will know that a decision was made in August 2022 to register the church with the central Parish Giving Scheme. This requires pledged payments to be paid by members of the congregation direct to the PGS administration (a separate charity) rather than our church bank account. It is easy to set up and you can do so on line, by telephone or a postal application. If you require help. please speak to me or Sheila Gough.

PGS then claims the Gift Aid and pays monthly all payments (that is the donation and the claimed Gift Aid) to our bank account. However, PGS works independently from the Canterbury Diocese. The Diocese withdrew its Gift Aid administration from April 2023 and I continue to make separate Gift Aid claims for those donations paid direct to our church account. Actually, this has proved less onerous than I had expected and HMRC make payment very quickly. So, having two means of paying pledged sums is not a problem.

Individual donations given in the plate, card reader or by separate Gift Aid envelopes (which are still available) are the subject of separate direct claims to HMRC which I make at the same time.

As a tax payer, Gift Aid is a bonus to the Church and provided that you do pay the tax there is no downside from your point of view. Remember; if you cease to be a tax payer or move address or change your name. please let me know immediately. I have to inform HMRC or PGS.

Andrew Gough, Gift Aid Secretary
February 2025

Herne Community Fun Day

This event went ahead this year without the parish council as they decided that they did not have the resources to join in this year. Despite it now only being run by the church this was a very successful and engaging event with everything happening as it had always done and the volunteers from the church stepping up on the whole to support the day.

We have committed to doing this event again this year as this is a great outreach opportunity as well as funding opportunity for the church and we need YOU to step forward and help if you can.

I could do with some help gathering raffle prizes, securing sponsorship, preparing the games, moving furniture, etc. but most importantly running stalls on the day! The games on each stall will be provided for you, so we just need smiley fun faces to meet and engage with our local community to make our church seen in the local community as a people of God that they might like to join!

I cannot do this day without you!! So, if you have helped, THANK YOU!! And if you have not so far, PLEASE get involved this year, we NEED you!

This year's date is Sunday 13th July and we run from 11-4pm

Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Sarah Bingham
March 2025

House Group Report for 2024

Our house group restarted in 2024 via Zoom after a break of about a year, during which time I was busy with our Ukrainian guests.

We continue with the same group of 7 and meet not very regularly, but when time allows, choosing a date that all or at least a majority can attend.

We use studies from Faith and Worship, most written by John Birch who in addition to his studies for small groups, has published several books of prayers.

We recently studied "Jonah the Reluctant Prophet" and are now working on "The Incredible Journey," a five-part discipleship study. We are a very cohesive group, and finish our meeting with prayers for one another.

Sheila Bennett
March 2025

Little Fishes Report for 2024

Friday little Fishes continues to meet regularly every Friday morning during term time, 9.30 – 11.30 at St. Peter's Church, Greenhill. We provide a wide range of toys suitable for babies and up to school age. The toys are rotated from week to week and include a dolls house, an indoor slide/climbing frame, a ball pool and a lovely rocking horse, plus many ride on toys and push or pull along items.

Refreshments are provided for adults and children, and the toast with butter, jam or honey is very popular. We have a low table and small chairs for the children to sit around while they eat, so that they begin to learn how to behave at a table with others for meals. They also begin to learn how to ask politely for what they would like with please and thank you.

When the weather is fine, we make use of the large grassy area behind St. Peters with its slide and sand pit. On these days the children can run in and out as they choose.

Anne Post organises a different craft for each Friday, usually designing something the children can take home. Deborah Waller spends time helping with all aspects of Little Fishes, especially the vital

task of packing the toys back into the cupboards afterwards. We have been very fortunate to have the invaluable help of Lauren Heathcote for many months while she was seeking full time employment. We will be very sorry to lose Lauren when she begins her new venture from 18th March.

John Bennett helps with many aspects of the morning and is very popular among the children who enjoy sitting with him while he reads stories.

The parents/grandparents/childminders and children all enthusiastically assist with the clearing up of toys towards the end of the session, after which we sit and sing nursery rhymes, then join in a circle for our final songs including a sung prayer thanking God for our families, friends and for our time at Little Fishes.

We have many people to thank for their help including Rev. Chris who comes whenever his time allows, Steve who kindly gets the hall ready for us, and the members of our congregation who help us out when a stand-in is needed.

When Lauren can no longer help us, we would very much like to have an additional volunteer to help on Fridays. It is a fun morning, and if you like to spend time with small children, I am sure it would be an enjoyable experience.

Sheila Bennett
March 2025

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to thrive although numbers have been down a little over the last few months. We are delighted to welcome families back month after month and have a very regular congregation for this monthly church offering. If you have never been, I urge you to pop along and see the great work that this service offering does for our younger congregants.

We are able to offer a delicious two course, home cooked meal every month thanks to all those who so willingly prepare and donate the food. It is wonderful that we have so many volunteers. So, thank you very much to Sally and Ian who turn up every month. Thank you also to Dot, Vanessa, Sheila B, Joan, Lisa, Anne, Sheila G, Linda, Hilary, Jenny, Priscilla, Leah, Mary, Pete, Helen, Yamit and Wendy. We really couldn't manage without you all.

If anyone else would like to join our team of cooks please let Carolyn know. You would probably only be asked about three times a year. The food is collected from your door and the clean dish returned at the end so you don't need to turn up!

Sarah Bingham
March 2025

Pastoral Report 2024

Revd. Chris's arrival led to a revival of pastoral visiting with Home Communions and visits to the Residential Homes in our Parish - Herne Place, Broomfield Lodge and High Pines. There have been regular monthly services of Communion at Broomfield Lodge and twice-monthly services at Herne Place. These services are greatly enjoyed by all residents and allow good opportunities for

conversation and fellowship. Home Communion continues to be delivered, particularly by Sheila Gough who also supports Revd. Chris along with Anne Ackland and myself with pastoral duties.

I would like to record huge thanks to Liza Seed for her years of generous commitment to the Pastoral team now that she has retired to live closer to her family.

Deborah Waller
March 2025

Safeguarding Report 2024

At St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter`s Greenhill, we are fully committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment to all, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is at the heart of our mission, reflecting our Christian values of love, care, and respect.

We recognize our responsibility to protect those in our care and to create a culture where everyone feels safe, valued, and heard.

Our safeguarding policies and procedures are in place to ensure all volunteers understand their roles in keeping people safe.

We follow safeguarding guidelines from the Diocese, conduct appropriate background checks and access training to ensure best practices are upheld.

Safeguarding is not just the responsibility of a few – it is a shared commitment that requires the vigilance of the entire church community. We encourage everyone to speak up if they have concerns all of which would be taken seriously.

I am pleased to report that there have been no issues of concern during the year.

Anne Ackland Safeguarding officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults
March 2025

Schools Report

Our ministry to our Herne Church of England Infant and Junior Schools continued to grow and is highly valued. Six members of the congregation are governors to the Junior School and four sit on the board of governors for the Infants School. So, the relationship between Herne Church and Schools becomes ever stronger.

Since September 2024 Revd Chris has led worship at both the Infants and the Junior School. During 2024 Andrew Gough, as governor at the Junior School, has given a full school worship once a term at Herne Juniors whilst Deborah Waller, as Lay Reader and governor at the Infant's School, has led whole school worship at both the schools as well as contributing to a joint worship between the two schools. The appointment of a new teacher at Herne Infants who leads worship has led to improved liaison between the two schools and the church with a range of further worships

There have been a number of Herne School Services in St Martins, with a total of five services being led and organised by the Juniors and one by the Infants. Both schools attended the Remembrance Sunday service and at that service placed poppies around the War memorial.

On three Sundays in 2024, we were joined by Herne Junior school Worship Leaders who helped lead a Morning Worship with Deborah, along with a choir. It is hoped to continue building on this practice and to encourage the children and their parents to attend Sunday worship more regularly.

Great credit must be paid to the Senior Leadership teams and all the staff and the governors at the schools who work tirelessly and with great skill and vison to provide such an excellent education for the children. Several of the governors are active contributors to the SIAMS curriculum at both schools.[3]

In the early part of 2024, there was no ministry provided to Herne Bay High School. It is understood that there has been some involvement by Christ Church Herne Bay even though the school is actually in the Herne parish. Revd Chris is now a governor at the High School and there are planned initiatives to improve mission and pastoral outreach in 2025

Also, no ministry was provided to Briary School (now Thornden Wood School) in the first half of 2024. However, following the appointment of Revd Chris he has worked with the head teacher and links have now developed.

Both schools have been confirmed as Ofsted Outstanding (the inspection for the Junior school being completed in late 2023

Deborah Waller and Andrew Gough as Foundation Governors
March 2025

Herne Church Hall also known as the St. Martin's Church (Institute) hall

The hall currently has 16 regular weekly, twice-weekly, and monthly bookings during the week-days. These maintain a regular income for the upkeep of the hall. Weekends are kept for children's parties, Quiz Nights, Wine & Wisdoms and fun raising events for the church and these local groups. The average is 10 parties a month and at least 2 or 3 fund raising events.

The main groups are dance and fitness groups. We also have Rubber Biscuit using the hall occasionally for band practice. The Herne WI Group have relocated to St. Peters Hall in Greenhill and now called Herne Drive WI. They wanted an afternoon session but unfortunately there were no spaces available in the afternoons.

We also have ad hoc bookings for Tuition Classes and Playgroup end of year gatherings before the children go to 'big school'

The hall is cleaned and maintained by Steve King and we do ask users to leave it clean & tidy in the hope the previous Booking has left it as it should be.

Wendy Dinley Hall Booking Secretary
February 2025

St. Martin's Church Readers & Intercessors

Since the arrival of Revd. Chris, I now have regular updates of the ministry Schedule for me to compile the readings, I then add names to the readings and people to do Intercessions.

[3] As an update, in January 2025 the Infants school had a very successful SIAMS inspection

I produce the Readers Rota every four months and you get to read two or three times in that period. I currently have 12 regular Readers and Intercessors and would appreciate more volunteers, so if you have ever wondered when listening to the readers every Sunday, how do they get to do that, I'd like to try it then please give you name to Revd. Chris or myself.

Wendy Dinley St. Martin's Readers
February 2025

St. Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers 2024

I have been privileged to act as the server at Holy Communion. I am often the chalice bearer although Leah Willey and Sheila Gough act in my absence. Since January 2023 wine has been offered separately but Revd. Chris has re-introduced the intinction of the wafer.

My thanks go to, Leah, Sheila and Deborah Waller who assist in offering the chalice and to the churchwardens who lay out the altar table if I am absent. Also, thanks to Roger Jackson who administers the chalice at the Sunday 8am communion service

If anybody else would like to come forward and offer to serve at the altar I would be very grateful to hear from them.

Andrew Gough, Sacristan
February 2025

Tuesday Toddler Report 2024

Where else other than a toddler group would you find... a daddy with a fried egg (plastic) on his lap a grandad covered in grass to make him look like a scarecrow, a mummy nursing a sick baby doll, or a cross-eyed Easter chick! Well, we've had it all at Tuesday Little Fishes; our little ones never cease to amaze us with their creativity and sense of adventure.

We had a peaceful first term when we welcomed Margaryta and her baby son Mark from Ukraine. We also had Ellie join us for a few weeks' work experience before she went on to secure a job as a classroom assistant in a local primary school. Our spring clothes swap was a success with families swapping or donating mainly babies' and toddlers' clothes.

Our regular outing in May to The Jungle, Quex Park was once again appreciated by all who attended; in fact, one of the grandads said: "That was*****marvellous!"
29 families made up of mums, dads, grandparents, and child minders attended. The 34 children who came were treated to a buffet lunch laid on by the centre.

Our Teddy Bears' Picnic and Sports Day had to be postponed because of wet weather but we did manage to fit it in on one of the rare sunny days in the summer term. Each child went home with a lovely hand knitted teddy, most of which were knitted by Theresa.

Our Leavers' special on the last day of term saw 8 children moving on to school or to other settings. Each one received a copy of "My Very First Bible" and a Christian coaster for their family. The parents of the children leaving gave us some lovely cards with very encouraging messages which we really appreciated...

The children loved it and looked forward to it each week, it gave us a chance to have a warm cup of tea (and a cheeky biscuit) and speak with like-minded people.

You and all the volunteers were always so welcoming, kind and helpful. I can't thank you all enough for the support you showed us over the past six years, thank you again xxx

The staff team reconvened on 3rd September to clean the toys and throw some out and we resumed for the autumn term on 10th September.

After much thought we decided that on this our 50th anniversary year we would change the name of our group from Tuesday Toddlers (which didn't really link us to the church) to Tuesday Little Fishes. This also links us to Friday Little Fishes.

The events of the final term of the year followed our usual pattern, including our Harvest Festival, Grandparents' Special, a particularly popular Toy Swap in November and our two Christmas parties with visits from Father Christmas.

Our weekly booking emails which include general church news, currently go out to 91 families. Around 30 of these families are regular attendees.

It is always so important to mention the special people who have helped us so much throughout the year. The regular staff Theresa, Val, Fran and Carolyn would like to thank:

Roger Jackson for mowing the lawn so we can make good use of the outside space.
Anne Ackland for being our regular 'supply' cover.
Doug and Peter for sporting big white fluffy beards in December.
Grandparents Donna, Geoff, Clare, Jacquie and Mick for helping week by week with packing away the toys, tables and chairs.

Carolyn Thomas
February 2025

Worship Band

This year has been an amazing development year for the band and I feel that the congregation are really starting to enjoy and engage in the offering that the band brings to worship at both of the churches. We were delighted to be joined this year by both Derek who is a fabulous drummer and Michelle who is a great asset to vocals. Both are amazing additions to the sound that we can bring to the services. Paul, Jack and Fiona continue with faultless commitment too, to ensure that as a team we are delivering the best quality sound lead that we can, to ensure that the congregation can learn new material as well as enjoy older favourites and worship in a contemporary way.

Thank you to all in the congregation for your enthusiasm and positivity. Please remember to ask if you have a song that you would like us to try and we will do our best to learn them.

Sarah Bingham
March 2025

ANNEXE: THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1st JANUARY 2024 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Independently examined by P G Lemon LLP

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

GENERAL FUND	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	2023 £
Receipts and Payments Account				
RECEIPTS	1			
Voluntary Receipts				
Planned Giving		33,931	33,931	33,487
Collections at Services		4,800	4,800	4,819
Gift Aid and other voluntary receipts		21,567	21,567	11,616
Gift Aid Recovered		7,429	7,429	9,487
Legacy		40,000	40,000	500
Activities for Generating Funds		7,003	7,003	4,968
Church Activities - St Martins		8,261	8,261	11,894
Income Received for St Martins Hall		2,154	2,154	0
Church Activities - St Peters		13,321	13,321	12,109
Funds Transferred from CCLA accounts		42,938	42,938	27,745
Funds transferred from Hall A/C		14,000	14,000	12,386
Receipts		195,403	195,403	129,011
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**195,403**	**195,403**	**129,011**
PAYMENTS	2			
Church Activities				
Parish Share		80,329	80,329	74,314
Clergy and Staffing Costs		7,060	7,060	7,601
Church Running Expenses		35,902	35,902	29,481
Occasional Office Expenditure		3,663	3,663	7,241
Mission giving and donations		1,542	1,542	1,998
Fundraising		1,322	1,322	1,808
Church Hall - St Martins		3,855	3,855	2,154
Church Hall - St Peters		11,299	11,299	12,098
Transferred to Investment Accounts		50,000	50,000	0
Vicars Discretionary Trust		25	25	250
Bank Charges		304	304	273

Payments	195,301	195,301	137,217
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**195,301**	**195,301**	**137,217**
Surplus/Deficit		102	(8,206)
Cash at Bank and in hand 1st January		4,299	12,505
Cash at Bank and in hand 31st December (Lloyds Bank and Santander)		4,401	4,299

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

St Martin's Church Hall	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income				
Hall Lettings		16,040	16,040	13,285
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**16,040**	**16,040**	**13,285**
Payments				
Utilities		511	511	236
Cleaning Materials		632	632	486
Caretaker Salary		1,584	1,584	1,041
Insurance		1,350	1,350	1,249
Maintenance		307	307	1,476
Music Licence		159	159	338
Rental Refund		0	0	25
Miscellaneous (Stamps/Stationery)		179	179	155
Tfer to St Martin's General A/c for Parish Share		16,154	16,154	12,386
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**20,876**	**20,876**	**17,392**
Surplus/Deficit			(4,836)	(4,107)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January			8,299	12,406
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December			3,464	8,299
Youth Account	3			
Receipts				
Activity Days		179	179	111
Messy Church		235	235	178
Little Fishes		418	418	427
Mothers & Toddlers		275	275	527
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**1,107**	**1,107**	**1,243**
Payments				
Activity/Craft materials		7	7	20
Messy Church		81	81	17
Little Fishes		81	81	16
Mothers & Toddlers		525	525	479
Caretaker		180	180	135
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**873**	**873**	**667**
Surplus/Deficit			234	576
Cash at bank 1st January			1,830	1,254
Cash at bank 31st December			2,064	1,830

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

St Martin-in-Herne Church Restoration Account	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	2023 £
Receipts	0	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**0**	**0**	**0**
Payments			
Transfer to Gen A/C part payment B W May Inv	0	0	3,500
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**0**	**0**	**3,500**
Cash at bank 1st January	485	485	3,985
Cash at bank 31st December	485	485	485

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	2023
Cash Funds		£	£	£	£
Lloyds Bank Current Account		4,076		4,076	4,099
Santander Bank Current Account		325		325	200
Church Hall Account		3,464		3,464	8,299
Youth Account		2,064		2,064	1,830
Restoration Account			485	485	485
		9,928	**485**	**10,413**	**14,913**
Investment Assets	4	109,696	36,735	146,430	132,344
		109,696	**36,735**	**146,430**	**132,344**
Fixed Assets retained for Church Use				**5,000**	**5,000**
Liabilities					
Unpaid 2017 Parish Share				6,742	6,742
Unpaid 2018 Parish Share				11,704	11,704
Unpaid 2021 Parish Share				24,769	24,769
Funds held on behalf of Mothers & Toddlers				257	198
Funds held on behalf of St Peter's Greenhill					
Little Fishes				1,060	753
Messy Church				428	102
Activity Days				318	0
Community Café				1,780	904
				47,058	**45,172**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on: 7TH April 2025 and signed by:

.....
Rev'd Christopher Carnaby-Denyer

S. J. Gough
.....
Mrs Sheila Gough (Treasurer)

Bank:
Lloyds
144-146 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent

Independent Examiner:
PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

CCLA Investment Managerment Ltd
One Angel Lane
London EC4R 3AB

Notes to the Financial Statements

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis

1. General Fund Analysis of Receipts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Voluntary Receipts		
Planned Giving	16,011	32,728
Weekly Envelopes	0	759
Planned Giving Scheme	17,920	0
	33,931	33,487
Collections and other giving	4,800	4,819
Gift Aid Envelopes	235	130
Donations General	11,610	1,434
Collections for specific purposes	435	522
Telecommunications Mast	8,978	8,978
Flower Box	65	174
Candle Tree	75	86
Wall Box/Acrylic Box	169	117
Vicar Leaving Gift	0	175
	21,567	11,616
Income Tax Recovered	7,429	9,487
Legacy	40,000	500
Receipts from activities for generating funds		
Hospitality/Tea Coffee	148	116
Mothers & Toddlers Group	691	527
Calenders/Noteletts	0	0
Fundraising Events and Activities	6,163	4,324
	7,003	4,968
Receipts from Church Activities		
Wedding Deposits/Banns/Certificates	288	320
PCC Fees for Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	2,414	3,354
Diocese Fees for Weddings/Funerals	1,868	3,319
Organist/Bells/Choir Fees	1,810	2,315
Additional Wedding/Funeral Income	1,160	1,955
Vacancy Fees Refunded	532	531
Vicarage Grass Cutting	189	100
	8,261	11,894
Receipts received on behalf of St Martins Hall (Utility Payments/Insurance/Cleaning Materials)	2,154	0
St Peter's Greenhill		
Community Café	876	904
Rental income	12,220	11,205
Donations	100	0
Santander account	125	0
	13,321	12,109
Total of the above	138,465	88,880
Funds Transferred from CCLA Accounts		

Reserve Account to pay Parish Share	27,301	0
Reserve Account to pay St Peter's Insurance	1,393	0
Reserve Account to pay for Organ Repairs	14,244	0
Vicars Discretionary Fund	0	250
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund		
to pay 3 months 2022/2023 Parish Share	0	18,578
to part pay B W May invoice	0	3,017
to pay for tree felling	0	2,400
Funds transferred from Restoration Fund		
to part pay B W May invoice	0	3,500
	42,938	27,745
Funds transferred from Hall a/c re Parish Share	14,000	12,386
Total Receipts	**195,403**	**129,011**

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. General Fund Analysis of Payments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Direct Ministry Expenditure		
Parish Share	80,329	74,313
Incumbents Working Expenses	457	271
Vicarage Telephone	64	359
Curates Working Expenses	0	0
Curates Telephone	0	0
Other Clergy Expenses	204	553
Organist/Secretary Salaries	4,092	3,892
Admininstration	2,243	2,526
	7,060	7,601
Church Running Expenses		
Utilities	5,570	8,226
Insurance	8,925	8,606
Repairs,Maintenance & Supplies	3,506	7,213
Church Security(Alarm/Lighting)	155	177
Upkeep of Churchyard	0	2,400
Worship	390	240
Music	15,820	1,366
Training Costs/Outreach	320	0
Red Lion Parking	720	720
Flowers	496	533
	35,902	29,481
Occasional Office Expenditure		
Weddings/Funerals	2,160	2,415
Wedding Deposit/Fees refund	0	25
Parochial Fees	1,503	4,243
(Wedding/Funeral fees to Diocese)		
Vacancy Fees	0	558
	3,663	7,241
Charitable Giving/Mission		
Royal British Legion	366	232
Herne Junior School (Leavers Bibles)	0	282
Mission to Sea Farers	0	0
Friends of Kent Churches	200	5
Gifts from Vicar's Discretionary Fund	0	0
Anglican Renewal Mission	0	0
Childrens Society	0	175
Mothers & Toddlers	275	527
Porchlight	0	50
Catching Lives	(30)	283
Subscriptions	166	120

Refreshments	160	45
Salvatiohn Army	0	139
Cruize Breavement	0	139
Bishops Justice Appeal	363	0
Taxi Fares (Herne Infant School)	42	0
Restoration Celebration	0	0
	1,542	1,998
Fundraising		
Funday Sunday	568	1,603
Wine & Wisdom	330	148
Christmas Fair	142	57
Christmas Tree Festival	282	0
	1,322	1,808
St Martins Church Hall		
Utilities	3,569	2,044
Cleaning Materials	0	109
Fire Extinguishers	286	0
	3,855	2,154
St Peter's Greenhill		
Utilities	5,323	6,963
Cleaning Materials	165	202
Insurance	1,393	1,366
Caretaker Salary	3,744	3,470
Maintenance/Repairs	615	92
Activities	0	1,296
Booking Refund	60	0
	11,299	12,098
Total of the above	144,972	136,694
Transferred to CCLA Fabric	0	0
Transferred to CCLA Reserves - Donation and Legacy	50,000	0
Vicars Discretionary Fund	25	250
	50,025	250
Bank Charges	304	273
Total Payments	**195,301**	**137,217**

Notes to the Financial Statements

3. Analysis of Youth Account

	2024	2023
	£	£
Receipts		
Activity Days	179	111
Messy Church	235	177
Little Fishes	418	427
Mothers & Toddlers	275	527
	1,107	1,243
Payments		
Activity Equipment/Craft Materials	7	20
Messy Church - Resource material/Refreshments	81	17
Little Fishes - Party Food	81	16
Mothers & Toddlers - Outings and Christmas presents	525	479
Caretaker	180	135
	873	667
Cash at bank 1st January	1,830	1,254
Cash at bank 31st December	2,064	1,830

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds

Bell Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
Interest	0.94	0.56
	0.94	0.56
PAYMENTS	-	-
Balance at 1st January	17.76	17.20
Balance at 31st December	18.70	17.76

Fabric Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
Interest	1,182.75	2,708.40
	1,182.75	2,708.40
PAYMENTS		
2022/2023 Parish Share	-	18,578.25
Transferred to Gen a/c tree felling invoic	-	2,400.00
Transferred to Reserve Account	-	73,495.78
	-	94,474.03
Balance at 1st January	10,000.00	101,765.63
Balance at 31st December	11,182.75	10,000.00

Institute Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
Interest	644.35	376.98
	644.35	376.98
PAYMENTS	-	-
Balance at 1st January	12,139.76	11,762.78
Balance at 31st December	12,784.11	12,139.76

May Legacy Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

Restricted for the use of the Poor and Needy of the Parish

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
Interest	1,277.25	751.24
	1,277.25	751.24
PAYMENTS		
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	-	394.00
	-	394.00
Balance at 1st January	24,063.53	23,706.29
Balance at 31st December	25,340.78	24,063.53

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds continued

Organ Fund Account for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
Interest	0.07	0.04
	0.07	0.04
PAYMENTS	-	-
Balance at 1st January	1.34	1.30
Balance at 31st December	1.41	1.34

Diocesan Deposit Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024
Reserve Account for St Peter's and St Martin's

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
Transferred from Fabric Fund	-	73,495.78
Transferred from Gen A/c - Donation	10,000.00	
Transferred from Gen A/c - Legacy	40,000.00	
Interest	3,637.39	227.60
	53,637.39	73,723.38
PAYMENTS		
Parish Share	27,388.00	-
Organ Repair	14,244.00	-
Other general expenses	1,306.00	-
	42,938.00	-
Balance at 1st January	80,824.96	7,101.58
Balance at 31st December	91,524.35	80,824.96

Restoration Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
Interest	10.63	67.60
PAYMENTS		
B W May	-	3,017.20
Balance at 1st January	200.46	3,150.06
Balance at 31st December	211.09	200.46

Roof Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
Interest	270.51	158.26
PAYMENTS	-	-
Balance at 1st January	5,096.48	4,938.22
Balance at 31st December	5,366.99	5,096.48

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

This Report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). It is my responsibility to issue this report on the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not not been met.

Signed: M·A· Gamlen FCCA

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 17 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

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Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

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- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not not been met.

Signed: M A Gamlen FCCA

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 17 March 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134604

Accounts

The Parish Church of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 21st April 2024, at 11.00am

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THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Peter's Church Greenhill on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11.00 am or as soon thereafter

AGENDA

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 16th April 2023
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of churchwardens (two-) and Deputy Church Wardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies and procedures (including agreement to proxy voting if applicable)
2. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 16th April 2023
4. Matters arising from minutes

Mandatory reports required under the Church Representation rules 2020

5. Lay reader's report in the vacancy
6. Churchwarden's report
7. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 21st April 2024
8. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2023
9. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2023 accounts
10. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's. Proposing PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA
11. Fabric Committee Report
12. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Mandatory elections

13. Election of Deborah Waller in her capacity as Lay reader to be an ex officio member of the PCC

14. Election of PCC members. To include
    a. Election of three PCC members (if nominations received) for 2024 to 2027 (being two retiring and one vacancy remaining to be filled)

    NB Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting so no election required

General reports

15. Reports from church organisations
    a. August Activity days
    b. The Bellringers
    c. Children's and Sunday School report
    d. The Choir
    e. The Churchyard maintenance team
    f. The Flower arrangers
    g. Gift Aid
    h. Little Fishes
    i. Messy Church
    j. Pastoral Matters
    k. Safeguarding
    l. Schools
    m. St Martin's Church Institute
    n. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
    o. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
    p. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
    q. Weddings report
    r. The Worship Band
16. Date of first meeting of the new PCC
17. Any other business
18. The Blessing

CHURCH INFORMATION 2023

ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE with ST PETER, GREENHILL,
Registered Charity No 1134604

1st January-31st December 2023

St Martin-in-Herne Church
Herne Street
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent

St Peter's Church
Herne Drive
Greenhill
Herne Bay
Kent.

INCUMBENT
Revd. Carol Smith until 30th April 2023 and upon her retirement a vacancy

CURATE
None

BANKERS
St Martin-in-Herne Church
Lloyds, Herne Bay

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House, 85 Queen's Street, London, EC4V 4ET

St Peter's Church

Santander Account
(for receipt of rental monies only)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

P.G.Lemon LLP 22 – 26 Bank Street Herne Bay CT6 5EAL

BACKGROUND
The parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter, Greenhill extends to the railway in Eddington to the North, includes Broomfield, Talmead Estate, Greenhill, Still Water Park, Herne Common and Blean Woods in the South. The population is approximately 16,000 and, in addition, there is new housing in the east of the parish.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended.

The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020.

THE TASK OF THE PCC
The Synodical Government Measure 1969 states clearly:

> *It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance in the parish.*

It then sets out a number of functions of the PCC, of which perhaps the most important – and certainly the widest – is that the primary objective of the PCC is:

Co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical

The incumbent and the PCC each have their own particular rights and responsibilities in the life of the church, but the important theme here is partnership and co-operation. More specifically the PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and churchyard, and, with the incumbent, for deciding how the church's money is to be spent. The PCC is formally the employer of the church's paid workers, for example our organist, St Peter's caretaker and administrator. The PCC will have on it one or more members of the Deanery Synod, who have an important role in linking the parish into the wider structures of the church, and also Churches Together in Herne Bay.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either (a) ex officio (on the PCC because of their role in the parish church) or (b) co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or (c) elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

From 1st January 2023 and specifically from the APCM on the 16th April 2023 in addition to Revd Carol 12 persons served as members of the PCC and all are also trustees:

(a) Ex-Officio:

Revd. Carol Smith	Vicar (retired on 30th April 2023)
Priscilla Cox	Church warden from 16th April 2023 and Synod Rep
Chris Exley	Church warden from 16th April 2023
John Bennett	Deputy Churchwarden from 16th April 2023
Sarah Bingham	Deputy Churchwarden from 16th April 2023
Deborah Waller	Licensed Lay Reader from Autumn 2021 and Synod Rep

(b) Co-opted members/invitees

- Susan Record (choir and organist)

(c) Elected being 6 PCC members

Elected 2023: so, they will retire in 2026

- Sheila Gough
- Peter Frost
- Ann Ackland (safeguarding officer)

Elected 2022: so, they will retire in 2025

- Doug Bubb
- Andrew Gough
- Hilary Burnage

Elected 2021 term of office expires 2024 (So, there are now three vacancies to be filled)

- Frances Ventham (Lay Reader Emeritus) stepped down in 2023 but will formally retire from the PCC in 2024

- Jo Hollings although actually resigned in April 2022 so her position remained an unfilled casual vacancy until the this APCM
- One vacancy remains to be filled

That means in 2024 there will be vacancies for the following positions to be elected:

- 2 Churchwardens (an annual appointment)
- 2 Deputy church wardens (an annual appointment)
- Election and appointment of Deborah Waller to the PCC in her capacity as lay reader (and not as an elected lay member)
- Elected PCC Members representing the laity–
  3 vacancies for office 2024-2027.
  - 2 elected in 2021 and their terms of office expire (Frances Ventham and Joanna Hollings – both have previously resigned)
  - 1 vacancy remains to be filled

Current Officers

Deborah Waller	Chair
<u>Specific roles on PCC</u>	
Sheila Gough	Treasurer
Andrew Gough	Gift Aid Secretary
Andrew Gough	PCC Secretary
Ann Ackland	Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod Rep each for a three-year appointment on 16th April 2023 so they will retire at the APCM in 2026 but can offer themselves for re-election

- Priscilla Cox
- Deborah Waller

<u>COMMITTEES</u>

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 direction by the Council. It consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer and at least another PCC member, in our case preferably a representative of the PCC of St Peter's. It acts as another committee and reports back to the PCC. It can also discuss and set the next PCC agenda.

By a resolution of the PCC passed on the 19th October 2020 it has authority to spend up to £250 for equipment or in relation to any other issue brought before it and may commit to an aggregate expenditure of £500 only, subject to the details of the individual and aggregated expenditure being brought to the next PCC meeting following the standing committee. This resolution has not been revoked.

Members:), Andrew Gough (secretary), Sheila Gough (Treasurer), Priscilla Cox and Chris Exley and Peter Frost.

All members of the PCC are expected to sit on a committee.

Other Committees in 2023 were:

Finance and Stewardship	**Fabric – St Martin's, Institute Hall, St Peter's and reordering at St Martin's**	**Social**	**Communications & Publicity**
• Sheila Gough (Chair) • Priscilla Cox • Andrew Gough	• Priscilla Cox • Paul Tapsell* • Doug Bubb • John Bennett • Steve Jackson* • Roger Jackson*	• Sarah Bingham (chair)	• Anne Lehane* • Sarah Bingham

*Denotes non- members of the PCC

In addition:

- Mission & Evangelism Team
  This had met for the first time on March 19th 2019 as a result of Herne Parish becoming one of the first to be invited to join the Diocesan "Changed Lives Changing Lives Conversations". The team originally comprised Revd. Carol Smith, Revd. Cat Darkins and, Revd. Stacey Rand (when available), and Anne Lehane.
  Revd. Stacey Rand had resigned in August 2021 to move to another parish. Revd Cat Darkins retired in March 2022 There has been further invaluable help from Joan Jeffers, Alan King, Deborah Waller and Sheila Bennett
- Safeguarding coordinator: Anne Ackland
- Gift Aid Secretary: Andrew Gough
- Electoral Roll Officer: Andrew Gough
- Health & Safety Rep: Doug Bubb

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR 2023

[**NB: Figures in brackets denote previous year's figures**]

Church attendance again averaged 55 *(55)* adults and 6 *(6)* children across the year on normal Sundays during 2023, with larger numbers at festivals and when schools were involved in services. Being without a vicar may have affected the numbers of baptisms and weddings

Attendance for additional events	
Baptisms	28 *(48):* 10 *(24)* infant, 15 *(190)* children 3 *(5)* adults)
Weddings	4 *(5)*
Funerals	15 *(23):* 10 *(13)* in church, 5 *(10)* at crematorium or cemetery)

Attendance for services	Adults	Children	Total
8:00 and 9:45am Sunday Services Average Attendance	45 *(49)* (*estimated* 39 aged 18-69 years and 10 aged 70 years plus)	10 (6)	55 *(55)*
Easter Services Total Attendance	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	93 (*200)*
Christmas Total Attendance	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	740 *(375)*
Special Services during Advent 2021, e.g. nativities and carol services	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	Congregation and local community: 1405 *(596).* civic and school-specific: 558 (1251*).*

Joiners and leavers:
8 *(10)* adults and 2 *(2)* children and young people joined our worshipping community during 2022.
4 adults and 0 children and young people left our worshipping community during 2022.

Other mission and ministry to Children & Young Families:

(A) We have ***two thriving toddler groups***: one on Tuesdays in Herne Church Hall (88 *(88 in 2022 too)* registered families - 36 *(36)* regulars; average 18 adults + 21 children; and one on Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill (both weekly in school term time).

(B) Monthly Messy Church *at St Peter's Greenhill* averaged 50 people attending.

(C) August Activity Days *on 4 Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill* averaged 80 children + adults each week.

A full copy of the Statistics for Mission return is available on request.

Electoral Roll
At the APCM on the 16th April 2023 the number of people on the St Martin's Electoral Roll was 90. There were three losses after the APCM so as at the 31st December 2023 the roll is confirmed at 87. The numbers on the roll following the revision in March 2024 will be announced at the APCM

Andrew Gough
Electoral Roll Officer

PUBLIC BENEFIT

[1]The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, [3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour

The vision of our parish is stated within our mission statement:

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

We are registered with the Charity Commission by virtue of the fact that we "Advance Religion for the Public Benefit", and are required to state our aims in their terms as below

Encouraging and facilitating the practice of Christianity by existing followers and seekers.

Place of worship, including:

- For the practice of Christian faith, the provision and maintenance of two buildings, and adjoining hall and meeting rooms used for related activities, e.g. religious instruction for children.
- The conducting of religious ceremonies, e.g. Eucharist, Baptism, Weddings, Blessings and Funerals.
- The maintenance of two public churchyards with one garden of remembrance and war memorial.
- Provision of Public Worship throughout the year as well as at times of national importance (Remembrance).
- Bereavement care, prayers, visits and worship.
- The provision and maintenance of Christian devotional artefacts and items used in religious services.
- Maintaining a grade one ancient building for the nation.

Raising awareness and understanding of religious beliefs and practices, including:

- Advancing the Christian faith.
- Providing a Christian resource for the community (information, teaching and library).
- Promoting and providing the study of Christian teaching, practice and scripture.
- Supporting schools and other educational establishments, including three theological training colleges (student placements), which provide education in accordance with the principles and practices of the religion.
- Support the Diocese in the provision of ministry and Diocesan services through payment of the Diocesan share.

- Working with (worship, education, pastoral care) and governance of our two church schools in Herne.
- Encouragement and worship in one Community Primary School and also our Secondary School.

Religious devotional acts, including:
- Visiting the sick and administering the sacraments to the sick and dying.

Missionary and outreach work, including:
- The provision of chaplaincy services; for example, to Strode Park, Canterbury and District Scouting and Canterbury Cathedral).
- Hospital visiting.
- The provision of pastoral care to residential and domiciliary homes.
- Cultural and community activities provided in the place of worship and in the buildings attached, e.g., community facilities, community care, toddlers, community Cafe and Meals for the Homeless etc.).

Work for reconciliation, building community and peace across the parish.

Religious communication, including:
- Sermons, talks, meetings and conferences and the provision of religious material via the internet website.

Retreat and pilgrimage, including: A place for short and day retreats.

Advancing religion generally including:
- Charitable giving to many different peoples in need, both near and far, (e.g., Help for Heroes, Christian Aid, Crisis, Children's Society, Catching Lives, Seafarer's Mission etc.)
- Seeking to safeguard creation through moral use of resources and the ways we manage our graveyards.

These aims are fulfilled as evidenced in the reports that follow.

Signed: Priscilla Tee

Church Warden Date; 8th April 2024

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 16th April 2023 at 11.15am at St Martin's Church, Herne.

Agenda

The meeting actually commenced at 11 45am

Opening Prayer

Revd. Carol welcomed those present and led those attending in an opening prayer

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Peter and Shirley Frost, Julia Davidson and the helpers now preparing for the bring and share lunch (after the event) namely Sheila Bennett, Anne Post, Valerie Bubb, Linda King and Joan Jeffers

Preliminary Issues

An agenda, full minutes and reports (including accounts) were available in hardcopy form if required by those present. The electoral roll was available for inspection at the back of the church.

Final nominations for the PCC were sought, three having been received.

The minutes would be signed off if approved.

Part 1 Chaired by Revd. Carol Smith

The Vestry Meeting

Revd. Carol explained that historically the vestry meeting would often be held privately but nowadays churches hold it in public as part of the full APCM.

1. Apologies as above

2. The minutes of the vestry meeting held on 24th April 2022 were agreed as a correct record. Proposer Andrew Gough Seconder Sheila Gough. They were unanimously approved

3. There were no matters arising

4. Election of Churchwardens (two positions vacant) and Deputy Churchwardens (two further vacant positions).

5. Two candidates had put their names forward as Churchwarden.

   Priscilla Cox
   Proposed by Lisa Crowhurst
   Seconded by Sarah Bingham

   Robert Christopher Exley (Chris Exley) for re election
   Proposed by Susan Record
   Seconded by Priscilla Cox

   There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, both candidates were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

6. Alan King was stepping down as Deputy Churchwarden. There were two candidates for deputy Churchwardens:

John Bennett	**Sarah Bingham**
Proposed by Andrew Gough	Proposed by Lisa Crowhurst
Seconded by Mary Jewiss	Seconded by Chris Exley

   There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, the nominees were duly elected as Deputy Churchwardens for the coming year

7. Revd. Carol thanked Lisa and Chris Exley for their considerable work as Churchwardens and also to Alan King for being such a willing and able support as Deputy. It was good that the church again had a full team of wardens.

8. There being no other business the vestry meeting was concluded.

It was agreed by those present that Deborah Waller should chair part 2 of the meeting and the Revd. Carol stepped down.

Part 2 Chaired by Deborah Waller

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies were given as above.

2. Church information as given in the APCM booklet was taken as read. Also, the general reports were taken as read

3. Minutes of the annual meeting held on Sunday, 24th April 2022. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda.

5. The Vicar's verbal report was given and this is a transcript as given to the APCM.

This is my seventh Annual Meeting with you and it does seem rather strange doing this for the last time. As I said in my written report (which I hope you'll have read) the time certainly has flown and it has been a real pleasure and joy to serve as your parish priest.

I'd like to pick up on the theme(s) of 'Community' and 'Telling our story 'From my sermon.

One thing that truly warms my heart since our full return to church post-Covid lockdowns is the nature of our church fellowship which in my view has become increasingly more welcoming and inclusive. This is evidenced not so much by the number on the electoral roll but by the demographic of our regular worshipping congregations (note, plural) which is quite different to what it was pre-pandemic. For example, the '3rd Sunday Service' (as we call it) at St Peter's has really become established. And with it, the opportunity for the Worship Band to grow (in number as well as confidence) and to develop its repertoire has really borne fruit, which gives me (and I'm sure, you) great joy.

Reflecting on the first Easter Day, the Archbishop of York said[1] that after the initial shock of finding Jesus's tomb empty, three witnesses (the women) '… don't race away to hide. They flee to play their part in beginning a new community: a community that will be defined by the jaw-dropping wonder of Jesus's resurrection. A resurrection community, which we call the Church, that – despite its ever-present flaws – will strive to model a whole new way of living together. It will refuse to treat difference as an obstacle to community and reject uniformity as the epitome of unity.'

'… The New Testament speaks of a unity that is not blandly uniform but full of life-giving difference … When the Holy Spirit comes in the book of Acts, the diverse origins of the crowd are explicitly listed ('Parthians, Medes, etc.') The apostles then communicate with those gathered in their own different languages, rather than merging them into a single universal tongue. Those differences do not threaten the community: rather, God uses them to build community.'

My retirement will undoubtedly trigger an Archdeacon's consultation with your newly-elected Churchwardens and PCC, to determine the needs of the parish and the attributes you might seek in your next parish priest. This will be an opportunity for you to tell your story of the life, mission and ministry of Herne St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill in which you all play a part. I hope you will remember well. Remember how God has blessed you with each other – through the difficult bits as well as the joyous ones! Remain hopeful. Stay faithful. Please don't forget to pray for each other. Pray for your Churchwardens and PCC. Pray for Deborah as her responsibilities increase. Look after one another. And please look after the visiting priests who will take your sacramental services.

I'd like to leave you with some verses from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (2.8-10) from Sunday Morning Prayer (19th March 2023) which really struck me then and which continue to speak to me, now:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

[1] Archbishop Stephen Cottrell writing in the Daily Telegraph, Easter week 2023.

My parting prayer is that you will continue in this way of life, and travel well, together. Amen.

6. Andrew Gough in his capacity as electoral roll secretary confirmed that at the APCM in April 2022 there had been 91members on the electoral roll. Subsequently following (and including the latest revision in March 2023) four people had been added to the role but five had been removed. Accordingly, there were now ninety (90) members on the electoral roll which meant that there were still nine lay places available on the PCC.

   Four had already been filled and five places were now available for nominations (Sheila Gough and Peter Frost were offering themselves for re-election). Plus, one casual vacancy (to replace Joanna Hollings) to be filled if there was a nomination. He confirmed that the full electoral roll was available for inspection at the church during the APCM.

   There were no questions. He confirmed that after the APCM congregants could join the electoral roll at any time and not merely at the time of any revision before an APCM.

7. The annual report of the proceedings of the PCC during 2022 was taken as read. There were no questions. Thanks were given to all the PCC members for their dedicated service over the year

8. The Churchwarden's Report was taken as read. Lisa Crowhurst and Chris Exley had nothing to add.

9. Sheila Gough, as treasurer, introduced the 2022 financial reports for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill.
   a. Once again it had been a challenging year especially because of the Covid restrictions and loss of general income. Total income for the year was £180,368 which included two legacies (£500 from Sheila Roberts and £49,902 from the Gwendoline Pritchard Will Trust) and two grants; one of £750 from the War Memorial trust for work to the War Memorial and the other of £7,400 from the Church Commissioners for support for the church heating costs
   b. As compared to 2021 there had been an increase of about £2,000 in collections at services, and voluntary receipts and church activities including weddings
   c. However, there has been a decrease in planned giving of nearly £5,000.
   d. Gift aid claims are still useful source of income for the church but there has been a slight decrease but this was mainly due to timing and when claims were processed.
   e. There had been few opportunities for fund raising social events because of the ongoing Covid restrictions. It was hoped that there could be more such events in 2023. Sarah Bingham confirmed from the floor that The Summer Parish Funday was planned this year and hopefully that could be a useful financial contribution.
   f. Total expenditure was £174,440.
   g. The biggest expense is our Parish Share to the Diocese. The church had paid this in full but had to take £17,849 from its reserves to do so.
   h. There has been an increase in expenses especially utilities and insurance. This was likely to be larger in 2023

i. The church is actually making a monthly deficit of between £2500 and £3,000 This is currently met from reserves.
j. Reference was made to the statements of assets and liabilities generally.
k. We had a surplus of £5,928 as compared to a deficit of £1,261 in 2021.
l. Both St Peters and St Martin's Halls made a small surplus from lettings last year
m. Sheila thanked Wendy Dinley and Jean Dilnot for administering the rentals for the Church Institute Hall and St Peter's Church
n. Sheila Gough invited questions but there were none.
o. The financial accounts were commended to those present to be approved and were approved unanimously.
p. Revd. Carol and Deborah Waller thanked Sheila Gough for her work as treasurer.

