

It feels as though the last year has been solid. The parish has been chugging along in a regular way and this has been important after the trauma of the pandemic. We have tried to gently rebuild what seemed lost to us; liturgically, socially and financially. What was needed was a steadiness and nurturing which I think has taken place.

Let me draw your attention to some of the significant pints during the year.

Just before Advent we had our very well attended All Souls' Requiem mass. This seems to have become a firm fixture in many people's minds and the attendance was very good. Advent itself begins with a parish day retreat at St Katherine's foundation in Limehouse and again we were joined by Fr Tom and some of his people from St Giles-in-the Fields. Attendance at Church during Advent was steady and grew slightly. Our carol service was richly attended as were the Christmas Eve and day services.

During the winter months we continued with our partnership with C4WS offering shelter and food to some homeless people. I am very grateful to Patricia Cobb who organises the volunteers and to everybody who helped out with cooking and food offerings.

Ash Wednesday was well attended and the music was beautiful. During Lent instead of a discussion group we concentrated on liturgy. The new Wednesday evening services were promoted. Each Wednesday offers a different sort of liturgy, from silence, to a sung evening prayer. The aim is to offer a mid-week 30 minutes of peace and prayerfulness in the midst of all the noise. Attendance began well but has dropped off slightly, so I do encourage to come at some point. We also offered Stations of the Cross each Friday evening.

Holy Week and Easter offer the divine invitation to enter into more fully the Paschal Mystery. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday had slightly disappointing attendance but Easter Day was full and the liturgy and the music were very splendid.

The parish pilgrimage to Walsingham remains firmly part of our calendar and I do recommend anybody who has not been to sign up now!

It was with great sadness we learned that Queen Elizabeth had died. On the evening Sunday evening before the State funeral we held a Requiem Mass at which a choir rehearsing in the Church stayed to join and sing for us. It was a simple but rather moving moment. We are of course getting ready for our Coronation lunch in the coming to celebrate the crowning of Charles III.

The Korean community continue to worship at St George's and they remain a very welcome presence in our midst.

We have also been joined by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They use the Church extensively through the week and now on Sunday mornings before our Eucharist. Many of the congregation are refugees, having escaped from the dreadful Russian invasion. They remain in our prayers.

It was with sadness we learned of the death of Michael Denchfield, Robert Mrozik and Fr Ronald Coppin. Michael had moved to Scotland along with Jenny his wife but still remained a loyal supporter of St George's. Robert had lived in St Mungo's for the last 5 years. His life had been difficult and hard but he retained and emanated a deep Christian faith. Fr Ronald, as many of you will know, had spent the last years of his life being looked after in a home in Kentish Town. He had been a senior priest in the Church of England and had supported many younger clergy in their vocation over the years as well as being a wise friend to St George's. We thank God for both Michael and Fr Ronald and commend their souls to Christ.

At the beating heart of the parish is the rhythm of the Sunday by Sunday Eucharist's. Worship that is enhanced by the choral scholars, ably led by our director of music, Mr Sam Bardsley and we are grateful to him for all of his contributions to Church life.

There are many people to whom I need to give my thanks both personally and on behalf of you all.

To our churchwardens, Julian Sharpe and Helena Roden, for their personal support and a commitment to the life of St George's. I am so very grateful to them both. Julian, as an architect takes a particular responsibility with the building, which as you can imagine presents some unique and continuing needs. Helena has an eye of the social side of life at St George's and offers her support for these events.

To the PCC, Hugh Kennedy, Claire Barraclough, Carmen Bailey, Neil Handley, Dorothy Connell, Mabel Sharpe, Sara Payne, many thanks for finding time to meet and to discuss and plan. To Mabel for her work as treasurer, which can be very time-consuming. To Sara Payne for her work as PCC secretary and her work as the safe-guarding officer. To Dorothy for being our lay deanery representative.

Thanks to Dr Neil Handley, for his contribution as our reader and for his offer of helping with the practical side of future pilgrimages. To Dr Jack Highton who not only serves but is very close to be licensed as a reader.

Thanks also to Eva Driskell for her help with the Sunday sheets and for being the creative mind behind our quarterly brochures which are very

splendid indeed and being so helpful and crucial to the online broadcasting.

Thanks to all who read lessons, ring the bell, great people at the door. Thank you to Tim Fairclough for sweeping the steps! Thank you to Michael Taylor, Esther Kim, Stuart Pantal and Jack Highton for serving. Thank you to Kathryn Hughes for organising the reading rota and for all who read and lead the intercessions. Thank you to Carmen for looking after the cleaning and washing of linen and preparing our Sunday tea and coffee.