10. Appointment of Auditors for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill
    a. Sheila Gough proposed that PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA should be re- appointed as independent examiner for the present financial year.
    b. This was seconded by Sarah Bingham
    c. Those present voted unanimously for the reappointment.

11. The Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod was taken as read and there was nothing to add. Thanks to Priscilla Cox and Richard Chant for their considerable service.

12. The Fabric Committee report was taken as read. There was nothing further to add. Thanks were given to the Committee members for their stewardship of the church buildings throughout the year. Particular thanks were also given to Steve King as caretaker who worked very hard on looking after the buildings even when closed.

13. Andrew Gough explained that a resolution was proposed by the PCC for Deanery Synod representatives to be elected for more than two successive periods of three years. Currently there was a limitation to this effect and it would mean neither of the current representatives could not re-stand for election. However, it was possible to disapply the limitation if a resolution was passed at an APCM. If passed this resolution would take immediate effect before the current election.

    Andrew Gough read out the resolution proposed by himself and seconded by Sheila Gough. It was put to those present and was passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is included with these minutes

14. Election of Deanery Synod representatives

    a. Richard Chant had decided to step down after many years of office. Thanks were given to him for his sterling service in that position.
    b. Priscilla Cox was willing to be re-elected and had been nominated by Lisa Crowhurst (proposer) and Sarah Bingham (seconder)
    c. Deborah Waller was willing and had been nominated by Susan Record (Proposer) and Keith Record (Seconder)

There being no other candidates the members present at the meeting unanimously elected the two candidates

15. Deborah Waller as licensed lay reader to the parish can be elected to the PCC in her own rights as an ex officio member of the PCC
    There were no objections to that appointment being made.

16. Appointment of members of the PCC
    a. Three candidates had been nominated to take positions on the PCC.

Sheila Isabel Gough (end of office but re-standing as a candidate to the PCC)
Proposed Lisa Crowhurst Seconded by Priscilla Cox

Peter John Frost (end of office but re-standing as a candidate to the PCC)
Proposed by Andrew Gough Seconded by Sheila Gough

Anne Ackland (as a new candidate)
Proposed by Douglas Bubb and Seconded by Sheila Gough

There being no other candidates the three nominees were unanimously elected. There was no nominee for the casual vacancy.

    b. Revd. Carol confirmed that the sides people would be appointed at the PCC not at the APCM.

Thanks were given to those who had been PCC members and to those continuing on the council

17. Deborah Waller then introduced the reports from the Church Organisations and Committees. They demonstrated the diversity of interests and responsibilities that people took on within the life of the church. She hoped that reading the reports would encourage people to join some of the organisations or offer support. All reports were taken as read and there were no questions. Thanks were given to all persons who contributed to the life and administration of the church. In particular to: -

    a. The team arranging August Activity days – thanks to Sarah Bingham for resourcing these, and Lisa, Deborah and others who helped.
    b. The Sunday school team. Thanks were given to Deborah, Shirley (and Peter) Frost, Anne Post, Jamie Wraight, Sheila Tapsell and any others who have helped on ad hoc basis. It was noted that the children's ministry has really grown over the past 12 months and the children themselves are now so very confident when they come to share with us at the end of the Service! They are a blessing to us – and they teach us a lot.

c. Claire Stay for arranging the churchyard maintenance team. There was an ongoing invitation to join the merry throng if people can spare an hour or two on the 1st Saturday and/or 3rd Wednesday of every month (except January) from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm
d. Liz Sellen for the flower arranging and leading her team. Liz and her team were particularly grateful to all who were able to make a donation towards the cost of the Easter flowers. Indeed, the donations covered the costs completely.
e. Andrew Gough for dealing with Gift Aid. He told those present that the PCC had hoped that many people who gave regularly and pledged Gift Aid would move to the Parish Giving Scheme. However, we would need to continue to have some donors giving direct to the church so that we could maintain our Gift Aid Small Donation claims which he would have to administer direct
f. The Little Fishes Team. To Deborah Waller for taking the lead and to Anne Post, Sheila and John Bennett for their support, and to Steve King our caretaker for setting up and clearing away.
g. The Messy Church team. Specifically, to Lisa Crowhurst for taking the lead, and to Sarah Bingham for coordinating the crafts, not forgetting Carolyn Thomas the 'food team' plus contributors of dishes on a monthly basis. With both Little Fishes and Messy Church, more helpers would be very welcome and would ease the regular burden on those who serve and support these activities week by week and month by month. If people wanted to help even on an occasional basis, please speak to Deborah, Sarah or Lisa.
h. The PCC for its mission and evangelism
i. The pastoral team for pastoral matters. The team now comprises: Deborah Waller (who will be acting as co-ordinator), Liza Seed, Sheila Gough and Anne Ackland). Between them, they are taking over my regular monthly visits to Herne Place Residential Home, Broomfield Lodge Care Home and regular Home Communions and visits to seven individual parishioners. Revd Carol invited those present to pray for them as they share this important ministry to those who are no longer able to come to church but who appreciate the 'church going out to them
j. Anne Ackland for taking on the role of Safeguarding Officer. Thanks were given to our outgoing Safeguarding Officer, Jo Hollings. As Anne has said in her report – safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we have a duty of care for one another. There are Safeguarding posters up in every one of our church buildings, which provide contact numbers and information for anyone who feels vulnerable or would like to speak to our Safeguarding Officer
k. School Governors. Thanks to the many members of the congregation who serve as school governors. It was reported that Sheila Gough had offered to stand as a Foundation School Governor for the Infant's School
l. Wendy Dinley for the administering the bookings for the Church Hall
m. Wendy Dinley for arranging the prayers and readings for each Sunday Service
n. Carolyn Thomas for the enormous success of the Tuesday Toddlers Group. Thanks also to Val, Theresa, Fran and Petula for their efforts to welcome and look after the 62 families on the Tuesday Toddler's books.
o. Joan Jeffers for her role as wedding administrator. She had now stepped down after some 12 years in the position and was passing the role to Sarah White.
p. The church cleaning team for their huge efforts throughout the year.

q. Susan and Keith Record and the team for the bell ringing. Their team would have much work in the next few weeks to ring in support of the Coronation Festivities
r. Susan Record and Chris Exley for leading the choir and thanks also to all the choir members for taking part and their dedication and skill and offering a diverse range of music.

18. Revd. Carol confirmed that the Parochial Church Council would be commissioned on Sunday 22nd May 2023 at the 10am Sunday service. The date of the first PCC meeting after the APCM will, however, be Monday 15th May 2023 at 7pm in the Ridley Room.

19. Any Other Business. Revd. Carol invited questions from the floor.

Priscilla Cox enquired if there was any interest in arranging a party (perhaps a BBQ) at the Institute Hall on Sunday 7th May at midday onwards in celebration of the King's Coronation. There was such support from those present and Priscilla agreed to pursue this initiative.
There were no other questions. Revd. Carol then thanked everybody who had helped and provided service throughout the year. Although some individuals had been named already, there were so many who assisted in the life of the church in different ways and all should congratulate themselves

Lisa Crowhurst, as Churchwarden, thanked Revd. Carol, and Deborah Waller, for all their hard work, enthusiasm and ministry throughout the year. It was a huge task and we were all grateful for their guidance and support.

20. There being no further business the meeting was concluded and Revd. Carol led those present in a prayer and blessing.

The meeting concluded at 12.45pm.

Resolution passed at the APCM

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

OF ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Subject: A resolution pursuant to the Church Representation Rules

Part 9 Model Rule M8 paragraph 7

R E S O L U T I O N

16th April 2023

The members of the Parochial Church Council of St Martin-in-Herne recommend that the following resolution be passed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (the annual meeting) on Sunday 16th April 2023:

- That any person serving as a parochial representative to the Deanery Synod may be appointed for more than the current limit of two successive terms of office (each term being an appointment for three years) and
- consequently, may offer his or herself as a nominee for re-election to that position

Proposer: Andrew Gough (PCC secretary)

Seconder: Sheila Gough

All in favour: Passed Unanimously At the APCM

(L S)

Signed: Revd Carol Smith

(Incumbent/Chair)

THE APCM REPORTS FOR 2023

Lay Reader's Annual 2023 report for St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

Following Rev. Carol Smith's retirement from our parish last year we as a congregation have been working together to keep the parish thriving in readiness for a new incumbent when appointed.

Worship schedules have been created following the pattern set at the end of Carol's ministry and have been staffed by a range of priests from the local deanery as well as our Area Dean Simon Tillotson, our Archdeacon Will Adam and on Christmas Eve we were thrilled to have the Archbishop of Canterbury both preside over and preach at Midnight Mass. We are very grateful for all of the support that we have received from our Deanery and Diocese in the provision of priests. All 8 am services are held at St. Martin's with services of Holy Communion alternating with Morning Prayer which in turn alternates with Holy Communion at St. Martin's to ensure that there is a service of Holy Communion each Sunday in our parish. On the third Sunday we continue to hold a Morning Prayer at St. Peter's at 10 am.

- The **Remembrance Service** was well supported with many Scout and Guide flag-bearers and fellow members of the Scouting and Guiding Associations boosting our numbers through their groups and parents. It was marvellous to see people flock to the church and the War Memorial in the churchyard to honour those locals and others who gave their lives winning for us the freedom we can all too easily take for granted. Grateful thanks must go to Kent County Councillor Alan Marsh for his support in this service particularly the Civil Act of remembrance at the War memorial and refreshments afterwards at the Smugglers Inn.

- The **Christmas Services** were well attended beginning with the Herne Juniors assisting in leading the Christingle service; followed by the Memorial Carol Service with A Welch & Sons huge support; then our Lessons and Carols service with great choral support from the Choir and Organist (thanks to Susan Record and Christopher Exley); the extremely popular Nativity Service with lively musical support from the Band (thanks to Sarah Bingham); Midnight Mass with the Archbishop ran well past Midnight due to the large number of Communicants and on Christmas Day it was wonderful to have Rev. Cat Darkins back to both preach and preside at Holy Communion *(The mission statistics referred to elsewhere in this report speak for themselves.)*

Mission and evangelism

- On March 11th at the Herne Centre Community Groups Day, a group of church members represented the Church with posters, handouts and bookmarks with all of the relevant contacts listed and the opportunity to talk about a range of church activities. This was a good chance for outreach and various people offered to join the green team, flower ladies and bellringers.
- In the run-up to Christmas, we managed to distribute thousands of church Christmas cards, which included details of all the Christmas Services. Distribution again included the new housing on Eddington Park, which initiative is a continuation of the PCC's mission action planning begun in 2021. Huge thanks to John Bennett for organising both of the above events and all of those who supported him.

None of the foregoing would be possible without the help and support of our Churchwardens *(Priscilla Cox, Chris Exley)* Deputy Wardens *(Sarah Bingham, John Bennett)*, PCC Secretary *(Andrew Gough)* and members of the PCC *(please see the list of members recorded elsewhere)* and others

who have provided reports for this booklet, and who volunteer their time and gifts on an ad hoc basis, so thank you to each and every one of you for your fellowship and service in the Gospel. I would also like to thank all of you for your kind encouragement and generous support to me as Lay Reader Minister and Chair of the PCC.

We look forward to 2024 and are hopeful of the appointment of a new priest-in-charge for which we continue to pray.[2]

I commend to you the reports that follow in this booklet, which speak for themselves.

Yours, in love and prayer, and in the service of Christ.

Deborah Waller
March 2024

Members of the PCC and the Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, who presided at our Midnight Christmas Eucharist with Revd. Richard Braddy, his chaplain.

[2] Since this report was prepared, we are delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd Christopher Carnaby -Denyer as our Priest in Charge who will be licensed to our parish in late July 2024 .We pray for his ministry.

REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES 2020

The Church wardens APCM report for 2023

I began my report last year by looking at our recovery from Covid-19 and said 'We're back!' This year the message is slightly different – 'We're still here!'

What a year it has been. We are now operating pretty much as we did before Covid, and in some respects it could be suggested that the dreaded disease is forgotten about. That is not entirely the case of course, as we still have to take precautions, but outwardly at least things do seem pretty normal.

We have survived the last year without a vicar, since Revd. Carol's retirement, and I am reminded of the image of the swan, gliding gracefully across the water, whilst unseen, beneath, it is paddling furiously. I think on the whole we seem to have survived the vacancy quite well, and most of you will not have seen the paddling exercise which has kept things together. At this point I must commend my colleagues on the Churchwarden team for their hard work in keeping everything going, and although I know that I will probably get a gentle rebuke when this is read, I feel that Priscilla should be singled out, as she has been doing most of the work to engage clergy for all the services since September, culminating in the appearance of the Archbishop at Christmas. She clearly has influence in high places!

It has been a year for pulling together, and broadly speaking I think we have done well in the face of the difficulties a vacancy can bring. We have managed to keep everything going, and we have had some fun on the way. Almost everything we do is due to you, the people in the pews, who turn up week by week, who volunteer time and money to do not just the visible things, but the invisible jobs too. The backstage people are important, and the input they have into our church life should not be taken lightly – we owe them a great debt of gratitude, but as there are so many 'teams' involved, it would be unfair to mention them all by name, as I would probably incur the wrath of the one I have forgotten (!). Your contributions are noted, and are very welcome. That said, the load could be lighter if new volunteers came forward. I know, for example, that Sarah Bingham is always on the look-out for new people to help with the children's activities. We had an appeal for more helpers on the flower team, and the church cleaning team has a mountainous job to do, which would be made easier if there were more of them. Don't be shy – your reward will be in heaven!

Of course we have missed Revd. Carol. Not having a Vicar does present some problems with preparation for weddings, funerals and baptisms, and several conversations have taken place on these matters. Here I must pay tribute to Deborah Waller, our lay reader. She too is a volunteer, but has been able to take on some of the clergy tasks which her licence permits her to do. The commitment of time to the church is daunting, but she has accepted the extra work with good grace. We should be thankful for that, and for the work she does in the community and in the schools, which is borne out by our strong relationship with both the Infants and Juniors.

We should also extend our warmest thanks to all the clergy who have helped with our services. We have accepted the fact that not all clergy take the services quite as we have been used to, but that is part of wonderful cornucopia of worship styles in the wider Church. We have made them welcome, and very few have turned down a request to visit us multiple times. Clergy in the deanery are spread

thinly, and with many retired clergy being kept busy in their own local parishes, it has been quite a task maintaining our usual service pattern. As I recall, I think on only one occasion has the booked priest failed to turn up, and, using the reserved sacrament, Andrew Gough and I managed to fashion the scheduled service of Holy Communion for the 8.00 a.m. congregation. Whether this is the correct course I do not know but nobody has complained.

I have deliberately not referred to the fabric of the church, matters relating to which are required to be overseen by the wardens. Fortunately, in our parish we have the benefit of a hard-working, knowledgeable and skilled Fabric Committee. Our ancient building has a few creaks and groans, and constantly needs maintenance. The smaller (and some of the bigger) items are done, often under the radar, by members of the Fabric Committee. I could say more, but I will leave that to be reported on by Priscilla, who chairs the committee.

And finally….

If you play, sing, read, pray, look after children, tend the sick, assist in the leading of services, create rotas, clean, arrange flowers, make tea and coffee, supply biscuits, wash up, serve on committees, mend things, or just sit in the pews and let the peace of our buildings wash over you, then your contribution is valuable, and you are welcome to be as involved as you wish. In concluding my report, I must go back to Revd. Carol and remind you of her words – 'There are always job vacancies.'

As we move forward to meet with our new Priest-in-Charge in a few weeks' time, let us be open to what is ahead – think and pray about how you can help our churches step into the future with faith and confidence.

And to all of you who are thinking – 'He's talking to me!' – Thank you!

Chris Exley & Priscilla Cox
Churchwardens February 2023

NB the churchwarden's report on the fabric of the church is given by the Fabric Committee and acknowledged as such.

<u>Report from the Electoral Roll Secretary as at 31 December 2023</u>

At the APCM in April 2023 there were 90 members on the electoral Roll. As at December 31 2023 we had 87 members on the roll, three having passed away in 2023. No complete revision has taken place.

The numbers on the roll following the March 2024 check and revision will be given orally at the APCM and that will determine the number of PCC representatives to be elected.

Andrew Gough, Electoral Roll Secretary
March 2024

An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during 2023

Andrew Gough continued to act as PCC secretary for the year.

There have been nine meetings during the year of which one had been by way of an online Zoom facility and eight at face-to-face meetings. We missed a meeting in March 2023 as this was delayed to April to finalise the arrangements for the APCM due to be held that month.

There is guidance for the conduct of online meetings and if votes are taken, then those voting must be present at the on line the meeting itself. On line meetings are usually recorded with the consent of the participants. The recording is expunged once the minutes have been approved at a PCC meeting.

Also, emergency business has been conducted online by email. This is again permitted pursuant to the Church Representation Rules 2020.

The meeting in September was first opened to members of the congregation.

The PCC has continued to conduct its business efficiently and thanks must go to all PCC Members. They always read the agenda and supporting documents (or so they tell the PCC Secretary) and debate all issues with much consideration, politely and with good humour. We prefer face to face meetings as this enables debate to be undertaken fully and we usually have cake at the refreshment break which is much appreciated!

All minutes (unless confidential) are available for inspection from the PCC secretary.

The following is a summary of the principal business conducted

1. Continuing to review and approve the work of the Fabric Committee (see separate report).
2. Formally appointing PC Lemon LLP as the independent examiner for the annual accounts
3. Approving the 2022 accounts (the 2023 accounts are approved at a PCC meeting in March 2024 for presentation to the APCM in 2024)
4. Considering the arrangements for the APCM in April 2023 (arrangements for the 2024 APCM are finalised in February/March 2024)
5. Following the October 2019 APCM resolution to give the PCC authority to arrange postal voting at an APCM the PCC resolved not to adopt postal voting at the APCM in 2023 (a discretion that was permitted by the APCM resolution).
6. Reviewing, at the May PCC meeting, the minutes of the APCM on 16th April 2023 which were considered to be accurate and confirming that these could be submitted to the annual meeting in April 2024 for approval
7. Agreeing the appointment of all church officers and the appointment of chairpersons to the various committees
8. Agreeing to register the Parrish with HMRC to collect Gift Aid and claim Gift Aid on small donations given that many members of the congregation had not moved to the Parish Giving scheme and so continued to pay to the Parish direct
9. Pledged Harvest collection to the work of Catching Lives (for the homeless in Canterbury) and the local food bank.
10. Resolving that the collection from the Carol Service around the yew tree would be for Porchlight and that from the Christingle Service to go to the Children's Society. All other collections for the church funds generally
11. Receiving safeguarding reports from Anne Ackland as safeguarding officer. See resolution and further declaration below.
12. Receiving updates on the church schools

13. Serving formal notice upon the Diocese that the PCC wished to be involved in the appointment of the new incumbent as permitted by the Parish Measure
14. Considering the preparation of the Parish Profile for the parish to seek a new incumbent.
    a. Holding an open meeting in September with the congregation to receive their views as to what they wanted from a new incumbent.
    b. Collating responses from other interested bodies as to what they sought
    c. Approving the Parish Profile with reports from various parties
    d. Appointing Andrew Gough and Sarah Bingham as the PCC representatives to interview the prospective candidates
15. Approving a welcome pack to be given to new residents at the new estates
16. Approving the new website design (by email)
17. Discussing potential repairs to the Church Organ
18. Thanking the Archbishop of Canterbury for presiding at our Christmas Midnight Eucharist
19. Passing the following formal resolutions
    a. Accepting the appointment of Anne Ackland as the new safeguarding officer and to apply the approved parish safeguarding statement (July 2022)
    b. Approving the appointment of sides persons to assist at church services
    c. Appointing a new governor, Sheila Isabel Gough to Herne Infants School

The PCC confirms that it has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 with regard to its duty to follow the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding Statement is available for inspection and is on the Church website. There is a separate report on safeguarding.

Andrew Gough, PCC Secretary
February 2024

Financial Review for 2023

These accounts are prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis. Please see the attached detailed Financial Statements (pages to 44 to 53).

Some points to note: -

We received a legacy of £500 from the Estate of the late Katherine Smith.

We saw a decrease in our planned giving, collections at services, gift aid and other voluntary receipts of over £9,500.

Tax recovered on gift aid receipts in 2023 was down over the previous year by £1,266 due to the decrease in the voluntary giving.

Fund raising events last year included, a BBQ, Children's Treasure Hunt, Music Night, Sunday Funday, Wine & Wisdom and the Christmas Fair which altogether raised a total of £4,968 an increase of £1,463 from last year, so thank you to everyone who was involved in organising these events.

Both St Martin's and St Peter's halls continue to pay their way and the income from St Martin's Hall helps us to contribute towards the Parish Share.

With regard to expenses, we were able to pay our Parish Share in full by using funds from our reserve account of £18,578, because our monthly income does not cover our outgoings. We still have outstanding Parish Share of £43,215. The Diocese have suggested a way in which this could be

paid off and we are waiting to hear from the Deanery Treasurer as to whether or not this is something that we should pursue.

Direct Ministry expenses were reduced as we were not paying for an incumbent for 8 months of the year.

Church running expenses saw an increase in our insurance premium and utilities. We also had to pay for the repairs to the church doors and funds for this came from the Restoration Fund and the Fabric Fund.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £8,206 on unrestricted funds.

The interest earned on our CCLA investments amounted to £4,296.

I would like to thank Andrew Gough for continuing to administer the Gift Aid emoluments (including making the claim for rebate of tax); his help is invaluable to me.

Reserves Policy

We do not currently have a reserves policy which is costed to cover contingencies. We keep a sum of money in the Fabric Fund which is considered sufficient to discharge foreseeable repairs.

We now keep the bulk of any unallocated monies from giving, fundraising and legacies in a CCLA Reserves Account which at the end of December 2023 has a balance of £80,824. This is available for emergency situations and for particular projects or future work and has, as I have said, also been used to pay our Parish Share.

It is our policy to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Sheila Gough, Treasurer
March 2024

Report from the Fabric Committee for 2023 on the condition of the church buildings

This forms the Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric of the Church Buildings pursuant to section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

Members of the committee meet regularly to discuss ongoing problems with the fabric at St Martin's, St Peter's and Herne Church Hall. Practically, much time is spent on routine maintenance and minor repairs, including problems with the Ridley Room boiler, cleaning of gutters, drone inspections of the church roof and investigation of leaks. Peter Frost has made an excellent mobile coffee station for use at St. Martin's and also made a new blackboard for use outside the church to enable us to better advertise special services and events.

In April the west doors of St. Martins were repaired in accordance with specifications agreed with the diocese and the church architect. The contractors had to be recalled later to ease the doors which were proving difficult to open. There have also been some difficulties with opening the north doors but these have been eased by members of the fabric committee.

In late autumn one of the chestnut trees next to the door at St Martins was found to be diseased and sadly had to be felled. A large branch had fallen in a storm and damaged some nearby gravestones. Experts from the diocese visited the site and discussed the potential repair of the stones, and tree surgeons are checking the health and safety of the remaining chestnut trees.

There are a number of outstanding repairs that need to be addressed and we continue to look for solutions to the need for extra storage in all our buildings. The storage shed in St. Martin's churchyard has been vandalised a number of times and we are looking for a more secure way to store lawnmowers and garden tools. The area of wilding in the churchyard has been reduced to provide a neat and tidy area for weddings and social events.

We are extremely grateful for the time and expertise given by all the members of the committee to deal with repairs and maintenance of the buildings and equipment. We are very grateful too for all the time and help we receive from Steve King, caretaker at St Peter's and Herne Church Hall.

Priscilla Cox (and for churchwarden Chris Exley)
15th March 2024

A Report on the 2023 proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Meetings of synod throughout the year have centred around a common theme. The diocese has asked all churches to contribute to a Deanery Plan to be used as a working document showing the aims and objectives of each church. The Plans will help the diocese to provide appropriate support for deaneries and encourage the churches to concentrate on their targets. Most churches are struggling to pay the Parish Share and want to build on their work with children and young families and to grow their congregation. The churches in Whitstable want to appoint a youth/children's minister to work across the churches in the Whitstable team.

At the deanery synod in June Revd. Jon Marlowe from the diocese introduced a vocational roadshow which focussed on the point that people have different gifts - just as a body has different parts - and that these gifts can be used for different jobs within the church. We were challenged to grow our churches and to grow disciples, and a deanery roadshow in October focussed on the current theme of Three Bold Outcomes - to increase the number of children and young people: to increase the number of new congregations: to revitalise the church.

Another current topic is protection of the environment and we were asked to appoint a deanery eco-champion to be part of a diocesan eco-team. Revd. Rachel Webbley has assumed this role for the Reculver Deanery and parishes are asked to appoint a parish contact and to work towards obtaining an eco-award.

Following last year's elections to deanery synod Revd. Simon Tillotson was appointed Area Dean and Malcolm Waller from Whitstable was appointed Lay Chair. At the September meeting of the new deanery sub-committee for mission and ministry, members were concerned that without prior consultation with the deanery arrangements had been made by the bishop and archdeacon to hold interviews for the appointment of a new incumbent in Herne. The deanery asked for a stay of execution to enable members to discuss the financial viability of such an appointment in relation not only to Herne, but also to neighbouring churches struggling financially. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the vacancy could be advertised and a timetable produced to start that process in the new year.

Priscilla Cox, Deanery representative
March 2024

GENERAL REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

We would normally expect to receive reports from many of our church groups but regrettably the work of some groups remains curtailed or has even stopped because of continuing concerns over Covid.

The Bible Study group had a series of short on- line study meetings thanks to the work and guidance of Sheila Bennett.

There is no report specifically on communications and publicity but during the year much has devolved to communications on line and the second edition of the church directory has proved invaluable and a new one is in the pipeline. Also new notice boards have been erected to publicise our events and services and the website has been reviewed with much thanks to Alison Taylor who has generously paid for and helped to design and coordinate the information required for this.

August Activity Days

It feels like forever ago that these happened, but they did and were an amazing outreach opportunity for our churches. People from both congregations came together and spent time each Friday either volunteering or participating in the activities on offer with their children or grandchildren.

This is an incredibly popular initiative and serves (because that's where we cap it!) up to 80 people each week. Twice this time round we had to turn people away.

FREE activities are scarce for families anymore and this makes it incredibly difficult for families who are battling the cost-of-living crisis to fill their days with fun activities for their children, as well as find friendly respite from full time parenting for such a long period of school holidays.

These unapologetically designed church days give us as a parish the chance to meet, share fellowship and ministry to faces new and old and are a real blessing to everyone that comes. Again, I cannot do these without the wonderful teams of volunteers that come together on a rota to make them work (I am not naming them all as I do not want to miss someone and offend! - You know who you are!)

We hope to run these again this Summer and need YOU!! The days run between 10am-3pm each Friday in August (In 2 sessions with packed lunch in between). If you have not experienced this sort of 'church' you are truly missing out, it is precious!! Please could you let me know ASAP if you think you may be able to help so that we can get the necessary paperwork done in time for August.

Sarah Bingham
April 2024

Bellringers Report for 2023

The District Call change competition was held at Northbourne in March 2023. Our band took part, and it was the first time we have been able to enter a band for the competition for many years. It was a very cold day. There is interesting access to the ringing chamber (a free-standing spiral

staircase behind the organ) and very loud bells, which was a challenge for calling call changes. Though we did not win, as there were towers with more experienced bands, it was good to take part.

The Canterbury District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers has regular meetings on the second Saturday of each month, together with additional practices. The District visits towers in East Kent in rotation. Two of our learners were elected to membership during the year.

The bells were rung by our local band for the Coronation of King Charles III on the 6th May 2024, including our learners, despite the coronation coinciding with a narrow boating holiday which meant that some of our local ringers were away that day. After ringing, we took a photo of the ringers.

The bell ringing team

The bells are rung every Sunday and the ringers practice every Wednesday evening (except during Holy Week) and the learners have tuition for an hour before the main practice. We usually have enough ringers to ring Triples and Major methods on practice nights, together with rounds and call changes for the learners.

The bells were rung for weddings during 2023We also rang for the Christmas services, including Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury and on Christmas Day.

The ringers hosted the Christmas Social of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers at St Martin's on Saturday 10th December 2023. More than 60 ringers attended the social. After ringing at St Martin's during the afternoon, there was a Carol Service which included a carol sung by members of St Martin's choir and singing ringers from the district (after a short practice together that afternoon) as well as many favourite carols, with well-known descants, and readings.

All then enjoyed a two-course supper of sausage casserole (with vegetarian option) and a selection of hot desserts prepared by the local ringers at the Church Institute Hall. Mulled wine was available on arrival and the hall had had a festive makeover.

Supper was followed by a quiz hosted by the (non-ringing) husband of one of our ringers and a superb raffle organised by one of our ringers with contributions from other ringers.

Many visitors have rung our bells during the year. The local ringers are joined by many local ringers at practice nights, which is a great help for our learners and more advanced ringers, as it provides the opportunity to ring a variety of methods of varying complexity. Members of the band at Whitstable All Saints have joined our practice regularly whilst their church has been renovated and as a result, they had to pause their ringing. Visiting bands have rung quarter peals.

Anyone interested in ringing is very welcome to visit the ringers at their practice night and we welcome new recruits.

Susan and Keith Record
February 2024

Children's and Sunday School report for 2023

Children have continued to be welcomed at every Sunday service with shared table activities on the first and third Sundays, at St. Martin's and St. Peter's churches respectively. These have ranged from single poster type of words and pictures (usually displayed on the church display boards afterwards) to individual items such as mobiles which may be taken home. All the activities are linked with the lectionary and/or theme for the service by regular communication with those leading the services. Grateful thanks to Shirley Frost and her creativity in organising these activities and providing the resources.

On the second and fourth Sundays and occasional fifth Sundays during term-time children are welcomed to the Ridley Room where they follow the ROOTs programme of learning which is again linked with the lectionary and service patterns throughout the church year. Huge thanks to Anne Post and Jamie Wraight for organising, resourcing and leading these sessions.

Each Sunday service has a regular slot before the final hymn or song where the children are invited to come out to the front of the church and share their learning, this may involve explaining what they have learnt to the congregation or just simply demonstrating their creations. At least one of the youngsters leads the congregation in a short appropriate prayer. The children's presence always brings great pleasure and often some very profound comments are made which provide worshippers with a chance for an alternative reflection. We are all very inspired by the families who take part and grateful for their encouragement of the children that they bring along.

Deborah Waller
March 2024

The Choir Report for 2023

The choir has continued to sing regularly for services, putting in much time and effort in learning new works and polishing anthems in the repertoire to sing during services. We are very fortunate to have a composer and arranger "in house". We have welcomed a soprano singer and returning singers to join the choir. Choir practices are on Thursday evenings in St Martin's church. It is not just singing - choir members also go to quizzes and socialise. New members are always very welcome.

The choir sing a range of music, including anthems in addition to leading the hymns during services. Some choir members have extensive knowledge of hymns, their composers, writers and history so choir practices provide an opportunity to share this information with other choir members. Having the range of singers to sing harmonies in hymns, to add descants (and tambourines) adds to the music the choir can contribute during in services.

In addition to the Sunday morning services, the choir sang at Evensong for Candlemas on Sunday 28th January 2023 with hymns, psalms, canticles and an anthem. Lent started with the service of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday. Holy Week and Easter are an important and busy time for the choir, with services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday with a variety of hymns and anthems to worship and celebrate.

On Sunday 21st May 2023 Ascension and the recent Coronation of King Charles III were celebrated with hymns, music and readings organised by choir members. A Songs of Praise service in August 2023 included hymns chosen by members of the congregation and choir. There was an evening

choral Harvest service on Sunday 1st October 2023 again with hymns, anthems and readings organised by choir members.

The choir sang at weddings at St Martin's church in April, June and September 2023. Also, the choir sang at funerals, including sadly the funeral of Sidney Hearne, who had been a member of the choir. Members of our church choir sang an anthem at his Thanksgiving memorial service at the Salvation Army church.

The Remembrance Sunday service in St Martin's church included hymns and an anthem followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard.

The Memorial carol service for those who had lost a loved one during the year was, as usual, well attended at the beginning of December. The choir led well known carols (with descants) and sang Christmas anthems whilst stars were placed on the Christmas tree.

Some choir members joined other choir members from local churches to sing at the Bellringers Christmas Social in December 2023. The choir sang carols and Christmas carol arrangements for the Nine Lessons and Carols. Christmas services included two pieces with arrangements by Chris Exley and the Ukrainian Carol of the Bells. Christmas anthems were sung on Christmas Eve during Communion, together with Christmas carols.

Christmas Eve was a Sunday so started with Advent at the morning Holy Communion service to Christmas in the evening for Midnight Mass, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Then it was soon carols at Christmas Day morning Communion. The year ended with carols at the Sunday service on New Year's Eve.

Susan Record
March 2024

The Churchyard Team report for 2023

Well, 2023 was a very busy year for the gardening team. I'm not sure where to start, So I'll start at the beginning I suppose.

We met back again at the beginning of February after the Christmas break. The Church yard is always a little quiet at the time of year with the snow drops just popping up to bring the first splashes of colour. So wearing lots of layers, especially thermals, we got to work.

Our small, yet very enthusiastic and friendly team got straight to work weeding, pruning back, reshaping and dividing any plants that we could. We always work together so we can ask any questions and chat as we work. At this time of year we tend to stick to the warmer side of the church.

As the year progressed we planted any spare plants we had bought from home, weeded more, it's an endless task, and gradually worked our way round the church tidying as we went.
The meadow areas that we are creating are a work in progress and will take several years to look just how we want them, but they are slowly getting there. We sprinkle any spent seed heads in them in the hope that some of the tiny seeds will take, which they do.

During a couple of sessions we began the task of clearing the public right of way that runs along the edge of the church yard. This was a huge task, but we all worked together to clear the brambles, debris, rubbish and finally we created the walkway that we just have to maintain now.

No garden debris is taken off site as we are creating several dead hedges for the wildlife to find new homes in. We have a family of hedgehogs in one of our hedges which is perfect and so exciting.

The Summer came and went. The colours in the churchyard blossomed and all our hard work started to pay off. By this time thermals were no longer needed and we were mainly in shorts and hunting around for shade.

During one of our session we were asked if we could tidy the garden in the church hall. We met there on a Saturday morning just as the Brownies were finishing and got straight to work. We cleared the overhanging brambles and cut back any that were tangled up in the tree, we also cut back a load of the ivy, but left just enough for the insects to still have a home. We put on our thick gloves and tackled the stinging nettles that were trying to take hold. We didn't remove them all as they are a useful plant for butterflies, but we removed any that would cause a problem.

We worked solidly for several hours in the hot sunshine and filled more jumbo white sacks than I could count.After some well earned refreshments, obviously cake, we got back to the task and cleared up all our mess and left the garden looking much tidier than we found it.

The Autumn bought some strong winds and we sadly lost one of our old chestnut trees in the churchyard, but the base of the stump still remains as a reminder of where it once stood.

The memorial was tidied just before Remembrance Sunday so that it was beautiful and clean for its special day. As the days got colder the layers and thermals returned, but our jovial spirit never wavered. We welcomed some new members to our little group but are always looking for more. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to get stuck in.

Our final session was at the beginning of December and Christmas themed cupcakes were enjoyed.

A huge thank you to everyone who comes to help, you are all so wonderful.

<u>Here are the cupcakes and the team !</u>

Clair Stay, Churchyard team
February 2024

The Flower Arrangers report for 2023

This past year has been a challenge with the ever-increasing cost of fresh flowers and sundries and lack of monetary donations but I'm confident we have managed to keep any costs past to the church to a minimum. We do have a good supply of silk flowers and also homegrown weather permitting of course. There are now only five ladies who are on the flower list but I have someone new starting which is lovely, on that note we had amazing support for our Harvest Festival not just with donations but with arranging the flowers so a huge thanks to those who helped and again at Christmas. We did not have any requests from couples getting married but I think that's a sign of the times and budget restraints.

Liz Sellen, Flower arranger
February 2024

Our Beautiful Easter Flowers 2024- thanks to the team!

Gift Aid Matters for 2023

Gift Aid continues to be a very helpful contribution to the church finances. Pay your income tax and the Church can get a 25% bonus on any donations that you make. As at the 31st December 2023 we still had 41 parties who have each made a Gift Aid declaration and also pledged their payments. Regrettably this has significantly decreased from 2022 when we had 54 gift aid pledges. If you are a UK tax payer then you can usually qualify and this is achieved simply by signing a declaration form which either myself or the treasurer can provide. We can claim Gift Aid on standing orders and planned giving. In addition, there are the individual donations made via the Gift Aid Envelope

Scheme which are given at collections taken at our services throughout the year. If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate tax payer in all cases you can even claim an extra rebate in your tax return.

Our treasurer records receipts for the month in which the payment is made. For the year ending 31 December 2023, St Martins received £9487.00 from all sources, which is lower than the repayment in 2022 which was £10,750.00. This sum includes repayments from the Gift Aid returns for December 2022 (credited in January 2023). The sums from December2023 will be credited in January 2024 and shown in the 2024 accounts.

We still have the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS for short). General money received in our church collection plates or by the bank card reader can qualify. Also. if you have pledged your planned giving (originally using the little blue envelopes) but are not a tax payer then I can count your weekly donation as part of GASDS and get more money that way. There is a limit of £8,000 which can be claimed in any tax year by any charity. Since June 2023 we have dispensed with pledged envelopes except for one off gift Aid donations.

Please remember there are tokens that you can put into the church plate as evidence that you are giving. Donations can still be made in the plate. Also, we have a card reader.

Regular Church goers will know that a decision was made in August 2022 to register the church with the central Parish Giving Scheme. This requires pledged payments to be paid by members of the congregation direct to the PGS administration (a separate charity) rather than our church bank account. It is easy to set up and you can do so on line, by telephone or a postal application. If you require help. please speak to me or Sheila Gough.

PGS then claims the Gift Aid and pays monthly all payments (that is the donation and the claimed Gift Aid) to our bank account. However, PGS works independently from the Canterbury Diocese. The Diocese withdrew its Gift Aid administration from April 2023 and I now make separate Gift Aid claims for those donations paid direct to our church account. Actually, this has proved less onerous than I had expected and HMRC make payment very quickly. So, having two means of paying pledged sums is not a problem.

Individual donations given in the plate, card reader or by separate Gift Aid envelopes (which are still available) are be the subject of separate direct claims to HMRC which I make at the same time.

As a tax payer, Gift Aid is a bonus to the Church and provided that you do pay the tax there is no downside from your point of view. Remember; if you cease to be a tax payer or move address or change your name. please let me know immediately. I have to inform HMRC or PGS.

Andrew Gough, Gift Aid Secretary
February2024

Little Fishes Report for 2023

The Little Fishes have met regularly, every Friday morning during term-time at St. Peter's Church, Greenhill providing toys, games and activities for children from babies up to pre-schoolers. Anne Post inspires the children and their parents/grandparents with different craft makes throughout each term including Mothering Sunday cards, fingerprint blossom pictures and collage sea creatures.

This year the children have had a lot of fun pretending to ride a horse following a kind donation of a rocking horse from Doug and Val Bubb.

On average there are 10 adults – Mums, Dads, Grandparents and childminders - and 15 children who attend regularly plus others whose attendance is more intermittent. It's always heartening to see how new parents/grandparents are welcomed by the regulars and whilst the children have fun playing, the adults enjoy conversation over a cup of tea or coffee. The provision of refreshments also gives the children a chance to gain confidence in asking for something to drink or eat and to practise being polite.

We are indebted to Steve, our caretaker for ensuring that the hall is ready and to the team Sheila (who always guarantees that we have sufficient adults to run the sessions); John (who not only organises setting out the toys and mending them when necessary but also has a great rapport with the younger members of Little Fishes) and Anne (who is both creative and practical in organising activities) for their constant support and encouragement. Finally, we thank the other members of the congregation who help us out when needed and the families who join us each week as we continue to offer them outreach and invitations to Church events, both worship and activities such as August Activity days, and to monthly Messy Church.

Deborah Waller
March 2024

Messy Church

Our Messy Church has had its challenges this year, but continues to have over 50 people attending each month and a regular bunch of really positive and interested families who come together for fun fellow ship and food.

We have the continued challenge of finding people who are prepared to give up their afternoon for this worship but God continues to show us that He is with us in this precious outreach and has led us into another year of teaching of His love in a space of fun and friendship.

Carolyn Thomas continues to lead an amazing team of chefs who deliver a two-course hot meal to everyone that comes and we thank Sheila B too for being such a star at the sign-in and coffee table.

Thank you too to all of you wonderful people who come to deliver the crafts and share fellowship, we really could not do it without you!!
We need YOUR support, if you are interested in helping in any way or would like to know more about what this service looks like, please do get in touch with Sarah on 07931380184 and she will be able to explain it to you.

Sarah Bingham
April 2024

Pastoral

Pastoral visiting continued along with Home Communions and visits to the Residential Homes in our Parish, i.e. Herne Place. We held a service of Communion at Herne Place which was greatly enjoyed by all residents. Unfortunately, November and December team visits to Herne Place had to be cancelled due to shortage of pastoral team members to attend but it is hoped to return in 2024.

Grateful thanks to Liza Seed and Sheila Gough who remain very committed visitors to members of our parish who require pastoral care.

Deborah Waller
March 2024

Safeguarding Report 2023

Safeguarding is and remains the responsibility of everybody in the congregation. Acting on your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. People often question" what if I am wrong?" But we must also ask ourselves "what if I am right?". You cannot assume that someone else has seen what you may have witnessed and they will pass on concerns to me as the designated safeguarding officer

Safeguarding training continues to be arranged and I am ensuring that all DBS checks are up-to-date.

Anne Ackland Safeguarding officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults
March 2024

Schools

Our ministry to our Herne Church of England Infant and Junior Schools continued to grow and is highly valued. Six members of the congregation are governors to the Junior School and three sit on the board of governors for the Infants School. So, the relationship between Herne Church and Schools becomes ever stronger and the schools were valuable contributors to the Parish Profile setting out their vison for the skills and aptitudes required in a new vicar.

In the absence of a full- time vicar or curate, Andrew Gough a Governor has led some school worship at Herne Juniors whilst Deborah Waller, as Lay Reader has led whole school worship at both the schools as well as contributing to a joint worship between the two schools. The appointment of a new teacher at Herne Infants who leads worship has led to improved liaison between the two schools and the church with a range of further worships planned for 2024. Furthermore, Deborah has attended Q and A sessions with different year groups at the Junior School as part of their RE learning

There have been a number of Herne School Services in St Martins, with a total of five services being led and organised by the Juniors and one by the Infants. Both schools attended the Remembrance Sunday service and remembrance placed poppies around the War memorial.

On two Sundays in 2023, we were joined by Herne Junior school Worship Leaders who helped lead a Morning Worship with Deborah, along with a choir. It is hoped to continue building on this practice and to encourage the children and their parents to attend Sunday worship more regularly.

We are of course delighted that the Junior school has been confirmed as Outstanding in their Ofsted inspection. The Infants School had already been confirmed Outstanding in 2021. Great credit must be paid to the Senior Leadership teams and all the staff and the Governors at the schools who work tirelessly and with great skill and vison to provide such an excellent education for the children. Several of the governors are active contributors to the SIAMS curriculum at both schools.

There has been no ministry provided to Herne Bay High School. It is understood that there has been some involvement by Christ Church Herne Bay even though the school is actually in the Herne parish.

No ministry was provided in Briary School in 2023 as none was requested but some new links were developing at the end of this year. However, this would currently be a ministry-capacity issue which may be rectified if a full-time incumbent is appointed in 2024.

Deborah Waller and Andrew Gough as Foundation Governors
March 2024

Herne Church Hall also known as the St. Martin's Church (Institute) hall

The hall currently has 14 regular weekly, twice-weekly, and monthly bookings during the week-days. These maintain a regular income for the upkeep of the hall. Weekends are kept for children's parties, Quiz Nights, Wine & Wisdoms and fun raising events for the church and these local groups. The average is 10 parties a month and at least 2 or 3 fund raising events.
We also have ad hoc bookings for Tuition Classes and Playgroup end of year gatherings before the children go to 'big school'
The hall is cleaned and maintained by Steve King and we do ask users to leave it clean & tidy in the hope the previous Booking has left it as it should be.

Wendy Dinley, Hall booking Secretary
March 2024

St. Martin's Church Readers & Intercessors

Since Revd. Carol retirement, Deborah has been compiling the Herne & Greenhill Service Schedule and Ministry Rota, which is sent to me and I put in the readings to services. I then add names to the readings and people to do Intercessions.

I produce the Readers Rota every four months and you get to read two or three times in that period. I currently have 12 regular Readers and Intercessors and would appreciate more volunteers, so if you have ever wondered when listening to the readers every Sunday, how do they get to do that, I'd like to try it then please give you name to Deborah or myself.

Wendy Dinley St. Martin's Readers
March 2024

St. Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers 2023

Regrettably, because of concerns following the Covid pandemic, communion services for the most part of 2023 have been conducted without the need for servers except for chalice bearers. Since January 2023 wine has been offered separately and there has been no intinction of the wafer.

My thanks go to, Leah Willey, Sheila Gough and Deborah Waller who assist in offering the chalice and to the churchwardens who lay out the altar table if I am absent.

If anybody else would like to come forward and offer to serve at the altar I would be very grateful to hear from them.

Andrew Gough, Sacristan
February 2024

Tuesday Toddler Report 2023

We started the year with 88 families on our books. Because of these large numbers, we have unfortunately had to retain our weekly booking system. Each Saturday every family receives an email link through which they can book a space for the following week. During the winter months we restrict our numbers to 22 families although we are able to welcome more in the summer when we can use our outdoor space. Anyone who is unable to get a space one week is guaranteed attendance at our next meeting. One advantage of these weekly emails is that we can use them to advertise events at St Martin's and St Peter's such as Messy Church and special services.

Each week we provide a range of toys for the children to play with and offer a different craft activity. These activities cover regular events in the calendar such as Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, Mothering Sunday Fathers' Day, Remembrance Day and Guy Fawkes Day and Easter.

In January we held a Clothes Swap where parents could bring along unwanted children's clothes that were in good condition so that other families could make use of them. Thank you to Anne Ackland for helping us with this event. May was very busy with our special celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III as well as our annual Teddy Bears' Picnic and Sports Day. Each child was presented with a knitted teddy bear as a memento of the day. Special thanks must go to Theresa for organising this and for knitting most of the teddies!

In June we had our annual summer outing to "The Jungle" soft play area in Quex Park. As last year, we had exclusive use of the facilities as well as enjoying a delicious buffet lunch. The summer term ended with our Leavers' Special where once again we presented Toddler Bibles to the children who were moving on and a Christian coaster to their parents.

Our first special activity of the new term in September was our Grandparents' Day. As last year, we welcomed grandparents who joined us to sing special songs and to help with grandparent craft. It was an opportunity to celebrate and honour this special relationship. Once again in October we held our own Harvest Festival and donated gifts which were added to the church's collection. Following the success of last year's Toy Swap we held another one in November. Toys that were in good condition but no longer needed were taken home by some very happy children. With Christmas approaching, Nicola from "Snap Happy Babies" visited us again and took some really stunning festive photos of some of our children. The year finished with our two Christmas parties where each child received a present from Father Christmas. As usual we have Doug and his long white beard to thank for helping us with this!

None of these activities could go ahead without the dedicated help of our team who do all they can to welcome and nurture the families who come to Tuesday Toddlers week by week. So, thank you once again to Val, Theresa and Fran.

Carolyn Thomas
February 2024

Weddings Report 2023

In September 2022 I began training with Joan Jeffers, the previous Weddings Administrator, and Revd. Carol in order for me to be able to take over the Wedding Administrator role from January 2023.

We had 4 weddings and 2 Vow Renewals in 2023. The wedding on 1st April was officiated by Revd. Carol, her last wedding as Incumbent of St. Martin's. We were grateful for the help of visiting Clergy from the Deanery to officiate at the others, including the Vow Renewals.

We also read Banns of marriage for 3 couples getting married in other churches (the arrangement of these has been undertaken by the Weddings Administrator during the Vacancy).

We held our Wedding Preparation Morning for 3 of our 2023 couples on Saturday 4th March. Thanks to Priscilla Cox for making coffee, and to Charlotte Hampson (Administrator), Susan Record (Organist), Keith Record (Bells) and members of the choir for making themselves available for our couples.

We currently have 4 confirmed weddings (with deposits paid) for 2024, with another couple provisionally booked in for September. We are holding a Wedding Preparation Morning on Saturday 2nd March, but plan for this to be the last as there are so few weddings. They have proved useful while so many couples needed to be seen, but our time will be better spent seeing them on an individual basis for the time being. The Weddings Administrator will continue to facilitate this until the new Incumbent is in post to decide how weddings will be organised moving forwards.

We currently have 1 Vow Renewal confirmed (deposit paid) for July 2025.

It has been suggested that we offer the Band as an option for music for future weddings from 2025.

Sarah White Weddings Administrator, St. Martin's Church, Herne
February 2024

Worship Band

What a great year this has been for the band! We have been blessed with additional musicians and a building repertoire of songs which are becoming new favourites for some of the congregation. We have been truly blessed this year with the positivity for the music that we are playing, obviously you cannot please everyone, but people are beginning to acknowledge and be supportive of the place that this style of music has for some of our congregation and also seem to understand that in either style we may not always hear our favourites, but it may well be someone else's!

I am delighted this month to have been able to welcome a drummer to the crew. This is such a welcome addition and completes the 'set' beautifully in sound.

I cannot thank the band enough for the hard work that they put in every single week practising for the services, often at quite short notice and with great patience, kindness and respect for one another.

We practice for about 2 hours a week together and I know often they put in much more time in between weeks to ensure they are ready for you.

Thank YOU, for learning new songs, for being open minded and supportive, and most importantly for being respectful of everyone's choices as we learn and navigate future church together as an all-options offering.

Sarah Bingham
April 2024

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

GENERAL FUND	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	2022 £
Receipts and Payments Account				
RECEIPTS	1			
Voluntary Receipts				
Planned Giving		33,487	33,487	36,789
Collections at Services		4,819	4,819	5,695
Gift Aid and other voluntary receipts		11,616	11,616	17,096
Gift Aid Recovered		9,487	9,487	10,753
Legacy		500	500	50,403
Grants - War Memorial		0	0	750
Grants - Heating Costs		0	0	7,400
Activities for Generating Funds		4,968	4,968	3,505
Church Activities - St Martins		11,894	11,894	14,751
Income Received for St Martins Hall		0	0	2,150
Church Activities - St Peters		12,109	12,109	10,727
St Peters Rental				0
Receipts		88,880	88,880	160,019
Exceptional Items **funds transferred from CCLA A/cs**		27,745	27,745	20,349
funds transferred from Hall A/c		12,386	12,386	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**129,011**	**129,011**	**180,368**
PAYMENTS	2			
Church Activities				
Parish Share		74,313	74,313	71,396
Clergy and Staffing Costs		7,601	7,601	8,130
Church Running Expenses		29,481	29,481	24,209
Occasional Office		7,241	7,241	8,096
Mission giving and donations		1,998	1,998	2,058
Fundraising		1,808	1,808	1,130
Church Hall - St Martins		2,154	2,154	2,116
Church Hall - St Peters		12,098	12,098	6,438
Transferred to Investment Accounts				49,903
Vicars Discretionary Trust		250	0	700
Bank Charges		273	273	264
Payments		137,217	137,217	174,440
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**137,217**	**137,217**	**174,440**
Surplus/Deficit		(8,206)		
Cash at Bank and in hand 1st January			12,505.00	5,537
Cash at Bank and in hand 31st December (Lloyds Bank and Santander)			4,299.00	12,505

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

St Martin's Church Hall	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	2022
Income		£	£	£
Hall Lettings		13,285		14,095
Total Income			**13,285**	**14,095**
Payments				
Utilities		236		2,083
Cleaning Materials		486		468
Caretaker Salary		1,041		656
Insurance		1,249		1,253
Maintenance		1,476		0
Music Licence		338		139
Rental Refund		25		0
Miscellaneous (Stamps/Stationery)		155		228
Tsferred to St Martin's General A/c for Parish Share		12,386		0
Total Payments		17,392	**17,392**	**4,826**
Surplus/Deficit			(4,107)	**9,269**
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		**12,406**		
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		**8,299**		
Youth Account	**3**			
Activity Days		111		203
Messy Church		178		240
Little Fishes		427		374
Mothers & Toddlers		527		259
Total Income		1,243	**1,243**	**1,076**
Payments				
Activity/Craft materials		20		185
Messy Church		17		200
Little Fishes		16		32
Mothers & Toddlers		479		397
Caretaker		135		0
Total Payments		667	**667**	**814**
Surplus/Deficit			**576**	**263**
Cash at bank 1st January		**1,254**		
Cash at bank 31st December		**1,830**		

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Analysis of Restoration Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Restoration Account
for Year Ending 31st December 2023

	2023 £		2022 £	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance 1st January	3,984.52		4,820.97	
		3,984.52		4,820.97
PAYMENTS				
Tfer to Gen A/c part payment B W May invoice	3,500.00			
Repairs to Church Doors				
R Pitsilli Grahan - Architect			836.45	
		3,500.00		836.45
Balance as at 31st December 2022				**3,984.52**
Balance as at 31st December 2023		**484.52**		

St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2023	2022
Cash Funds		£	£	£	£
Bank Current Account		4,299		4,299	11,690
Church Hall Account		8,299		8,299	12,406
Youth Account		1,830		1,830	1,254
Restoration Account			485	485	3,985
		14,428	**485**	**14,913**	**29,335**
Investment Assets	4	73,496	58,848	132,344	152,443
		73,496	**58,848**	**132,344**	**152,443**
Fixed Assets retained for Church Use				**5,000**	**5,000**
Liabilities					
Unpaid 2017 Parish Share				6,742	6,742
Unpaid 2018 Parish Share				11,704	11,704
Unpaid 2021 Parish Share				24,769	24,769
Funds held on behalf of Mothers & Toddlers			198		150
Funds held on behalf of St Peter's Greenhill					
Little Fishes			753		342
Messy Church			102		41
Community Café			904		625
			1,957	**43,215**	**44,373**

8/4/24

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on and signed by

D. A. Waller
Deborah Waller (Lay Reader)

S. J. Gough
Mrs Sheila Gough (Treasurer)

Bank:
Lloyds
144-146 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
One Angel Lane
London EC4R 3AB

Independent Examiner:
PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis

1. General Fund Analysis of Receipts

Receipts

	2023	2023	2022	2022
Voluntary Receipts		£	£	£
Planned Giving	32,728		35,264	
Weekly Envelopes	759	33,487	1,525	36,789
Collections and other giving	4,819	4,819	5,695	5,695
Gift Aid Envelopes	130		352	
Donations General	1,434		6,093	
Collections for specific purposes	522		929	
Telecommunications Mast	8,978		8,978	
Flower Box	174		20	
Candle Tree	86		109	
Wall Box/Acrylic Box	117		299	
Curates Leaving Gift	0		315	
Vicar Leaving Gift	175		0	
		11,616		17,096
Income Tax Recovered	9,487	9,487	10,753	10,753
Legacy	500	500	50,403	50,403
Grants	0	0	8,150	8,150
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Hospitality/Tea Coffee	116		123	
Mothers & Toddlers Group	527		259	
Calenders/Noteletts	0		15	
Fundraising Events and Activities	4,324	4,968	3,108	3,505
Receipts from Church Activities				
Wedding Deposits/Banns/Certificates	320		1,163	
PCC Fees for Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	3,354		4,026	
Diocese Fees for Weddings/Funerals	3,319		5,057	
Organist/Bells/Choir Fees	2,315		2,250	
Additional Wedding/Funeral Income	1,955		2,255	
Vacancy Fees Refunded	531		0	
Vicarage Grass Cutting	100	11,894	0	14,751
Receipts received on behalf of St Martins Hall				
(Utility Payments/Insurance/Cleaning Materials)	0	0	2,150	2,150
St Peter's Greenhill				
Community Café	904		625	
Rental income	11,205	12,109	10,102	10,727
Total of above		**88,880**		**160,019**
Funds Transferred from CCLA Accounts				
Vicars Discretionary Fund	250		700	
Funds transferred to pay Restoration War memorial			1,800	
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund				
to pay 3 months 2022/2023 Parish Share	18,578		17,849	
to part pay B W May invoice	3,017		0	
to pay for tree felling	2,400		0	
Funds transferred from Restoration Fund				
to part pay B W May invoice Repair to Church Doors	3,500	27,745	0	
Funds transferred from Hall a/c re 2023 Parish Share	12,386	12,386	0	20,349
Total Receipts		**129,011**		**180,368**

2. General Fund Analysis of Payments **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

		Payments			
		2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Direct Ministry Expenditure					
	Parish Share	74,313	74,313	71,396	71,396
	Incumbents Working Expenses	271		690	
	Vicarage Telephone	359		702	
	Curates Working Expenses	0		297	
	Curates Telephone	0		142	
	Other Clergy Expenses	553		496	
	Organist/Secretary Salaries	3,892		2,973	
	Admininstration	2,526	7,601	2,831	8,130
Church Running Expenses					
	Utilities	8,226		7,654	
	Insurance	8,606		8,264	
	Repairs,Maintenance & Supplies	7,213		1,053	
	Church Security(Alarm/Lighting)	177		302	
	Upkeep of Churchyard	2,400		3,935	
	Worship	240		378	
	Music	1,366		1,259	
	Training Costs/Outreach	0		235	
	Red Lion Parking	720		720	
	Flowers	533	29,481	409	24,209
Occasional Office Expenditure	Weddings/Funerals	2,415		2,410	
	Wedding Deposit/Fees refund	25		300	
	Parochial Fees (Wedding/Funeral fees to Diocese	4,243		5,386	
	Vacancy Fees	558	7,241		8,096
Charitable Giving/Mission	Royal British Legion	232		254	
	Herne Junior School (Leavers Bibles)	282		135	
	Mission to Sea Farers	0		50	
	Friends of Kent Churches	5		5	
	Gifts from Vicar's Discretionary Fund	0		700	
	Anglican Renewal Mission	0		200	
	Childrens Society	175		0	
	Mothers & Toddlers	527		259	
	Porchlight	50		0	
	Catching Lives	283		0	
	Subscriptions	120		120	
	Refreshments	45		0	
	Salvation Army	139		0	
	Cruze Breavement	139		0	
	Restoration Celebration		1,998	335	2,058
Fundraising	Funday Sunday	1,603		300	
	Wine & Wisdom	148		174	
	Christmas Fair	57	1,808	656	1,130
St Martins Church Hall	Utilities	2,044		1,869	
	Cleaning Materials	109	2,154	247	2,116
St Peter's Greenhill	Utilities	6,963		1,338	
	Cleaning Materials	202		287	
	Insurance	1,366		1,360	
	Caretaker Salary	3,470		2,599	
	Maintenance/Repairs	92		653	
	Activities	1,296	12,098	200	6,438
Transferred to CCLA Fabric	Legacy	0	0	49,903	49,903
Vicars Discretionary Fund		250	250	700	700
Bank Charges		273	273	264	264
Total Payments			**137,217**		**174,440**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3 Analysis of Youth Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Youth Account for Year Ending 31st December 2023

	2023		2022	
RECEIPTS	£		£	
Opening Balance 1st January	1,254.35	1,254.35	991.78	991.78
Activity Days - Donations	111.43		202.51	
Messy Church - Donations	177.10		240.39	
Little Fishes - Donations	426.59		374.30	
Mothers & Toddlers - Spring/Autumn Subs	527.25	1,242.37	258.93	1,076.13
		2,496.72		2,067.91
PAYMENTS				
Activity Equipment/Craft Materials	20.00		185.36	
Messy Church - Resource material/Refreshments	17.03		199.51	
Little Fishes - Party Food	15.95		32.04	
Mothers & Toddlers - Outings and Christmas presents	479.01		396.65	
Caretaker	135.00			
		666.99		813.56
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2022				**£1,254.35**
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2023		**£1,829.73**		

4. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds

Bell Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS	2023 £		2022 £	
Opening Balance (1 January)	17.20		16.99	
Interest	0.56		0.21	
		17.76		**17.20**
Balance at 31st December 2022				**£17.20**
Balance at 31st December 2023		**£17.76**		

Fabric Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS	2023 £		2022 £	
Opening Balance (1 January)	101,765.63		70,441.48	
Balance of G Pritchard Legacy			49,902.65	
Interest	2,708.40		1,070.50	
		104,474.03		121,414.63
PAYMENTS				
Transferred to Gen account for War Memorial Repair			1,800.00	
Transferred to Gen account 3 months' 2022/2023 Parish Share	18,578.25		17,849.00	19,649.00
Transferred to Gen a/c tree felling invoice	2,400.00		0	
Transferred to Reserve Account	73,495.78	94,474.03	0	
Balance as at 31st December 2022				**£101,765.63**
Balance as at 31st December 2023		**£10,000.00**		

Institute Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS	2023 £		2022 £	
Opening Balance (1 January)	11,762.78		11,610.07	
Interest	376.98	12,139.76	152.71	11,762.78
		12,139.76		11,762.78
Balance as at 31st December 2022				**£11,762.78**
Balance as at 31st December 2023		**£12,139.76**		

May Legacy Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2023
Restricted for the use of the Poor and Needy of the Parish

RECEIPTS	2023 £		2022 £	
Opening Balance (1 January)	23,706.29		24,097.87	
Interest	751.24	24,457.53	308.42	24,406.29
PAYMENTS				
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	394.00	394.00	700.00	700.00
		24,063.53		23,706.29
Balance as at 31st December 2022				**£23,706.29**
Balance as at 31st December 2023	**£24,063.53**			

4. continued

Organ Fund Account for Year Ending 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS	2023 £		2022 £	
Opening Balance (1 January)	1.30		1.29	
Interest	0.04	1.34	0.01	1.30
Balance at 31st December 2022				**£1.30**
Balance at 31st December 2023		**£1.34**		

Diocesan Deposit Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2023
Reserve Account for St Peter's and St Martin's

RECEIPTS	2023 £		2022 £	
Opening Balance (1 January)	7,101.58		7,009.39	
Transferred from Fabric Fund (St Martins)	73,495.78		0	
Interest	227.60	80,824.96	92.19	7,101.58
Balance as at 31st December 2022				**£7,101.58**
Balance as at 31st December 2023		**£80,824.96**		

Restoration Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS	2023 £		2022 £	
Opening Balance (1 January)	3,150.06		3,109.16	
	67.60		0	
Interest		3,217.66	40.90	3,150.06
PAYMENTS				
B W May	3,017.20	3,017.20		
		200.46		3,150.06
Balance as at 31st December 2022				**£3,150.06**
Balance as at 31st December 2023		**£200.46**		

Roof Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2023

RECEIPTS	2023 £		2022 £	
Opening Balance (1 January)	4,938.22		4,874.11	
Interest	158.26	5,096.48	64.11	
				4,938.22
PAYMENTS				
Balance as at 31st December 2022				**£4,938.22**
Balance as at 31st December 2023		**£5,096.48**		

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

This Report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). It is my responsibility to issue this report on the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect

the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not not been met, or

Signed: M.A. Gamlenill

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 27 march 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134604

Accounts

The Parish Church of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 16th April 2023, at 11.15am

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THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Martin's Church Herne on Sunday 16th April 2023 at 11.15 am or as soon thereafter

AGENDA

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 24th April 2022
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of churchwardens (two- one offering himself for re- election and, if nominated, another) and Deputy Church Wardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 24th April 2022
4. Matters arising from minutes
   Mandatory reports required under the Church Representation rules 2020
5. Vicar's report
6. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 16th April 2023
7. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2022
8. Churchwarden's report
9. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2022 accounts
10. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's
11. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
12. Fabric Committee Report
13. Resolution to be presented and passed to permit Deanery Representatives to stand for more than two successive period of three years

Mandatory elections

14. Election of two Deanery Synod Representatives (if nominations received)
15. Election of Deborah Waller in her capacity as Lay reader to be an ex officio member of the PCC
16. Election of PCC members. To include
    a. Election of five PCC members (if nominations received) for 2023 to 2026 (being three retiring and two vacancies remain to be filled)
    b. Election of a sixth PCC member to take the casual vacancy available until the APCM in 2024 that has arisen following retirement of Ms Joanna Hollings (if nomination received) NB Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting so no election required

General reports

17. Reports from church organisations
    a. August Activity days
    b. Children's and Sunday School report
    c. The Churchyard maintenance team
    d. The Flower arrangers
    e. Gift Aid
    f. Little Fishes
    g. Messy Church
    h. Mission and evangelism
    i. Pastoral Matters
    j. Safeguarding
    k. Schools
    l. St Martin's Church Institute
    m. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
    n. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
    o. The St Martin's Herne Tapestry
    p. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
    q. Worship at St Peters Greenhill
    r. The Worship Band
    s. The Bellringers
    t. The Choir
18. Date of first meeting of the new PCC
19. Any other business
20. The Blessing

CHURCH INFORMATION 2022

ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE with ST PETER, GREENHILL,
Registered Charity No 1134604

1st January-31st December 2022

St Martin-in-Herne Church
Herne Street
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent

St Peter's Church
Herne Drive
Greenhill
Herne Bay
Kent.

INCUMBENT
Revd. Carol Smith

CURATE
Rev Cat Darkins (to February 2022) and Revd. John Huffman (February to October 2022 only)

BANKERS

St Martin-in-Herne Church
Lloyds, Herne Bay

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House, 85 Queen's Street, London, EC4V 4ET

St Peter's Church

Santander Account
(for receipt of rental monies only)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

P.G.Lemon LLP 22 – 26 Bank Street Herne Bay CT6 5EAL

BACKGROUND
The parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter, Greenhill extends to the railway in Eddington to the North, includes Broomfield, Talmead Estate, Greenhill, Still Water Park, Herne Common and Blean Woods in the South. The population is approximately 16,000 and, in addition, there is new housing in the east of the parish.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended.

The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020.

THE TASK OF THE PCC
The Synodical Government Measure 1969 states clearly:

> *It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance in the parish.*

It then sets out a number of functions of the PCC, of which perhaps the most important – and certainly the widest – is that the primary objective of the PCC is:

Co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical

The incumbent and the PCC each have their own particular rights and responsibilities in the life of the church, but the important theme here is partnership and co-operation. More specifically the PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and churchyard, and, with the incumbent, for deciding how the church's money is to be spent. The PCC is formally the employer of the church's paid workers, for example our organist, St Peter's caretaker and administrator. The PCC will have on it one or more members of the Deanery Synod, who have an important role in linking the parish into the wider structures of the church, and also Churches Together in Herne Bay.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either (a) ex officio (on the PCC because of their role in the parish church or (b) co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or (c) elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

From 1st January 2022 and specifically from the APCM on the 24th April 2022 the following served as members of the PCC and all are also trustees:

(a) Ex-Officio:

Revd. Carol Smith	Vicar
Lisa Crowhurst	Church warden from 24th April 2022
Chris Exley	Church warden from 24th April 2022
Alan King	Deputy Churchwarden from 24th April 2022
Sarah Bingham	Deputy Churchwarden from 24th April 2022
Deborah Waller	Licensed Lay Reader from Autumn 2021
Priscilla Cox	Deanery Synod rep elected from 4th October2020 until 2023
Richard Chant	Deanery Synod rep elected from 4th October2020 until 2023

(b) Co-opted members/invitees

- Susan Record (choir and organist)
- Ann Ackland (Safeguarding officer)

(c) Elected being 8 PCC members and 2 ex officio members (the Deanery Reps)

Elected 2022: They will retire in 2025

- Doug Bubb
- Andrew Gough
- Hilary Burnage

Elected 2021/ But will retire in 2024

- Frances Ventham (Lay Reader Emeritus)
- Jo Hollings NB although elected in 2021 actually retired in April 2022 so position vacant as a casual vacancy until the APCM in 2024

Elected 2020/ They will retire in April 2023 at the APCM

- Deborah Waller (but she has actually stepped down because she was appointed lay reader and therefore became an elected ex officio member of the PCC).

Two other places will also become vacant

- Sheila Gough
- Peter Frost

Deanery Synod Rep each Re-elected 2020 for a three-year appointment in October 2020 so they will retire at the APCM in 2023 and nominations to be sought for election in 2023

- Priscilla Cox
- Richard Chant

Current Officers

Revd. Carol Smith	Chair
Deborah Waller	Vice chair
<u>Specific roles on PCC</u>	
Sheila Gough	Treasurer
Andrew Gough	Gift Aid Secretary
Andrew Gough	PCC Secretary
Ann Ackland	Safeguarding Officer

In 2023 there will be vacancies for the following positions to be elected:

- 2 Churchwardens (an annual appointment)
- 2 Deputy church wardens (an annual appointment)
- Election and appointment of Deborah Waller to the PCC in her capacity as lay reader (and not as an elected lay member)
- Elected PCC Members representing the laity–
  5 vacancies for office 2023-2026.
  - 2 elected in 2020 and their terms of office expire (Peter Frost and Sheila Gough but willing to stand again)
  - the third vacancy arises from the appointment of Deborah Waller as Lay Reader and therefore now a member of the PCC ex officio although originally elected until 2023 as a member of the laity
  - 2 vacancies remain to be filled
- Election of a member to replace the casual vacancy following the retirement of Joanne Hollings to hold position until 2024

<u>COMMITTEES</u>

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 direction by the Council. It consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer and at least another PCC member, in our case preferably a representative of the PCC of St Peter's. It acts as another committee and reports back to the PCC. It can also discuss and set the next PCC agenda.

By a resolution of the PCC passed on the 19th October 2020 it has authority to spend up to £250 for equipment or in relation to any other issue brought before it and may commit to an aggregate expenditure of £500 only, subject to the details of the individual and aggregated expenditure being brought to the next PCC meeting following the standing committee. This resolution has not been revoked.

Members: Revd. Carol Smith (chair), Andrew Gough (secretary), Sheila Gough (Treasurer), Lisa Crowhurst , Sarah Bingham, Chris Exley and Peter Frost.

All members of the PCC are expected to sit on a committee.

Other Committees in 2022 were:

Finance and Stewardship	**Fabric – St Martin's, Institute Hall, St Peter's and reordering at St Martin's**	**Social**	**Communications & Publicity**
• Sheila Gough (Chair) • Priscilla Cox • Peter Frost • Andrew Gough	• Priscilla Cox • Paul Tapsell • Doug Bubb • John Bennett* • Steve Jackson* • Roger Jackson*	• Sarah Bingham (chair)	• Revd. Carol • Anne Lehane • Sarah Bingham

*Denotes non- members of the PCC

In addition:

- Mission & Evangelism Team
  This had met for the first time on March 19th 2019 as a result of Herne Parish becoming one of the first to be invited to join the Diocesan "Changed Lives Changing Lives Conversations" . The team originally comprised Revd. Carol Smith, Revd. Cat Darkins and, Revd. Stacey Rand (when available), and Anne Lehane.
  Revd. Stacey Rand had resigned in August 2021 to move to another parish. Revd Cat Darkins retired in March 2022 There has been further invaluable help from Joan Jeffers, Alan King, Deborah Waller and Sheila Bennett
- Safeguarding coordinator: Anne Ackland
- Gift Aid Secretary: Andrew Gough
- Electoral Roll Officer: Andrew Gough
- Health & Safety Rep: Doug Bubb

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR 2022

[**NB: Figures in brackets denote previous year's figures**]

Church attendance averaged 55 *(66)* adults and 6 *(9)* children across the year on normal Sundays during 2022, with larger numbers at festivals and when schools were involved in services

Attendance for additional events	
Baptisms	48 *(35):* (24 *(13)* infant, 19 *(20)* children 5 *(2)* adults)
Weddings	9 *(5)*
Funerals	23 *(28)* (13 *(16)* in church, 10 *(12)* at crematorium or cemetery)

Attendance for services	Adults	Children	Total
8:00 and 9:45am Sunday Services Average Attendance	49 *(66)* (*estimated* 39 aged 18-69 years and 10 aged 70 years plus)	6 *(9)*	55 *(75)*
Easter Services Total Attendance	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	200 *(57)*
Christmas Total Attendance	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	375 *(214)*
Special Services during Advent 2021, e.g. nativities and carol services	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	Congregation and local community: 596 *(418).* Including civic and school-specific: 1,251 *(296).*

Joiners and leavers:
8 *(10)* adults and 2 *(2)* children and young people joined our worshipping community during 2022.
4 adults and 0 children and young people left our worshipping community during 2022.

Other mission and ministry to Children & Young Families:

(A) We have ***two thriving toddler groups***: one on Tuesdays in Herne Church Hall (88 *(61)* registered families - 36 *(38)* regulars; average 18 adults + 21 children); and one on Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill (between 10-35 adults *(3-27)* adults + 6-55 *(4-32)* children), both weekly in school term time.

(B) **Monthly Messy Church** *at St Peter's Greenhill* averaged 33 [16 children + 17 adults, with numbers ranging between 10-25 adults and 9-23 children each month].

(C) **August Activity Days** *on 4 Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill* averaged 28 children + 36 adults each week.

A full copy of the Statistics for Mission return is available on request.

Electoral Roll
At the APCM on the 24th April 2022 the number of people on the St Martin's Electoral Roll was 91. There were two gains and one loss after the APCM so as at the 31st December 2022 the roll is confirmed at 92. The numbers on the roll following the revision in March 2023 will be announced at the APCM

Andrew Gough Electoral Roll Officer

PUBLIC BENEFIT

[1]The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, [3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour

The vision of our parish is stated within our mission statement. Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

We are registered with the Charity Commission by virtue of the fact that we "Advance Religion for the Public Benefit", and are required to state our aims in their terms as below

Encouraging and facilitating the practice of Christianity by existing followers and seekers.

Place of worship, including:

- For the practice of Christian faith, the provision and maintenance of two buildings, and adjoining hall and meeting rooms used for related activities, e.g. religious instruction for children.
- The conducting of religious ceremonies, e.g. Eucharist, Baptism, Weddings, Blessings and Funerals.
- The maintenance of two public churchyards with one garden of remembrance and war memorial.
- Provision of Public Worship throughout the year as well as at times of national importance (Remembrance).
- Bereavement care, prayers, visits and worship.
- The provision and maintenance of Christian devotional artefacts and items used in religious services.
- Maintaining a grade one ancient building for the nation.

Raising awareness and understanding of religious beliefs and practices, including:

- Advancing the Christian faith.
- Providing a Christian resource for the community (information, teaching and library).
- Promoting and providing the study of Christian teaching, practice and scripture.
- Supporting schools and other educational establishments, including three theological training colleges (student placements), which provide education in accordance with the principles and practices of the religion.
- Support the Diocese in the provision of ministry and Diocesan services through payment of the Diocesan share.
- Working with (worship, education, pastoral care) and governance of our two church schools in Herne.
- Encouragement and worship in one Community Primary School and also our Secondary School.

Religious devotional acts, including:

- Visiting the sick and administering the sacraments to the sick and dying.

Missionary and outreach work, including:

- The provision of chaplaincy services; for example, to Strode Park, Canterbury and District Scouting and Canterbury Cathedral).
- Hospital visiting.
- The provision of pastoral care to residential and domiciliary homes.
- Cultural and community activities provided in the place of worship and in the buildings attached, e.g., community facilities, community care, toddlers, community Cafe and Meals for the Homeless etc.).

Work for reconciliation, building community and peace across the parish.

Religious communication, including:

- Sermons, talks, meetings and conferences and the provision of religious material via the internet website.

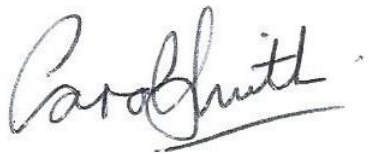
Retreat and pilgrimage, including: A place for short and day retreats.

Advancing religion generally including:

- Charitable giving to many different peoples in need, both near and far, (e.g., Help for Heroes, Christian Aid, Crisis, Children's Society, Catching Lives, Seafarer's Mission etc.)
- Seeking to safeguard creation through moral use of resources and the ways we manage our graveyards.

These aims are fulfilled as evidenced in the reports that follow.

Signed:



Revd. Carol Smith Date; 24th March 2023

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 24th April 2022 at 11.15am at St Martin's Church, Herne.

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Revd. Carol welcomed those present and led those attending in an opening prayer

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Joan Jeffers, Tony Millard, Alan Wren, Philip Dixon and Maureen Hadlow

Preliminary Issues

An agenda, full minutes and reports (including accounts) had been sent online and were available in hardcopy form if required by those present. The electoral roll was available for inspection at the back of the church.

Final nominations for the PCC were sought, three having been received. There were no others. However, Anne Ackland had confirmed that she wished to be on the PCC but had not completed a nomination form. It was agreed that the PCC could use its power to co-opt her as a member.

The minutes would be signed off if approved.

Andrew Gough, as PCC secretary confirmed that there had been no proxies received

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

Revd. Carol explained that historically the vestry meeting would often be held privately but nowadays churches hold it in public as part of the full APCM.

1. Apologies as above

2. The minutes of the vestry meeting held on 24th June 2021 were agreed as a correct record. Proposer Andrew Gough Seconder Sheila Gough. They were unanimously approved

3. There were no matters arising

4. Election of Churchwardens (two positions vacant) and Deputy Churchwardens (two positions).

5. Two candidates had put their names forward as Churchwarden.

   Lisa Crowhurst (for re- election)
   Proposed by Lisa Seed
   Seconded by Roger Jackson

   Robert Christopher Exley (Chris Exley)
   Proposed by Susan Record
   Seconded by Richard Chant

   There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, both candidates were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

6. There were two candidates for deputy Churchwardens:

Sarah Catherine Bingham	**Alan Richard King**
Proposed by Lisa Crowhurst	Proposed by Lisa Crowhurst
Seconded by Chris Exley.	Seconded by Sarah Bingham

   There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, Sarah Catherine Bingham and Alan Richard King were duly elected as Deputy Churchwardens for the coming year

7. Revd. Carol thanked Lisa for her considerable work as Churchwarden over the past eight months and also to Sarah Bingham and Paul Tapsell for being such willing and able support as Deputies. It was good that the church now had a full team of wardens.

8. There being no other business the vestry meeting was concluded.

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies were given as above.

2. Church information as given in the APCM booklet was taken as read. Also, the general reports were to be read Carolyn Thomas, from the floor, asked why there has been no written report

on Messy Church. Sarah Bingham answered that by admitting that although a report had been sought she has not had an opportunity to compile this, However she was invited to give an oral report on both the Messy Church and the Worship band

a. Messy Church has proved very popular and a great way to expand the mission of the church to Greenhill. Some 43 to 50 children attend each month and new families had come after the lifting of the Covid restrictions
b. Once services had returned to a normal pattern, after Covid the Worship Band has responded very well. New hymns were being offered and the general feedback was extremely positive. A list of favourite hymns was to be compiled

Revd. Carol thanked the members of the band and all the helpers at Messy Church.

3. Minutes of the annual meeting held on Sunday, 24th June 2021. <u>The minutes were approved unanimously.</u>

4. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda.

5. Revd. Carol then introduced Ms S J Martin ("SJ") from the Diocese of Canterbury. She was the spokesperson for the Diocese on the initiative of the Parish Giving scheme and upon this subject she addressed the meeting. *(Full details of the scheme are set out as an appendix at the end of these minutes)* but the following is a brief synopsis
    a. The scheme is a simple means whereby members of the congregation can pledge money to the parish but it is paid to the Diocese which administers distribution and claims Gift Aid on the donations where appropriate.
    b. Money may be monthly donations or in lump sums
    c. Monthly donations can be index linked to inflation so that there is an increase in payment in each year hopefully to reflect the increase in expenditure that the church may suffer. Donors, however, can opt out of this
    d. Payments are taken at the start of each month. This eases administration but it is noted that some donors may find this difficult for cash flow, especially if their income is received later in the month.
    e. After administration (and there is no charge made to the parish) all donations received, including Gift Aid would be paid to each parish in one lump sum towards the end of each month
    f. Any church can participate and there does not have to be a full 100% participation from congregants. Any existing paying scheme can run parallel to this.
    g. To participate there has to be a resolution of the PCC and clearly the congregation need to understand how the scheme works
    h. Following questions from the members present. SJ confirmed that there was no intention that the Diocese would first take their Parish Share which was due to the Diocese and pay the balance only. All payments are made gross.

i. The Church of England was keen to introduce this scheme and it had already found favour with many parishes as it eased the administrative burden (especially that placed on Treasurer and the Gift Aid Secretary)
j. Revd. Carol thanked Ms Martin for her presentation and stated that it would be brought to the PCC for further consideration

6. The Vicar's report. *The following is a transcript of Revd. Carol's oral report to the APCM:*

I hope you will have read my written Vicar's Report in your Annual Meeting pack so there'll be no need to repeat what is there. Except, perhaps, the ending! Where I said:

"As we look ahead, my faith gives me hope for God's church: so long as we keep praying, worshipping and serving the community – and one another – together, in the Name of Christ.

Thank you for your faith and for your service, whatever shape or form it takes or may yet take. Let us hope and pray that more and more, our fellowship may bear the characteristics of the early church, as together …
"They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." (Acts 2.46-47)"

In the current financial crisis – and please make no mistake, the church is in crisis – we are all going to have dig much deeper and be more resource-full, including connecting with the wider community, in order to pay our way for the ministry we receive. This is the reality, hence inviting SJ Martin to speak to us today. How will we respond? This is our challenge.

Everything we do or may yet seek to do together must begin and end with prayer if we are to remain faith-full – and hope-full for the future. We are not the first generation to have such concerns and it is doubtful that we will be the last. Yet look back at the long and varied history of this parish church and we can see that God has always provided.

In a fortnight's time at our Restoration Celebration weekend, we will be celebrating the External Stonework repairs carried out over some four and a half years, thanks to Heritage Lottery and other grant funding. We will have the opportunity to thank our dedicated Architect, Rena Pitsili-Graham, contractors, stonemasons, funders and all who were involved in this extensive project.

This will be important: but even more important is the opportunity this will give us for our Church Open Day on Saturday 7th May when we will 'fling wide the gates' for all in the community plus those passing by to drop in and join us. There will be cake! Trips up the tower! Stalls inside and outside in the churchyard! An afternoon concert! Cream Teas! YET THIS DAY WILL ALSO BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR WHOEVER COMES TO MEET WITH GOD … my friends, let us recognise this opportunity to share our faith with others in real and tangible ways. Let us "Always be ready to give the reason for the hope that is within us …" (1 Peter 3.15) – or in the New Living Translation, as it is put, " … worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it."

Together with the members of our newly elected PCC, I will be encouraging and seeking more opportunities to connect with the people of our parish. At present, I estimate we have 16,000 people in the parish of Herne with Greenhill when we take into account all the new housing. Our Electoral Roll currently stands at 95: that's less than one percent of the population. We clearly have work to do! It is the Lord's work. God is on our side. God wants to help us. What do we lack? Is it confidence? Is it a perceived lack of resources? God will provide. So let's pull together and pray that God will give us whatever we need to reach the people we are called and placed here to serve. Then let us go out and serve them, in the Name of the Risen Lord Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the praise and glory of God the Father. Amen.

7. Andrew Gough in his capacity as electoral roll secretary confirmed that at the APCM in June 2021 there had been 95members on the electoral roll. Subsequently following (and including the latest revision in March 2022) three people had been added to the role but seven people had been removed. Accordingly, there were now ninety-one (91) members on the electoral roll which meant that there were still nine lay places available on the PCC. Five had already been filled and four places were now available for nominations (Anne Lehane and Denise Smith were standing down). He confirmed that the full electoral roll was available for inspection at the church during the APCM.

   There were no questions. He confirmed that congregants could join the electoral roll at any time and not merely at the time of any revision before an APCM.

8. The annual report of the proceedings of the PCC during 2021 was taken as read. There were no questions.
9. The Churchwarden's Report was taken as read. Lisa Crowhurst had nothing to add.

10. Sheila Gough, as treasurer, introduced the 2021 financial reports for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill.
    a. Once again it had been a challenging year especially because of the Covid restrictions and loss of general income. Total income for the year was £127,218.
    b. As compared to 2020 there had been an increase in collections at services, and voluntary receipts and church activities including weddings
    c. However, there has been a decrease in planned giving
    d. Gift aid claims are still useful source of income for the church but there has been a slight decrease but this was mainly due to timing and when claims were processed.
    e. Total expenditure was £128,479.
    f. The biggest expense is our Parish Share to the Diocese. The Church was only able to pay £49.954 leaving a shortfall of £24,769 for the year.
    g. There has been an increase in expenses especially utilities and insurance. This was likely to be larger in 2022
    h. The church is actually making a monthly deficit of over £4000. This is currently taken from reserves.
    i. Reference was made to the statements of assets and liabilities where it was pointed out that there was a shortfall in payment of the Parish Share of £18,446 for the year 20117/2018 which when added to the shortfall of for this year 2021 means that the church owes over £43,000. It is not known whether the Diocese will seek recovery of the money.
    j. Both St Peters and St Martin's Halls made a small surplus from lettings last year
    k. Sheila Gough invited questions but there were none.
    l. The financial accounts were commended to those present to be approved and were approved unanimously.
    m. Revd. Carol thanked Sheila Gough for her work as treasurer. There was a small finance team that assisted her comprising Revd. Carol and Priscilla Cox. If there were other members who would be willing to assist Sheila in working in this small finance team then they should contact Sheila or Revd. Carol.

11. Appointment of Auditors for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill
    a. Sheila Gough proposed that PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA should be re- appointed as independent examiner for the present financial year.
    b. This was seconded by Sarah Bingham
    c. <u>Those present voted unanimously for the reappointment</u>.

12. The Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod was taken as read and there was nothing to add.

13. The Fabric Committee report was taken as read. There was nothing further to add. Thanks were given to the Committee members for their stewardship of the church buildings throughout the year. Particular thanks were also given to Steve King as caretaker who worked very hard on looking after the buildings even when closed.

14. Appointment of members of the PCC
    a. Denise Smith and Anne Lehane were retiring from the PCC and Revd. Carol thanked them for their help and support during their terms of office.
    b. Three candidates had been nominated to take positions on the PCC.

    Andrew John Gough (end of office but re-standing as a candidate to the PCC)
    Proposed Priscilla Cox Seconded by Peter Frost

    Douglas Robert Bubb (end of office but re-standing as a candidate to the PCC)
    Proposed by Sheila Gough Seconded by Priscilla Cox

    Hilary Burnage (as a new candidate)
    Proposed by Priscilla Cox and Seconded by Joan Goble

    <u>There being no other candidates all nominations were accepted</u>

    Deborah Waller was now a licenced lay reader for the parish and could be a member of the PCC in her own right of office even though she was currently an elected member. <u>There were no objections to that appointment being made.</u>

    As has been referred to previously, Anne Ackland had confirmed that she wished to be on the PCC but had not completed a nomination form in time. It was agreed that the PCC could use its power to co-opt her as a member.

    c. Revd. Carol confirmed that the sides people would be appointed at the PCC not at the APCM.

    Thanks were given to those who had been PCC members and to those continuing on the council.

15. The New Church Directory. Andrew Gough confirmed that, hopefully, the final version of the directory was available for inspection at the rear of the church. Subject to any changes made over the next couple of weeks it would be printed as the second edition. This was the only way that general communications could be undertaken as names and

communication details given on the electoral roll could only be used for purposes connected with that.

16. Revd. Carol then introduced the reports from the Church Organisations and Committees. They demonstrated the diversity of interests and responsibilities that people took on within the life of the church. She hoped that reading the reports would encourage people to join some of the organisations or offer support. All reports were taken as read and there were no questions. Thanks were given to all persons who contributed to the life and administration of the church. In particular
    a. Susan and Keith Record for the bell ringing
    b. Susan Record and Chris Exley for the choir
    c. Claire Stay for arranging the churchyard maintenance team
    d. Liz Sellen for the flower arrangers
    e. Sheila Bennett for the Fortnight Bible Study group
    f. Andrew Gough for administering Gift Aid
    g. The PCC members for its mission and evangelism
    h. The pastoral team for pastoral matters. The team needs to be reconvened. Currently it comprises Revd. Carol, Lisa Crowhurst, Sheila Gough Vanessa Worrel and Ann Ackland
    i. Jo Hollings for safeguarding. Revd. Carol confirmed that Jo Hollings would be stepping down as the safeguarding officer for the churches. Thanks were given to her for bringing the current administration and DBS checks up to date. A new officer would be required
    j. Thanks to the many members of the congregation who serve as school governors
    k. Wendy Dinley for administering the bookings for the St Martin's Church Hall
    l. Wendy Dinley for arranging the St Martins' readers and intercessors
    m. Andrew Gough as sacristan and server
    n. Mary Jewiss for the Tapestry which is going to be revealed in May at the Restoration celebrations.
    o. Carolyn Thomas for the enormous success of the Tuesday Toddlers Group
    p. Joan Jeffers for her role as wedding administrator
    q. Jean Dilnot (Dilly)and Sarah Bingham for respectively arranging hall bookings and the worship at St Peters' Greenhill.
    r. Revd. Carol, also thanked the church cleaning team for huge their efforts throughout the year.

17. Revd. Carol confirmed that the Parochial Church Council would be commissioned on Sunday 22nd May at the 10am Sunday service. The date of the first PCC meeting after the APCM will, however, be Monday 9th May 2022 at 7pm in the Ridley Room.

18. Any Other Business. Revd. Carol invited questions from the floor. There were none. Revd. Carol then thanked everybody who had helped and provided service throughout the year. Although some individuals had been named already, there were so many who assisted in the life of the church in different ways and all should congratulate themselves

    Lisa Crowhurst, as Churchwarden, thanked Revd. Carol, Revd, John Huffman and Deborah Waller, for all their hard work, enthusiasm and ministry throughout the year. It was a huge task and we were all grateful for their guidance and support.

19. There being no further business the meeting was concluded and Revd. Carol led those present in a prayer and blessing.

God who has called us to be the church,
in this place today we have worshiped.
We have prayed, we have sung,
we have listened for your challenge.

In this place today we have met.
We have talked, we have shared,
we have made decisions.

Now our time together draws to a close
and we go back out into the world.
As we go out, fill our hearts with hope.

As we live as followers of The Way,
embolden us to share our light with the world.

As we are parts of various communities,
challenge us to build community wherever and however we can.

Over the year to come, move within and among this community of faith,
help us to live up to the goals that have been set before us,
strengthen us in ways we hope for and in ways we do not expect,
so that next year when we gather again
we may look back on another year past,
reflect on your constancy through every season,
and continue to hope for the years that are to come.

This we pray in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus,
in whose Name You send us,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

THE APCM REPORTS FOR 2022

Vicar's Annual 2022 report for St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

The fourteen-year-old me once asked my English teacher why time passed so slowly? It seemed to me then that the school summer holidays couldn't come fast enough. There came the reply, *"Carol, the older one gets the quicker the time goes."* I didn't care much for his response yet now I get it! Particularly as I contemplate retirement from full-time ministry after fifty years in a variety of workplaces. You and I have travelled together for a little over six of those years. And it has been both a pleasure and a joy to serve as your parish priest.

Now to the purpose of this written report, which is to reflect upon happenings of note in the calendar year, 2022.

- As we turned the corner into January, Revd. Cat was in the final throes of her three-year Title Post Curacy with us. I'm sure you'll agree that Cat's time with us also flew! On Sunday 6th February we celebrated her ministry among us with a customary eucharist followed by a farewell party in Herne Church Hall and were delighted that Cat's husband, Revd Michael Darkins was also able to join us for the day. We gave thanks to God for Cat's ministry and sought God's blessing on her new ministry as Spiritual Care Lead at Pilgrim's Hospice. *(Being a training incumbent is both a responsibility and a privilege but it is never one that is done alone: I was always taught that 'it is the parish that trains a curate', so thank you for your part in this also.)*

- Staying on the subject of Ministers for a moment, we have also all enjoyed the benefits of Deborah Waller, our Licensed Reader's ministry developing. Deborah is involved in our schools' ministry and oversees Little Fishes, the Friday Toddler Group that runs from St Peter's Greenhill and also our Sunday Children's group provision. Before too long, Deborah's responsibilities will be increasing so do keep up your support and your prayers for her, which will become increasingly important.

- No sooner had Revd Cat departed but Revd John Huffman joined us for a short-term placement to finish off his Curacy which began in another parish. John joined us on Sunday 20th February and we celebrated his ministry among us as he departed on Harvest Sunday, 2nd October. A self-supporting priest in secular employment, John immersed himself as fully as possible into the life of the parish, conducting many baptisms and a wedding as well as presiding at 8.00 am and 10.00 am Communion services. As an American and a former teacher, John's preaching frequently presented different thoughts and perspectives which we all found refreshing. His versatility was also a bonus, for example occasionally playing drums or guitar in our worship band and manning the BBQ at St Peter's alongside Andrew Gough! John was subsequently signed-off by Bishop Rose, leaving him free to apply for a new post at his leisure.

- We enjoyed a **Parish Mission weekend** on 2nd and 3rd March, when we welcomed Revd George Fisher as our speaker. *(George is a consultant provided by ReSource 'Alive in the Spirit, Active in Mission', which helps 'little and local parish churches' focus on their God-given mission possibilities in their own context.)* The event was designed for the PCC and the whole congregation, though not many members of the congregation attended. We reflected upon the question: **'What is the Heart of God for Herne with Greenhill?'** through talks followed by discussion groups, feedback and prayer. George followed-up on the Sunday by preaching at both 8.00 am and 10.00 am services. I would say the major benefit of George's time with us was his inspiration which deepened our fellowship, encouraged debate, brought out new ideas and encouraged frank discussion of differing viewpoints.

We built upon this at our **Parish Away Day** on Saturday 24th September when hopes for the future were identified, in particular:

1) To have a **better presence** in both St Martin's and St Peter's;
2) To have a **stronger 'Sunday connection**' between St Martin's and our Church Schools *(also wondering whether could we take church services to school?)*;
3) To **open St Martin's for non-church events**. And all with a view to both strengthening and growing our interconnectedness with the community/communities we serve.

Looking to the future, these (and any other mission and development hopes that may be identified) will feed into the consultation that will begin with a view to producing a current contextual Herne St Martin's with St Peter's Greenhill Parish Profile and, therefore, the needs to be met under the leadership of a new parish priest.

- Earlier in 2022, Lisa Crowhurst, Deborah Waller and myself underwent 'Missional Learning Community' training with a view to taking the parish on the journey towards becoming a **Missional Learning Community (MLC)**. This was a big commitment which was endorsed by the PCC as a good idea. One MLC practice is 'Dwelling in the Word'. Dwelling in the Word is one way of approaching the scriptures, allowing the whole church group or congregation to listen to God through God's Word and to listen to what God is saying to one another. We tried it first at the 3rd Sunday Service at St Peter's, then in March, extended the practice to St Martin's. This practice seemed to be bearing fruit and we leaders were certainly blessed by it. However, we learned that it did not suit everybody so we took the difficult decision to drop it. Whilst this was a disappointment, we felt it wasn't so much the practice but the timing that perhaps wasn't quite right. Therefore, becoming an MLC may be back on the agenda in future if it is discerned to be what God wants.

- The **External Restoration Celebration weekend** (Friday 6th to Sunday 8th May) was a highlight of the year, when our architect, funders, contractors, anyone involved in the project and community representatives were invited to join us in St Martin's. Celebration activities included a buffet lunch on the Friday; Open Church morning, afternoon Concert and Cream Tea on the Saturday and a Special Restoration Eucharist on the Sunday with Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin of Dover presiding and preaching.

- 2022 was also a noteworthy year for our **Royal Family**, with **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second's Platinum Jubilee** celebrations in June, the announcement of **Her Majesty's death** in September (when I was away on leave: my special thanks go to Churchwarden Lisa Crowhurst for looking after our open church arrangements for the public and for providing the Memorial Book etc.). and then **Prince Charles becoming King**. The Service of Commemoration marking the death of Her Majesty the Queen that we held on the evening on Sunday 18th September was an important one to offer to the community and was very well attended, notably by many who would not normally come to church.

- The **Remembrance** Service was especially well supported after the 'leaner Covid years', with people's confidence in meeting in larger numbers restored and no less than 14 Scout and Guide flag-bearers boosting our numbers through their groups and parents. Again, Herne St Martin's really comes into its own on an occasion such as this, when people flock to the church and the War Memorial in the churchyard to honour those locals and others who gave their lives, and won for us the freedom we can all too easily take for granted.

- **Christmas Services** also benefited from larger attendances, with the added joy of families who hadn't gathered together for two or three years at Christmas, being able to do so once again. (A personal observation was that this latter phenomenon was evidenced by many of our own church families being away, so with their absence and more visitors, the congregations were quite different!) *(The mission statistics referred to elsewhere in this report speak for themselves.)*

None of the foregoing would be possible without the help and support of our Churchwardens *(Lisa Crowhurst, Chris Exley)* Deputy Wardens *(Sarah Bingham, Alan King)*, Ministers *(all named earlier in this report)*, PCC Secretary *(Andrew Gough)* and members of the PCC *(please see the list of members recorded elsewhere)* and others who have provided reports for this booklet, and who volunteer their time and gifts on an ad hoc basis, so thank you to each and every one of you for your fellowship and service in the Gospel. My particular thanks also go to our Treasurer *(Sheila Gough)* for her diligence and efficiency in reporting and managing the church finances in these tough financial times.

We none of us know what God has in store for us in the future, but as a parish church, you have much to build upon. So, I hope and continue to pray for you, that you will see fruitful growth and development of your church fellowship and outreach into the community in the coming years.

I commend to you the reports that follow in this booklet, which speak for themselves.

Yours, in love and prayer, and in the service of Christ.

Revd. Carol Smith
March 2023

REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES 2020

Report from the Electoral Roll Secretary as at 31 December 2022

At the APCM in April 2022 there were 91 members on the electoral Roll. As at December 31 2022 we had 92 members on the roll, one having passed away and two new members having applied in October 2022. No formal revision had taken place.

The numbers on the roll following the March 2023 revision will be given orally at the APCM and that will determine the number of PCC representatives to be elected.

Andrew Gough, Electoral Roll Secretary
February 2023

An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during 2022

Andrew Gough continued to act as PCC secretary for the year.

There have been nine meetings during the year of which two have been by way of an online Zoom facility and seven at face-to-face meetings. In addition, there was a further meeting in February of a steering committee to consider the Diocesan Envisioning programme. Usually there would be ten meetings with no meeting in August or December. We missed a meeting in April 2022 as this was to coincide with the APCM due to be held that month.

There is guidance for the conduct of online meetings and if votes are taken, then those voting must be present at the on line the meeting itself. Also, emergency business has been conducted online by email. This is again permitted pursuant to the Church Representation Rules 2020. On line meetings are usually recorded with the consent of the participants. The recording is expunged once the minutes have been approved at a PCC meeting.

We also held an Extraordinary PCC meeting in December 2022 to discuss our Parish Vision and to review the Parish Away day. The meeting was open to members of the congregation.

The PCC has continued to conduct its business efficiently and thanks must go to all PCC Members. They always read the agenda and supporting documents (or so they tell the PCC Secretary) and debate all issues with much consideration, politely and with good humour. We prefer face to face meetings as this enables debate to be undertaken fully and we usually have cake at the refreshment break which is much appreciated!

All minutes (unless confidential) are available for inspection from the PCC secretary.

The following is a summary of the principal business conducted

1. Finalising the new Church Directory (2nd Edition)
2. Considering and debating the Deanery Report "working towards a flourishing future and sustainable budget" (the Envisioning Programme) and completing a questionnaire on the ministry of the church at St Martin's
3. Appointing a steering committee to review the questionnaire replies
4. Arranging the visit of Revd. George Fisher to the Parish Mission weekend on the 2nd and 3rd April 2022
5. Planning and implementing the Parish Mission Away Day on 24th September 2022
6. Arranging a church open day in May to celebrate the completion of the final stage of the St Martin's Church restoration programme

7. Continuing to review and approve the work of the Fabric Committee (see separate report). Especially repairs to the church door, the new wheel chair ramp access, the condition of the War Memorial and lopping trees nearest the church at St Martin's
8. Formally appointing PC Lemon LLP as the independent examiner for the annual accounts
9. Approving the 2021 accounts (the 2022 accounts are approved at a PCC meeting in March 2023 for presentation to the APCM in 2023)
10. Considering the arrangements for the APCM in April 2022 (arrangements for the 2023 APCM are finalised in February/March 2023)
11. Following the October 2019 APCM resolution to give the PCC authority to arrange postal voting at an APCM the PCC resolved not to adopt postal voting at the APCM in 2022 (a discretion that was permitted by the APCM resolution) .
12. Reviewing, at the May PCC meeting, the minutes of the APCM on 24th April 2022 which were considered to be accurate and confirming that these could be submitted to the annual meeting in April 2023 for approval and the appointment of all church officers and the appointment of chairpersons to the various committees
13. Agreeing the reinstatement of the chalice at communion first with intincted wafers and then drinking from the cup separately without intincting wafers
14. Agreeing to move parish giving away from direct giving to the parish but via the Parish Giving Scheme and appointing a finance steering committee to publicise the scheme and organise the transition
15. Pledged Harvest collection to the work of Catching Lives (for the homeless in Canterbury) and the local food bank.
16. Resolving those collections at the Christmas Services to be given to Cruse Bereavement Centre and to the Salvation Army locally; that from the Christingle Service to go to the Children's Society
17. Receiving safeguarding reports from Anne Ackland as safeguarding officer. See resolution and further declaration below.
18. Discussing potential repairs to the Church Organ
19. Passing the following formal resolutions
    a. Accepting the appointment of Anne Ackland as the new safeguarding officer and to apply the approved parish safeguarding statement (July 2022)
    b. to arrange for giving to be collected through the Parish Giving Scheme and to register with PGS
    c. Agreeing a correction to the Electoral Roll by removal of one person who had passed away
    d. Approving, (on-line) the GDPR privacy policy
    e. Approving, (on- line) the appointment of service engineers for the gas boilers
    f. Seeking by on- line resolution Diocesan approval to repair damage to the West church doors at St Martin's Herne
    g. the appointment of sides persons to assist at church services

The PCC confirms that it has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 with regard to its duty to follow the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding Statement is available for inspection and is on the Church website.

Andrew Gough, PCC Secretary
February 2023

Financial Review for 2022 Reserves policy and Appendix A for the financial statements

Please see the attached detailed Financial Statements which show that a small surplus of £5,928 was achieved in 2022. These accounts are prepared on a "Receipts and Payment" basis.

Some points to note: -

We received the residue of the Gwendoline Pritchard Will Trust in the sum of £49,902 and also a £500 legacy from the Estate of Sheila Roberts.

We received two grants, one for £750 in connection with the restoration of the War Memorial and a grant of £7,400 from the Church Council towards heating costs.

We saw a decrease in our planned giving and gift aid receipts but collections at services increased by over £2,000.

Tax recovered on gift aid receipts in 2022 was down over the previous year by £563.

Fund raising events were able to restart and we have to thank Priscilla Cox for organising a BBQ and Harvest Supper which together raised over £680 and also to Sarah Bingham for organising a wine and wisdom and the Christmas Fair which together raised over £1,230.

Both St Martin's and St Peter's Church Halls continue to pay their way and both Halls recorded profits last year.

In respect of expenses, we paid our Parish Share in full but in order to do so we had to use £17,849 from our reserves because our monthly income just does not cover our outgoings.

We saw an increase in all of our other outgoings especially utilities and insurance premiums.

Thanks to the rise in interest rates, the interest on our CCLA investments amounted to £1,729.

I would like to thank Andrew Gough for administering the Gift Aid emoluments (including making the claim for rebate of tax); his help is invaluable to me.

Reserves Policy

We do not currently have a reserves policy. This means keeping a certain amount of funds in the bank account ring fenced to cover emergency situations for particular projects or future work. For example, sums set aside for the maintenance of the organ, the bells or buildings.

It is our policy to invest our fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund

Sheila Gough, Treasurer
March 2023

Report from the Fabric Committee for 2022 on the condition of the church buildings

The Fabric Committee met regularly throughout the year and continues to monitor the condition of St. Martin's Church, Herne Church Hall and St Peter's Church, carrying out minor repairs and necessary maintenance and arranging for servicing of equipment as required. A small sub-committee was set up to deal with health and safety.

In the spring two chestnut trees near the north wall of St Martin's were trimmed to prevent them causing damage to the building or harm to the public. Later some flagstones in the church path were re-laid as they were becoming uneven and potentially dangerous.

There was a great deal of discussion about ways to improve disabled access to St. Martins. It was finally decided that larger ramps were needed in the porch and by the organ, allowing disabled access into the church via the side door from the porch. These are now in place and working well.

The church architect had identified the need for repairs to the two south doors and the west door at St Martin's. After a number of meetings with the architect and the diocese permission has been granted by the diocese for the repairs to go ahead. It is planned to retain as much of the old oak doors as possible, to remove the rotten wood from the bottom of the doors and to replace that with seasoned oak cut into the old timber. The north door was painted with a special preservative solution and the others doors will be similarly treated when the repairs are complete. The work is expected to be carried out in Spring 2023.

There are regular checks to ensure that all gutters are kept clear, and a drone inspection of the roof at St. Martin's revealed no problems. Repairs to some guttering will be completed in the Spring. Our caretaker, Steve King, regularly checks the roof and gutters at the Church Hall and St. Peter's. There have been instances of vandalism to the shed in St Martins churchyard and it is planned to strengthen the walls of the shed with additional boarding. This will be carried out in spring 2023.

In St. Martin's, St. Peter's and the Church Hall there are problems with lack of storage space for play equipment and items used by regular groups. It is hoped to build some extra cupboards or shelves to ease the problem.

We are indebted to members of the committee and congregation who have the expertise and time to help with maintenance and repairs and record our very grateful thanks to them.

This forms the Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric of the Church Buildings pursuant to section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

Priscilla Cox, chair of committee and Lisa Crowhurst and Chris Exley as Churchwardens

A Report on the 2022 proceedings of the Deanery Synod

This year deanery meetings have mainly been concerned with the existing state of our churches and congregations and the ways in which we might engage for future mission. All churches particularly want to reach out to children and young people and to rebuild their ministry with young families

following a decline in church attendance since the pandemic. We considered the five marks of mission and we shared details of events and activities going particularly well in our individual churches.

In March Ben Hatfield, Diocesan Children and Young People Ministry Adviser, came to synod and shared his thoughts on current ministry to young people and families. He said that in the past 20 years church attendance has dropped by 61% and that modern churches like Vineyard are attracting young people, rather than traditional churches. He said that less than 50% of people return to church as adults and that children's views are influenced by the way their parents view religion. As a result of these discussions, we realised that we need to rethink children's ministry, and we considered the idea of appointing a schools' chaplain for the deanery.

In May Bishop Rose, Bishop of Dover, came to synod and reintroduced her theme of "Changed Lives - Changing Lives". We considered what we have achieved as a deanery and whether we act as Christians in our daily lives. Bishop Rose said that the church is in a spiritual crisis - not a financial crisis. She asked whether it is unrealistic to keep all our churches open and whether we care more for our buildings than for sharing the Good News.

All deaneries have been asked to complete a deanery plan of our plans and expectations for the future. These will be fed into a Diocesan plan that will help the diocese identify areas that particularly need support for growth and development, and any particular areas of concern. There is a central fund that could be approached for a grant to help an initiative for growth, particularly with young people.

At our synods in June and October we considered our own deanery plan and in October a deanery roadshow helped us look at the current state of our churches. Each of our parishes has been asked to complete a form to show its plans and desired outcomes for the future, and how these will be supported.

In Herne and Greenhill, we have still to complete our individual plan. Like everyone else we need to focus on rebuilding our congregation and in particular reaching out to young people and their families. Our situation is different though as our vicar is due to retire at Easter 2023. Although it will be really useful to have help from a school chaplain our priority will be to make a case for the appointment of a new incumbent. We will need to show new ideas for mission, reaching out not only to families and building on the fantastic relationship we have with the Herne church schools, but also to the large numbers of new families due to move into housing developments in the parish. We will also have to prove that our parish is financially viable.

Priscilla Cox, Deanery representative
March 2023

The Church wardens APCM report for 2022

We're back!

Actually, that is not strictly true, as we never went away. The churches of Herne and Greenhill continued to function throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, but in a very different way. Over the last three years we learned a lot about Coronavirus, and about ourselves, and now, as we review the

past year ahead of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, we are getting used to the new 'normal'. We are slowly getting back to a fully functioning church family. Most of what we do as a church has re-started and church life is becoming busy again. Yes, sadly we have lost a few people along the way, but we have also gained new people, and we look forward to discovering the skills they bring with them. We must, of course, be thankful to God for the contribution of those no longer with us, but we should also pray with excitement for the new beginnings we will experience in the coming months. But, of course, the work doesn't stop there. Our attendance levels are very much back to pre-pandemic levels, but there are still empty spaces in the pews. We are experiencing financial challenges, and all of us are affected in some way, be it large or small. This could be helped if our church family was to grow further, and our mission must be to take up the challenge with relish and with prayer. No work is too hard for the Lord, and Revd. Carol frequently reminds us, 'God is good…. All the time!' He will help us grow if we ask for his help.

Looking back over the year, it was a sad day when we had to say goodbye to Revd. John Huffman. Herne and Greenhill did what it does best and welcomed John with open arms, and his review of his time with us and his vision in his final sermon were both poignant and a joy to behold. His departure created a heavier load for Revd. Carol to bear, with the assistance of Lay Reader Deborah Waller, who has stepped up admirably to assist where she can. In referring to the welcome we gave John, I should not be surprised. Whilst we may struggle sometimes with the temperature of the building, the warmth of the welcome extended at the door is a great joy, and long may it continue!

It has been good to hear that the younger members of our church family are not forgotten. The Tuesday Toddlers group, Little Fishes and Messy Church are thriving, and our connections with our church schools are becoming stronger – something which we will need to work hard to maintain after Revd. Carol's retirement. The involvement of the children as worship leaders is an exciting prospect, and we should encourage them at any opportunity.

Members of our various committees and organisations have worked hard over the year too. We are fortunate to have the skills of the members of the Fabric Committee for example. It is the job of the Churchwardens to oversee the care and maintenance of our church buildings and grounds, and without this committee, it would be a vast task. Under Priscilla's chairmanship very little is missed, and there is usually someone who can deal with minor issues or knows someone outside the church family who can.

The PCC and Finance committees have had much to occupy their minds as can be seen from their reports. Our social events are beginning to re-appear. Our musicians have worked hard over the year, not just on Sundays but behind the scenes too, the flower team, cleaning team, churchyard team have all got on with their own things quietly and often un-noticed. All are volunteers, and we are indebted to all of them for their labours. The thanks of the churchwardens go to anyone who does anything in the church, publicly or in the background – 'a variety of gifts', as it were, but without you our task would be much harder. If you are new to St. Martin's or St. Peter's, we won't pounce on you as soon as you walk through the door for the first time, but if you want to join one of our teams you will be more than welcome and your contribution will be appreciated.

Finally, we must note the work done by Revd. Carol. It is difficult to quantify the work of a Vicar, but I sometimes wonder when she sleeps! Apart from her role with us in the parish, Carol has duties at Deanery and Diocese level, and in a civic role too as Chaplain to the Lord Mayor. In the short time she has left with us we must give thanks for everything she does as our Vicar, and assure her of our support and prayers. In my previous parish I used to joke that behind a good Vicar is a good Vicar's wife! And so, we must also be grateful to Brian for the support and assistance he gives Carol. Only they know that part of the role of the Vicar's spouse, but it is nonetheless important, and should be noted with our thanks.

As a member of our Music team, you will not be surprised that I end my report by paraphrasing a hymn, which I feel encapsulates why we are here. Whether our commitment to Christ is a dipping of toes into the water or we are in up to our necks we pray;

'Your will, not mine, O Lord,

However hard it be,

Lead me by your own hand,

Choose out the path for me'

Chris Exley & Lisa Crowhurst
Churchwardens February 2023

NB the churchwarden's report on the fabric of the church is given by the Fabric Committee and acknowledged as such.

GENERAL REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

We would normally expect to receive reports from many of our church groups but regrettably the work of some groups remains curtailed or has even stopped because of the Covid pandemic and continuing concerns.

For the record we are missing reports from St Martin's Saturday Coffee, Sunday after-service refreshments, St Peter's Greenhill, the Social Committee, St Peter's Community Café, and Tea & Chat (outreach afternoon tea) and the Bible Study group. These events did not take place fully during the year (for example, after service refreshments only started in October).

The Bible Study group had a series of short on- line study meetings thanks to the work and guidance of Sheila Bennett.

We celebrated the completion of the restoration work in May 2022 with the publication of a separate guide book covering the work.

There is no report specifically on communications and publicity but during the year much has devolved to communications on line and the second edition of the church directory has proved invaluable. Also new notice boards have finally been erected in early 2022 to publicise our events and services and the website has been reviewed

August Activity Days

We had an amazing time in August at our free Friday activity days run at St Peter's church. This outreach is hugely valuable and assists greatly our families who find the summer holidays a difficult and expensive time to manage. If anyone would like to make a contribution to the running of these this year, please do get in touch. If you are able to volunteer on one of the Fridays in August, again we would be hugely grateful for your help and support.

Sarah Bingham
February 2023

Children's and Sunday School report

Children have been welcomed at every Sunday service with communal table activities on the first and third Sundays, at St. Martin's and St. Peter's churches respectively. These have included single poster type of words and pictures (usually displayed on the church display boards afterwards) to individual items such as mobiles which may be taken home. All the activities are linked with the lectionary and/or theme for the service by regular communication with those leading the services. Huge thanks to Shirley Frost for organising these activities and providing many of the resources.

On the second and fourth Sundays and occasional fifth Sundays during term-time children are welcomed to the Ridley Room where they follow the ROOTs programme of learning which is again linked with the lectionary and service patterns throughout the church year. Grateful thanks to Anne Post and Jamie Wraight for organising, resourcing and leading these sessions.

Each Sunday service has a regular slot where the children are invited to come out to the front of the church and share their learning, this may involve talking to the congregation or just simply demonstrating their creativity. At least one of the youngsters leads the congregation in prayer. The children's presence is always enjoyed and often some very profound comments are made which

provide the worshippers with a chance for an alternative reflection. We are all very inspired by the families who take part and grateful for their encouragement of the children that they bring along.

Deborah Waller
March 2023

The Churchyard team maintenance report for 2022

The Churchyard gardening team were incredibly busy in 2022.

We uncovered the Public Right of Way that runs long the former Red Lion pub and cleared all the way to the field at the back of the churchyard. This took several attempts and some very strong words to the various large fallen tree branches and the thick mass of brambles, but we got there in the end. We have now created a path that is suitable for walkers and horses to use. We lined the path on the other side with large branches and are creating a bramble hedge to mark the boundary and hide the shed.

In the winter of 2021 fuchsia cuttings were taken and during the Spring these grew into plants large enough to be plant out in various places in the churchyard beds. Most survived the heat in the summer and hopefully this year they'll grow even more and start flowering.

During the Summer our lovely group of enthusiasts weeded, tidied, planted, divided, seed scattered, scarified and watered.

We made a huge step forward in what we want to finally achieve, it's going to take a while, but we know what the end goal is going to look like.

In the Autumn we thinned out the mass of Ox-eyed daisies and planted little clumps in and around the meadow areas. Hopefully these will take and speed rapidly and we can finally get our meadow and all the flowers in it up and running.

We cleared the War Memorial in time for Remembrance Sunday and there are all sorts of flowers that bloom throughout the year around it now.

We could always use some extra pairs of hands, so if anyone would like to join us, no experience necessary, we would love to hear from you.

We are a very friendly bunch who meet on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 11am-1pm (not January it's too cold), then please email me at claire.stay@mac.com and I will add you to our list. Just come to whatever sessions you can, if it's only a few times a year and just for an hour then that's perfect.

Half way through the session there's always homemade cake and a hot drink……and obviously a chat.

So, here's to a fabulous 2023 and lots more to do.

Thank you.

Claire Stay
January 2023

The Flower Arrangers report for 2022

As you all know the past year has been challenging but I think all the ladies have risen to the challenge and have arranged some beautiful displays especially for the main events of Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas. The rising costs of both flowers and sundries has not helped but I believe we have still managed to control any costs being passed to the church and kept this to a minimum where possible. We have received very few monetary donations but we have had a substantial amount of silk flowers donated to the team which we have made good use of and we are grateful to the lady who gave them to us.

We are kept up to date with any relevant information and dates including weddings, funerals and school concerts.

If anyone would like to join our merry band, they would be made very welcome and my door is always open for anyone whatever the query or question.

Liz Sellen, Flower arranger
January 2023

Gift Aid Matters for 2022 (and a note for 2023)

Gift Aid continues to be a very helpful contribution to the church finances. Pay your income tax and the Church can get a 25% bonus on any donations that you make. As at the 31st December 2022 we still had 54 parties who have each made a Gift Aid declaration and also pledged their payments. If you are a UK tax payer then you can usually qualify and this is achieved simply by signing a declaration form which either myself or the treasurer can provide. We can claim Gift Aid on standing orders and planned giving. In addition, there are the individual donations made via the Gift Aid Envelope Scheme which are given at collections taken at our services throughout the year. If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate tax payer in all cases you can even claim an extra rebate in your tax return.

Our treasurer records receipts for the month in which the payment is made, even if the Gift Aid application was actually for a month several months previously. For the year ending 31 December 2022, St Martins received £10750.00 from all sources, which is lower than the repayment in 2021 which was £11.316. However, this sum does not include repayments from the Gift Aid returns for December 2022 which have not yet been credited.

We still have the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS for short). General money received in our church collection plates or by the bank card reader can qualify. Also. if you have pledged your planned giving (the little blue envelopes) but are not a tax payer then I can count your weekly donation as part of GASDS and get more money that way. There is a limit of £8,000 which can be claimed in any tax year by any charity.

However, please note that the separate monthly envelope scheme will be withdrawn later this year as the cost of buying envelopes is now too expensive for the small number of people who pay in this manner. In case you are embarrassed by not putting your hand in your pocket, when the collection

plate comes round, please remember there are tokens that you can put into the church plate as evidence that you are giving. Donations can still be made in the plate

Regular Church goers will know that a decision was made in August 2022 to register the church with the central Parish Giving Scheme. This requires pledged payments to be paid by members of the congregation direct to the PGS administration (a separate charity) rather than our church bank account. It is easy to set up and you can do so on line, by telephone or a postal application. If you require help. please speak to me or Sheila Gough.

PGS then claims the Gift Aid and pays monthly all payments (that is the donation and the claimed Gift Aid) to our bank account. However, PGS works independently from the Canterbury Diocese and the Diocese will withdraw its Gift Aid administration from April 2023. So those persons who continue to pay direct to our church will be reliant upon me making a separate claim to HMRC for Gift Aid. This is an unnecessary duplication of administration and I hope that donors will all eventually register themselves with PGS and make your monthly payments in that manner please.

Individual donations given in the plate, card reader or by separate Gift Aid envelopes (which are still available) will be the subject of separate direct claims to HMRC which I will make separately.

As a tax payer, Gift Aid is a bonus to the Church and provided that you do pay the tax there is no downside from your point of view. Remember; if you cease to be a tax payer or move address or change your name. please let me know immediately. I have to inform HMRC or PGS.

Andrew Gough, Gift Aid Secretary
February2023

Little Fishes Report for 2022

The Little Fishes have met regularly, every Friday morning at St. Peter's Church, Greenhill providing toys, games and activities for children from babies up to pre-schoolers. During the summer a new sandpit was purchased and that added to the outdoor fun enjoyed during the lovely sunny weather.

On average there are 10 adults – Mums, Dads, Grandparents and childminders - and 15 children who attend regularly plus others whose attendance is more intermittent. It's always heartening to see how new parents/grandparents are welcomed by the regulars and whilst the children have fun playing, the adults enjoy conversation over a cup of tea or coffee. The provision of refreshments also gives the children a chance to gain confidence in asking for something to drink or eat and to practise being polite.

Grateful thanks must go to Steve, our caretaker for ensuring that the hall is ready and to Anne, Sheila and John for their constant support and encouragement. Finally, we thank the families who join us each week as we continue to offer them outreach and invitations to Church events, both worship and activities such as August Activity days, and to monthly Messy Church.

Deborah Waller
March 2023

Messy Church

Messy church has continued to thrive and we are delighted that many new families have joined us post covid. We regularly welcome about 50 people and enjoy the fellowship of themed crafts, play, worship and food together in our once-a-month sessions on the third Saturday of each month.

We are truly blessed to have Lisa Crowhurst leading worship and Carolyn Thomas who does an amazing job running the kitchen and with her team coordinating a wonderful feast for all those that attend and share with us. Thank you to Steve who helps to set up and clear up at the end.

Thank you to Sarah for coordinating the crafts. If anyone would like to assist with the running of a craft table, or would like to get involved in some way, please let Sarah or Lisa know.

Sarah Bingham
February 2023

Mission and evangelism

In the run-up to Christmas, we managed to distribute some 5,000 church Christmas cards, which included details of all the Christmas Services. Distribution again included the new housing on Eddington Park, which initiative is a continuation of the PCC's mission action planning begun in 2021.

Once again, I would like to express my thanks to John Bennett for organising the Christmas card distribution beyond the schools and to all who were able to assist with deliveries. Christmas Service attendances were very good so it may be safe to assume that the Christmas card distribution was once again a worthwhile exercise.

Revd. Carol Smith
March 2023

Pastoral

It was really good to be able to resurrect pastoral visiting, Home Communions and visits to the Residential Homes in our Parish, i.e., Broomfield Lodge and Herne Place. My visits to the Residential Homes are generally monthly unless a resident requests a personal visit. And Liza Seed has continued to visit a resident at Broomfield Lodge on a regular basis.

More recently, we have been able to regroup our **Pastoral Team**, which includes Liza Seed, Sheila Gough and Deborah Waller. The pastoral ministry will be entrusted to them during the upcoming vacancy, so do be sure to let one of them know if you know of anyone who would like or is in need of a home visit.

Revd. Carol Smith
March 2023

Safeguarding report 2022

Church should be a place where everyone can feel safe. Safeguarding is EVERYONE's responsibility. Since taking over the safeguarding officer role my time has been spent completing the necessary training and familiarising myself with the Diocesan safeguarding Advisors. I am on hand to provide advice and guidance.

Now I am in the process of compiling an up-to-date register, and I'm sure will soon be reminding those whose trainings need updating.

Anne Ackland Safeguarding officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults
February 2023

Schools

Our ministry to our Herne Church of England Infant and Junior Schools continued to grow and is highly valued – and I say, "our", for the fact remains that many church members act as School Governors! So, the relationship between Herne Church and Schools grows ever stronger and the number of Herne School Services in St Martin's has increased *(see the mission statistics elsewhere in this booklet, particularly Advent/Christmas numbers)*.

On two occasions, we were joined by Herne Junior schoolchildren who helped lead the Service. It is hoped to build on this practice and to encourage the children and their parents to attend Sunday worship more regularly.

There has been no ministry provided to Herne Bay High School as it continues to be the case that no matter what is offered, the door remains closed.

No ministry was provided in Briary School in 2022 as none was requested, although it is true to say that this is a ministry-capacity issue.

Revd. Carol Smith
March 2023

Herne Church Hall also known as the St. Martin's Church (Institute) hall

The hall currently has 16 regular weekly, twice-weekly, and monthly bookings during the week-days. These maintain a regular income for the upkeep of the hall and weekends are kept for children's parties, Quiz Nights, Wine & Wisdoms and fun raising events for the church and these local groups.

Bookings for Children's Parties and Fund-raising events have increased since Covid lock-down caused cancellations and we are now averaging 3 / 5 bookings over Saturdays and Sundays. We also have ad hoc bookings for Tuition Classes and Playgroup end of year gatherings before the children go to 'big school'

The hall is cleaned and maintained by Steve King and we do ask users to leave it clean & tidy in the hope the previous Booking has left it as it should be.

Wendy Dinley, Hall Booking Secretary
February 2023

St. Martin's Church Readers & Intercessors

The vicar, Revd. Carol currently compiles the Herne & Greenhill Service Schedule and Ministry Rota, sends it to me and I put readings to services. I then add names to the readings and people to do Intercessions.

I produce the Readers Rota every four months and you get to read two or three times in that period.

I currently have 16 regular Readers and Intercessors and would appreciate more volunteers, so if you have ever wondered when listening to the readers every Sunday, how do they get to do that, I'd like to try it then please give you name to Revd. Carol or myself.

Wendy Dinley St. Martin's Readers
February 2023

St. Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers 2022

Regrettably, because of concerns following the Covid pandemic, communion services for the most part of 2022 have been conducted without the need for servers. A decision was made not to give wine but wafers could be intincted and offered if required. Communion by wafer alone is sufficient but if the wafer is intincted then a server is present to hold the chalice. However, since January 2023 wine has been offered separately and there has been no intinction of the wafer.

My thanks go to Lisa Crowhurst, Leah Willey, Sheila Gough and Deborah Waller who assist in offering the chalice.

If anybody else would like to come forward and offer to serve at the altar I would be very grateful to hear from them.

Andrew Gough, Sacristan
February 2023

St. Martin's Tapestry- the Tapestry team's report 2022

The tapestry team has not met together since the Restoration celebrations in May 2022 when the tapestry was first revealed to the public. Moreover, we were also able to get a report and presentation on BBC TV South East News!

The tapestry is now on display in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's Herne. However, I am available for talks about the tapestry production, either in St Martins or at outside venues. One such talk is planned in July for our local History Society; all proceeds to go to much needed Church funds.

Mary Jewiss
February 2023

Tuesday Toddler Report 2022

We started the year with 62 families on our books. We were very grateful to Jamie Wraight who turned up every Monday evening throughout January and February to help arrange the tables and chairs. This was whilst my usual helper (Peter) was recovering from a knee replacement.

On 12th March I attended the Herne Community Day to speak about what we have to offer at Tuesday Toddlers. It was a very successful event which made everyone who attended aware of the range of activities available to us all in the area. I also attended the annual council meeting in order to give a verbal report about our Toddler Group.

In May we added our 80th name to our data base We also welcomed Nicola, a professional photographer specialising in baby and toddler photos.

The lovely summer weather meant we could make good use of the outside space. We enjoyed our usual Teddy Bears' Picnic and Sports Day and also held a memorable Jubilee party.

In June we had our annual summer outing. This time we went to The Jungle Soft Play area in Quex Park. We were lucky enough to have exclusive use of the facility and a delicious lunch was also provided for us.

In July we responded to the diocesan pushchair appeal for refugee mothers in this country. By this time we had 88 families on our mailing list. The term ended with our Leavers' Special where we presented Toddler Bibles to the children and a Christian coaster to their parents.

In September, we said our goodbyes to Queen Elizabeth with songs and pictures followed shortly afterwards by a Grandparents' Day when a good number of grandparents joined us to sing special songs and to help with craft.

In October we had our own Harvest Festival and donated gifts which were added to the church's collection.

We decided to try something new in November when we held a Toy Swap. The idea was that no money should exchange hands but that good quality unwanted toys could find a new home. The Toy Swap was well received and we will certainly do it again. We were very grateful to Anne Ackland for her help.

We also had another visit from our photographer though unfortunately she was unwell on the day. Nevertheless, her assistant worked hard in her absence to complete the task.

The year ended with our two Christmas parties at which every child received a present from Father Christmas. Thank you, Doug for all your help! By this point, we had 96 families on our emailing list although some of these families no longer attend.

We are very lucky to have a dedicated, hard-working, and reliable team of helpers - so a massive 'Thank You' to Val, Theresa and Fran and also to Petula (who provides delicious cupcakes for our raffle each week) and Pauline, our supply cover. Without your support, none of this would be possible!

Carolyn Thomas
January 2023

Weddings 2022- St Martin's Church in Herne

We had 9 weddings during 2022 which was so joyful after the Pandemic and Lockdown restrictions previously. The first wedding was in February and the last one of 2022 was in December.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in June (little did we know then just how special this was). In July the Lambeth Conference was held at the University of Kent, so it was a busy time for our Clergy.

We held our Weddings' Preparation morning at St Martin's on the 5th March. It was wonderful to see all the couples mixing with one another and chatting about their weddings. Refreshments prepared by Priscilla Cox were gratefully received.

Paperwork was completed by the Clergy and Weddings' Administrator, ably assisted by the "Weddings' Team" with photocopying etc.

Revd. Carol and Revd John Huffman (who was here on short-term curacy placement) were on hand to answer any questions. Susan and Keith Record were able to chat about the music and bells and play a selection of hymns/tunes for the couples and the choir, led by Chris Exley, was on hand to accompany the music. We were also able to show examples of floral displays.

I look forward to the Weddings' Preparation morning in 2023 ably assisted by the new Weddings' Administrator, Sarah White.

Joan Jeffers Weddings' Administrator St Martin's Church
February 2023

Worship at St Peter's Greenhill

The Third Sunday Service at St Peter's Greenhill has continued to grow and develop, and is receiving a good response. This is partly due to the development of our Worship Band who provide the music and facilitate the worship. *(Please also refer to the mission statistics and see the Worship Band's own report.)*

Offering this regular monthly worship at St Peter's on the Sunday following Messy Church Saturdays is a deliberate attempt to encourage more young families to join us. Please pray that this may become a reality.

Revd. Carol Smith,
March 2023

Worship Band

The worship band has had a very successful year, growing in number, strength and repertoire hugely.

We have welcomed new members and with members learning new instruments post covid and the addition of voices, we are now able to offer a wider range of sound and this has opened hugely the type of worship choices that we are able to offer.

The congregation are incredibly supportive and encouraging and we thank you hugely for this. We have been able to fulfil many 'requests' for songs that have come in from congregants and it is wonderful to be able to add people's choices if they have any requests.

We thank you very much for welcoming so readily and enthusiastically this alternative type of worship for people who prefer this, it is really encouraging that we are now able to be open to a broader range of music in church and please, if you have any favourites, do not be afraid to let us know.

Sarah Bingham
February 2023

The Bellringers

The ringers have been able to meet each Wednesday evening for practice this year (with learners receiving tuition for an hour before the practice). We have been able to ring a range of methods, with the help of local ringers from other towers who regularly come to St Martin's. We usually have enough ringers to ring Triples and Major methods on practice nights, together with rounds and call changes for the learners. More recruits have joined to learn change ringing, including one who learnt to ring in London before the coronavirus pandemic and moving to Herne Bay. We now have four learners on practice nights and Sundays, plus a learner who attends on Sundays but cannot attend practice night (so is learning at Chislet).

The additional ringers mean that we now regularly ring six bells for Sunday morning services. Two more learners have reached the standard to join the Kent County Association of Change Ringers during the year. The Canterbury District has regular meetings on the second Saturday of each month, and additional practices, visiting towers in East Kent in rotation.

The bells were rung for weddings during 2022

We also rang for the Christmas services and for weddings.

In September 2022, there was ringing for the death and funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth (which was muffled). On Friday 9th September 2022 at 12.30pm nationally and we rang at St Martin's. We also rang for the accession of King Charles on Saturday 10th September 2022 at 12 noon. The bells were muffled for all ringing until the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen. There was national ringing on Monday 19th September 2022 from 10am to 11am for the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen and the bells at St Martin's were rung at that time.

Bellringing outings have resumed after the coronavirus pandemic and we have welcomed visiting bands during the year, including East Peckham ringers in May 2022 and visitors to our ringing on Sundays and practice nights.

Anyone interested in ringing is very welcome to visit the ringers at their practice night and we welcome new recruits. We had the tower open for visitors as part of the church open day.

Susan and Keith Record
March 2023

The Choir Report

The choir practices on Thursday evening in St Martin's church and have been able to continue to develop a repertoire of anthems to sing during Communion and at other services, in addition to leading the hymns during services. Some anthems have been specially arranged for the choir by Chris Exley, and he has introduced to anthems written by composers he has known. As we have the range of singers to sing harmonies, as well as unison pieces, it has been possible to use the talents of our singers to enhance worship. We have welcomed a new alto singer and returning singers to the choir, together with a bass who joins us for some services when he can.

As part of the Restoration celebration weekend in May 2022 (which had been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic) the choir performed a concert of music through the ages, including works by Thomas Attwood, Sir John Stainer, John Rutter, Chris Exley and Martin Shaw. There was a surprise section of the concert when a setting of a psalm included the local Herne weather forecast, a "Little bit of love" and "All you need is love", and it concluded with an arrangement of a blessing by the musical arranger for the last Dr Billy Graham. The Saturday concert was followed by the celebration of Holy Communion by the Bishop of Dover on the Sunday of the Restoration celebration weekend.

The choir have sung at weddings and funerals during the year, at Sunday morning services and for evening services. These included Choral Evensong in March 2022, an evening Palm Sunday service, which was in a new format to St Martin's, Evensong in July 2022, a special service for her Majesty the Queen following her death in September 2022 and Choral Evensong in October 2022. Remembrance Sunday in St Martin's included hymns and an anthem followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard which ended with the National Anthem.

During December 2022, the choir sang carols (many with descants) at the Christmas services. These included Memorial Carols, when the choir sang Christmas anthems whilst the stars were placed on the Christmas tree, and Nine Lessons and Carols. The Christmas services included two pieces with arrangements by Chris Exley and the Ukrainian Carol of the Bells. Christmas anthems were sung on Christmas Eve during Communion, together with Christmas carols.

The choir also started meeting for social evenings in 2022 and this will continue in 2023. Chris Exley and I are very grateful to the choir for their commitment and hard work during the year. We always welcome any singers who would like to join the choir.

Susan Record

March 2023

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

GENERAL FUND	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	2021 £
Receipts and Payments Account				
RECEIPTS	1			
Voluntary Receipts				
Planned Giving		36,789	36,789	42,031
Collections at Services		5,695	5,695	3,418
Gift Aid and other voluntary receipts		17,096	17,096	18,034
Gift Aid Recovered		10,753	10,753	11,316
Legacy		50,403	50,403	0
Grants - War Memorial		750		0
Grants - Heating Costs		7,400	8,150	
Activities for Generating Funds		3,505		1,371
Church Activities - St Martins		14,751	14,751	15,097
Income Received for St Martins Hall		2,150	2,150	1,551
Church Activities - St Peters		10,727	10,727	6,992
St Peters Rental since 18/11/2020				421
Receipts		160,019	160,019	100,230
Exceptional Items **funds transferred from CCLA A/cs**		20,349	20,349	26,988
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**180,368**	**180,368**	**127,218**
PAYMENTS	2			
Church Activities				
Parish Share - 2021		71,396		49,954
Balance of Parish Share 2020				18,828
Clergy and Staffing Costs		8,130		7,723
Church Running Expenses		24,209		24,383
Occasional Office		8,096		7,915
Mission giving and donations		2,058		705
Fundraising		1,130		20
Church Hall - St Martins		2,116		1,719
Church Hall - St Peters		6,438		5,972
Transferred to Investment Accounts		49,903		11,021
Vicars Discretionary Trust		700		
Bank Charges		264	264	238
Payments		174,440	174,440	128,479
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**174,440**	**174,440**	**128,479**

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

GENERAL FUND	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	2021 £
Surplus/Deficit		5,928		(1,261)
Cash at Bank and in hand 1st January		5,537		6,797
Cash at Bank and in hand 31st December (Lloyds Bank and Santander)		12,505		5,537

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

St Martin's Church Hall	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022	2021
Income		£	£	£
Hall Lettings		14,094.50	**14,094.50**	5,204.00
Total Income				**5,204.00**
Payments				
Utilities		2,082.50		1,433.88
Cleaning Materials		467.60		249.01
Cleaners Salary		656.29		
Insurance		1,252.77		1,238.45
Maintenance		0		342.00
Music Licence		139.20		132.00
Rental Refund		0		36.50
Miscellaneous (Stamps/Stationery)		227.59		
Total Payments		4,825.95	**4,825.95**	**3,431.84**
Surplus/Deficit			**9,268.55**	**1,772.16**
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		**3,137.93**		
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		**12,406.48**		
Youth Account	**3**			
Activity Days		202.51		76.62
Messy Church		240.39		129.72
Little Fishes		374.30		105.56
Mothers & Toddlers		258.93		
Total Income		1,076.13	**1,076.13**	**311.90**
Payments				
Activity/Craft materials		185.36		150.00
Messy Church		199.51		57.39
Little Fishes		32.04		
Mothers & Toddlers		396.65		
Total Payments		813.56	**813.56**	**207.39**
Surplus/Deficit			**262.57**	**104.51**
Cash at bank 1st January		**991.78**		
Cash at bank 31st December		**1,254.35**		

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Analysis of Restoration Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Restoration Account
for Year Ending 31st December 2022

	2022 £		2021 £	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance 1st January	£4,820.97		193.27	
Transferred from Gen Account			8,160.00	
VAT Reclaim			9,467.20	
		£4,820.97		17,820.47
PAYMENTS				
Stone Masons			11,889.00	
Rita Pitsilli-Graham - Architect	836.45		1,110.50	
		836.45		12,999.50
Balance as at 31st December 2021				**£4,820.97**
Balance as at 31st December 2022		**£3,984.52**		

St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2022	2021
Cash Funds		£	£	£	£
Bank Current Account		11,690		11,690	5,537
Church Hall Account		12,406		12,406	3,138
Youth Account		1,254		1,254	992
Restoration Account			3,985	3,985	4,821
		25,350	**3,985**	**29,335**	**14,488**
Investment Assets	4	122,849	29,594	152,443	121,160
		122,849	**29,594**	**152,443**	**121,160**
Fixed Assets retained for Church Use				**5,000**	**5,000**
Liabilities					
Unpaid 2017 Parish Share				6,742	6,742
Unpaid 2018 Parish Share				11,704	11,704
Unpaid 2021 Parish Share				24,769	24,769
Funds held on behalf of Mothers & Toddlers			150	150	288
Funds held on behalf of St Peter's Greenhill					
Little Fishes			342	342	1,051
Messy Church			41	41	219
Community Café			625	625	319
		0	**1,158**	**44,373**	**45,092**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24th March 2023 and signed by

Carol Smith

Rev Carol Smith (Incumbent)

S.J. Gough

Mrs Sheila Gough (Treasurer)

Bank:
Lloyds
144-146 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent

Independent Examiner:
PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

CCLA Investment Managerment Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis

1. General Fund Analysis of Receipts

	Receipts			
	2022	2022	2021	2021
Voluntary Receipts		£	£	£
Planned Giving	35,264		37,743	
Weekly Envelopes	1,525	36,789	4,288	42,031
Collections and other giving	5,695	5,695	3,418	3,418
Gift Aid Envelopes	352		2,218	
Donations General	6,093		3,892	
Donation Friends of St Martin's	0		2,861	
Collections for specific purposes	929		0	
Telecommunications Mast	8,978		8,978	
Flower Box	20		0	
Candle Tree	109		28	
Wall Box/Acrylic Box	299		56	18,034
Curates Leavingh Gift	315		0	
		17,096		
Income Tax Recovered	10,753	10,753	11,316	11,316
Legacy	50,403	50,403		
Grants	8,150	8,150		
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Hospitality/Tea Coffee	123			
Mothers & Toddlers Group	259		122	
Stride and Ride	0		70	
Calenders/Noteletts	15			
Fundraising Events and Activities	3,108	3,505	1,179	1,371
Receipts from Church Activities				
Wedding Deposits/Banns/Certificates	1,163		352	
PCC Fees for Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	4,026		4,695	
Diocese Fees for Weddings/Funerals	5,057		6,219	
Organist/Bells/Choir Fees	2,250		1,632	
Additional Wedding/Funeral Income	2,255	14,751	2,199	15,097
Receipts received on behalf of St Martins Hall			1,551	1,551
(Utility Payments/Insurance/Cleaning Materials)	2,150	2,150		
St Peter's Greenhill				
Little Fishes *			21	
Messy Church *			69	
Community Café	625			
Rental income	10,102	10,727	6,992	6,992
St Peters Rental since 18/11/2020			421	421
Total of above		**160,019**		**100,230**
Funds Transferred from CCLA Accounts				
Vicars Discretionary Fund	700			
Funds transferred to pay Restoration War memorial	1,800			
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund to pay 3 months 2022 Parish Share	17,849			
Funds transferred to pay bal of 2020 Parish Share			18,828	
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund to pay Universal Stone Invoice			8,160	26,988
		20,349		
Total Receipts		**180,368**		**127,218**

* Footnote
Receipts for 2022 now shown in Youth Account (see Financial Statement) and note 3

2. General Fund Analysis of Payments

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Payments

		2022 £		2021 £	2021 £
Direct Ministry Expenditure					
	Parish Share	71,396	71,396	49,954	49,954
	Bal of Parish Share 2020			18,828	18,828
	Incumbents Working Expenses	690		422	
	Vicarage Telephone	702		716	
	Curates Working Expenses	297		216	
	Curates Telephone	142		111	
	Other Clergy Expenses	496		908	
	Organist/Secretary Salaries	2,973		2,922	
	Admininstration	2,831	8,130	2,429	7,723
Church Running Expenses					
	Utilities	7,654		4,730	
	Insurance	8,264		8,025	
	Repairs,Maintenance & Supplies	1,053		8,726	
	Church Security(Alarm/Lighting)	302		118	
	Upkeep of Churchyard	3,935		73	
	Worship	378		756	
	Music	1,259		980	
	Training Costs/Outreach	235			
	Red Lion Parking	720		720	
	Flowers	409	24,209	255	24,383
Occasional Office Expenditure	Weddings/Funerals	2,410			
	Wedding Deposit/Fees refund	300		1,622	
	Parochial Fees			6,293	
	(Wedding/Funeral fees to Diocese	5,386	8,096		7,915
Charitable Giving/Mission	Royal British Legion	254		195	
	Herne Junior School (Leavers Bibles)	135			
	Mission to Sea Farers	50		15	
	Friends of Kent Churches	5		5	
	Gifts from Vicar's Discretionary Fund	700			
	Anglican Renewal Mission	200		100	
	Childrens Society			78	
	Mothers & Toddlers	259		253	
	Activity Days			59	
	Subscriptions	120			705
	Restoration Celebration	335	2,058		
Fundraising	Funday Sunday Refunds	300		20	20
	Wine & Wisdom	174			
	Christmas Fair	656	1,130		
St Martins Church Hall	Utilities	1,869		1,438	
	Insurance			60	
	Cleaning	247	2,116	220	1,719
St Peter's Greenhill	Utilities	1,338		1,502	
	Cleaning Materials	287		364	
	Insurance	1,360		1,243	
	Caretaker Salary	2,599		2,484	
	Maintenance/Repairs	653		289	
	Little Fishes			21	
	Messy Church			69	
	Activities	200	6,438		5,972.45
Transferred to CCLA Fabric	Legacy	49,903	49,903		
Vicars Discretionary Fund		700	700		
Transferred to Restoration Fund to pay Universal Stone Inv				8,160	
Transferred to Fabric Fund Friends Donation				2,861	11,021.31
Bank Charges		264	264	238	238
Total Payments			**174,440**		**128,479**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3 Analysis of Youth Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Youth Account for Year Ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS	£		£	
Opening Balance 1st January	991.78	991.78	887.27	887.27
Activity Days - Donations	202.51		76.62	
Messy Church - Donations	240.39		129.72	
Little Fishes - Donations	374.30		105.56	
Mothers & Toddlers - Spring/Autumn Subs	258.93	1,076.13		311.90
		2,067.91		1,199.17
PAYMENTS				
Activity Equipment/Craft Materials	185.36		150.00	
Messy Church - Resource material/Refreshments	199.51		57.39	207.39
Little Fishes - Party Food	32.04			
Mothers & Toddlers - Outings and Christmas presents	396.65	813.56		
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2021				**£991.78**
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2022		**£1,254.35**		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds

Bell Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£16.99		£16.98	
Interest	0.21		£0.01	
		£17.20		**£16.99**
Balance at 31st December 2021				**£16.99**
Balance at 31st December 2022		**£17.20**		

Fabric Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£70,441.48		£94,524.64	
Balance of G Pritchard Legacy	£49,902.65			
Friends of St Martin's Donation			£2,861.31	
Interest	£1,070.50		£43.53	
		£121,414.63		£97,429.48
PAYMENTS				
Paid balance of 2020 Parish Share			£18,828.00	
Paid balance of Universal Stone Invoice			£8,160.00	£26,988.00
Transferred to Gen account for War Memorial Repair	1,800.00			
Transferred to Gen account 3 months' 2022 Parish Share	17,849.00	£19,649.00		
Balance as at 31st December 2021				£70,441.48
Balance as at 31st December 2022		**£101,765.63**		

Institute Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£11,610.07		£11,604.03	
Interest	152.71	£11,762.78	£6.04	£11,610.07
PAYMENTS				
		£11,762.78		£11,610.07
Balance as at 31st December 2021				**£11,610.07**
Balance as at 31st December 2022		**£11,762.78**		

May Legacy Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2022
Restricted for the use of the Poor and Needy of the Parish

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£24,097.87		£24,085.33	
Interest	308.42	£24,406.29	£12.54	£24,097.87
PAYMENTS				
Vicar's Discretionary Fund		£700.00		
				£0.00
		£23,706.29		£24,097.87
Balance as at 31st December 2021				**£24,097.87**
Balance as at 31st December 2022	**£23,706.29**			

4. continued

Organ Fund Account for Year Ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£1.29		£1.29	
Interest	£0.01	£1.30	£0.00	£1.29
PAYMENTS				
Balance at 31st December 2021				**£1.29**
Balance at 31st December 2022		**£1.30**		

Diocesan Deposit Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2022
For the use of St Peter's Greenhill

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£7,009.39		£7,005.74	
Interest	92.19	£7,101.58	£3.65	£7,009.39
PAYMENTS				
Balance as at 31st December 2021				**£7,009.39**
Balance as at 31st December 2022		**£7,101.58**		

Restoration Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£3,109.16		£3,107.55	
Interest	40.90	£3,150.06	£1.61	£3,109.16
PAYMENTS				
Architect				
		£3,150.06		£3,109.16
Balance as at 31st December 2021				**£3,109.16**
Balance as at 31st December 2022		**£3,150.06**		

Roof Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£4,874.11		£4,871.57	
Interest	64.11	£4,938.22	£2.54	£4,874.11
PAYMENTS				
Balance as at 31st December 2021				**£4,874.11**
Balance as at 31st December 2022		**£4,938.22**		

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

This Report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). It is my responsibility to issue this report on the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not not been met, or

Signed: M.A. Gamlen

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 21 March 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

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Signed: M.A. Gamlen

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

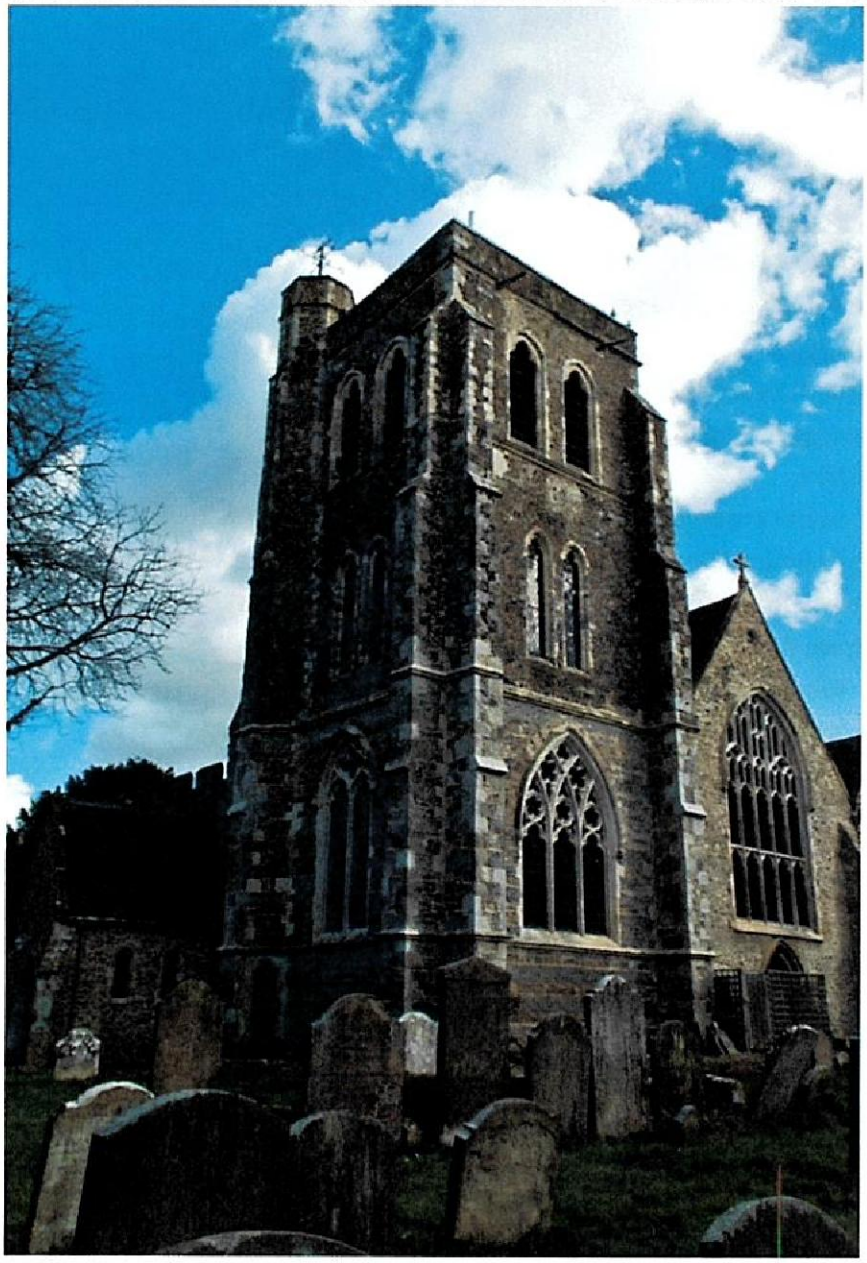
Dated: 21 March 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134604

Accounts

The Parish Church of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 24th April 2022, at 11.15am

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THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Martin's Church Herne on Sunday 24th April 2022 at 11.15 am or soon thereafter

AGENDA

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 27th June 2021
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of churchwardens (two- one offering herself for re- election and, if nominated ,another) and Deputy Church Wardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 27th June 2021
4. Matters arising from minutes
5. Address by Ms S J Martin Diocesan Representative on the initiative of the Parish Giving Scheme
6. Vicar's report
7. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 24th April 2022
8. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2021
9. Churchwarden's report
10. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2021 accounts
11. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's
12. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
13. Fabric Committee Report
14. Election of PCC members. To include
    a. Election of four PCC members (if nominations received)
    b. Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting

15. New Parish Directory
16. Reports from church organisations
    a. Bell ringing
    b. The Choir
    c. The Churchyard maintenance team
    d. The Flower arrangers
    e. Fortnightly Wednesday evening Bible Study
    f. Gift Aid
    g. Mission and evangelism
    h. Pastoral Matters
    i. Safeguarding
    j. Schools
    k. St Martin's Church Institute
    l. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
    m. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
    n. The St Martin's Herne Tapestry
    o. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
    p. Worship at St Peters Greenhill
17. Date of first meeting of the new PCC
18. Any other business
19. The Blessing

CHURCH INFORMATION 2021

ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE with ST PETER, GREENHILL,
Registered Charity No 1134604

1st January-31st December 2021

St Martin-in-Herne Church
Herne Street
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent

St Peter's Church
Herne Drive
Greenhill
Herne Bay
Kent

INCUMBENT
Revd. Carol Smith

CURATE
Revd. Catherine Darkins
Revd. Stacey Rand

BANKERS
St Martin-in-Herne Church
Lloyds, Herne Bay

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House, 85 Queen's Street, London, EC4V 4ET

St Peter's Church

Santander Account
(for receipt of rental monies only)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

P.G.Lemon LLP 22 – 26 bank Street Herne Bay CT6 5EAL

BACKGROUND
The parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter, Greenhill extends to the railway in Eddington to the North, includes Broomfield, Talmead Estate, Greenhill, Still Water Park, Herne Common and Blean Woods in the South. The population is approximately 16,000 and, in addition, there is new housing in the east of the parish.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended.

The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020.

THE TASK OF THE PCC
The Synodical Government Measure 1969 states clearly:

> *It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance in the parish.*

It then sets out a number of functions of the PCC, of which perhaps the most important – and certainly the widest – is that the primary objective of the PCC is:

Co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical

The incumbent and the PCC each have their own particular rights and responsibilities in the life of the church, but the important theme here is partnership and co-operation. More specifically the PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and churchyard, and, with the incumbent, for deciding how the church's money is to be spent. The PCC is formally the employer of the church's paid workers, for example our organist, St Peter's caretaker and administrator. The PCC will have on it one or more members of the Deanery Synod, who have an important role in linking the parish into the wider structures of the church, and also Churches Together in Herne Bay.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either (a) ex officio (on the PCC because of their role in the parish church or (b)co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or (c) elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

From 1st January 2021 and specifically from the APCM of the 27th June 2021 the following served as members of the PCC and all are also trustees:

(a) Ex-Officio:

Revd. Carol Smith	Vicar
Revd. Catherine Darkins	Curate (resigned from parish in February 2022 to take new mission role)
Revd. Stacey Rand	Curate (resigned from parish role in August 2021)
Lisa Crowhurst	Church warden from 27th June 2021
Paul Tapsell	Deputy Churchwarden from 27th June 2021 (leave of absence granted in October 2021)
Sarah Bingham	Deputy Churchwarden from 27th June 2021
Deborah Waller	Licensed Lay Reader from Autumn 2021
Priscilla Cox	Deanery Synod rep elected from 4th October2020
Richard Chant	Deanery Synod rep elected from 4th October2020

(b) Co-opted members/invitees

- Susan Record (choir and organist)

(c) Elected being 9 PCC members and 2 ex officio members (the Deanery Reps)

Elected 2019: All will retire in April 2022 but may stand for re-election at this APCM

- Doug Bubb
- Andrew Gough
- Anne Lehane
- Denise Smith

Elected 2020/Retires 2023

- Deborah Waller (but stepping down because now appointed lay reader and therefore an ex officio member of the PCC)
- Sheila Gough
- Peter Frost

Elected 2021/ Retires 2024

- Jo Hollings
- Frances Ventham (Lay Reader Emeritus)

Deanery Synod Rep each Re-elected 2020 for a three year appointment in October 2020

- Priscilla Cox
- Richard Chant

Current Officers

Revd. Carol Smith	Chair
Deborah Waller	Vice chair
Specific roles on PCC	
Sheila Gough	Treasurer
Andrew Gough	Gift Aid Secretary
Andrew Gough	PCC Secretary
Joanne Hollings	Safeguarding Officer

In 2022 there will be vacancies for the following positions to be elected:

- Churchwardens(an annual appointment)– Lisa Crowhurst to offer herself for re –election
- Churchwarden – 1 vacancy
- 2 Deputy church wardens
- Elected PCC Members – 5 vacancies for 2022-2025. 4 elected in 2019 and their terms of office expires and the fifth vacancy arises from the appointment of Deborah Waller as Lay Reader and therefore now a member of the PCC ex officio

COMMITTEES

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 direction by the Council. It consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer and at least another PCC member, in our case preferably a representative of the PCC of St Peter's. It acts as another committee and reports back to the PCC. It can also discuss and set the next PCC agenda.

By a resolution of the PCC passed on the 19th October 2020 it has authority to spend up to £250 for equipment or in relation to any other issue brought before it and may commit to an aggregate expenditure of £500 only, subject to the details of the individual and aggregated expenditure being brought to the next PCC meeting following the standing committee. This resolution has not been revoked

Members: Revd. Carol Smith (chair), Andrew Gough (secretary), Sheila Gough (Treasurer), Paul Tapsell, Sarah Bingham, Roger Jackson and Peter Frost.

All members of the PCC are expected to sit on a committee.

Other Committees in 2021 were:

Finance and Stewardship	Fabric – St Martin's, Institute Hall, St Peter's and reordering at St Martin's	Restoration	Social	Communications & Publicity
• Sheila Gough (Chair) • Priscilla Cox • Peter Frost • Andrew Gough	• Priscilla Cox • Paul Tapsell • Doug Bubb • John Bennett* • Steve Jackson* • Roger Jackson*	• Susan Record • Keith Record* • John Bennett*	• Sarah Bingham (chair)	• Revd. Carol • Anne Lehane • Sarah Bingham

*not members of the PCC

In addition:

- Mission & Evangelism Team
  This had met for the first time on March 19th 2019 as a result of Herne Parish becoming one of the first to be invited to join the Diocesan "Changed Lives Changing Lives Conversations" . The team comprised Revd. Carol Smith, Revd. Cat Darkins and , Revd. Stacey Rand (when available), and Anne Lehane. Revd. Stacey Rand resigned in August 2021 to move to another parish. There has been further invaluable help from Joan Jeffers, Alan King, Deborah Waller and Sheila Bennett
- Safeguarding coordinator: Joanne Hollings
- Gift Aid Secretary: Andrew Gough
- Electoral Roll Officer: Andrew Gough
- Health & Safety Rep: Doug Bubb

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR 2021

Figures for 2020 have not been given because of the Covid restrictions on public worship in 2020 which render comparisons otiose.

Church attendance averaged 66 adults and 9 children across the year on normal Sundays during 2021, with larger numbers at festivals and when schools were involved in services

The Church was re-opened on Easter Day (that is 4th April 2021) so these figures start from then.

Attendance for additional events	
Baptisms	35 (13 infant. 20 children 2 adults)
Weddings	5
Funerals	28 (16 in church, 12 at crematorium or cemetery)

Attendance for services	Adults	Children	Total
8:00 and 9:45am Sunday Services Average Attendance	66 (41 aged 18-69 years and 25 aged 70 years +	9	75
Easter Services Total Attendance	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	57
Christmas Total Attendance	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	214
Special Services during Advent 2016, e.g. nativities and carol services	*no breakdown*	*no breakdown*	Congregation and local community: 418. Including civic and school-specific: 296

Joiners and leavers:
10 adults and 2) children and young people joined our worshipping community during 2021.
4 adults and 0 children and young people left our worshipping community during 2021.

We have two thriving toddler groups 1 Tuesdays in Herne Church Hall (61 registered families-38 regulars; average 18 adults + 21 children), 1 Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill (between 3-27 adults + 4-32 children), both weekly in school term time

A full copy of the Statistics for Mission return is available from the Vicar.

Electoral Roll
At the 31st December 2021 the number of people on the St Martin's Electoral Roll was 95 (confirmed as 95 at the APCM on the 27th June 2021 as there were no subsequent changes up to that date)

Andrew Gough Electoral Roll Officer

PUBLIC BENEFIT

[1]The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, [3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,

a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour

The vision of our parish is stated within our mission statement.

We are registered with the Charity Commission by virtue of the fact that we "Advance Religion for the Public Benefit", and are required to state our aims in their terms as below

Encouraging and facilitating the practice of Christianity by existing followers and seekers.

Place of worship, including:

- For the practice of Christian faith, the provision and maintenance of two buildings, and adjoining hall and meeting rooms used for related activities, e.g. religious instruction for children.
- The conducting of religious ceremonies, e.g. Eucharist, Baptism, Weddings, Blessings and Funerals.
- The maintenance of two public churchyards with one garden of remembrance and war memorial.
- Provision of Public Worship throughout the year as well as at times of national importance (Remembrance).
- Bereavement care, prayers, visits and worship.
- The provision and maintenance of Christian devotional artefacts and items used in religious services.
- Maintaining a grade one ancient building for the nation.

Raising awareness and understanding of religious beliefs and practices, including:

- Advancing the Christian faith.
- Providing a Christian resource for the community (information, teaching and library).
- Promoting and providing the study of Christian teaching, practice and scripture.
- Supporting schools and other educational establishments, including three theological training colleges (student placements), which provide education in accordance with the principles and practices of the religion.
- Support the Diocese in the provision of ministry and Diocesan services through payment of the Diocesan share.
- Working with (worship, education, pastoral care) and governance of our two church schools in Herne.
- Encouragement and worship in one Community Primary School and also our Secondary School.

Religious devotional acts, including:

- Visiting the sick and administering the sacraments to the sick and dying.

Missionary and outreach work, including:

- The provision of chaplaincy services ; for example to Strode Park ,Canterbury and District Scouting and Canterbury Cathedral).
- Hospital visiting.
- The provision of pastoral care to residential and domiciliary homes.
- Cultural and community activities provided in the place of worship and in the buildings attached, e.g., community facilities, community care, toddlers, community Cafe and Meals for the Homeless etc.).

Work for reconciliation, building community and peace across the parish.

Religious communication, including:

- Sermons, talks, meetings and conferences and the provision of religious material via the internet website.

Retreat and pilgrimage, including: A place for short and day retreats.

Advancing religion generally including:

- Charitable giving to many different peoples in need, both near and far, (e.g., Help for Heroes, Christian Aid, Crisis, Children's Society, Catching Lives, Seafarer's Mission etc.)
- Seeking to safeguard creation through moral use of resources and the ways we manage our graveyards.

These aims are fulfilled as evidenced in the reports that follow.

Signed:

Revd. Carol Smith Date; 4th April 2022

ShareMinutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 27th June 2021 at 11.15am at St Martin's Church, Herne.

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Revd. Carol welcomed those present and led those attending in an opening prayer

Gracious God, grant your blessing on this time together, that it may be not merely our Church Annual meeting but, above all, a meeting together – with you and one another: a meeting of minds as we listen, share and reflect on the year under report; as we seek to give thanks for those stepping down, encourage those stepping up, that we may seek more clearly to discern your will and honour your purpose.

Grant us wisdom, humility, vision and faith, that your love may guide our deliberations, inform our decisions, enrich our fellowship and inspire our service, each offered to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Susan and Keith Record, Denise Smith, Sarah Bingham, Dorothy and Frank Power and Alan King

Preliminary Issues

An agenda, full minutes and reports (including accounts) had been sent online and were available in hardcopy form if required by those present. The electoral roll was available for inspection at the back of the church.

Revd. Carol pointed out that there was one small error as on page 8 the number of funerals taken was 20 not 18.

Final nominations for the PCC were sought, two having been received. There were no others.

The minutes as amended would be signed off if approved.

Andrew Gough, as PCC secretary introduced two issues raised by the PCC

1. In order to offer the opportunity for as many people as possible to take part in the proceedings of the APCM the PCC had decided to offer proxy votes. However, no

such proxies had been received either to vote for laity representatives or to raise any issues at the APCM.

2. Although a resolution for postal votes had been passed at the last APCM in October 2020 it was at the discretion of the PCC to choose to elect in this fashion. The PCC had decided not to do so.

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

Revd. Carol explained that historically the vestry meeting would often be held privately but nowadays churches hold it in public as part of the full APCM.

1. Apologies as above

2. The minutes of the vestry meeting held on 4th October 2020 were agreed as a correct record. Proposer Andrew Gough Seconder Sheila Gough. They were unanimously approved

3. There were no matters arising

4. Election of Churchwardens (two positions vacant) and Deputy Churchwardens (two positions).
5. Only one candidate had put her name forward for re- election as Churchwarden.

   Lisa Crowhurst
   Proposed by Andrew Gough
   Seconded by Sheila Gough

   There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, Lisa Crowhurst was duly elected as Churchwarden for the coming year.

6. There were two candidates for deputy Churchwardens:

   Sarah Bingham
   Proposed by Andrew Gough
   Seconded by Carolyn Thomas.

   Paul Tapsell
   Proposed by Andrew Gough
   Seconded by Margaret Baybutt

   There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, Sarah Bingham and Paul Tapsell were duly elected as Deputy Churchwardens for the coming year

7. Revd. Carol thanked Lisa for her considerable work as Churchwarden over the past eight months and also to Sarah Bingham (in her absence) and Paul Tapsell for such willing and able support as Deputies. We needed another Churchwarden to share the burden placed on Lisa, so Revd. Carol asked those members of the congregation present to pray for a new appointee to come forward.

8. There being no other business the vestry meeting was concluded.

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies were given as above.

2. Church information as given in the APCM booklet (subject to the minor amendment) was taken as read.

3. Minutes of the annual meeting held on Sunday, 4th October 2020 were presented and agreed subject to the amendments previously discussed. The minutes were approved (Proposed by Andrew Gough and Seconded by Revd. Cat Darkins).

4. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda. However, Andrew Gough stated that consolidated accounts had been prepared for the finances of the Friend of St Martin's Herne. They had not been audited but as chairman he had signed them to confirm that he stood by the accuracy of the statement of the account. Copies were available if required.

5. Revd. Carol would provide a detailed report of the church's business separately at the end of the meeting. However she wanted to give an updated report on ministry issues, in particular relating to the positions of Revd. Cat Darkins and Revd. Dr. Stacey Rand.

   The following is a transcript of her observations:

   a. *With regard to Revd. Cat cast your minds back, if you will, to June 2018 (Petertide ordinations) when we 'received' Cat as a newly-ordained deacon, to serve her Title Post Curacy ... reflect on her ministry among us here in Herne St Martin's, St Peter's Greenhill, through our Church Schools and our community ... then to her ordination as priest in 2019, her marriage to Michael (also ordained) and to the countless number of ways in which Revd. Cat's ministry has grown and developed.*
   We will of course have the opportunity to thank and offer our farewell to her properly, so more can be said then. For now, I would like to make particular

reference to Cat's sterling efforts during the Covid-pandemic when we as a ministry team had to quickly re-think how we were going to 'do' worship remotely.
For a whole year-plus, Cat has given over her Fridays to produce our Online Worship, to which she's brought her own style and flare, and has trained myself and others in the process!
I am sure that, like me, you are all grateful to her for this ministry.
And I would ask you to pray for her as she considers then discovers what God has in store for her next step in ordained ministry.
Cat has completed the requirements of her curacy and is now at liberty to seek her first post of responsibility, so we should anticipate her leaving us before too long.

b. *Revd. Stacey, who joined us in 2019 – to continue her Curacy as an SSM MSE, her primary place of ministry being her workplace, i.e. the University of Kent – has also completed the requirements of her curacy and is open to what God may be calling her to next.*
I am sure you will also wish to join me in thanking Stacey for her ministry among us, thus far. And again, we can anticipate saying farewell to her properly, also, when the time comes.

c. *With regards to our Licensed Readers, we are also experiencing change, as Frances Ventham has decided the time has come to give up her formal License and has accepted the Warden of Readers' suggestion that she be made Reader Emeritus, whilst Deborah Waller anticipates being licensed to our parish.*
We anticipate both Frances and Deborah's licensing status being formalised at the Annual Readers' Service in the Cathedral in the evening of Sunday 26th September.
For now, let us join together in thanking Frances for her ministry – which we anticipate continuing, as a Herne Junior School governor and member of the PCC – and in thanking Deborah who is gradually taking on more responsibility, for example, as we gear up for our Sunday Children's Groups to begin again in September.

d. *I want also to take this opportunity to thank Revd. Geoff Neale for his PTO ministry, mainly covering 8.00 am Communions and some 10.00 am Services, which has been invaluable. Geoff and his wife Elizabeth are hoping to move from Herne Bay to London, to be near their daughter. I hope we may have the opportunity to say farewell properly, before they move.*

e. *This therefore means big changes in the ministry team, in the near future: from a team of six licensed ministers reducing to two (Deborah and myself). More will follow in my report.*

The congregation present gave their full support and thanks to both curates and Geoff Neale for their ministry.

6. Andrew Gough in his capacity as electoral roll secretary confirmed that at the APCM in October 2020 there had been 100 members on the electoral roll. Subsequently following (and including the latest revision in March 2021) one person had been added to the role but six people had been removed. Accordingly there were now ninety five (95) members on the electoral roll which meant that there were still nine lay places available on the PCC. Seven had already been filled and two were now available for nominations (Roger Jackson was standing down). He confirmed that the full electoral roll was available for inspection at the church during the APCM.
   There were no questions. He confirmed that congregants could join the electoral roll at any time and not merely at the time of any revision before an APCM.

7. The annual report of the proceedings of the PCC during 2020 was taken as read. There were no questions.

8. The Churchwarden's Report was taken as read. Lisa Crowhurst had nothing to add.

9. Sheila Gough, as treasurer, introduced the 2020 financial reports for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill.
   a. Once again it had been a challenging year especially because of the Covid restrictions and loss of general income. There had been a legacy of £5000.
   b. Gift aid claims are still useful source of income for the church This year's accounts included unpaid gift aid from 2019 so the monies reimbursed are slightly higher than normal for any one year.
   c. The accounts for St Peter's Greenhill had been integrated within the accounts for St Martin's. Only the net sum carried over had been shown but next year a separate account would be prepared showing income and expenditure
   d. The parish share for 2020 (£18,528) had been paid in full from reserves
   e. Sheila Gough invited questions but there were none.
   f. The financial accounts were commended to those present to be approved and were approved unanimously.
   g. Revd. Carol thanked Sheila Gough for her work as treasurer. There was a small finance team that assisted her comprising Revd. Carol and Priscilla Cox. If there were other members who would be willing to assist Sheila in working in this small finance team then they should contact Sheila or Revd. Carol.

10. Appointment of Auditors for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill
    a. Sheila Gough proposed that PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA should be re- appointed as independent examiner for the present financial year.
    b. This was seconded by Lisa Crowhurst
    c. Those present voted unanimously for the reappointment.

11. The Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod was taken as read and there was nothing to add.

12. The Fabric Committee report was taken as read. There was nothing further to add. Particular thanks were given to Steve King as caretaker who worked very hard on looking after the buildings even when closed and had helped prepare the Covid Risk assessments.

13. Appointment of members of the PCC
    a. Roger Jackson was retiring from the PCC and Revd. Carol thanked him for his help and support during her term of office. He would remain as a sides-person at the 8am service of communion on Sundays.
    b. Two candidates had been nominated to take positions on the PCC.

    Frances Ventham (previously a member of the PCC because of her appointment as a Licensed Lay Reader)
    Proposed Andrew Gough Seconded by Sheila Gough

    Joanna Hollings (previously co- opted as a member of the PCC because of her role as Safeguarding Officer)
    Proposed by Andrew Gough Seconded by Sheila Gough

    There being no other candidates all nominations were accepted

    c. Revd. Carol confirmed that the sides people would be appointed at the PCC not at the APCM.

14. Revd. Carol then introduced the reports from the Church Organisations and Committees. They demonstrated the diversity of interests and responsibilities that people took on within the life of the church. She hoped that reading the reports would encourage people to join some of the organisations or offer support. All reports were taken as read and there were no questions. Revd. Carol, however, made the following observations:

a. The Report on the Restoration. The Current phases of the Restoration were completed at last. However the church clock was still proving a problem as it was losing time. John Bennett (from the congregation) confirmed that he had now stopped the clock and invited Cumbrian clocks to return to hopefully finally sort out the time keeping. Their final invoice had not yet been paid! Revd. Carol was looking forward to a celebration party in spring next year to mark the end of the work.
b. The Report on Safeguarding. Particular thanks to our new Safeguarding Officer, Jo Hollings (who was only appointed last October and has succeeded – with the help and co-operation of PCC members and others involved in Toddler Groups etc.) in bringing our Parish Safeguarding records completely up to date.
c. The Schools Report. Revd. Cat and Revd. Carol had been going to the schools where ever possible but had also largely provided worship via Zoom presentation on line. These had proved very successful and had extended the outreach of the church into family homes. This had all helped consolidate the good relationship with the school and its staff.
d. The Tapestry Report. The tapestry would hopefully be displayed in church in the Spring of 2022 when we hoped to hold our restoration party

15. Revd. Carol then referred to the individual observations from the members of the church of life during Covid.

16. Revd. Carol confirmed that the PCC would be commissioned at the next Sunday service when there would be a service of communion. The date of the first PCC meeting after the APCM will be Monday 26th July 2021

(Tom and Margaret Baybutt then left the meeting)

17. Any Other Business. Revd. Carol invited questions from the floor. There were none. Revd. Carol then thanked everybody who had helped and provided service throughout the year. Although some individuals had been named already, there were so many who assisted in the life of the church in different ways and all should congratulate themselves She then gave her formal report on the church and its ministry. (A transcript of this is given as an appendix to these minutes).

Lisa Crowhurst as Churchwarden thanked Revd. Carol, Revd. Cat and Revd. Stacey, for all their hard work, enthusiasm and ministry throughout the year. It was a huge task and we were all grateful for their guidance and support.

18. There being no further business the meeting was concluded and Revd. Carol led those present in a prayer and blessing.

Closing Prayer & Blessing for "Trinity, Vocation and Herne's APCM 2021"

We bless you Lord for our calling, for nurturing in each of us a disciple's heart;

a heart that rejoices in your coming;

a heart sustained by your Spirit;

a heart encouraged by fellow disciples.

May there grow in each of our hearts:

the disciple's commitment to serve

the disciple's willingness to learn

and the disciple's joy in discovering your purpose

for our unique lives of service.

May God be the beginning and end of your story.

May Christ be the centre and foundation of your story.

May the Spirit be the spark that brings your story to life.

May God bless us all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

THE APCM REPORTS FOR 2022

Vicar's Annual 2021 report for St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

Writing backwards while looking forward is never an easy task, not least when reflecting upon the Covid-pandemic effects upon the whole world in 2020/21.

No organisation has escaped unscathed. Some businesses and household names have ceased trading. Countless shops have closed. Many people are still without work. It seems only those who have been able to adapt or learn new skills have survived. The Church of England – and we who are part of it – are it seems 'hanging on by our fingernails' as together we continue to work out how we may continue to serve our parishioners with scarcer resources whilst holding on to our long-held faith-filled hope in God's promises.

This report is not all doom and gloom, I promise! But we must be honest. Now you may say, 'Herne St Martin's Church has withstood many crises through its long and winding history', and that is true. Nevertheless, we must recognise the reality of the current crisis, today. And this is why I have begun my report in this vein.

We - the Churchwardens, members of the PCC and myself – have invited a speaker to this year's Annual Meeting (SJ Martin, Canterbury Diocesan Generous Giving Advisor) who will help us reflect on God's generosity as we begin the work of recovery in the context of our faith. We will need to extend our reach beyond ourselves. We are paying attention to our spiritual lives and our journey of faith as a church through, for example, our Parish Mission weekend activities. And this we will build on as we remind ourselves what we tell others, i.e. "Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people".

As I look back on 2021, I recall a whole lot of new learning and new ways of 'being church', which brought many blessings. Our Churchwardens (Lisa Crowhurst and Deputy Churchwardens Sarah Bingham and Paul Tapsell); your clergy (who were three up to September 2021, then two up to February 2022 and now one), and our lay ministers and lesson readers all adapted to the world of online worship. And if you had told me at the start of my ministry here in Herne with Greenhill that I'd be opening our own YouTube channel I would probably not have believed you! In this respect, huge thanks go to Revd Cat Darkins (Title Post Curate) who had a whole year of Fridays spent in editing our Sunday morning online worship offering. I am hugely grateful to them all for their ministry.

We clergy also enjoyed providing weekly online Collective Worship for both our church schools, Herne Infants and Herne Juniors. And in a strange sort of way, I found this brought me closer to the children – beaming into their homes on a screen made our interaction more intimate, resulting in many a child or family waving from passing vehicles or stopping me in the street for a social-distanced chat!

When it comes to capturing what the Church of England calls the annual Mission Statistics' return, it is difficult to know exactly how many people attended our online weekly worship or who engaged

with us in other ways. So again, this is a matter of faith and trust in God that our offerings were – and I pray continue to be - beneficial.

With great delight, we re-opened St Martin's Church on Easter Day 2021, which certainly was a day of even greater rejoicing than usual as 57 of us gathered together for worship. It took a while for Covid restrictions to lessen sufficiently for singing to return and we are still receiving communion in one kind only but at least we can be together! And I am sure that like me, you are hugely grateful to our organist, Susan Record, our choir leader, Chris Exley, our band leader, Sarah Bingham, the choir, Fiona Anelay, Paul Tapsell and all our musicians who provide and enable our sung worship.

Our Church Electoral Roll stood at 95 members in 2021, although our average Sunday congregation is less than half that, which indicates that there are still some who have not returned or been able to return to church. Hence, the 'Weekly Words' email that I began in the first lockdown and which includes the weekly notice sheet has grown in circulation, and continues still. And weekend hand deliveries are still made to a dozen people, keeping them connected.

Both Toddler Groups (Tuesday Toddlers and Friday Little Fishes at Greenhill), which run weekly during school term time and Messy Church, which runs monthly on Saturday afternoons, all re-started in September 2021, thanks to Carolyn Thomas, Revd Cat, Sheila Bennett, Sarah Bingham, Lisa Crowhurst and others who enable this provision to the children and families within our reach. These are an extremely important part of our mission and outreach. These activities could always benefit from more helpers so do let us know if you have occasional time to spare, either regularly or on an adhoc basis.

A particular joy for me was being able to resurrect home-pastoral visits and meeting baptism families and wedding couples. There were 35 baptisms ('lockdown babies'!) in the year under report, and five weddings, which considering that we did not re-open until April is encouraging. And generally speaking, I have noticed that families and couples are increasingly gaining the confidence to make their future plans.

Another thing of note in 2021 was a marked change in the ratio between church and crematorium funerals which may indicate the fact that in an increasingly secularised society, people look to non-religious celebrants. The clergy conducted 16 funerals in St Martin's and 12 at a crematorium or cemetery. Our ministry to the bereaved therefore continues and brings its own blessings. In which respect, it was wonderful to be able to host with family funeral directors, A Welch & Sons the annual Memorial Carol Service in St Martin's last December (whereas in 2020 we recorded it in church then posted it online) which provided comfort to a great many people.

These are just a snapshot of the fuller statistics that you will find elsewhere in this report booklet.

As we look ahead, my faith gives me hope for God's church: so long as we keep praying, worshipping and serving the community – and one another – together, in the Name of Christ.

Thank you for your faith and for your service, whatever shape or form it takes or may yet take. Let us hope and pray that more and more, our fellowship may bear the characteristics of the early church, as together ...

"They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." (Acts 2.46-47)

Revd. Carol Smith
March 2022

REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES 2020

Report from Electoral Roll Secretary as at 31 December 2021

At the APCM in June 2021there were 95 members on the electoral. As at December 31 2021 we still had 95 members on the roll but no revision had taken place..

The numbers on the roll following the March 2022 revision will be given orally at the APCM.

Andrew Gough, Electoral Roll Secretary
March 2022

An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during 2021

Once again, as for so many organisations, the restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic have meant that the PCC has had to conduct its business in new ways. Predominantly the business of the PCC was conducted by Zoom on line meetings. We did hold one face to face meeting on the 26th July being the first meeting after the APCM in June. However, the venue proved rather noisy to conduct business and in any event further restrictions meant that the remaining meetings were all held on line. However, when permitted those members of the PCC who were not able to take part (either because of lack of Wi-Fi or poor Wi-Fi reception) visited other PCC members at home.

Andrew Gough continued to act as PCC secretary for the year.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting had originally been planned for April. However, following guidance from Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin it was agreed that the APCM would be postponed and was eventually held in June. This was thankfully a face-to-face meeting in St Martin's Herne, fully complying with our risk assessment and Covid guidance.

There have been nine meetings during the year of which eight have been by way of an online Zoom facility. In addition there was a further meeting in February of a steering committee to consider the Diocesan Envisioning programme. Usually there would be ten meetings with no meeting in August or December. We missed a meeting in April as this was to coincide with the APCM due to be held that month but which was postponed at the last minute and moved to June.

There is guidance for the conduct of on line meetings and if votes are taken, then those voting must be present at the on line the meeting itself. In addition emergency business has been conducted online by email. This is again permitted pursuant to the Church Representation Rules 2020.

The PCC has continued to conduct its business efficiently and thanks must go to all PCC Members, who take part enthusiastically. They always read the agenda and supporting documents (or so they tell the PCC Secretary) and debate all issues with much consideration politely but firmly and with good humour.

All minutes (unless confidential) are available for inspection from the PCC secretary. Where possible they have been published at the church for immediate inspection after approval by the PCC at the following PCC meeting.

However, the following is a summary of the principal business conducted

1. Considering and debating the Deanery Report "working towards a flourishing future and sustainable budget" (the Envisioning Programme) and completing a questionnaire on the ministry of the church at St Martin's
2. Appointing a steering committee to review the questionnaire replies
3. Planning and implementing the on-line Parish Mission morning on 27th March 2021 led by Revd. George Fisher formerly of the Lichfield Diocese. Then subsequently making arrangements for a Parish Mission Weekend in October but which was subsequently cancelled because of illness
4. Continuing to monitor the final stage of the church restoration programme (in particular the restoration of the churchyard) before release of any retentions to contractors
5. Overseeing the closure of the bank account of the Friends of St Martin' Church Herne and receiving the final monies to be paid to the restoration and fabric funds of the church
6. Continuing to review and approve the work of the Fabric Committee (see separate report)
7. over viewing the opening of St Martin's Herne and the continued Covid compliant services until guidance required the church to close once again
8. Formally appointing PC Lemon LLP as the independent examiner for the annual accounts
9. Approving the 2020 accounts (the 2021 accounts are approved in April 2022)
10. Considering the arrangements for the APCM in April 2021 and then its change to June 2021 including passing a resolution to permit proxy voting
11. Following the October 2019 APCM resolution to give the PCC authority to arrange postal voting at an APCM the PCC resolved not to adopt postal voting at the APCM in 2021(a discretion that was permitted by the APCM resolution) .
12. Reviewing , at the July PCC meeting , that the minutes of the APCM on 27th June 2021 were considered to be accurate and confirming that these could be submitted to the annual meeting in April 2022 for approval
13. Pledged Harvest giving to the work of Catching Lives (for the homeless in Canterbury)
14. Receiving safeguarding reports from Jo Hollings as safeguarding officer. See further declaration below.
15. Agreeing, at the July PCC meeting, the appointment of all church officers and the appointment of chairpersons to the various committees
16. Arranging for a debit/credit card reader to be purchased and used at the church services to facilitate cash free donations
17. Passing the following formal resolutions
    a. Accepting the Parish Safeguarding Statement
    b. Passing (online in January 2021) a resolution to close all church buildings until Easter 2021 in accordance with the authority given by Bishop Rose
    c. Approving all risk assessments to open St Martin's Herne
    d. seeking) (a) Diocesan approval to repair damage to the church roof of St Martin's Herne at the porch and above the pulpit and (b) a faculty for repair to broken stained glass in the porch (c) Diocesan approval for repair to the West Door of St Martin's Church (d) Diocesan approval for repair to and cleaning of the War Memorial

e. to support Deborah Waller as Licensed lay Reader to undertake training on the Diocesan Funeral and Bereavement Ministry course
f. the appointment of sides persons to assist at church services
g. appointment of Jodie Harris as Foundation governor for Herne Junior School

The PCC confirms that it has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 with regard to its duty to follow the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding statement is available for inspection.

Andrew Gough, PCC Secretary
March 2022

Financial Review for 2021 Reserves policy and Appendix A for the financial statements

Financial matters in 2021 were still influenced by the Covid-19 restrictions which meant that we were unable to hold any fund-raising activities which had an impact on our income.

However, we were able to open the Church on Easter Sunday and held a Gift Day which raised over £2,700 and this helped us to see an increase in the collections at services and in gift aid and other voluntary receipts. We had a decrease of over £4,000 in our planned giving, this was due to members of the congregation moving away or those on the weekly envelope scheme being unable to attend Church services.

Tax recovered on gift aid receipts in 2021 was down by £4,556. The decrease was due in part to the Diocese not being able to process our gift aid submissions for October – November by the end of the year.

Both Halls at St Martin's and St Peter's opened their doors to hirers in April and continue to pay their way. St Martin's rental income for the year was £5,204 and expenses £3,431 a profit of £1,772. St Peter's rental was £6,992 and expenses were £5,972 giving a profit of just over £1,000.

In respect of expenses, we were unable to pay our full Parish Share quota this year, finishing the year £24,769 short of a total liability of £74,723. It is not yet clear whether the Diocese will be prepared to write off our Parish Share debt which now stands at £43,215, this figure takes into account the shortfall in years 2017 and 2018.

Church running expenses increased slightly over 2020 due to an increase in the insurance premium and utility bills.

The interest on our CCLA investments raised £69.92 a decrease of £539 over last year.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £1,261 on unrestricted funds.

I would like to thank Andrew Gough for administering the Gift Aid emoluments (including making the claim for rebate of tax); his help is invaluable to me.

Reserves Policy

We do not currently have a reserves policy. This means keeping a certain amount of money in the bank account ring fenced to cover emergency situations for particular projects or future work. For example, sums set aside for the maintenance of the organ, the bells, or buildings.

It is our policy to invest our fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Sheila Gough, Treasurer
March 2022

Report from the Fabric Committee for 2021 on the condition of the church buildings

This forms the Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric of the Church Buildings pursuant to section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

The Fabric Committee met regularly throughout the year to discuss maintenance and improvements to the fabric of St Martin's, St. Peter's and Herne Church Hall. A meeting report was then submitted for consideration at the following PCC meeting.

A large part of work carried out to the buildings was regular items of maintenance such as cleaning of gutters and a blocked hopper, checking for any damage from leaks and rainwater, inspections of gas and electric equipment and fire extinguishers, and minor repairs to items such as damage to a door lock at St Peter's, replacement locks for gates, and a new outside key box at St. Martins, and maintenance of the church mowers. It was agreed to use a drone as a cost effective way of checking the condition of the roof at St. Martin's but this was postponed until Spring 2022.

The church architect had advised that work should be carried out to the outside doors at St Martins and builders BM May quoted for repairs to the south and west doors. Application was made to the diocese for a Faculty - permission - for the work to be carried out, but due to slow progress by the diocese this has not yet been received. A wax coating preservative was prepared in accordance with the architect's instructions and applied to the north doors.

There were problems with the accuracy of time keeping by the newly restored church clock at St Martins but this was eventually solved in the autumn after numerous delays by the firm who carried out the work.

Several professional inspections were made of the chestnut trees at St. Martin's to see if they were at all dangerous , as this is an ongoing concern, but nothing urgent was identified. Various kites were used to try to scare the birds roosting in the trees and prevent them from soiling the path at St. Martins , but these were fairly ineffective.

It was decided to establish a Health and Safety committee, consisting of Doug Bubb, Peter Frost and Roger Jackson, as a sub-committee of the Fabric Committee, as risk assessment and safety are key items of our concern and an important part of all tasks.

Priscilla Cox, chair of committee and Lisa Crowhurst as Churchwarden
March2022

A Report on the 2021 proceedings of the Deanery Synod

The synod met three times during the year, in March, June and October. The meeting in June was for elected members only but the other meetings were open for anyone to attend.

At the March meeting we welcomed Revd Dr. Jonathan Arnold, Diocesan Director of Communities and Partnerships, and Teresa Redfern, Chair of the diocesan Environmental Group, whose presentation was called 'Eco Church'. They considered ways in which we should play our part in the care of God's creation, for example by trying to save energy and share resources. The shortage of funds in parishes was a problem discussed at all our meetings.

In June we looked at the deanery plan that had been compiled from thoughts on our future mission, submitted by individual churches in the deanery, and discussed how the ideas could be put in practice. Finance-generosity-stewardship were the buzz words and we considered the use of our buildings, our need to encourage lay involvement in leading mission and the work being done in our communities.

We were pleased to welcome Bishop Rose to our meeting at Seasalter church in October and we all enjoyed a fish and chip supper before worship and business began. The focus of this meeting was an extension of our previous discussions and Bishop Rose used the theme "Changed Lives - Changing Lives - towards a flourishing and sustainable future." She spoke about the decline in church numbers and the cost of ministry, and that to reverse the trend we need to work in a different way from before the pandemic. The Diocese had borrowed £2.5 million to cover salaries and costs during the pandemic but had reduced overall expenses by 16% for 2022. She said the diocese was not wanting - or planning - to close down churches but we all need to work together to make savings and pool resources and expertise.

Churches in Whitstable work together in a different way from those in Herne and Herne Bay, as they are a Team Ministry, and it was decided that elected deanery representatives from Herne and Herne Bay should occasionally meet together informally to learn about the strengths and problems of individual parishes and to better support each other. The first meeting was held in October with others planned for 2022.

Priscilla Cox ,Deanery representative

March 2022

The Church wardens APCM report for 2021

What a year it has been. Covid-19 still continues to impact our lives both personally and as a Church. But, we have seen a new direction. God is good, and with his love and assurance we have been able to open up the church again to the many groups and activities we have enjoyed previously. Last August we started with the August Messy activity days, a crucial piece of outreach mission to those in our community and beyond, who have struggled with the social restrictions Covid-19 presented. It was wonderful to show them God's love and enjoy fellowship with them. This paved the way to start up our regular monthly Messy Church. Our toddler groups have also recommenced and we are blessed to see so many families return and welcome newcomers to our fold. We are also planning to restart our Community Cafe at St. Peters.

Other exciting opportunities for us as a church has been the development as a MLC (Missional Learning Community) where we have been practicing Dwelling in the Word during some of our services. The majority of these have been during our St. Peter's services, which have now increased monthly intervals instead of 5th Sunday in a month.

Bittersweet moments have occurred within our clergy team. We said goodbye to Revd. Stacey and Revd. Cat and wished them well in their new endeavours. But my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus, and with that we welcomed Revd .John Huffman in February. Revd. John will be completing his curacy with us until the end of June and we look forward to helping him on his journey through Faith. We also saw Deborah Waller licensed as a Lay Reader.

And so we give thanks to our wonderful Ministry Team, Rev. Carol, Rev. John and Deborah for their continued support and guidance.

Lisa Crowhurst, Churchwarden
March 2022

NB the churchwarden's report on the fabric of the church is given by the Fabric Committee and acknowledged as such.

GENERAL REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

We would normally expect to receive reports from so many of our church groups. Regrettably the work of these groups has been severely curtailed or even stopped because of the Covid pandemic and so reports might be of limited interest and value. We shall look forward to the coming months when hopefully Covid restrictions will be lifted enabling the full range of our mission and services to fire up once again and witness our vibrant church community.

For the record we are missing reports from St Martin's Saturday Coffee, Sunday after-service refreshments, St Peter's Greenhill, the Social Committee, St Peter's Community Café, , Outreach events (Restoration), Tea & Chat (outreach afternoon tea) , Junior Church and the Worship Band.

There is no restoration report as the substantive work was completed in autumn 2020

There is no report specifically on communications and publicity but during the year much has devolved to communications on line and the church directory has proved invaluable. This is being updated to create a second edition to be published after this APCM after final proof reading. Also new notice boards have finally been erected in early 2022 to publicise our events and services

The Bell ringers' Report for 2021

Ringing was paused until Easter 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic and church services were not taking place. The ringers again went online, having regular weekly "ringers chats" on Zoom to keep in contact and exchange news.

When church services resumed at Easter, there were still restrictions in place so ringing did not resume as usual until July 2021, when ringing for services and practice nights returned. Three new learners have joined the band and are progressing well. We rang for the 90th birthday of the sister of one of our ringers (who kindly gave sparkling wine to the ringers). We also rang for the birthday of a young girl in Herne who loves hearing the bells. Due to the pandemic, ringing was not possible for the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh in April 2021.

As weddings were able to take place, we rang for them though Covid-19 still affected the number, and in the case of a wedding in December, resulted in a postponement to 2022.

The Canterbury District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers resumed meeting in person in the autumn so we were able to meet up again for three meetings before the Christmas social was cancelled due to the Omicron variant. However, we rang for the Christmas services at St Martin's.

Ringing is continuing for Sunday services, and Wednesday practice nights, when we are joined by a regular number of ringers who also ring at other local towers.

Susan and Keith Record
March 2022

Choir Report

The year 2020 started without church or choir practices due to coronavirus so another Lent was missed but the choir again met online for a weekly Choir Chat on Thursday evenings. It was good to return to church for Easter, even though only the choir was allowed to sing until the summer, due to coronavirus restrictions. Choir practices resumed for Easter 2021 with some choir members, once again sitting at the back of the church, socially distanced.

Once again, the choir sang anthems and hymns during services until the congregation were allowed to resume singing, then continued by leading the congregation for the hymns and singing during Communion. In August 2021 the service pattern changed so there was a monthly service of Morning Worship at St Peter's, Greenhill.

Despite the coronavirus restrictions (and infections) a few weddings were able to go ahead and the choir sang for 3 weddings. Sadly there were also some funerals at which the choir sang.

For Harvest, on the first Sunday in October 2021, the choir sang Choral Evensong with hymns, an anthem "For the beauty of the earth", a psalm, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis.

Remembrance Sunday took place in church, the choir singing hymns and the National Anthem at the War Memorial in the churchyard during the Act of Remembrance.

The Memorial carols service was again held in church, at which the choir sang carols, including while stars were placed on the Christmas Tree. The choir learned new repertoire, including "The Lamb" and a setting of Gaudete, arranged by Chris Exley, for the Candlelight service. Christmas anthems were sung on Christmas Eve during Communion, Christmas Day and Boxing Day services, together with Christmas carols.

There was no choir dinner in 2021 but there are plans to meet in 2022 and to maintain the social side of the choir. Chris and I are very grateful to the choir for their commitment and hard work during the year. New singers are very welcome to join us

Susan Record, organist
March 2022

The Churchyard team maintenance report

A team of willing volunteers and enthusiasts descend on Herne Churchyard regularly to do some pruning, weeding, and other gardening tasks.

Our aim is to make the churchyard a more inviting place not only for the local nature, but also for the general public and a beautiful backdrop for wedding photos.

As well as tidying up various flower beds we will be creating a meadow area.

Both areas will soon be planted up with a wonderful array of flowers that will bloom all year long bringing colour and happiness to all.

We are a very friendly happy group of men and women from all age groups, many go to church but others who just live by and want to help out.

We meet the first Saturday of every month and the third Wednesday of every month (with a few exceptions).

Each session starts at 11am and goes on to about 1pm, with cake and a drink in the middle. If anyone else would like to join our group then please do, my email address is claire.stay@mac.com

You don't have to attend each session, just what time you have spare.

Claire Stay
March 2022

The Flower Arrangers

The last year has still had its ups and downs but even though we are a very reduced band of ladies I believe we have managed to supply the church with some lovely arrangements. We have tried to keep costs down and in some cases a few of us have donated the arrangements from our own pockets usually because of an anniversary, so I have not had to give the treasurer many receipts even though I appear to have collected a few recently.

We have support from Carol our Vicar and she supplies me with the diary of events each week and Joan Jeffers with up to date information on any weddings. If there are any special requests or enquiries my door and phone are always open.

I hope in the coming year to be able to recruit a few new arrangers male or female, we are a happy band and would make them feel very welcome.

Liz Sellen, Flower arranger
March2022

Fortnightly Wednesday Evening Bible Study Annual Report for 2021 (and Tea and Chat)

Our Bible Study group continues to thrive with a current membership of 7

We continued through the pandemic with Zoom meetings, mostly fortnightly but occasionally weekly, for instance when we needed to complete a five week Lent course.

In 2021 we studied sessions from the online publications, Faith and Worship, including "A light in the World" on the theme of mission.

We are a cohesive group, supporting one another with prayer at each meeting.

Tea and Chat, which was a spin-off from discussions within our house group, has sadly ceased since the beginning of the pandemic, and we have not restarted this due to lack of drivers to transport our members to and from the meetings.

Sheila Bennett
March 2022

Gift Aid Matters

Gift Aid continues to be a very helpful contribution to the church finances. Pay your income tax and the Church can get a 25% bonus on any donations that you make. As at the 31st December 2021 we still had 54 parties who have each made a Gift Aid declaration and also pledge their payments. If you are a UK tax payer then you can usually qualify and this is achieved simply by signing a declaration form which either myself or the treasurer can provide. We can claim Gift Aid on standing orders and planned giving. In addition there are the individual donations made via the Gift Aid Envelope Scheme which are given at collections taken at our services throughout the year. If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate tax payer in all cases you can even claim an extra rebate in your tax return.

Our treasurer records receipts for the month in which the payment is made, even if the Gift Aid application was actually for a month several months previously. For the year ending 31 December 2021, St Martins received £11,316.02 from all sources, which is lower than the repayment in 2020 which was £15,872. However, this sum does not include repayments from the Gift Aid returns for October to December 2021 which have not yet been credited.

We still have the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS for short). General money received in our church collection plates can qualify. Also if you have pledged your planned giving (the little blue envelopes) but are not a tax payer then I can count your weekly donation as part of GASDS and get more money that way. There is a limit of £8,000 which can be claimed in any tax year by any charity.

It would be helpful if more donors, who are tax payers, paid by way of standing order rather than giving via envelopes. This avoids having to make cash payments to the bank. In case you are embarrassed by not putting your hand in your pocket, when the plate comes round, please remember there are tokens that you can put into the church plate as evidence that you are giving.

As a tax payer, Gift Aid is a bonus to the Church and provided that you do pay the tax there is no downside from your point of view. Remember; if you cease to be a tax payer or move address or change your name please let me know immediately. I have to inform the Diocese.

Andrew Gough, Gift Aid Secretary
February2022

Mission and evangelism

Despite the on-off-on-off nature of the year under report, in the run-up to Christmas we finally managed to leaflet newcomers on the new Redrow Housing Estate at Eddington Park, which was a long-held part of the PCC's mission action planning.

My thanks go to John Bennett for engineering this activity and for designing the leaflet, and to Joan Jeffers, Alan King, Deborah Waller and Sheila Bennett for assisting us with the distribution. It certainly helped us to get to know the new estate, to have some good doorstep conversations with our new parishioners and to see many of those who we met at our Christmas Services.

After our annual meeting I will be encouraging the PCC to consider our 'what next?' in this regard.

Revd. Carol Smith
March 2022

Pastoral

Due to Covid restrictions, most of the pastoral ministry that we were privileged to offer or provide in 2021 was by phone, email, post or online. However, when the restrictions were lifted last autumn, I was able to begin visiting the new Residential Care Home on Eddington Park – Herne Place, which is a Barchester Home. A warm welcome was received and monthly visits set up. This ministry continues.

Broomfield Lodge Residential Home is under new management, has been refurbished and is again open to receiving visitors, enabling both Liza Seed and myself to take Home Communion as and when needed.

Revd . Carol Smith
March 2022

Safeguarding report /2021

Since being in the safeguarding role I have attended two diocesan safeguarding conferences. The opening talks by Bishop Rose have been inspirational and faith affirming and the talks by the diocesan safeguarding team have been great. Meeting (virtually, in break out groups) the other safeguarding leads in the diocese has been challenging.. The demographic of Kent means that many have little experience of the sorts of issues that parishioners may have. This year, spiritual abuse was raised and this is still being explored.

As safeguarding officer during 2021 I have not been aware of any safe guarding issues at this parish. Regular reports are given to the PCC for each meeting. The safeguarding policy is now easily accessible and on view in the church at the new notice boards and everyone is aware of their role in keeping the members of our parish safe.

Joanna Hollings, Safeguarding officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults
March2022

Schools

Our ministry to our Herne Church of England Infant and Junior Schools continues to be hugely valued – and I say, "our", for it often seems to me that half the church members act as School Governors! I have mentioned these schools in my Vicar's Report at the beginning of this booklet so I would simply add that it has been very good to go back into both schools and to conduct worship face-to-face once again and as Governors, we support them in many other ways. The relationship between Herne Church and Schools grows ever stronger. And it was good to have School Services in St Martin's, once again.

Revd Cat's ministry to schools was especially valued during her three-year curacy and in particular in her final few months as she was released to spend more of her time in both schools, demonstrating a school chaplaincy model which we are now building on.

There has been no ministry provided to Herne Bay High School as (apart from Covid) it continues to be the case that no matter what is offered, the door remains closed.

No ministry was provided in Briary School in 2021. It is hoped that this may change, although without additional ministers, this is a capacity issue.

Revd. Carol Smith
March 2022

Herne Church Hall also known as the St. Martin's Church (Institute) hall

This in my first report for the APCM since 2020 as the 2020 APCM did not take place until October 2020 and the APCM for 2021 did not take place until June 2021and most of the bookings for 2020 were cancelled and monies refunded. Some bookings were deferred to 2021 and still had to be cancelled!

The hall currently has 16 regular weekly, twice-weekly, and monthly bookings during the week-days. These maintain a regular income for the upkeep of the hall and weekends are kept for children's parties, Quiz Nights, Wine & Wisdoms and fun raising events for the church and these local groups.

The hall is cleaned and maintained by Steve King and we do ask users to leave it clean & tidy in the hope that the previous Booking has left it as it should be.

Wendy Dinley, Hall Booking Secretary
March 2022

St. Martin's Church Readers & Intercessors

I took over compiling Readers & Intercessors rota from John Scott about 10 years ago. The vicar, Revd. Carol currently compiles the Herne & Greenhill Service Schedule and Ministry Rota, sends it to me and I put readings to services. I then add names to the readings and people to do Intercessions.

I produce the Readers Rota every four months and you get to read two or three times in that period.

If you have ever wondered when listening to the readers every Sunday, how do they get to do that, and would like to try it then please give you name to Revd. Carol or myself.

Wendy Dinley, St. Martin's Readers.
March2022

St. Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers 2021

Regrettably because of the Covid pandemic communion services for 2021 have been conducted without the need for servers. A decision was made not to give wine or intinct wafers. Communion by wafer alone is sufficient and this was administered solely by the clergy. So there is little to report for 2021. However, Lisa Crowhurst has stepped down from being a server having taken on her new role as churchwarden.

If anybody else would like to come forward and offer to serve at the altar I would be very grateful to hear from them.

When the chalice is finally administered to the congregation at our services, I trust that I will still have the continued support of the chalice bearers: Phil Dixon Leah Willey Lisa Crowhurst and Sheila Gough. Again if other members of the congregation want to come forward, help is always gratefully received.

Andrew Gough ,Sacristan
March2022

St. Martin's Tapestry- the Tapestry team's report 2021

The completed tapestry has been packed away since January2021 waiting for the Celebration of Church Restoration in this Year (6th to the 8th May 2022), when It will be put on display for the first time. The volunteer embroiderers are also still waiting to see their finished panels.

Mary Jewiss
March 2022

Tuesday Toddler Report 2021

It was with some trepidation that we decided to reopen Tuesday Toddlers in September 2021 after 18 months of closure and with Covid still very much in evidence.

Although we knew that many of the children would have outgrown our group, we decided to send out letters to all our former attendees in late August. We wanted to be able to say goodbye and pass on our good wishes for 'Big School' to those who had left as this opportunity had been denied us during the past year. However, we also wanted to remind people of our existence and invite them to join us on 7th September.

We thought carefully about which systems to put into place to try and keep people safe and protect them as far as we could from Covid and tentatively reopened wondering whether anyone would turn

up. We needn't have worried as just before 10 am on our reopening day there was a hammering on the door with 'Aren't you going to let us in then?' It was great to see familiar adult faces; some with children who had been new born babies when we last saw them and others with little ones who had arrived during Lockdown.

Over the weeks our numbers grew and grew; there was clearly a pent up demand for a group such as ours. On the last week before the Autumn half term 32 families attended and as a family could consist of four individuals, the hall was certainly very crowded! It became clear to us that unfortunately we would have to introduce a booking system and this was launched after half term.

As the weeks wore on our registered numbers continued to grow and soon rose to 56 families. (As I write this in March 2022 we have 76 families on our register, although not all are regularly requiring spaces)

Our first term back included a number of special activities. We had our own Harvest Festival and were able to contribute to the Catching Lives Harvest Appeal with St Martin's. The appeal for children's toys for the Afghan evacuees was something we felt we could get involved with and a great many nearly new and brand new toys were kindly donated.

We needed to hold two Christmas parties in order to give the opportunity to all those who wanted to attend. We were very fortunate that, despite it being a very busy time for Father Christmas, he was able to pop in on both occasions in order to give the children their presents!

We were enormously encouraged that the people we met week by week were so appreciative. One mother told me that she had found it all too easy to stay at home during lockdown and had really lost the desire to go out at all. She went on to say that our group had given her an incentive to get out and start mixing with people again. We thank God that we have these opportunities to serve our local community and to hopefully make a difference in people's lives.

We are very fortunate to have a strong and dedicated team of people to run Tuesday Toddlers. I would especially like to thank Theresa Forrest, Val Bubb and Fran Bubb who faithfully turn up every week. We are very grateful to Laura Wraight and Jo Burrows who with others stay behind each week to put the furniture away. Thanks also go to Doug Bubb for 'helping out' at both Christmas parties, to Allan Forrest for mending our broken toys and to Petula Jones for so generously donating delicious cupcakes each week for our free raffle.

Carolyn Thomas
March 2022

Weddings in 2021 at St Martins Church in Herne

2021 was an unusual year for St Martin's Church in respect of weddings, due to the Pandemic and Lockdown restrictions from the Government.

We were unable to hold our Wedding Preparation morning at St Martin's in March due to Lockdown restrictions. The majority of paperwork for weddings was completed online by the Clergy and Weddings' Administrator.

There were 5 weddings booked for 2021, the first taking place on 24th April 2021, the last on 16th October 2021.

Initially couples could have 6 people present, then 15. The Prime Minister eased Lockdown restrictions from the 17th May 2021, stating up to 30 people would be able to attend weddings.

From the 21st June 2021 the Government lifted all restriction on numbers.

Joan Jeffers, Weddings' Administrator St Martin's Church
February 2022

Worship at St Peter's Greenhill

As we began to emerge from the 2020/21 lockdowns, Revd. Stacey Rand, on behalf of the Ministry Team, ran a survey to help us determine our future worship offerings, the results of which gave us the confidence to launch a new monthly 10.00 am Morning Worship Service at St Peter's Greenhill on 3rd Sundays of the month. Though not everyone who would normally attend the 10.00 am Service at St Martin's is attending, this new monthly service at St Peter's is regularly attracting an average of some 40 people. It particularly suits those who live in Greenhill, which is good as this is part of our aim. We are particularly grateful to Sarah Bingham and the Band for providing the music on 3rd Sundays as well as 1st Sundays in St Martin's, thus doubling their provision – and their rehearsal time!

Revd. Carol Smith
March 2022

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

GENERAL FUND	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£
Receipts and Payments Account				
RECEIPTS	1			
Voluntary Receipts				
Planned Giving		42,031	42,031	46,885
Collections at Services		3,418	3,418	1,425
Gift Aid and other voluntary receipts		18,034	18,034	13,027
Gift Aid Recovered		11,316	11,316	15,872
Legacy				5,000
Activities for Generating Funds		1,371	1,371	1,750
Church Activities - St Martins		15,097	15,097	6,885
Income Received for St Martins Hall		1,551	1,551	
Church Activities - St Peters		6,992	6,992	3,410
St Peters Rental since 18/11/2020		421	421	80
Receipts		100,230	100,230	94,334
Exceptional Items		26,988	26,988	10,524
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**127,218**	**127,218**	**104,858**
PAYMENTS	2			
Church Activities				
Parish Share - 2021		49,954	49,954	55,155
Balance of Parish Share 2020		18,828	18,828	
Clergy and Staffing Costs		7,723	7,723	12,029
Church Running Expenses		24,383	24,383	23,146
Occasional Office		7,915	7,915	4,519
Mission giving and donations		705	705	1,362
Fundraising		20	20	60
Church Hall - St Martins		1,719	1,719	1,163
Church Hall - St Peters		5,972	5,972	4,307
Transferred to Investment Accounts		11,021	11,021	6,000
Bank Charges		238	238	276
Payments		128,479	128,479	108,017
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**128,479**	**128,479**	**108,017**
Surplus/Deficit		(1,261)		(3,159)
Cash at Bank and in hand 1st January		6,797		10,103
Cash at Bank and in hand 31st December (Lloyds Bank and Santander)		5,537		6,797

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

St Martin's Church Hall	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
Income		£	£	£	£
Hall Lettings		5,204.50		5,204.50	5,467.00
Total Income		**5,204.50**		**5,204.50**	**5,467.00**
Payments					
Utilities		1,433.88		1,433.88	111.00
Cleaning		249.01		249.01	36.00
Cleaners Salary				0.00	284.00
Insurance		1,238.45		1,238.45	1,154.00
Maintenance		342.00		342.00	150.00
Music Licence		132.00		132.00	261.00
Rental Refund		36.50		36.50	30.00
Tsfer to General Account for parish share					6,000.00
Miscellaneous					70.00
Total Payments		**3,431.84**		**3,431.84**	**8,095.00**
Surplus/Deficit		**1,772.66**			(2,628)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		**1,365.00**			
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		**3,137.93**			
Youth Account	**3**				
BBQ Conribution					29.80
Activity Days		76.62		76.62	
Messy Church		129.72		129.72	
Little Fishes		105.56		105.56	
Total Income		**311.90**		311.90	
Payments					
Activity/Craft materials		150.00		150.00	45.00
Messy Church		57.39		57.39	0.00
Total Payments		**207.39**			
Surplus/Deficit		104.51			
Cash at bank 1st January		**887.00**			
Cash at bank 31st December		**991.78**			

St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	2020 £
Cash Funds					
Bank Current Account		5,537		5,537	6,797
Church Hall Account		3,138		3,138	1,365
Youth Account		992		992	887
Restoration Account	4		4,821	4,821	193
		9,667	4,821	14,488	9,243
Investment Assets	5		121,160	121,160	140,941
			121,160	121,160	140,941
Fixed Assets retained for Church Use				5,000	5,000
Liabilities					
Unpaid 2017 Parish Share					6,742
Unpaid 2018 Parish Share					11,704
Unpaid 2021 Parish Share		24,769		24,769	
Funds held on behalf of Mothers & Toddlers			287.86	288	419
Funds held on behalf of St Peter's Greenhill					
Little Fishes			1,051.14	1,051	
Messy Church			218.99	219	
Coffee Morning			318.66	319	
		24,769	1,876.65	26,646	18,865

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 4th April 2022 and signed by

Carol Smith

.....

Rev Carol Smith (Incumbent)

S. J. Gough

.....

Mrs Sheila Gough (Treasurer)

Bank:
Lloyds
144-146 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent

CCLA Investment Managerment Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

Independent Examiner:
PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis

1. Analysis of Receipts

Receipts

		2021	2020	2020
Voluntary Receipts		£	£	£
Planned Giving	37,743		40,551	
Weekly Envelopes	4,288	42,031	6,334	46,885
Collections and other giving	3,418	3,418		1,425
Gift Aid Envelopes	2,218		1,564	
Donations General	3,892		1,460	
Donation Friends of St Martin's	2,861			
Collections for specific purposes			438	
Telecommunications Mast	8,978		8,978	
Flower Box			36	
Candle Tree	28		39	
Wall Box	56			
Covid-19 Grant from KCC		18,034	510	13,027
Income Tax Recovered		11,316		15,872
Legacy				5,000
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Hospitality/Tea Coffee			88	
Mothers & Toddlers Group	122		117	
Stride and Ride	70			
Calenders/Noteletts			77	
Fundraising Events and Activities	1,179	1,371	1468	1,750
Receipts from Church Activities				
Wedding Deposits/Banns/Certificates	352		345	
PCC Fees for Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	4,695		2,419	
Diocese Fees for Weddings/Funerals	6,219		3,381	
Organist/Bells/Choir Fees	1,632		180	
Additional Wedding/Funeral Income	2,199	15,097	560	6,885
Receipts received on behalf of St Martins Hall (Utility Payments/Insurance/Cleaning Materials)	1,551	1,551		
St Peter's Greenhill				
Balance of funds transferred 18/11/2020			1,999	
Little Fishes	21		946	
Messy Church	69		147	
Coffee Morning			319	3,410
Rental income	6,982	6,992		
St Peters Rental since 18/11/2020	421	421		80
Total of above		100,230		94,334
Exceptional Items				
Refund Bank Charges			29	
Vicars Discretionary Fund			1,350	
Tsfer from Hall account re Parish Share			6,000	
Tsfer from Hall account re Music Licence			261	
Insurance Monies Received for Porch Window			1,885	
Funds transferred to pay Restoration invoice			1,000	
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund to pay balance of 2020 Parish Share	18,828			
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund to pay Universal Stone Invoice	8,160	26,988		10,524
Total Receipts		**127,218**		**104,858**

2. Analysis of Payments

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Payments

		2021 £		2020 £	2020 £
Direct Ministry Expenditure					
	Parish Share	49,954	49,954	55,155	55,155
	Bal of Parish Share 2020	18,828	18,828		
	Incumbents Working Expenses	422		660	
	Vicarage Telephone	716		756	
	Curates Working Expenses	216		549	
	Curates Telephone	111		108	
	Other Clergy Expenses	908		615	
	Organist/Secretary Salaries	2,922		2,895	
	Admininstration	2,429	7,723	6,448	12,029
Church Running Expenses					
	Utilities	4,730		3,649	
	Insurance	8,025		7,772	
	Repairs,Maintenance & Supplies	8,726		7,766	
	Church Security(Alarm/Lighting)	118		164	
	Upkeep of Churchyard	73		215	
	Worship	756		653	
	Music	980		901	
	Training Costs/Outreach			400	
	Red Lion Parking	720		720	
	Covid-19			686	
	Restoration Celebrations			200	
	Flowers	255	24,383		23,146
Occasional Office Expenditure					
	Weddings/Funerals			330	
	Wedding Deposit/Fees refund	1,622		600	
	Parochial Fees	6,293		3,589	
	(Wedding/Funeral fees to Diocese		7,915		4,519
Charitable Giving/Mission	Catching Lives			103	
	Advent for Justice Appeal			549	
	Royal British Legion	195		50	
	H/B Street Pastors			306	
	Mission to Sea Farers	15			
	Friends of Kent Churches	5		5	
	Gifts from Vicar's Discretionary Fund			350	1,362
	Anglican Renewal Mission	100			
	Childrens Society	78			
	Mothers & Toddlers	253			
	Activity Days	59			
			705		
Fundraising	Funday Sunday Refunds	20	20	60	60
St Martins Church Hall	Utilities	1,438		741	
	Music Licence			261	
	KT Fire			41	
	Insurance	60			
	Expenses				
	Cleaning	220	1,719	120	1,163
St Peter's Greenhill	Utilities	1,502		671	
	Cleaning Materials	364			
	Insurance	1,243		1,215	
	Caretaker Salary	2,484		615	
	Maintenance/Repairs	289		1,806	4,307
	Little Fishes	21			
	Messy Church	69	5,972		
Transferred to CCLA Fabric	Legacy			5,000	
Transferred to Restoration Account	Payment towards invoice			1,000	6,000
Transferred to Restoration Fund to pay Universal Stone Inv		8,160			
Transferred to Fabric Fund Friends Donation		2,861	11,021		
Bank Charges		238	238	276	276
			128,479		108,017
Total Payments			128,479		108,017

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3 Analysis of Youth Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Youth Account for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021 £		2020 £	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance 1st January	887.27		752.79	
Messy Church	129.72			
Little Fishes	105.56			
Activity Days	76.62	1,199.17		752.79
PAYMENTS				
Activity Equipment/Craft Materials	150.00		44.81	44.81
Messy Church	57.39	207.39		
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£707.98
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£991.78		
Start up Grant Received from Diocese B'fwd balance			179.29	179.29
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2020				**£887.27**
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2021		**£991.78**		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Analysis of Restoration Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Restoration Account
for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021 £		2020 £	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance 1st January	193.27		45,249.43	
Grants			30,020.00	
HLF Grants				
Chancel Repairs				
Friends of Kent Churches				
General Donations				
Outreach Projects				
Transferred from Gen Account	8,160.00		1,000.00	
VAT Reclaim	9,467.20	17,820.47	21,208.86	97,478.29
PAYMENTS				
Stone Masons	11,889.00		75,254.29	
A Goddard - Health & Safety			360.00	
Rita Pitsilli-Graham - Architect	1,110.50		11,677.96	
Sawyer & Fisher - Chartered Quantity Surveyors			9,992.77	
Additional Insurance				
Nailbourne (Bell Tower)				
Standard Consulting - Structural Engineers				
Outreach Projects		12,999.50		97,285.02
Balance as at 31st December 2020				**£193.27**
Balance as at 31st December 2021		**£4,820.97**		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds

Bell Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£16.98		£16.90	
Interest	£0.01		0.08	
		£16.99		£16.98
Balance at 31st December 2020				£16.98
Balance at 31st December 2021		£16.99		

Fabric Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£94,524.64		£89,134.78	
Legacy S Roberts			£5,000.00	
Friends of St Martin's Donation	£2,861.31			
Interest	£43.53		£389.86	
		£97,429.48		£94,524.64
PAYMENTS				
Paid balance of 2020 Parish Share	£18,828.00			
Paid balance of Universal Stone Invoice	£8,160.00	£26,988.00		
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£94,524.64
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£70,441.48		

Institute Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£11,604.03		£11,554.96	
Interest	£6.04	£11,610.07	£49.07	£11,604.03
PAYMENTS				
		£11,610.07		£11,604.03
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£11,604.03
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£11,610.07		

May Legacy Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021
Restricted for the use of the Poor and Needy of the Parish

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£24,085.33		£24,332.40	
Interest	£12.54	£24,097.87	£102.93	£24,435.33
PAYMENTS				
Vicar's Discretionary Fund		£0.00	£350.00	
				£350.00
		£24,097.87		£24,085.33
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£24,085.33
Balance as at 31st December 2021	£24,097.87			

5 continued

Organ Fund Account for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£1.29		£1.29	
Interest	£0.00	£1.29	£0.00	£1.29
PAYMENTS				
Balance at 31st December 2020				£1.29
Balance at 31st December 2021		£1.29		

Diocesan Deposit Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021
For the use of St Peter's Greenhill

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£7,005.74		£6,976.12	
Interest	£3.65	£7,009.39	£29.62	£7,005.74
PAYMENTS				
		£7,009.39		£7,005.74
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£7,005.74
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£7,009.39		

Restoration Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£3,107.55		£4,090.42	
Interest	£1.61	£3,109.16	£17.13	£4,107.55
PAYMENTS				
Transferred to General Account		£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
		£3,109.16		£3,107.55
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£3,107.55
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£3,109.16		

Roof Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£4,871.57		£4,850.97	
Interest	£2.54	£4,874.11	£20.60	
			£2.75	£4,871.57
PAYMENTS				
		£4,874.11		£4,871.57
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£4,871.57
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£4,874.11		

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

This Report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). It is my responsibility to issue this report on the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect

the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not not been met, or

Signed: M. A. Gamlevill

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 30th March 2022

Appendix to the booklet (see page 18 paragraph 17)

St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

Vicar's Verbal Report to APCM 2021
Sunday June 27th

In my verbal report to our last annual meeting (October 2020, which is on pages 19 to 21 in your booklet) I said:

> *"We have shown ourselves already that we are adaptable, teachable and creative. So my prayer is that we will do more than simply survive this (pandemic and its effects) together, we will grow and flourish as together we navigate these stormy waters of previously unforeseeable change."*

Now despite the continuing uncertainty that we're facing as a church, I believe this prayer has been answered, and will go on being answered provided we remain prayerful and faithful.

I reported then, that Bishop Rose and the Senior Staff Team had engaged us all in a "Listening and Discerning on the Way" exercise, which called us to consider three things:

1) What are we noticing of God's movement at this difficult time (through the pandemic)?
2) What are we learning as we reflect on how God seems to be moving?
3) What might we let go of or allow to cease, that we may enter a new future with God?

We are not alone in our struggles as a parish – to meet the current challenges, to resource all that we want to do in mission terms, to share God's love with others, and to pay our way.

That's what this "Towards a Flourishing and Sustainable Future" Report is about *[show]*. This is the product of a diocesan-wide consultation which has resulted in 15 Deanery Plans *(our own included)* plus a review of Central Services (Senior Staff & Diocesan House) and is a work-in-progress, as together we strive to go on serving our communities whilst aiming to balance our books in 2022.

In this context and in summary, our Reculver Deanery Plan foresees:

- an opportunity to be more creative with our use of buildings
- identifying duplication and sharing specialisms, e.g. youth ministry, pastoral care
- an opportunity to enable and equip more lay people to offer and use their God-given gifts

- a potential reduction in the number of stipendiary clergy from the current six to five *(at the Herne Bay end of the Deanery, though this will not happen until one of us current three – Revd's Carol, Anthony and Sue - moves or retires)*

As a parish, your PCC is already on a mission-mobilising journey. *(You may remember Revd George Fisher's online session with us. George is a consultant for Re-Source (formerly Anglican Renewal Ministries) who is helping us and he will join us in person for a Parish Mission weekend in October, which you will all be invited to.)*

And to compliment this, Lisa (Churchwarden) and myself just last week attended our first "Missional Learning Communities" session, which will help us all to grow more confident in spotting God at work in our lives and in the world, and *naming* what we notice. *(We will be bringing this to the PCC and to you as a congregation, so you'll be involved very soon.)*

So even though the road ahead is still pitted with uncertainties, there is plenty going on to fill us with hope and promise.

We will need to pray and work together with what we've got – with everything God has given us – and trust that God's got this, even when we can't see it.

I'd like to end by sharing a slide (The Changed Lives, Changing Lives Vision Statement), which I invite you to take a few moments to reflect on, by yourself, before I close with a prayer and blessing.

The Changed Lives → Changing Lives Vision

By God's grace we want to be a people who are ...
... confident & creative disciples of Jesus Christ
... rooted in scripture & drenched in prayer
... living gratefully, giving generously, caring for creation & sharing the gospel
... growing in number & expectations – of God & ourselves
... motivated by justice & love, open to the Spirit & ready for adventure!

THEREFORE WE WILL

Revd Carol Smith

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

GENERAL FUND	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£
Receipts and Payments Account				
RECEIPTS	1			
Voluntary Receipts				
Planned Giving		42,031	42,031	46,885
Collections at Services		3,418	3,418	1,425
Gift Aid and other voluntary receipts		18,034	18,034	13,027
Gift Aid Recovered		11,316	11,316	15,872
Legacy				5,000
Activities for Generating Funds		1,371	1,371	1,750
Church Activities - St Martins		15,097	15,097	6,885
Income Received for St Martins Hall		1,551	1,551	
Church Activities - St Peters		6,992	6,992	3,410
St Peters Rental since 18/11/2020		421	421	80
Receipts		100,230	100,230	94,334
Exceptional Items		26,988	26,988	10,524
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**127,218**	**127,218**	**104,858**
PAYMENTS	2			
Church Activities				
Parish Share - 2021		49,954	49,954	55,155
Balance of Parish Share 2020		18,828	18,828	
Clergy and Staffing Costs		7,723	7,723	12,029
Church Running Expenses		24,383	24,383	23,146
Occasional Office		7,915	7,915	4,519
Mission giving and donations		705	705	1,362
Fundraising		20	20	60
Church Hall - St Martins		1,719	1,719	1,163
Church Hall - St Peters		5,972	5,972	4,307
Transferred to Investment Accounts		11,021	11,021	6,000
Bank Charges		238	238	276
Payments		128,479	128,479	108,017
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**128,479**	**128,479**	**108,017**
Surplus/Deficit		(1,261)		(3,159)
Cash at Bank and in hand 1st January		6,797		10,103
Cash at Bank and in hand 31st December (Lloyds Bank and Santander)		5,537		6,797

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

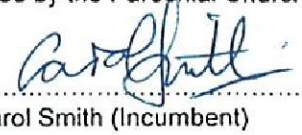
St Martin's Church Hall	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
Income		£	£	£	£
Hall Lettings		5,204.50		5,204.50	5,467.00
Total Income		**5,204.50**		**5,204.50**	**5,467.00**
Payments					
Utilities		1,433.88		1,433.88	111.00
Cleaning		249.01		249.01	36.00
Cleaners Salary				0.00	284.00
Insurance		1,238.45		1,238.45	1,154.00
Maintenance		342.00		342.00	150.00
Music Licence		132.00		132.00	261.00
Rental Refund		36.50		36.50	30.00
Tsfer to General Account for parish share					6,000.00
Miscellaneous					70.00
Total Payments		**3,431.84**		**3,431.84**	**8,095.00**
Surplus/Deficit		**1,772.66**			(2,628)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		**1,365.00**			
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		**3,137.93**			
Youth Account	**3**				
BBQ Conribution					29.80
Activity Days		76.62		76.62	
Messy Church		129.72		129.72	
Little Fishes		105.56		105.56	
Total Income		**311.90**		311.90	
Payments					
Activity/Craft materials		150.00		150.00	45.00
Messy Church		57.39		57.39	0.00
Total Payments		**207.39**			
Surplus/Deficit		104.51			
Cash at bank 1st January		**887.00**			
Cash at bank 31st December		**991.78**			

St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

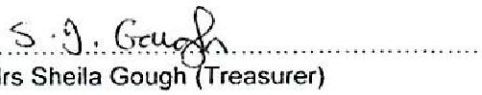
Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2021	TOTAL FUNDS 2020
Cash Funds		£	£	£	£
Bank Current Account		5,537		5,537	6,797
Church Hall Account		3,138		3,138	1,365
Youth Account		992		992	887
Restoration Account	4		4,821	4,821	193
		9,667	**4,821**	**14,488**	**9,243**
Investment Assets	5		121,160	121,160	140,941
			121,160	**121,160**	**140,941**
Fixed Assets retained for Church Use				**5,000**	**5,000**
Liabilities					
Unpaid 2017 Parish Share					6,742
Unpaid 2018 Parish Share					11,704
Unpaid 2021 Parish Share		24,769		24,769	
Funds held on behalf of Mothers & Toddlers			287.86	288	419
Funds held on behalf of St Peter's Greenhill					
Little Fishes			1,051.14	1,051	
Messy Church			218.99	219	
Coffee Morning			318.66	319	
		24,769	**1,876.65**	**26,646**	**18,865**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 4TH April 2022 and signed by



Rev Carol Smith (Incumbent)



Mrs Sheila Gough (Treasurer)

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Lloyds
144-146 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent

CCLA Investment Managerment Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
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Independent Examiner:
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Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis

1. Analysis of Receipts

Receipts

		2021	2020	2020
Voluntary Receipts		£	£	£
Planned Giving	37,743		40,551	
Weekly Envelopes	4,288	42,031	6,334	46,885
Collections and other giving	3,418	3,418		1,425
Gift Aid Envelopes	2,218		1,564	
Donations General	3,892		1,460	
Donation Friends of St Martin's	2,861			
Collections for specific purposes			438	
Telecommunications Mast	8,978		8,978	
Flower Box			36	
Candle Tree	28		39	
Wall Box	56			
Covid-19 Grant from KCC		18,034	510	13,027
Income Tax Recovered		11,316		15,872
Legacy				5,000
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Hospitality/Tea Coffee			88	
Mothers & Toddlers Group	122		117	
Stride and Ride	70			
Calenders/Noteletts			77	
Fundraising Events and Activities	1,179	1,371	1468	1,750
Receipts from Church Activities				
Wedding Deposits/Banns/Certificates	352		345	
PCC Fees for Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	4,695		2,419	
Diocese Fees for Weddings/Funerals	6,219		3,381	
Organist/Bells/Choir Fees	1,632		180	
Additional Wedding/Funeral Income	2,199	15,097	560	6,885
Receipts received on behalf of St Martins Hall (Utility Payments/Insurance/Cleaning Materials)	1,551	1,551		
St Peter's Greenhill				
Balance of funds transferred 18/11/2020			1,999	
Little Fishes	21		946	
Messy Church	69		147	
Coffee Morning			319	3,410
Rental income	6,992	6,992		
St Peters Rental since 18/11/2020	421	421		80
Total of above		**100,230**		**94,334**
Exceptional Items				
Refund Bank Charges			29	
Vicars Discretionary Fund			1,350	
Tsfer from Hall account re Parish Share			6,000	
Tsfer from Hall account re Music Licence			261	
Insurance Monies Received for Porch Window			1,885	
Funds transferred to pay Restoration invoice			1,000	
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund to pay balance of 2020 Parish Share	18,828			
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund to pay Universal Stone Invoice	8,160	26,988		10,524
Total Receipts		**127,218**		**104,858**

2. Analysis of Payments

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Payments

		2021 £		2020 £	2020 £
Direct Ministry Expenditure					
	Parish Share	49,954	49,954	55,155	55,155
	Bal of Parish Share 2020	18,828	18,828		
	Incumbents Working Expenses	422		660	
	Vicarage Telephone	716		756	
	Curates Working Expenses	216		549	
	Curates Telephone	111		108	
	Other Clergy Expenses	908		615	
	Organist/Secretary Salaries	2,922		2,895	
	Admininstration	2,429	7,723	6,448	12,029
Church Running Expenses					
	Utilities	4,730		3,649	
	Insurance	8,025		7,772	
	Repairs,Maintenance & Supplies	8,726		7,786	
	Church Security(Alarm/Lighting)	118		164	
	Upkeep of Churchyard	73		215	
	Worship	756		653	
	Music	980		901	
	Training Costs/Outreach			400	
	Red Lion Parking	720		720	
	Covid-19			686	
	Restoration Celebrations			200	
	Flowers	255	24,383		23,146
Occasional Office Expenditure					
	Weddings/Funerals			330	
	Wedding Deposit/Fees refund	1,622		600	
	Parochial Fees	6,293		3,589	
	(Wedding/Funeral fees to Diocese		7,915		4,519
Charitable Giving/Mission	Catching Lives			103	
	Advent for Justice Appeal			549	
	Royal British Legion	195		50	
	H/B Street Pastors			306	
	Mission to Sea Farers	15			
	Friends of Kent Churches	5		5	
	Gifts from Vicar's Discretionary Fund			350	1,362
	Anglican Renewal Mission	100			
	Childrens Society	78			
	Mothers & Toddlers	253			
	Activity Days	59			
			705		
Fundraising	Funday Sunday Refunds	20	20	60	60
St Martins Church Hall	Utilities	1,438		741	
	Music Licence			261	
	KT Fire			41	
	Insurance	60			
	Expenses				
	Cleaning	220	1,719	120	1,163
St Peter's Greenhill	Utilities	1,502		671	
	Cleaning Materials	364			
	Insurance	1,243		1,215	
	Caretaker Salary	2,484		615	
	Maintenance/Repairs	289		1,806	4,307
	Little Fishes	21			
	Messy Church	69	5,972		
Transferred to CCLA Fabric	Legacy			5,000	
Transferred to Restoration Account	Payment towards invoice			1,000	6,000
Transferred to Restoration Fund to pay Universal Stone Inv		8,160			
Transferred to Fabric Fund Friends Donation		2,861	11,021		
Bank Charges		238	238	276	276
			128,479		108,017
Total Payments			128,479		108,017

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3 Analysis of Youth Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Youth Account for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS	£		£	
Opening Balance 1st January	887.27		752.79	
Messy Church	129.72			
Little Fishes	105.56			
Activity Days	76.62	1,199.17		752.79
PAYMENTS				
Activity Equipment/Craft Materials	150.00		44.81	44.81
Messy Church	57.39	207.39		
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£707.98
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£991.78		
Start up Grant Received from Diocese B'fwd balance			179.29	179.29
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2020				**£887.27**
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2021		**£991.78**		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Analysis of Restoration Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Restoration Account
for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021 £		2020 £	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance 1st January	193.27		45,249.43	
Grants			30,020.00	
HLF Grants				
Chancel Repairs				
Friends of Kent Churches				
General Donations				
Outreach Projects				
Transferred from Gen Account	8,160.00		1,000.00	
VAT Reclaim	9,467.20	17,820.47	21,208.86	97,478.29
PAYMENTS				
Stone Masons	11,889.00		75,254.29	
A Goddard - Health & Safety			360.00	
Rita Pitsilli-Graham - Architect	1,110.50		11,677.96	
Sawyer & Fisher - Chartered Quantity Surveyors			9,992.77	
Additional Insurance				
Nailbourne (Bell Tower)				
Standard Consulting - Structural Engineers				
Outreach Projects		12,999.50		97,285.02
Balance as at 31st December 2020				**£193.27**
Balance as at 31st December 2021		**£4,820.97**		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds

Bell Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£16.98		£16.90	
Interest	£0.01		0.08	
		£16.99		£16.98
Balance at 31st December 2020				£16.98
Balance at 31st December 2021		£16.99		

Fabric Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£94,524.64		£89,134.78	
Legacy S Roberts			£5,000.00	
Friends of St Martin's Donation	£2,861.31			
Interest	£43.53		£389.86	
		£97,429.48		£94,524.64
PAYMENTS				
Paid balance of 2020 Parish Share	£18,828.00			
Paid balance of Universal Stone Invoice	£8,160.00	£26,988.00		
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£94,524.64
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£70,441.48		

Institute Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£11,604.03		£11,554.96	
Interest	£6.04	£11,610.07	£49.07	£11,604.03
PAYMENTS				
		£11,610.07		£11,604.03
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£11,604.03
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£11,610.07		

May Legacy Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021
Restricted for the use of the Poor and Needy of the Parish

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£24,085.33		£24,332.40	
Interest	£12.54	£24,097.87	£102.93	£24,435.33
PAYMENTS				
Vicar's Discretionary Fund		£0.00	£350.00	
				£350.00
		£24,097.87		£24,085.33
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£24,085.33
Balance as at 31st December 2021	£24,097.87			

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5 continued

Organ Fund Account for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£1.29		£1.29	
Interest	£0.00	£1.29	£0.00	£1.29
PAYMENTS				
Balance at 31st December 2020				£1.29
Balance at 31st December 2021		£1.29		

Diocesan Deposit Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021
For the use of St Peter's Greenhill

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£7,005.74		£6,976.12	
Interest	£3.65	£7,009.39	£29.62	£7,005.74
PAYMENTS				
		£7,009.39		£7,005.74
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£7,005.74
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£7,009.39		

Restoration Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£3,107.55		£4,090.42	
Interest	£1.61	£3,109.16	£17.13	£4,107.55
PAYMENTS				
Transferred to General Account		£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
		£3,109.16		£3,107.55
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£3,107.55
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£3,109.16		

Roof Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£4,871.57		£4,850.97	
Interest	£2.54	£4,874.11	£20.60	
			£2.75	£4,871.57
PAYMENTS				
		£4,874.11		£4,871.57
Balance as at 31st December 2020				£4,871.57
Balance as at 31st December 2021		£4,874.11		

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

This Report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). It is my responsibility to issue this report on the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect

the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not not been met, or

Signed: M. A. Gamlonill

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 30th March 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

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Signed: M. A. Gambrill

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 30th March 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN HERNE WIT

England & Wales - Charity number 1134604

Accounts

The Parish Church of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 27th June, 2021, at 11.15am in St Martin's

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THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Together we seek to reveal God's love and grace to all

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Martin's Church Herne on Sunday 27th June 2021 at 11.15 am

AGENDA

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 4th October 2020
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of churchwardens (two- one offering herself for re- election and, if nominated ,another) and Deputy Church Wardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 4th October 2020
4. Matters arising from minutes
5. Vicar's report
6. Electoral Roll Report with updated numbers on roll as at the 27th June 2021
7. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2020
8. Church wardens report
9. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2020 accounts
10. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's
11. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
12. Fabric Committee Report
13. Election of PCC members. To include
    a. Election of two PCC members (if nominations received)
    b. Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting
14. Reports from church organisations

a. Bell ringing
b. The Choir
c. The Flower arrangers
d. Fortnightly Wednesday evening Bible Study
e. Gift Aid
f. Pastoral Matters
g. Restoration
h. Safeguarding
i. Schools group
j. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
k. The St Martin's Herne Tapestry
l. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group

15. Reports from individuals (Covid Observations)
16. Date of first meeting of the new PCC
17. Any other business
18. The Blessing

CHURCH INFORMATION

ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE with ST PETER, GREENHILL,
Registered Charity No 1134604

1st January-31st December 2020

St Martin-in-Herne Church
Herne Street
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent

St Peter's Church
Herne Drive
Greenhill
Herne Bay
Kent

INCUMBENT
Revd. Carol Smith

CURATE
Revd. Catherine Darkins
Revd. Stacey Rand (from April 2019)

BANKERS
St Martin-in-Herne Church
Lloyds, Herne Bay

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House, 85 Queen's Street, London, EC4V 4ET

St Peter's Church

Santander Account

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

P.G.Lemon LLP 22 – 26 bank Street Herne Bay CT6 5EAL

BACKGROUND
The parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter, Greenhill extends to the railway in Eddington to the North, includes Broomfield, Talmead Estate, Greenhill, Still Water Park, Herne Common and Blean Woods in the South. The population is approximately 16,000 and, in addition, there is some much needed new housing in the east of the parish.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended.

The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020.

THE TASK OF THE PCC
The Synodical Government Measure 1969 states clearly:

> *It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance in the parish.*

It then sets out a number of functions of the PCC, of which perhaps the most important – and certainly the widest – is that the primary objective of the PCC is:

Co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical

The incumbent and the PCC each have their own particular rights and responsibilities in the life of the church, but the important theme here is partnership and co-operation. More specifically the PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and churchyard, and, with the incumbent, for deciding how the church's money is to be spent. The PCC is formally the employer of the church's paid workers, for example our organist, St Peter's caretaker and administrator. The PCC will have on it one or more members of the Deanery Synod, who have an important role in linking the parish into the wider structures of the church, and also Churches Together in Herne Bay.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either, ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

From 1st January 2020 and specifically from the APCM of the 4th October 2020 the following served as members of the PCC and all are also trustees:

Ex-Officio:

Revd. Carol Smith	Vicar
Revd. Catherine Darkins	Curate
Revd. Stacey Rand	Curate (from April 2019)
Margaret Edwards	*Churchwarden (Retired October 2020)*
John Bennett	*Churchwarden (term of office ended October 2020)*
Lisa Crowhurst	Church warden from 4th October2020
Paul Tapsell	Deputy Churchwarden from 4th October 2020
Sarah Bingham	Deputy Churchwarden from 4th October 2020
Sheila Gough	Treasurer (originally a co-opted member but appointed as PCC member at the APCM on 4th October 2020)
Andrew Gough	Gift Aid Secretary
Sharon Sayers	*Secretary (non- voting member of the PCC or trustee) until June 2020*
Denise Smith	Acting Secretary from February 2020 but from June 2020 unable to fulfil role at any on line meetings.
Andrew Gough	In the absence of Denise Smith acting PCC Secretary until 19th October 2020 when confirmed as PCC secretary)
Frances Ventham	Reader & Deanery Synod until 4th October2020
Priscilla Cox	Deanery Synod from 4th October2020
Richard Chant	Deanery Synod from 4th October2020

Elected (8 members)

Retired October 2020

- Angie Holness

Elected 2018/Retires 2021

- Margaret Edwards (but retired October 2020 before end of office)
- Roger Jackson

Elected 2019/Retires 2022

- Doug Bubb
- Andrew Gough
- Anne Lehane
- Denise Smith

Elected 2020/Retires 2023

- Deborah Waller
- Sheila Gough (previously co-opted in her role as treasurer)
- Peter Frost

Deanery Synod Rep Elected 2017/Retired 2020 but re-elected 2020 for a three year appointment

- Priscilla Cox
- Mr Richard Chant

In 2021 there will be vacancies for the following:

- Churchwardens(annual appointment)– Lisa Crowhurst to offer herself for re –election
- Churchwarden – 1 vacancy
- Elected PCC Members – 2 vacancies for 2021-2024.

Co-opted members/invitees

- Susan Record
- Joanne Hollings
- Frances Ventham as a lay reader

Current Officers

Revd. Carol Smith	Chair
Priscilla Cox	Vice chair
Sheila Gough	Treasurer
Andrew Gough	Secretary

COMMITTEES

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 direction by the Council. It consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer and at least another PCC member, in our case preferably a representative of the PCC of St Peter's. It acts as another committee and reports back to the PCC. It can also discuss the next PCC agenda.

By a resolution of the PCC passed on the 19th October 2020 it has authority to spend up to £250 for equipment or in relation to any other issue brought before it and may commit to an aggregate expenditure of £500 only, subject to the details of the individual and aggregated expenditure being brought to the next PCC meeting following the standing committee.

Members: Revd. Carol Smith (chair), Andrew Gough (secretary), Sheila Gough (Treasurer), Paul Tapsell, Sarah Bingham, Roger Jackson and Peter Frost.

All members of the PCC are expected to sit on a committee.

Other Committees in 2020 were:

Finance and Stewardship	**Fabric – St Martin's, Institute Hall, St Peter's and reordering at St Martin's**	**Restoration**	**Social**	**Communications & Publicity**
• Sheila Gough (Chair) • Priscilla Cox • Peter Frost	• John Bennett Chair until October) • Priscilla Cox(chair from October) • Paul Tapsell • Doug Bubb • Roger Jackson	• Susan Record • Keith Record • John Bennett	• Sarah Bingham (chair)	• Revd. Carol • Anne Lehane • Sarah Bingham

In addition:

- Mission & Evangelism Team (it had met for the first time on March 19th 2019 as a result of Herne Parish becoming one of the first to be invited to join the Diocesan "Changed Lives Changing Lives Conversations" – see report). The team currently comprises Revd. Carol, Revd. Cat, Revd. Stacey (when available), Anne Lehane
- Safeguarding coordinator: Jean Dilnot and Margaret Edwards until October 2020 when they retired and the PCC appointed Joanne Hollings and co-opted her as a PCC member
- Gift Aid Secretary: Andrew Gough
- Electoral Roll Officer: Andrew Gough
- Health & Safety Rep: Doug Bubb

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR 2020

Customarily, the full Parish Mission Statistics (Service attendance, Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals etc.) would appear here. However, given the pandemic-effect in 2020 these do not make comparable reading with previous years' figures. Therefore, what follows is a summary of service attendance in the weeks in between lockdowns one and two, when Herne St Martin's was open:

- Advent 2020: 139 people attended special services for the congregation and local community and 350 people attended special services held specifically for schools.
- Christmas 2020: there were 41 communicants at services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- For the first time, Church at Home attendance figures, i.e. those attending online services, were requested by the Church of England for our parish mission return: apart from the 'specials' which are referenced in the Vicar's Report, we recorded an average 45 people viewing/attending online services each week.
- Our Worshipping Community at the end of 2020 equates to 70 people.
- There were no fresh expressions of Church, i.e. Messy Church or Toddler Groups.
- There were 10 Baptisms and 1 Thanksgiving Service for a child.
- There were 2 Weddings.
- The clergy took 18 Funerals, only one of which was in St Martin's, and 2 Committal-only services at Herne Bay Cemetery.

A full copy of the Statistics for Mission return is available on request from the Vicar.

Electoral Roll

At the 31st December 2020 the number of people on the St Martin's Electoral Roll was 100 (93 at April 2019 APCM and increasing to 100 at the APCM on the 4th October 2020)

Andrew Gough Electoral Roll Officer

PUBLIC BENEFIT

[1]The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, [3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour

The vision of our parish is stated within our mission statement.

We now have a Diocesan-trained Pastoral Assistant (Margaret Edwards) who leads our small locally-trained pastoral team.

We are registered with the Charity Commission by virtue that we "Advance Religion for the Public Benefit", and are required to state our aims in their terms as below

Encouraging and facilitating the practice of Christianity by existing followers and seekers.

Place of worship, including:

- For the practice of Christian faith, the provision and maintenance of two buildings, and adjoining hall and meeting rooms used for related activities, e.g. religious instruction for children.
- The conducting of religious ceremonies, e.g. Eucharist, Baptism, Weddings, Blessings and Funerals.
- The maintenance of two public churchyards with one garden of remembrance and war memorial.
- Provision of Public Worship throughout the year as well as at times of national importance (Remembrance).
- Bereavement care, prayers, visits and worship.
- The provision and maintenance of Christian devotional artefacts and items used in religious services.
- Maintaining a grade one ancient building for the nation.

Raising awareness and understanding of religious beliefs and practices, including:

- Advancing the Christian faith.
- Providing a Christian resource for the community (information, teaching and library).
- Promoting and providing the study of Christian teaching, practice and scripture.

- Supporting schools and other educational establishments, including three theological training colleges (student placements), which provide education in accordance with the principles and practices of the religion.
- Support the Diocese in the provision of ministry and Diocesan services through payment of the Diocesan share.
- Working with (worship, education, pastoral care) and governance of our two church schools in Herne.
- Encouragement and worship in one Community Primary School and also our Secondary School.

Religious devotional acts, including:
- Visiting the sick and administering the sacraments to the sick and dying.

Missionary and outreach work, including:
- The provision of hospital and other chaplaincy (Critical emergency chaplain, Strode Park).
- Hospital visiting.
- The provision of pastoral care to residential and domiciliary homes.
- Cultural and community activities provided in the place of worship and in the buildings attached, e.g., community facilities, community care, toddlers, community Cafe and Meals for the Homeless etc.).

Work for reconciliation, building community and peace across the parish.

Religious communication, including:
- Sermons, talks, meetings and conferences and the provision of religious material via the internet website.

Retreat and pilgrimage, including: A place for short and day retreats.

Advancing religion generally including:
- Charitable giving to many different peoples in need, both near and far, (e.g., Help for Heroes, Christian Aid, Crisis, Children's Society, Catching Lives, etc.)
- Seeking to safeguard creation through moral use of resources and ways we manage our graveyards.

These aims are fulfilled as evidenced in the reports that follow.

Signed:

31st March 2021

Revd. Carol Smith Date

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 4th October at 10.45am at St Martin's Church, Herne.

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Revd. Carol welcomed those present and led those attending in an opening prayer

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Judith Harvey, Frances Ventham, Alan Wren, Denise Smith, Peter Thomas and Joan Jeffers.

Preliminary Issues

An agenda, full minutes and reports (including accounts) had been sent online and were available in hardcopy form if required by those present. The electoral roll was available for inspection at the back of the church.

Revd. Carol pointed out that there were some typographical errors. The APCM in 2019 had been held on Sunday14th April not Sunday the 24th. Also in the Church Information it referred to the independent examiner as being Mr Alan Ratford whereas the new examiner had been PG Lemon LLP.

One report from the churchyard restoration team had not been published and Sandra Williams had prepared a separate addendum which was circulated to those present.

Amended copies of the minutes and reports were available and would be signed off if approved.

Andrew Gough, as acting PCC secretary introduced two issues raised by the PCC

1. In order to offer the opportunity for as many people as possible to take part in the proceedings of the APCM the PCC had decided to offer proxy votes. However, no such proxies had been received either to vote for laity representatives or to raise any issues at the APCM.

2. Because it was unclear whether the Covid arrangements might apply at the next APCM, which was scheduled for April 2021, the PCC had decided to seek authority to arrange for postal votes. This would enable members on the electoral roll to vote for representatives of the laity onto the PCC and other formal positions. Such authority had not previously been sought and a resolution had to be passed at the APCM to confirm such arrangements.

   Andrew Gough tabled the proposed resolution shown on the church projector screen (see appendix 1 to these minutes) which would be voted upon today under Any Other Business. He summarised the terms of the resolution and how postal votes worked in practice:
   a. The resolution did not require the PCC to hold a postal vote but it will have discretion to decide whether it wished to do so. If it decided to have a postal vote,

then the APCM resolution gave it authority to do so and for members to seek postal ballots.

b. The resolution would only take effect at the next APCM in April 2021 and any following APCM until rescinded.
c. Postal votes will only be required if there was a contested election and there were more candidates than positions available. Otherwise candidates are automatically voted into position.
d. As candidates for any elected position could be nominated up to the start of the APCM a ballot paper for postal votes could not be prepared in advance until the start of the APCM itself.
e. If there was a contested election then those voting and present at the APCM would have to vote in writing and would be given a hastily prepared ballot paper to sign and cast their vote. These would be handed to the chair of the meeting who would appoint a presiding officer to take custody of the ballot papers
f. within seven days of the closing of the APCM the presiding officer would then have to send out a ballot paper to all those who wanted a postal vote and these voters would then have to vote and sign and return there ballot paper within seven days otherwise their vote would not count.
g. All the votes would then be counted and the result of the election would be announced.
h. The effect was to delay the appointment of the elected members to the various administrative positions. However, it would ensure that nobody was disenfranchised simply because they did not want to attend an APCM.

Those people present at the APCM were urged to consider the resolution. For it to take effect more than two thirds of those present would have to vote in favour

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

Revd. Carol explained that historically the vestry meeting would often be held privately but nowadays churches hold it in public as part of the full APCM.

1. The minutes of the vestry meeting held on 14th April 2019 were agreed as a correct record. Proposer Sarah Bingham Seconder Doug Bubb

2. There were no matters arising

3. Election of Church Wardens (two positions vacant) and Deputy Church Wardens (two positions). Revd. Carol thanked John Bennett and Margaret Edwards (in her absence) for

their considerable work as Church Wardens over the past three years and also to Sarah Bingham and Paul Tapsell (in his absence) for such willing and able support as Deputies.

4. Only one candidate had put her name forward to be Church Warden.

   Lisa Crowhurst
   Proposed by Liza Seed
   Seconded by Roger Jackson

   There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, Lisa Crowhurst was duly elected as Church Warden for the coming year.

5. It would be normal practice for the Church Warden to be admitted to office by the Bishop Rose of Dover (or her formally appointed deputy) at a formal service usually at the cathedral. However, because of the exceptional circumstances of the Covid pandemic Bishop Rose had given full authority to each incumbent at a parish to admit the Church Wardens on her behalf. Revd. Carol then formally admitted Lisa Crowhurst as Church Warden with Lisa giving the formal declaration required in response.

6. There were two candidates for deputy Church Wardens:

   Sarah Bingham
   Proposed by Jean White
   Seconded by Roger Jackson.

   Paul Tapsell
   Proposed by Andrew Gough
   Seconded by Roger Jackson

   There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, Sarah Bingham and Paul Tapsell were duly elected as Deputy Church Wardens for the coming year

7. There being no other business the vestry meeting was concluded

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies given as above. Judith Harvey, Frances Ventham, Alan Wren, Denise Smith, Peter Thomas and Joan Jeffers

2. Minutes of the annual meeting held on Sunday, 14th April 2019 were presented and agreed subject to the amendments previously discussed. The minutes were approved (Proposed by Doug Bubb and Seconded by Liza Seed)

3. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda

4. Revd. Carol gave a detailed report of the church's business over the past year. A transcript of the report is set out at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

5. Andrew Gough in his capacity as electoral roll secretary confirmed that at the APCM in April 2019 there had been 93 members on the electoral roll. Subsequently eight people had been added to the role but one person's name had been removed. Accordingly there were one hundred (100) members on the electoral roll which meant that there were nine lay places available on the PCC. Five had already been filled and four were now available for nominations. He confirmed that the full electoral roll was available for inspection at the church during the APCM.
   There were no questions.

6. The annual report of the proceedings of the PCC during 2019 was taken as read. Sharon Sayers had subsequently stepped down from her role as PCC secretary. Denise Smith had initially taken over but Andrew Gough was now the acting PCC secretary. There were no questions.

7. Sheila Gough, as treasurer, introduced the 2019 financial reports for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill.
    a. Once again it had been a challenging year. The church had been fortunate to receive a legacy from Peggy Edwards and this had been used to pay for the parish share 2019 but there still remained a deficit of £18,500 respect of the parish share for 2017/2018. The diocese had not yet written this off.
    b. There had been a successful plan giving stewardship campaign which helped to increase the income for the year.
    c. Gift aid claims are still useful source of income for the church and those who donated and paid tax should consider signing up for gift aid.
    d. The Church Institute Hall was paying its way but there was a deficit in the income from St Peter's Greenhill.
    e. Sheila confirmed that she will be taking over the accounts for St Peter's Greenhill from Jean Dilnot and these would be integrated within the accounts for St Martin's.
    f. Sheila Gough invited questions but there were none.
    g. The financial accounts were commended to those present to be approved and were approved unanimously.
    h. Revd. Carol thanked Sheila Gough for her work as treasurer and asked those present whether there might be members who would be willing to assist Sheila in forming a small finance team. If so they should contact Sheila or Revd. Carol.

8. Appointment of Auditors for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill
    a. Sheila Gough proposed that PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA should be re- appointed as independent examiner for the present financial year.
    b. This was seconded by Andrew Gough
    c. Those present voted unanimously for the reappointment.

9. Appointment of members of the PCC
    a. Angie Holness was retiring from the PCC and Revd. Carol thanked her for her support during her term of office
    b. Three candidates had been nominated to take positions on the PCC

Sheila Gough (previously a co-opted member)
Proposed Priscilla Cox
Seconded by Andrew Gough

Deborah Waller
Proposed by Doug Bubb
Seconded by Peter Frost

Peter Frost
Proposed by Jean White
Seconded by Roger Jackson

There being no other candidates all nominations were accepted

Revd. Carol reported that Jean Dilnot had stepped down from her safeguarding role within the church. Joanna Hollings has offered to take on this position and will be co-opted as a member of the PCC.

10. Revd. Carol confirmed that the Sides people would be appointed at the PCC not at the APCM.

11. Priscilla Cox presented her report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod which was part of the papers already submitted. There were no questions.

12. The tenures of Priscilla Cox and Richard Chant as Deanery Synod representatives had come to an end. However, they had offered themselves to be re-appointed, their nominations being:

Priscilla Cox
Proposed Doug Bubb
Seconded Keith Record

Richard Chant
Proposed Priscilla Cox
Seconded Susan Record

There being no other nominations, the two appointments were approved unanimously.

13. The Church Wardens' report was taken as read and no questions were raised.

14. Revd. Carol then introduced the reports from the Church Organisations and Committees. They demonstrated the diversity of interests and responsibilities that people took on within the life of the church. She hoped that reading the reports would encourage people to join some of the organisations or offer support. All reports were taken as read and there were no questions.

15. Sandra Williams introduced her written report as an addendum to the previous reports which are been circulated. Hard copies were available. She said that the churchyard team had worked very hard during the year with an approximate group of 20 people regularly turning out to provide gardening help at particular times of the year. Last year had seen the churchyard entered into the National Heritage open day and over 75 people visited the church there was a further event in August as part of the Herne Bay festival which was sustained with the help from the local history group. Sandra Williams commended the group to those present who might be interested in helping. There was always good camaraderie.
Revd. Carol thanked Sandra for her help.

16. Revd. Carol confirmed that the PCC would be commissioned at the Sunday service on 18th October when there would be a service of communion.

17. The date of the first PCC meeting after the APCM will be Monday 19th October 2020

18. Revd. Carol then thanked the following for their help and services throughout the year

    - John Bennett and Margaret Edwards (Church Wardens)
    - Sarah Bingham and Paul Tapsell (Deputy Church Wardens)
    - Clergy colleagues: Revd. Cat, Revd. Stacey, Revd. Geoff
    - Readers: Frances Ventham, Deborah Waller (latterly)
    - Priscilla Cox, for all her assistance with Occasional Offices and in the background
    - Sheila Gough (Treasurer)
    - Andrew Gough (Sacristan, Electoral Roll Officer, Gift Aid Secretary, now Acting PCC Secretary)
    - Susan Record (Organist) & Chris Exley (for Choir leading, and for the Choir themselves) PLUS Sarah Bingham (Band Leader) and the Band members
    - Liz Sellen & Flower Team
    - Sandra Williams & Churchyard Team (And Sandra & Tim for their ministry among us over many years, as they prepared to move back to Cambridge)
    - New Church Cleaning Team (Liza Seed now plus Angie Lemmer & Hilary Burnage)
    - Outgoing members of the PCC: Angie Holness (elected 2017) AND Sharon Sayers (who served as PCC Secretary for part of the year)
    - Continuing members of the PCC: Roger Jackson, Doug Bubb, Anne Lehane, Denise Smith, plus Priscilla Cox and Richard Chant (Deanery Synod Reps.)
    - Hall Booking Secretaries – Dilly (Jean Dilnot) for St Peter's and Wendy Dinley for Herne Church Hall
    - The Restoration Team! (After 5 years of work in 4 phases)

19. Any Other Business. Revd. Carol invited questions from the floor

    a. Wendy Dinley enquired when would it be possible to offer the Institute Hall for general hire?

    Revd. Carol answered that it was not yet possible to do so. Regular hall users had been canvassed as to whether they wanted to return to using the hall but many were not yet ready to do so. Although a general risk assessment had been carried out for the use of the hall it was up

to the individual organisations to prepare their own individual risk assessments to manage their own sessions. No private bookings were yet permitted because it was very difficult to risk assess such meetings.

b. Liza Seed enquired what had happened to the Friends of St Martin's Church?

Andrew Gough answered as the chair of the committee. Effectively over the past two or three years the organisation had become defunct. Final accounts had been prepared and there was a surplus of monies that had been passed to the St Martin's Restoration Fund to be used for the restoration and repair of the clock which was considered to be a worthwhile project for the village as a whole. Balance to go the general fabric fund

He admitted that the formal closure of the organisation had not been undertaken but there appeared little enthusiasm to do so and the organisation had simply closed. This may not have been the correct procedure to adopt but practically this is what had happened and there had been no questions raised to date. There had been little help from outside the congregation and the real purpose of the organisation had been to encourage general help from the community to work for the upkeep and maintenance of the church building. This had not been achieved despite the best efforts of the committee. It was unlikely that the organisation would be revived in the near future.

c. The Resolution regarding Postal Voting (see Appendix 1)

This was formally put to those present and was passed unanimously

Maureen Hadlow thanked Revd. Carol for her stewardship and ministry throughout the year

20. There being no further business the meeting was concluded and Revd. Carol led those present in a prayer and blessing

The meeting concluded at 12.00 noon

Appendix 1 to the October 2020 Minutes of the Annual Meeting

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

OF ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Subject: A resolution pursuant to the Church Representation Rules

Part 9 Model Rule M11

R E S O L U T I O N

4th October 2020

The members of the Parochial Church Council of St Martin-in-Herne recommend that the following resolution be passed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (the annual meeting) on Sunday 4th October 2020:

- That at any future annual meeting the Parochial Church Council has authority to conduct elections for parochial representatives of the laity by means of postal voting if it chooses to do so
- And if it so decides that accordingly any person entitled to attend the annual meeting may apply for such a postal vote for the election of parochial representatives of the laity

Proposer: Andrew Gough (acting PCC secretary)

Seconder: Frances Ventham

Must be passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at the annual meeting

All in favour: passed unanimously at APCM on Sunday 4th October 2020

Signed: Revd. Carol Smith

(Incumbent/Chair)

Appendix 2 to the October 2020 minutes of the Annual Meeting

Vicar's Verbal Report (transcript)

You don't need me to tell you 2020 has been an extraordinary year so far.
You'll hopefully have read my written report for 2019 so I don't to cover it again, unless anyone has any questions or comments.

Now, I shall focus on three things:

1) A brief reflection on church life before the Covid-19 pandemic
2) The reality of living through a pandemic
3) The hopes I have for our future together

1) **Before**

Our 2019 Annual Report testifies to our previously vibrant and active church life together as we engaged in God's ministry and mission in Herne and Greenhill. As far as I was concerned, most of our activities were running smoothly, we had no plans to stop anything; rather we were looking to further grow our lives of faith and were looking forward to a Parish Mission at Home weekend plus a Celebration of Completed External Restoration Works. In February we began a "Faith Pictures" course, which was being very well received.

2) **Reality**

On Sunday March 15th 2020, I began a "Church Response to Coronavirus Action Log", sensing it would be an important thing to do.

We pared Holy Communion back to one kind (wafer only), introduced hand sanitiser in more places, stopped passing round the offertory plate and offered wrapped biscuits only at after-church coffee.

The next day (Monday March 16th), the government banned meeting in public places.

And the day after that (Tuesday March 17th), our Archbishops called for suspension of all public services in church and any non-essential meetings.

Later that same day, Bishop Rose sent updated guidelines to all clergy, which I sought to implement immediately, resulting in:

- Cancellation of all Holy Communion Services
- The introduction of a simple 8.00 am Morning Prayer and 10.00 am Prayers for the day on Sundays
- Simple 10.00 am Morning Prayer on Wednesdays
- Postponed the Restoration Celebration planned for 24th April 2020
- Postponed this Annual Meeting (from 26th April – to 7th June – to 4th October 2020)
- Suspended all Groups meeting in our Halls (including Coffee mornings)

At the same time, together with my colleagues, we implemented a pastoral care plan to ensure that everyone in our church family (and later, our wider contacts) was contacted and provided and cared for.

By Wednesday March 18th, we'd reviewed all plans and services, began our weekly circulations (hard copy, email & Facebook). We produced a Parish Continuity Plan and so it went on … by the following Monday (March 23rd) the Prime Minister's declaration resulted in church buildings being closed – the Archbishops later endorsed this, which meant no weddings, no baptisms though graveside funerals were permitted. (That morning, I had baptised an adult here in St Martin's though it turned out to be a very long time before we were baptising again!)

From then onwards, our Facebook pages really came into their own and pretty soon, the church leadership was

- Zooming instead of meeting face to face
- Clergy were providing online worship on YouTube {thanks to Cat, especially, for learning the tech and producing it}
- The Daily Prayer Share on Facebook really took off {thanks to Sarah and Cat, in the main}
- And in addition, I was providing a regular service on local radio Cabin FM *(I've reduced this to once a month, in case you're wondering)*

I mention all this because it demonstrates how amazingly quickly, we managed to adapt to radically changed circumstances. God's word – God's people – did not stop.

Many of our great British public who wouldn't normally go to church suddenly began engaging with us online! (A report published by Tearfund in May, headed "Many Brits look to Faith during Lockdown" reported that nearly half of adults in the UK (44%) say they pray; a quarter (24%) of UK adults say they've watched or listened to a religious service since lockdown, and over half of those who pray (56%) agree that prayer changes the world.

Stephen Cottrell, now Archbishop of York, declared "The Church will emerge from coronavirus even stronger". A report, "Everybody Welcome" Online was published by George Fisher (the man I'd booked to lead our Parish Mission At Home weekend) providing insights and tips to help connect online when our churches were closed.

And since we've been back in church (from Sunday August 2nd) we're managing to maintain an online as well as a face-to-face in church presence.

3) **Future Hopes**

Although we do not know if there will be a 'second wave' of Covid, we plan tentatively yet positively, knowing that God is very much still with us.

(Jeremiah comes to mind (29.11):
For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.)

Presently, we are edging towards plans for Remembrance Sunday – we hope to have one Remembrance Service at St Martin's (the churchyard is to be risk-assessed and current Church of England guidelines allow for bubbles of up to six people to stand apart, safely). Christmas Service planning will follow in a similar tentative manner.

But longer-term, I've rearranged our Parish Mission at Home weekend for next March. Our rearranged Restoration Celebration is also planned for April.

And in between-times, Bishop Rose and the Senior Staff Team are engaging the whole diocese in a "Listening and Discerning on the Way" exercise, which encourages us all to consider three questions:

1) What are we noticing of God's movement at this difficult time? As we reflect on how God seems to be moving?
2) What are we learning as we reflect on how God seems to be moving?
3) What might we let go of or allow to cease, so that we may enter a new future with God?

Yes, we have huge challenges as we face the future – not least financially as we and all the churches across the land count our losses.

Yet as people of God we must remain prayerful – faithful – hopeful – generous-hearted - and active – if we are to continue 'keeping the rumour of God alive' – of being church, here in this part of God's kingdom that we call Herne with Greenhill.

We have shown ourselves already that we are adaptable, teachable and creative. So my prayer is that we will do *more than* simply survive this together, we will grow and flourish as together we navigate these stormy waters of previously unforeseeable change.

THE APCM REPORTS FOR 2020

Vicar's Annual 2020 report for St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

'On Off, On Off' would be the simplest way to report on church happenings in the 2020 calendar year under report! As someone who likes planning and charting a course for our church life together, when the first lockdown began on March 23rd it was difficult to know how best to serve everyone in such restricted circumstances and with our churches closed.

Looking back, we adapted quite quickly to providing virtual, online Sunday Morning Worship and for this my thanks must go to Revd. Cat for her technical know-how, and to all those who contribute recorded sermons/reflections, readings and intercessions. The 'Specials' in the year under report were the Pentecost, Memorial Carols, Christingle, Nativity online services, which according to our YouTube account, attracted viewings of 166, 301, 103 and 539 respectively.

I am grateful to my ministry colleagues (Revd. Cat, Revd. Stacey, Readers Frances Ventham and Deborah Waller, plus Revd. Geoff) for their collegiality and support. And I am also grateful to our Churchwardens, Lisa Crowhurst, Paul Tapsell and Sarah Bingham for their care

Extending pastoral care without being able to make home or hospital visits was most difficult, especially to those who are bereaved or terminally ill. Although not quite the same, Zoom video-conferencing came into its own as more and more people began using it. And even now, as I write, Zoom family funeral meetings enable relatives in different households to meet all together on screen. Like many, I long to once again offer a hand of comfort or a hug!

Zoom also came into its own for our church meetings, which the majority of the PCC and other committees, teams or groups were able to access.

The weekly notice sheet continued throughout. This goes out with my 'Weekly Words' Saturday email which began in the first lockdown and continues. The circulation list has grown as new people have found us online or moved into the parish and been added. For those who do not have the technology, paper copies are delivered to their homes.

Schools' ministry also changed with Revd. Cat and myself recording weekly Collective Worship for the children, which contributed to home-schooling and which continues for in-school. One memorable service which I was part of, was Herne Juniors' Online Remembrance Service when Mr Saunders' video-conferencing facility was over-subscribed with more than 100 devices logged on!

Unsurprisingly, our mission statistics for 2020 look nothing like the previous year when, for example, we had 54 baptisms. And sadly, the majority of our pastoral offices were funerals which saw a significant increase. The majority of the baptisms and weddings previously booked for 2020 have been moved into 2021, which therefore promises to be a busy year once the church reopens.

Despite us all having been deprived of face to face fellowship, we have largely held together and now look forward to 'being church' together again – although as part of our Deanery Consultation: "Moving Towards a Flourishing and Sustainable Future", we are continuing to change and adapt to the changed circumstances as we all emerge from the pandemic.

We have continued steadfastly in prayer and now look forward with hope to the future.

Revd. Carol Smith

Assistant Curate's Report from the Reverend Cat Darkins

If you would have told that a few years into my ministry that we would be legally asked to close the church building I am not sure that I would have believed you. This past year has been a learning curve for me, and something that I am sure I will reflect upon for years to come. Many of us assumed that the restrictions would only last a few weeks, and here we are a year later.

Ministry looks quite different now to how it was pre-pandemic. We have embraced the need to provide Online Worship which is something that I take a large responsibility for. It has been a good opportunity to be creative with the style and format of worship. This has also influenced worship when we have been able to be in church too.

Keeping connected has been an important theme over the past year. From phone calls to doorstep visits, to bumping into others on daily walks, taking the time to maintain our connections has been another important aspect to ministry. I have also appreciated the ways in which others have taken the time to check in on me to make sure I am doing okay.

Though Michael and I were in Isolation over Christmas, it was still a highlight of the past year. Having worked with Sarah and others since late October to put together a Community Nativity, it was a joy to see the culmination of lots of work come together for the video. Many people from the local area watched and appreciated the video which greatly lifted my spirits. We also were able to provide around 100 Christingle at Home kits to families from the area (with donations from a local supermarket), along with a make-a-long video. Isolation prevented me from being there on the day, so I am incredibly grateful for the team who put the bags together and delivered them! Though neither of us was able to be in parish on Christmas Day, it will be a season that we will remember for years to come!

Though there have been many things that we've not been able to do, there has also been opportunities to connect and worship in different ways.

I am continually grateful to Revd. Carol for her collegiality and for the parish of St Martin-In-Herne with St Peter's, Greenhill for continuing to support me and help me grow in my ministry.

Cat Darkins -Assistant Curate

Non Stipendiary Curate's report from the Reverend Dr Stacey Rand

It has been just over two years since I was licensed to St Martin's Herne with St Peter's Greenhill as a non-stipendiary curate and Minister in Secular Employment. (MSE means that I am a priest, with a 'day job'. An important part of my ministry is to help others connect faith and the everyday.) I think that it is fair to say that this past year has been quite different from the first.

Despite the challenges of the last year, it has been good to see how we have adapted as best we can to the situation. There was an effort to stay connected, on social media, by newsletter, phone and in other ways. There has also been opportunity for learning, especially as we broadened our offer of written reflections and newsletters to include online worship. The majority of technical expertise and effort has been provided by Revd. Cat, but it has been good to play a part in the team effort.

Over the last year, I have carried on my work as a Senior Research Fellow (Associate Professor) at the University of Kent. My work has continued, with 'working from home'. As a MSE, I have been available to provide pastoral support to colleagues and continued to co-lead the staff Chaplaincy group, which meets during Advent and Lent.

I look forward to the year ahead; especially in being able to gather for worship again in our church buildings, to gently find a new balance, and to discern the way ahead.

The Reverend Dr Stacey Rand

REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES 2020

Report from Electoral Roll Secretary as at 31 December 2020

At the APCM in October 2020 there were 100 members on the electoral roll. Since that APCM one member has resigned but one new member has been added. So as at December 31 2020 we still had 100 members on the roll.

The numbers on the roll following the March 2021 revision will be given orally at the APCM.

Andrew Gough Electoral Roll Secretary

An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during 2020

As for so many organisations the restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic have meant that the PCC was required to conduct its business in new and hitherto unexpected ways. Two face-to-face meetings were held on 20 January and 24th of February but after that government guidance prevented such meetings. The business of the PCC resumed on the 8th June, but using online meetings via Zoom. Unfortunately this meant that two members of the PCC were not able to take part either because of lack of Wi-Fi or poor Wi-Fi reception.

Sharon Sayers stepped down from her role as PCC secretary in January. Thanks go to her for the work she undertook as secretary. She was a non-voting member of the PCC and in February Denise Smith kindly took up the role as PCC secretary once again. However, because she had poor Wi-Fi reception at home she was not able to take part in online meetings from June onwards and Andrew Gough offered to be acting PCC secretary.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting had originally been planned for April. However, following guidance from Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin it was agreed that the APCM would be postponed and was eventually held in October. This was thankfully a face-to-face meeting in St Martin's Herne, fully complying with our risk assessment and Covid guidance.

There have been seven PCC meetings during the year (there are usually no meetings in August or December). Two were face to face and five have been by way of an online Zoom facility. There is guidance for the conduct of such meetings and if votes are taken, then those voting must be present at the on line meeting itself. In addition emergency business has been conducted online by email. This is again permitted pursuant to the Church Representation Rules 2020.

Notwithstanding the above, the PCC and sub committees have continued to conduct their business efficiently and thanks must be given to all PCC members who take part enthusiastically. They debate all issues with much consideration and politely, but firmly and with good humour.

All minutes (unless confidential) are available for inspection from the PCC secretary. Where possible they have been published at the church for immediate inspection after approval by the PCC at the following PCC meeting.

However, the following is a summary of the principal business conducted

1. Considering and debating the Changed Lives, Changing Lives Conversations initiative by Bishop Rose of Dover.
2. Planning but regrettably being unable to implement the "Parish Mission at Home weekend" in May
3. Continuing to monitor the final stages of the church restoration programme including repairs to the clock and in particular the restoration of the churchyard after the completion of phase III of that programme
4. Continuing to review and approve the work of the Fabric Committee (see separate report)
5. Continuing to review the restoration work at phase IV
6. Receiving and considering a report in January from the organist on the condition of the church organ.
7. Following closure of churches because of the pandemic, approving the risk assessments for reopening of St Martin's Herne in August. Approving the cost of signage and cleaning materials to ensure a safe environment
8. Over viewing the opening of St Martin's Herne and the continued Covid compliant services until guidance required the church to close once again
9. Considering a response to the Black Lives Matters campaign and whether it was appropriate to specifically offer a statement on behalf of the PCC. This was deemed unnecessary given that we already emphasise the inclusive nature of our congregation and mission
10. Formally appointing PC Lemon LLP as the independent examiner for the annual accounts
11. Approving the 2019 accounts
12. Considering the mission initiative "our Mission Ministry and reopening of church buildings"
13. Considering the arrangements for the APCM in October, including passing resolutions to permit proxy voting and suggesting that a resolution should be passed at the AP CM permitting postal votes for appointments to the PCC and other elected positions. Both proposals were agreed.
14. Holding the October APCM
15. At the October meeting ,reviewing the minutes of the AP CM held on 4th October 2020 and confirming that these could be submitted to the annual meeting in April 2021 for approval
16. Reviewing the authority of the standing committee
17. Pledged Harvest giving to the work of Catching Lives (for the homeless in Canterbury)
18. Receiving safeguarding reports from Jean Dilnot and Margaret Edwards. This to include updates on safeguarding training available from the Diocese. Following their respective resignations as safeguarding officers the PCC appointed Joanne Hollings to be the new safeguarding officer for the two church buildings and church affairs generally. See further declaration below.
19. Agreeing at the October PCC meeting the appointment of all church officers and the appointment of chairpersons to the various committees
20. Passing the following formal resolutions (other decisions are noted in minutes)
    a. Setting the financial authority of the standing committee
    b. Licensing those authorised to administer the Holy Sacrament with effect from 1 January 2021 both at church and at home visits
    c. Appointing a new Foundation Governor (Deborah Waller) at Herne C of E infant school
    d. Accepting the Parish Safeguarding Statement

e. Passing (online in December) a resolution to seek authority to close St Martin's Herne and St Peter's Greenhill during the month of January 2021. This was reinforced subsequently by passing a second resolution in January 2021 to close those church buildings until Easter 2021 in accordance with the authority given by Bishop Rose
f. Approving all risk assessments to open St Martin's Herne

21. approving the reappointment of Frances Ventham and Andrew Gough as Foundation Governors at Herne C of E Junior School

The PCC confirms that it has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 with regard to its duty to follow the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding statement is available for inspection

Andrew Gough PCC Secretary

Finance Report, Reserves Policy and Accounts; see Appendix A for the Financial Statements

Financial matters in 2020 were dominated by the Covid-19 restrictions.

Due to the Church being closed, we saw a decrease in collections at services and gift aid receipts. On a positive note, planned giving (tax efficient giving) increased by over £2,800. This increase was due to members of the congregation either changing from weekly envelopes to standing orders or deciding to set up standing orders. Tax recovered in 2020 saw an increase but this is mainly due to back payments of gift aid being received from Canterbury Diocese.

With both St Martin's and St Peter's Halls being closed rental income was down and St Martin's made a loss over the year of £3,790. This was partly due to £6,000 being transferred to the general fund to meet Parish Share commitments.

On the subject of Parish Share, we were unable to pay our full quota this year, finishing the year £18,528 short of a total liability of £73,683. St Martin's is not the only Parish with financial difficulties and although there are on-going discussions with the Diocese about this the PCC will need to address the shortfall in 2021.

In 2020 St Peter's Greenhill accounts were amalgamated into the General Fund; these are shown as net amounts for 2020.

Church running expenses were lower than in 2019.

Our CCLA investments raised £609 in interest over the year.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £3,159 on unrestricted funds.

I would like to thank Andrew Gough for administering the Gift Aid emoluments (including making the claim for rebate of tax); his help is invaluable to me.

Reserves Policy

We do not currently have a reserves policy. This means keeping a certain amount of money in the bank account ring fenced to cover emergency situations for particular projects or future work. For example, sums set aside for the maintenance of the organ, the bells or buildings.

It is our policy to invest our fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Sheila Gough Treasurer

Report from the Fabric Committee for 2020 on the condition of the church buildings

This forms the Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric of the Church Buildings pursuant to section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

The year began normally enough for our Committee as for everyone else. However, as soon as the first lockdown began, radical changes had to be made arising from the closure of the Church and the cessation of all rentals in our halls.

Steve King, our Caretaker at both St. Martin's Hall and St. Peter's stepped forward at this point to minimise the impact of the restrictions on the Parish. A member of our Committee though not of our Congregation, Steve, through his adaptability, willingness and skill, has solved numerous practical problems single-handedly and at minimum cost.

Aside from keeping an eye on the halls, Steve undertook to cut the grass at all our properties, thus saving the normal team from breaking lockdown rules. Some examples of his other work are these: He dealt with a problem we had with trespassers at the garden beside St. Peter's by designing and installing new gates that would need a battering ram to break down, so no more trespassers! He adapted the main doorway at St. Peter's to accept standard sized doors that he fitted and painted at much less cost than the original quote. Also, in the same area, he modified the inner doors to eliminate the ramps that had proved troublesome to the elderly. For these and other services well outside his job description we are greatly indebted to him.

After many years of talking about it and achieving nothing, we have at last managed to have the old boiler house removed and a waterproof cover installed over the basement beneath. This was thanks to Susan Record obtaining a Faculty for the purpose and to Doug Bubb who commissioned and supervised the work as our Safety Officer, an important role given the presence of asbestos in the structure. This work was also carried out as economically as possible.

At the turn of the year, we thought we were faced with a bill of some £40,000 to have one corner of St. Peter's underpinned to remedy subsidence, probably caused by a large tree in the adjacent garden. We followed professional advice by having this tree removed and were pleased to see that the cracks in the Church brickwork soon closed up again. Alternative professional advice then indicated that we should keep an eye on the situation but take no further radical action. So far, this policy has proved effective and the small room that had been closed has now been redecorated (by Steve) and will be available for use once St. Peter's re-opens again.

There have been other relatively minor activities that continue despite pandemics, in particular, dealing with leaks in the roof at St. Martin's and improving aspects of the electrical circuitry, all carried out in the most cost-effective manner possible. A good example of this approach is the use of three lengths of Christmas lights to illuminate the upper sections of the tower stairs at a cost of £40 rather than conventional lighting that our usual electrician declined to quote for on the grounds of safety.

At the end of the year two of the stained glass windows in the porch at St Martins were found to be damaged, presumably by vandalism. These were inspected by an expert in stained glass from the cathedral and will be repaired in 2021 once a faculty has been obtained to do so.

At the 2020 APCM, John Bennett stood down as Chairman to return to the ranks, his role then reverting to Priscilla Cox. Members of the Committee during 2020 have been Priscilla Cox, Paul Tapsell, Doug Bubb, Peter Frost, Roger Jackson, Steve King and John Bennett.

John Bennett and Priscilla Cox For committee and Lisa Crowhurst

A Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Despite the pandemic the deanery synod was able to meet in person twice in 2020. In March the speaker was Lyndall Bywater, Diocesan Prayer Co-ordinator. We read a passage from 2 Kings 4 and considered the message it gave to us personally. The subject for the meeting was Prayer, Pilgrimage and Changing Lives and we considered the diocesan mission statement, Changed Lives - Changing Lives.

In October we welcomed our Archdeacon, The Ven. Jo Kelly-Moore, to Synod. Once again the theme was similar, and we shared our reflections on the impact on our church life of the pandemic and enforced church closures and restrictions. Members shared accounts of the ways the church had been able to reach out to people in a practical way and by use of the internet for worship, and we considered the impact it would have on our future mission and ministry. One general theme seemed to be the loss of children's worship during church closures and the decline in family attendance.

During the year the deanery treasurer, David Kemp, worked with treasurers to promote diocesan discussion about the expectation that parishes are able to pay such large sums for Parish Share. Although the diocese is sympathetic, the reality is that it too is struggling to meet costs, and eventually the increase for 2021 was capped at 1%.

Revd. Carol continued her role as Area Dean for the Reculver Deanery

Priscilla Cox Deanery representative

The Church Warden's Report

It has certainly been a very challenging year with the standout topic being that of the corona virus pandemic. The effect on our personal lives has been enormous, particularly in not being able to meet up with family and friends for extended periods. It has also affected the mission and ministry of St Martins with St Peters in more ways than we first realised. Just not being able to gather in the church as usual, the singing of praises to the Lord, the coffee and chat. It must take a toll on our wellbeing.

Yet, looking at its history, St Martins Church has been through many previous upheavals, times of plague, pandemics and world wars, and has stood as a rock for the faith which gives us all hope.

During these times, adaptation is key. With the ever popular rise of social media, we have engaged in prayers online, virtual services via YouTube and delivered a community cast Nativity production which was well received.

Throughout the year we have met regularly with Rev. Carol via Zoom to discuss how we can support our community and to discuss necessary repairs which are on-going. We report to the PCC at every meeting to share the work we have been doing and to check that we have funding.

Lastly, we give thanks to our wonderful Ministry Team, Rev. Carol, Rev. Cat and Rev. Stacey for their continued support and guidance.

Lisa Crowhurst Churchwarden

GENERAL REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

We would normally expect to receive reports from so many of our church groups. Regrettably the work of these groups has been severely curtailed or even stopped because of the Covid pandemic and so reports might be of limited interest and value. We shall look forward to the coming months when hopefully Covid restrictions will be lifted enabling the full range of our mission and services to fire up once again and witness our vibrant church community.

For the record we are missing reports from St Martin's Saturday Coffee, Sunday after-service refreshments, St Peter's, Greenhill, the Social Committee, St Peter's Community Café, , Outreach events (Restoration), the Home Group, Tea & Chat (outreach afternoon tea) , Junior Church , and the Herne Church (Institute) Hall and the Worship Band.

There is no report specifically on Communications and publicity but during the year much has devolved to communications on line and the church directory has proved invaluable.

Individual members of our congregation have penned their thoughts about life during Covid. These are given later in this booklet.

Bellringer's Report for 2020

The year started as usual with ringing for Sunday services and weekly practices for the ringers. We even started planning ringing outings and holidays for the summer. Then coronavirus cases started spreading across the country and by mid-March 2020, shortly before lockdown, the ringers decided that there was no option but to stop meeting for ringing practices, and as church services stopped, ringing for Sunday services. The only previous time ringing had ever stopped was during the Second World War when bells were to be rung in the event of invasion. Even then, ringers had still met up together to ring handbells and to socialise. Some of us knew of that time from our parents and older friends, though few now still with us remember those days and few were expecting ringing to have to stop in 2020.

As with many other aspects of life, ringers went online, having regular weekly "ringers' chats" on Zoom to keep in contact and exchange news. There is also an online ringing room, which some have spent more time in than others, and ringing has been done in computer game environments, according to the ringers' weekly newspaper and chat rooms. Ringing is a physical exercise, as well as a mental one, and weekly "workouts" in the tower were much missed.

When church services resumed in August, the ringers returned having carried out risk assessments, checked the bells, measured the rope circle and with hand sanitiser and social distancing. Ringing for Victory in Europe day had not been possible, but we were able to ring for VJ day in August. Apart from that celebration and weddings, ringing was only for church services, and for a short period. We rang for two weddings in October and December. The country was in lockdown 2 for Remembrance Sunday so only a single bell was rung for the Act of Remembrance and other ringing stopped again. Christmas was celebrated with bells for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and then stopping again after Christmas

Susan and Keith Record February 2021

Choir Report

The choir started the year 2020 as usual, resuming practices after a short break between Christmas and the New Year. The younger choir members met for half an hour before choir practice for everyone. Planning and practising for Lent and Easter started. Those plans would shortly be affected by the coronavirus and the measures brought in, which led to the cessation of worshipping in March 2020.

The choir started meeting online for a weekly Choir Chat on Thursday evenings for those choir members who had computer or smartphone access. We did try some singing online but it was not possible to practise on a Zoom call.

When church services resumed, the rules about singing meant that sadly the congregation could not sing, but the choir were able to sing anthems, hymns and later in the year, carols. Choir practices resumed in September 2020 with some choir members, now sitting at the back of the church, socially distanced. It was different as the church acoustics had changed and choir members could not gather together to hear harmonies but had to learn to hear each other from a distance.

The second lockdown in November led to Remembrance Sunday being in the churchyard, not in church. The choir sang hymns and the National Anthem, positioned along the church path.

Lockdown ended just in time for the choir to practise carols, and then be recorded singing carols in church for the online Memorial carols service. The choir sang at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

The choir welcomed a new member in September, and sadly for us, one choir member moved away from the area to be closer to her family in early December. Thanks to technology, she has still been able to join the Choir Chat online. There was no choir dinner in 2020 but there are plans to have it again in 2021 and to sing again, as soon as it is possible.

Susan Record February 2021

Flower Arranger's Report

During the pandemic we had a few ladies going into church to do some flowers in between the lockdowns and we made good use of the silk flowers that we are fortunate to have. They are taken down every couple of weeks and renewed with a mix of both fresh and silk and these are taken home to be washed after use.

Sadly during this last year we have lost a few of our members who have decided to stand down for one reason or another; some of whom have been doing the flowers for forty years or more. Their help and guidance have been a great help to me since I took over and I and the other ladies will miss them.

There are now six of us to do the flowers and I'm sure we will continue to support the church and supply arrangements. As usual we will continue to use a mix of both fresh and silk flowers. Some of

our usual suppliers for fresh flowers no longer do them and we are limited to where we get them but it is something we can get around.

The cost of the flowers has consequently been much reduced.

Liz Sellen Flower arranger March2021

Fortnightly Wednesday Evening Bible Study Annual Report for 2020

Our Bible Study group came to a halt at the beginning of lockdown. However, after a few weeks we discovered Zoom, worked out how to use it and decided to give it a try. Unfortunately of our 9 members two were unable to access this method of getting together, however since the rest of the group were still keen to continue I began the Zoom sessions.

In some ways the Zoom sessions were helpful in forcing us to find new ways to achieve things. Instead of supplying the sheets to each participant as they arrived at our house, I emailed the studies in advance, which meant that they could print out the appropriate week's study ready for use at the meeting, and if they chose they could go through the readings and the questions in preparation.

Studies used were from Faith and Worship written by John Birch, which we generally find accessible and helpful.

We hope to get back to physical meetings when it is safe to do so.

Sheila Bennett March2021

Gift Aid Matters

Gift Aid continues to be a very helpful contribution to the church finances. Pay your income tax and the Church can get a 25% bonus on any donations that you make. As at the 31st December 2020 we had 54 parties who have each made a Gift Aid declaration and also pledge their payments. If you are a UK tax payer then you can usually qualify and this is achieved simply by signing a declaration form which either myself or the treasurer can provide. We can claim Gift Aid on standing orders and planned giving. In addition there are the individual donations made via the Gift Aid Envelope Scheme which are given at collections taken at our services throughout the year. If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate tax payer in all cases you can even claim an extra rebate in your tax return.

Our treasurer records receipts for the month in which the payment is made even if the Gift Aid application was actually for a month several months previously. For the year ending 31 December 2020, St Martins received £15,872.00 from all sources, which is much higher than the repayment in 2019 which was £9.249.95. However, this included repayments from the Gift Aid returns for October to December 2019 which had not been credited.

We still have the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS for short). General money received in our church collection plates can qualify. Also if you have pledged your planned giving (the little blue

envelopes) but are not a tax payer then I can count your weekly donation as part of GASDS and get more money that way. There is a limit of £8,000 which can be claimed in any tax year by any charity.

It would be helpful if more donors, who are tax payers, paid by way of standing order rather than giving via envelopes. This avoids having to make cash payments to the bank. In case you are embarrassed by not putting your hand in your pocket, when the plate comes round, please remember there are tokens that you can put into the church plate as evidence that you are giving.

As a tax payer, Gift Aid is a bonus to the Church and provided that you do pay the tax there is no downside from your point of view. Remember; if you cease to be a tax payer or move address or change your name please let me know immediately. I have to inform the Diocese.

Andrew Gough- Gift Aid Secretary March2021

Pastoral

Ministry to the Care Homes in the parish was severely hampered by the pandemic, as no visiting was permitted, hence the regular monthly Home Communion taken at Broomfield Lodge ceased. However, both Broomfield Lodge and the new Residential Home on the new Eddington Lane housing estate – Herne Place Care Home (a Barchester Home) – which Revd. Carol visited when it opened in the summer, have accessed our weekly online worship, if not on a Sunday then on a day when it best suits residents. Revd. Carol has established a good relationship with Herne Place and at the time of writing, Zoom worship on a Thursday afternoon is about to begin.

Our Pastoral Team has kept in touch with church members and parishioners through other means and we look forward to resurrecting home visits and home communions as soon as it is safe to do so.

Revd. Carol Smith

Restoration Report for 2020

The third phase of the External Fabric Repair Project had been completed and was formally signed off by the church architect in January 2020. The second and third phases had cost less than originally budgeted so the church architect and quantity surveyor discussed using the remaining grant monies to make further repairs, including the stonework on the east elevation of the Lady Chapel, repair the south west buttress and the internal buttress at the south west corner of the tower, repoint internal cracks in the west porch, repair the lych-gate plinth, install a rope handrail on the tower stairs and some other repairs which was estimated to cost just over £47,000 plus VAT and professional fees.

The contractors, the church architect and restoration committee members met on the 12th March 2020 to discuss the work. The quantity surveyor had just left for an extended holiday in the Far East, Australia and New Zealand after finalising the costs of the repairs with the stonemasons, and sadly he had to return home early because of the pandemic. The work was due to start on the 23rd March 2020. We discussed the news reports and it was noted that the Covid-19 emergency “may affect the programme”.

Work did not start as planned, since the country went into lockdown and the builders were not able to be sure of getting supplies of materials (the construction industry could continue in lockdown and

the work was outside, socially distanced). The repair work started in June 2020 with scaffolding erected at the east elevation. All the work was finished in September 2020, after a good summer for weather. The stonework is now in good repair, we have many photographs and no scaffolding at church. The church clock is also now working and chiming the hours (the final aspect of the phase 3work to be sorted)

Susan Record February 2021

Safeguarding report 2020/2021

I took over as Parish Safeguarding Officer in October 2020. This report is a summary of what has taken place over the last five months and plans for the rest of this year.

In October 2020 the roles of Parish Safeguarding Officer and Parish Disclosure Officer for the parish of St Martins and St Peters were put together and now safeguarding and DBS checks come under one umbrella. An audit was begun of the safeguarding training status of everyone who has a responsibility for working with children and vulnerable adults. This is on-going. Similarly, all DBS and CRB checks older than three years are being checked and will be re-done. A safeguarding statement and contact details were added to the parish website.

In January 2021, I attended the Diocesan Safeguarding Conference. This took place over zoom and included an address by Bishop Rose and talks by Paul Brightwell and Katy Harper. Both talks can be found at: https://www.canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/

It was also announced at the conference that the Diocese will no longer hold records of safeguarding training for parishes and from now on parishes need to hold all their own records and data.

Going forward into 2021, the priority is to ensure that all parish members in positions of responsibility, and those who come into contact with children and vulnerable adults, have completed the appropriate level of safeguarding training in the last three years and that the parish holds evidence of this training. All DBS checks older than three years will be re-done and records updated. There will also be a focus on ensuring that the safeguarding policy is easily accessible and on view in the church and that everyone is aware of their role in keeping the members of our parish safe.

Joanna Hollings Safeguarding officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults

Schools

Herne Infants

Revd. Cat continues to serve as a Governor at Herne Infant CofE School and shares the leadership of weekly Collective Worship with Revd. Carol, which during the pandemic is in the form of pre-recorded videos on YouTube. With home-schooling, these benefit the children's households also and many more adults are connecting with Christianity as a result. Head of RE, Natalie Ralph (with whom Cat has developed a good relationship) continues to have a significant impact on the

school. Cat has developed an increasingly fruitful ministry in and to the school and Reader, Deborah Waller has recently been appointed to serve Herne Infants as a Governor, which is also a blessing.

Herne Juniors
Revd. Carol continues to serve as a Governor at Herne Junior School and the school is still well-supported by other church members serving as Governors (Priscilla Cox, Frances Ventham, Andrew Gough, Anne Ackland, and Jodie Harris.) As SIAMS lead governor during the year under report, Revd. Carol has supported the School SIAMS Team who monitor and ensure that the school's unique Christian character is well presented through the school website and other media. Revd.'s Cat and Carol also take Collective Worship every week – again, through pre-recorded videos through lockdown and which continue - and both support the school in other adhoc ways.

It is a privilege to serve our Church Schools, which both have 'outstanding' Ofsted and SIAMS ratings thanks to brilliant headteachers and staff.

St Martin's continues to enjoy a very special relationship and bond with both our Church Schools, and although we missed Joint School Services in St Martin's at Christmas and Easter, as well as Herne Junior's End of Year Service and prizegiving, we have managed to maintain support and connection through Zoom or Microsoft Teams' video-conferenced services, which parents have also enjoyed.

St. Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers

Regrettably because of the Covid pandemic communion services have been conducted without the need for servers. So there is little to report. However, Lisa Crowhurst has stepped down from being a server having taken on her new role as church warden. In addition Tim Williams has moved away from the parish. Thanks must go to both of them for providing sterling support over many years. Unfortunately, however, that means that there is only one server regularly available (that's me).

If anybody else would like to come forward and offer to serve at the altar I would be very grateful to hear from them. We need to prepare ourselves for normal service once the Covid Pandemic restrictions are released fully allowing both bread and wine to be consumed.

At our services I still have the continued support of the chalice bearers: Phil Dixon Leah Willey Lisa Crowhurst and Sheila Gough. Again if other members of the congregation want to come forward, help is always gratefully received.

Andrew Gough Sacristan February 2021

St. Martin's Tapestry- the Tapestry team's report 2019 to 2020

St. Martin's Tapestry is the "brain child" of Sheila & John Bennett after their 2018 holiday in Northern France & visit to see The Bayeaux Tapestry. The Original, worked by nuns, tells the story of life in Anglo Saxon England under King Harold and the Norman Conquest lead by William 1st. in1066. An inspirational idea was conceived by John for a "St Martin's Tapestry"telling the story of the Church's restoration & depicting life around us at this time.

Planning meetings were held and research undertaken in Autumn 2018, followed by the designing; then searching for willing volunteers. The children of Herne CE Junior School needlecrafts group

were asked for drawings of things above, below & around them today. This lead to some amazing and original drawings, including spaceships, skeletons, rabbits and vegetables! From these wonderful drawings the 16 borders to the panels were designed.

On a cold,, dark, February evening in 2019, 14 people from the church congregation, Women's Institute crafts group, Art clubs &the local community, met in Church, to choose designs, fabric & embroidery frames to begin their task. This enthusiastic group eventually expanded to 22 volunteers including Revd. Carol and two men! We met in small house groups round dining tables, and monthly in St Martin's Church on a Saturday morning, where we received much encouragement and interest from people attending the Coffee and Chat fellowship sessions.

By March 2020, five panels were completed and the remaining three, plus their six borders progressing well. Then lockdown, due to Covid 19, stopped our productive gatherings, which were not resumed until August, with individuals calling for extra threads and advice on techniques so they could work in isolation.

In November 2020, the whole Tapestry project was complete, but due to Covid restrictions again, the eight panels have been safely packed away, waiting to be displayed at a celebration for all the restoration works at St Martin's Church.

Mary Jewiss February 2021

Addendum. John Bennett would like to add that the project would never have been accomplished without the enormous help, skill and enthusiasm of Mary herself. For which many thanks indeed.

St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group

The year was planned; the diary full. We'd planned themed weeks such as garden birds, water, summer, music. Annual events such as Mothering Sunday, Christmas and Epiphany were all in the diary. In addition we had set aside days for our Easter Special, our annual Sports Day, Teddy Bears' Picnic, Christmas Party and Leavers' Special. We had booked visits from a specialist toddler photographer, a representative of Usborne Books and Playzone for our annual outing. All that would have taken in place in a Non-Covid world.

When we closed in early March I naively thought it was for a couple of weeks and that we'd open again after Easter at the latest! That optimistic thought seems ridiculous now!

What has happened instead? The team has kept in touch throughout the year and we had a garden meeting in the summer in order to catch up and make plans. We contacted as many of our members as possible, once again to keep in touch but also to let them know about the on-line Advent and Christmas events that the church was providing. Some of our members have contacted us, mainly to let us know us know that they are missing Toddlers. One mother I met whilst out walking said that she felt her little one had missed the opportunities that her older sibling had had ….. to socialise and take part in the activities that we provided.

What about the future? Whenever it is safe to do so, the team is raring to go. Being older members of the community we will have all received our vaccinations before too long. The plan is to re-launch Tuesday Toddlers with a bang on Tuesday 7th September and we pray that that will be possible.

Carolyn Thomas March 2021

COVID OBSERVATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

A Reflection on 2020

On New Year's Eve John and I were looking forward to 2020 with much anticipation. We had both recently retired from busy jobs and in the year ahead we had several special events planned. In the Summer it was our Ruby Wedding Anniversary and we had booked a family holiday and a party for our friends. In early Autumn our eldest son was due to be married. We were not to know that on a global and personal level, it would be a very difficult year.

'Out of the blue' John was diagnosed with cancer in February 2020 just as the enormity of coronavirus was emerging. We are thankful that, after a few delays, he was able to have major surgery at King's College Hospital, London, although like many others, he had to cope with this on his own with no visitors allowed. Thereafter followed a long period of recovery and then chemotherapy. Now in February 2021 he is undergoing further chemotherapy. We are lucky to have continued love and support from our family and friends and I am thankful that throughout, he and I have found a strength, resilience and positivity that we didn't know we had. I know that, for me, that strength and hope has come from my faith. Praying, reading the bible and reflecting on the words of hymns (many of which I have remembered from childhood) has sustained, lifted and supported me in times of need and enabled me to look to the future with hope.

During the pandemic, I would have liked to 'make a difference' via some voluntary work having retired from my busy teaching role, but have been mindful of the need to keep myself 'safe' to protect my husband. However, when in August Reverend Carol flagged up at church that volunteers for church cleaning were urgently needed, I felt able to respond to this. I felt strongly that this task was certainly not in Reverend Carol's remit and that she would have many other roles and responsibilities to fulfil. So, usually on a Thursday afternoon, from August to December, I have worked alongside Liza and Angie to keep the church clean. It has been a privilege to spend time in such a beautiful building and it allowed me to observe aspects of and artefacts in the church that I had not previously noted. In particular I have valued the friendship of my colleagues, Liza and Angie who I have very much enjoyed working alongside. Hopefully as plans are tentatively made to re-open the church, we will be able to resume this role.

As, through the vaccination programme, we begin to emerge from 'Lockdown 3' I pray that there will be a better world with a renewed emphasis on kindness, support for each other and a determination to reduce inequality. On a global and personal level, I look forward with hope.

Hilary Burnage February 2021

What I did during the Covid pandemic

Hopefully service and Christian mission can be undertaken in many forms and not merely through the good offices of our church. My personal attempts to help started with my connection to the charity Contact the Elderly (now called Re-engage). Some of you will know this charity as it helps to organise the Tea and Chat Christmas party at Herne Junior School. I initially undertook some shopping and collecting prescriptions for elderly and the housebound. However, with a dedicated network already set up my offer to help was not always required.

I am Chairman of a Whitstable charity called Red Zebra Community Solutions. Although not directly involved with the day-to-day management of the charity (we have an excellent CEO and management team) the charity stepped into the frame to provide assistance in Whitstable. Working with Rosie Duffield MP and her constituency team (who shared the charity's offices temporarily) we were able to identify the elderly and housebound who required voluntary help. We also worked with Food bank and the Riverside Church in collecting and distributing food parcels to those who were suffering financially because of work restrictions.

The charity is also a leading exponent of Well-being courses .Working with local GP practices we have been able to identify those members of the public who are suffering mentally because of the Covid restrictions and help bring some comfort and assistance.

Both the above projects have worked well and we have been able to undertake them notwithstanding financial pressures on the charity because sources of fundraising and grant aid have dried up.

My Rotary Club in Whitstable has not been able to run any external fundraising charity campaigns during the Covid restrictions. However, we have made donations from our charity account to the Whitstable Foodbank. We have also supported Blood runners which is a private organisation that helps transport blood plasma, transplant organs and other medical equipment between hospitals and GP surgeries. This has been a vital link in securing the roll-out of essential medical care.

Also at Christmas we arranged a series of on line Zoom experiences for children to contact and visit Santa at his grotto and tell him about their present wish list and to find out a little bit about how Santa delivers his magic over the Christmas period! I had to dress up as Santa and another Rotarian was my trusty Elf. Thanks to Doug Bubb for the loan of his Father Christmas costume. The experience seemed to go down very well with the children (and even their parents) and we charged a small online fee for our charity account. So Santa and Toyland worked despite Covid restrictions. You would be surprised to know how many children asked how Santa and his Elves were complying with social distancing guidelines!

Over the past few weeks and in the near future, Rotary as an organisation has been asked to provide help at vaccination centres. Some members of my club have already worked at centres in East Kent either providing administrative assistance or marshalling at car parks if required.

As a health and safety governor of Herne Junior School and Kent College Canterbury I have been actively involved in reviewing the Covid risk assessments for both schools and following their implementation when the schools have been open. In fact, despite apparent media stories to the contrary, most schools have remained open to provide schooling for children of essential workers.

Many congratulations must go to the senior leadership team and staff of both schools for continuing to provide this service and undertaking it in such a way that has been compassionate and so well-organised. I have also attended online courses at Kent College to see how teachers have been able to provide really good teaching in difficult circumstances.

Although, I have not been able to work directly at the church perhaps in some small way my contributions above have been able to assist others in making life just a little easier during the Covid pandemic. As somebody recently said we can all live a life of service. Service is universal.

Andrew Gough February 2021

Weddings at St Martin's during a pandemic year 2020 My Reflections

Saturday 14th March 2020

What a happy day as we held our Wedding Preparation Morning for all the couples who were marrying at St Martin's during 2020. There was much excitement as the couples prepared to meet with the Weddings Team to discuss their wishes/preferences for the BIG day. Refreshments were offered to the couples by Priscilla, which helped put them at their ease. Our vicar, Revd. Carol gave a welcome talk and we had Revd. Cat and Revd. Stacey, our curates, on hand to chat with the couples. Susan and Keith were able to give advice on music and bells, with some of the choir to sing the hymns; Liz for beautiful flower arrangements and Joan, with Carol, Cat and Stacey's help, to complete the necessary paperwork required before the couples could get married.

As we said goodbye to the couples at the end of the morning, little did we know what was around the corner. LOCKDOWN!

St Martin's was closed, weddings were postponed until 2021, and couples had to adjust to moving their weddings or perhaps having a Register Office wedding if they could find one that was available. They would only be allowed to have a limited number of guests at their wedding ceremony and most wedding reception venues were closed.

However, we re-opened for Sunday Morning Worship from August to December and one unexpected Wedding booking came in for Monday December 29th, which Revd. Carol was delighted to be able to take.

It is now February 2021 and we are looking forward to holding weddings once more at St Martin's. However, we are still in lockdown and church is closed, with no certainty when we will be open again. The Wedding Preparation Morning, which is due to be held on Saturday 6th March, will not go ahead in its original format and most of the paperwork will have to be done online. Carol is liaising with the couples and keeping them up to date with the ever-changing situation and we all pray they will have their weddings at St Martin's in 2021 and the bells will ring out once more in Herne.

Joan Jeffers, Weddings Administrator for St Martin's Church in Herne

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

GENERAL FUND	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
		£	£	£
Receipts and Payments Account				
RECEIPTS	1			
Voluntary Receipts				
Planned Giving		46,885.10	46,885.10	44,072.00
Collections at Services		1,425.15	1,425.15	7,493.00
Gift Aid and other voluntary receipts		13,026.88	13,026.88	26,735.00
Gift Aid Recovered		15,872.11	15,872.11	9,250.00
Legacy		5,000.00	5,000.00	106,681.00
Activities for Generating Funds		1,749.71	1,749.71	11,390.00
Church Activities - St Martins		6,885.00	6,885.00	13,186.00
Church Activities - St Peters		3,409.75	3,409.75	
St Peters rental income since 18/11/2020		80.00	80.00	
Receipts		94,333.70	94,333.70	218,807.00
Exceptional Items		10,524.43	10,524.43	104,670.99
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**104,858.13**	**104,858.13**	**323,477.99**
PAYMENTS	2			
Church Activities				
Parish Share		55,155.00	55,155.00	76,746.00
Clergy and Staffing Costs		12,029.39	12,029.39	8,846.00
Church Running Expenses		23,145.96	23,145.96	35,750.00
Occasional Office		4,519.00	4,519.00	6,650.00
Mission giving and donations		1,362.18	1,362.18	2,291.00
Fundraising		60.00	60.00	6,726.00
Church Hall - St Martins		1,162.76	1,162.76	2,972.00
Church Hall - St Peters		4,306.96	4,306.96	
Transferred to Investment Accounts		6,000.00	6,000.00	
Bank Charges		276.11	276.11	482.00
Payments		108,017.36	108,017.36	140,463.00
Exceptional Items				178,681.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**108,017.36**	**108,017.36**	**319,144.00**
Surplus/Deficit		(3,159)	(3,159)	78,344.00
Cash at Bank and in hand 1st January		10,103.00		
Cash at Bank and in hand 31st December (Lloyds Bank and Santander)		6,797.00		

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

St Martin's Church Hall	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020	2019
Income		£	£	£	£
Hall Lettings		5,467		5,467	10,864
Total Income		**5,467**		**5,467**	**10,864**
Payments					
Utilities		111		111	884
Cleaning		36		36	294
Cleaners Salary		284		284	1,122
Insurance		1,154		1,154	1,138
Maintenance		150		150	1,188
Music Licence		261		261	125
Rental Refund		30			
Tsfer to General Account for Parish Share		6,000		6,000	6,000
Miscellaneous		70		70	25
Total Payments		**8,095**		**8,095**	**10,776**
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		**4,445**			
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		**1,365**			
Youth Account	**3**				
BBQ Contribution				0.00	29.80
Payments					
Activity/Craft materials		45		45	102
Cash at bank 1st January		**932**			
Cash at bank 31st December		**887**			

St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS 2020	2019
Cash Funds		£	£	£	£
Bank Current Account		6,797		6,797	10,103
Church Hall Account		1,365		1,365	4,445
Youth Account		887		887	932
Restoration Account	4		193	193	45,249
		9,049	**193**	**9,243**	**60,729**
Investment Assets	5		145,217	145,217	140,941
			145,217	**145,217**	**140,941**
Fixed Assets retained for Church Use				**5,000**	**5000**
Liabilities					
Unpaid 2017 Parish Share		6,742			6,742
Unpaid 2018 Parish Share		11,704			11,704
Unpaid 2020 Parish Share		18,828			18,828
Funds held on behalf of Mothers & Toddlers					
Funds held on behalf of St Peter's Greenhill					
Little Fishes			945.58		
Messy Church			146.66		
Coffee Morning			318.66		
		37,274	**1,410.90**	**38,685**	**37,274**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18th January 2021 and signed by

Carol Smith
.....
Rev Carol Smith (Incumbent)

S. J. Gough
.....
Mrs Sheila Gough (Treasurer)

Bank:
Lloyds
144-146 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent

Independent Examiner:
PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis

1. Analysis of Receipts

Receipts

		2020	2019	2019	
Voluntary Receipts		£	£	£	
Planned Giving	40,551.00		35,998.50		
Weekly Envelopes	6,334.10	46,885.10	8,073.00	44,071.50	
Collections and other giving		1,425.15		7,493.46	
Gift Aid Envelopes	1,564.10			3,478.24	
Donations	1,460.21			12,469.89	
Collections for specific purposes	438.37			1,503.14	
Telecommunications Mast	8,978.27			8,978.27	
Flower Box	36.20			48.50	
Candle Tree	39.40			256.61	
Covid-19 Grant from KCC	510.33	13,026.88		0.00	
Income Tax Recovered		15,872.11		9,249.95	
Legacy		5,000.00		106,681.34	194,230.90
Receipts from activities for generating funds					
Hospitality/Tea Coffee	87.80			435.55	
Mothers & Toddlers Group	117.18			423.83	
Communal Christmas Card	0.00			63.33	
Calenders/Notelets	77.00			0.00	
Fundraising Events and Activities	1,467.73	1,749.71		10,467.53	11,390.24
Receipts from Church Activities					
Wedding Deposits/Banns/Certificates	345.00			247.00	
PCC Fees for Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	2,419.00			4,270.00	
Diocese Fees for Weddings/Funerals	3,381.00			4,411.00	
Organist/Bells/Choir Fees	180.00			2,485.00	
Additional Wedding/Funeral Income	560.00	6,885.00		1,773.00	13,186.00
St Peter's Greenhill					
Balance of funds transferred 18/11/2020	1,998.85				
Little Fishes	945.58				
Messy Church	146.66				
Coffee Morning	318.66	3,409.75			
Rental income since 18/11/2020	80.00	80.00			
Total of above		**94,333.70**			**218,807.14**
Exceptional Items					
Refund Bank Charges	28.89				
Vicars Discretionary Fund	1,350.00				
Tsfer from Hall account re Parish Share	6,000.00				
Tsfer from Hall account re Music Licence	260.74				
Insurance Monies Received for Porch Window	1,884.80				
Funds transferred to part pay Restoration invoice	1,000.00	10,524.43			
Exceptional Items - See last years accounts for breakdown					104,670.99
Total Receipts		**104,858.13**			**323,478.13**

2. Analysis of Payments

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Payments

		2020 £		2019 £	2019 £
Direct Ministry Expenditure					
	Parish Share	55,155.00	55,155.00		76,746.00
	Incumbents Working Expenses	660.11		818.50	
	Vicarage Telephone	755.58		858.32	
	Curates Working Expenses	549.40		1,549.90	
	Curates Telephone	107.50		291.30	
	Other Clergy Expenses	614.60		582.35	
	Visiting Clergy Fees			780.00	
	Organist/Secretary Salaries	2,894.55		1,999.92	
	Admininstration	6,447.65	12,029.39	1,966.13	8,846.42
Church Running Expenses					
	Utilities	3,649.11		5,814.42	
	Insurance	7,772.29		7,625.93	
	Repairs,Maintenance & Supplies	7,785.69		7,850.73	
	Church Security(Alarm/Lighting)	164.49		183.55	
	Upkeep of Churchyard	214.69		6,473.03	
	Worship	652.61		2,479.85	
	Music	900.78		3,922.66	
	Training Costs/Outreach	400.00		680.00	
	Red Lion Parking	720.00		720.00	
	Covid-19	686.30		0.00	
	Restoration Celebrations	200.00	23,145.96		35,750.17
Occasional Office Expenditure					
	Weddings/Funerals	330.00		2,435.00	
	Wedding Deposit/Fees refund	600.00		0.00	
	Parochial Fees	3,589.00		4,215.00	
	(Wedding/Funeral fees to Diocese		4,519.00		6,650.00
Charitable Giving	Catching Lives	102.99		1,290.89	
	Advent for Justice Appeal	548.59		0.00	
	Royal British Legion	50.00		0.00	
	H/B Street Pastors	305.60		0.00	
	Friends of Kent Churches	5.00		0.00	
	Gifts from Vicar's Discretionary	350.00		1,000.00	2,290.89
	Fund		1,362.18		
Fundraising	Funday Sunday Refunds	60.00	60.00	6,725.67	6,725.67
St Martins Church Hall	Utilities	740.62			1,275.39
	Music Licence	260.74			0.00
	KT Fire	41.40			0.00
	Petty Cash				79.14
	Expenses				1,582.99
	Cleaning	120.00	1,162.76	2,971.96	34.44
St Peter's Greenhill	Utilities	671.00			
	Insurance	1,215.37			
	Caretaker Salary	615.00			
	Maintenance/Repairs	1,805.59	4,306.96		
Transferred to CCLA Fabric	Legacy	5,000.00			
Transferred to Restoration Account	Payment towards invoice	1,000.00	6,000.00		
Bank Charges		276.11	276.11		482.41
			108,017.36		140,463.52
Exceptional Items - 2019					
see last year's accounts for breakdown					178,681.34
Total Payments			**108,017.36**		**319,144.86**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3 Analysis of Youth Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Youth Account for Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020 £		2019 £	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance 1st January	752.79		825.46	
Contribution towards BBQ		752.79	29.80	
				855.26
PAYMENTS				
Sunday School			54.43	
Activity Equipment/Craft Materials	44.81	44.81	48.04	102.47
Balance as at 31st December 2019				£752.79
Balance as at 31st December 2020		£707.98		
Start up Grant Received from Diocese B'fwd balance	179.29	179.29	179.29	179.29
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2019				**£932.08**
Balance in Youth Account 31st December 2020		**£887.27**		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Analysis of Restoration Account

St Martin-in-Herne Church Restoration Account
for Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020 £		2019 £	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance 1st January	45,249.43		37,740.63	
Grants				
HLF Grants	30,020.00		300,100.00	
Chancel Repairs			62,000.00	
Friends of Kent Churches			10,000.00	
General Donations			450.00	
Outreach Projects			332.25	
Transferred from Gen Account	1,000.00			
VAT Reclaim	21,208.86	97,478.29	84,185.32	494,808.20
PAYMENTS				
Stone Masons	75,254.29		399,041.53	
A Goddard - Health & Safety	360.00		360.00	
Rita Pitsilli-Graham - Architect	11,677.96		18,669.50	
Sawyer & Fisher - Chartered Quantity Surveyors	9,992.77		21,632.43	
Additional Insurance			1,165.52	
Nailbourne (Bell Tower)			1,680.00	
Standard Consulting - Structural Engineers			6,572.16	
Outreach Projects		97,285.02	437.63	449,558.77
Balance as at 31st December 2019				**£45,249.43**
Balance as at 31st December 2020		**£193.27**		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds

Bell Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020		2019	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£16.90		£16.78	
Interest	£0.08		£0.12	
		£16.98		£16.90
Balance at 31st December 2019				£16.90
Balance at 31st December 2020		£16.98		

Fabric Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020		2019	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£89,134.78		£2,623.12	
Legacy Peggy Edwards			£75,000.00	
Legacy Peggy Edwards			£31,681.34	
Legacy S Roberts	£5,000.00			
Interest	£389.86	£94,524.64	£570.32	£109,874.78
PAYMENTS				
Organ Stop Repair			£2,994.00	
Balance of Parish Share		£0.00	£17,746.00	£20,740.00
Balance as at 31st December 2019				£89,134.78
Balance as at 31st December 2020		£94,524.64		

Institute Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020		2019	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£11,554.96		£11,468.76	
Interest	£49.07	£11,604.03	£86.20	£11,554.96
PAYMENTS				
		£11,604.03		£11,554.96
Balance as at 31st December 2019				£11,554.96
Balance as at 31st December 2020		£11,604.03		

May Legacy Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2020
Restricted for the use of the Poor and Needy of the Parish

	2020		2019	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£24,332.40		£25,143.42	
Interest	£102.93	£24,435.33	£188.98	£25,332.40
PAYMENTS				
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	350.00	£350.00	£1,000.00	
				£1,000.00
		£24,085.33		£24,332.40
Balance as at 31st December 2019				£24,332.40
Balance as at 31st December 2020	£24,085.33			

5 continued

Organ Fund Account for Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020		2019	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£1.29		£489.38	
Interest	£0.00	£1.29	£0.91	£490.29
PAYMENTS				
Organ Stop Repair				£489.00
Balance at 31st December 2019				**£1.29**
Balance at 31st December 2020		**£1.29**		

Diocesan Deposit Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2020
For the use of St Peter's Greenhill

	2020		2019	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£6,976.12		£7,924.67	
Interest	£29.62	£7,005.74	£55.44	£7,980.11
PAYMENTS				
Transferred to St Peters account			£1,003.99	£1,003.99
		£7,005.74		**£6,976.12**
Balance as at 31st December 2019				**£6,976.12**
Balance as at 31st December 2020		**£7,005.74**		

Restoration Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020		2019	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£4,090.42		£4,059.90	
Interest	£17.13	£4,107.55	£30.52	£4,090.42
PAYMENTS				
Transferred to General Account	£1,000.00	£1,000.00		
		£3,107.55		£4,090.42
Balance as at 31st December 2019				**£4,090.42**
Balance as at 31st December 2020		**£3,107.55**		

Roof Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020		2019	
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance (1 January)	£4,850.97		£4,814.78	
Interest	£20.60	£4,871.57	£36.19	£4,850.97
	£2.75			
PAYMENTS				
				£0.00
		£4,871.57		**£4,850.97**
Balance as at 31st December 2019				**£4,850.97**
Balance as at 31st December 2020		**£4,871.57**		

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

This Report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). It is my responsibility to issue this report on the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect

the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not not been met, or

Signed: M·A Gamlemill

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 29th March 2021