Thanks to Eva again for her work in the office and putting up with all sorts of frustrations. Eva will be leaving St George's as administrator at the end of June. She has shown incredible enthusiasm, efficiency and drive in her work and we will miss her very much. We offer her our very best wishes for her next adventure, though she will still be around as a parishioner! Thank you to Noel Gordon who continues to look after our lettings and keep an eye on the building and the people coming and going.

We continue to be grateful to the church volunteers who offer their time opening the church and helping with the concert programme.

Most of our income is sourced by the letting out of the crypt to the Leicester Square theatre company and from the renting out of the hall to various social groups. This income was substantially reduced by the pandemic and we have had to dig deep in to our limited reserves. I would like to thank those individuals who been particularly generous over the past few years and I would like to ask you all to be as generous as you can according to your means.

There is a great pressure from the hierarchy in the Church to grow. This is not a bad thing! But it starts with depth. We must continue to offer, at our heart, a prayerful worshipping community, in which people in their own way can encounter Christ in their midst. But it does also mean that each and every one of us takes up the gospel command to reach out to friends and neighbours and to say to them, "come and see". In a recent piece of research it was discovered that 86% of people coming to church for the first time (or returning) did so through a personal invitation. In a world which can feel functional, managerial and individualistic, the personal, which is at the heart of the gospel, is what really matters.

**Profit & Loss**

January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Collections	
Box	6.50
Collection - Other	1,398.38
Gift Aided	
Church music - gift aided	800.00
Weekly giving scheme	1,739.53
Yellow Envelopes	2,301.91
Gift Aided - Other	7,210.00
Total Gift Aided	12,051.44
Plate	2,795.71
Tax recovered	
GASDS recovered	260.20
Tax recovered - Other	3,095.67
Total Tax recovered	3,355.87
Collections - Other	1,304.05
Total Collections	20,911.95
Dividend Income	20,164.56
Fundraising	
Books	70.00
Cards	20.50
Parish Lunch	185.00
Fundraising - Other	2,114.70
Total Fundraising	2,390.20
Gifts and Donations Income	
Restricted	1,130.00
Unrestricted	675.00
Total Gifts and Donations Income	1,805.00
Income - Church and Hall Hire	
Church	18,172.50
Donations for use of space	
Donation for use of E courtyard	490.00
Donations for use of space - Oth...	1,200.00
Total Donations for use of space	1,690.00
Musician fees	1,160.00
Upper Meeting Room	70.00
UVH (Upper Vestry hall)	125.00
Income - Church and Hall Hire - Ot...	28,030.00
Total Income - Church and Hall Hire	49,247.50
Income - Concerts	
Concerts Income	
- PRS charge	98.84
Total Concerts Income	98.84
Income - Concerts - Other	752.06
Total Income - Concerts	850.90
Income - Licences granted	
Lower Vestry Hall Licence	39,280.00
Parking space licence	2,100.00
Undercroft Licence	57,930.77
Income - Licences granted - Other	940.61
Total Income - Licences granted	100,251.38
Interest Income	130.70
Parochial Fees	960.00

**Profit & Loss**

January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
<b>Total Income</b>	196,712.19
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>2001 Common Fund</b>	50,000.00
<b>2002 Clergy Expenses</b>	
2002 Books	164.24
2002 Computer consumables	297.78
2002 Courses and retreats	132.68
2002 Office equipment	246.94
2002 Postage and stationery	89.95
2002 Rector's pastoral work	887.80
2002 Rector discretionary fund	890.00
2002 Telephone	360.00
2002 Travel	254.45
2002 Working lunches & coffees	851.43
<b>Total 2002 Clergy Expenses</b>	4,175.27
<b>2003 Rectory Expenses</b>	
2003 Rectory Repairs	615.00
2003 Rectory Water Rates	467.11
2003 Rectory Expenses - Other	57.96
<b>Total 2003 Rectory Expenses</b>	1,140.07
<b>2005 Church Running Expenses</b>	
2005 Cleaning General	56.56
2005 Cleaning Stone Floor	800.00
2005 Electricity	21,699.98
2005 Gas	7,206.47
2005 Insurance	15,610.08
2005 Sanitary Supplies	682.90
2005 Sundry	220.01
2005 Water Rates	1,701.38
Wifi equipment and maintenance	12.94
<b>Total 2005 Church Running Expenses</b>	47,990.32
<b>2006 Church Maintenance</b>	
2006 Boiler Maintenance	1,508.12
2006 Drains clearance	10.99
2006 Key cutting	12.96
2006 Lift Maintenance	630.00
2006 Lightning Protection	3,985.20
2006 Misc	79.86
2006 Piano Tuning	85.00
2006 Refuse Collection	1,368.42
2006 Tree trimming	4,224.00
<b>Total 2006 Church Maintenance</b>	11,904.55
<b>2007 Upkeep of Services</b>	
2007 Books	4.00
2007 Candles	30.07
2007 Flowers	306.24
2007 Giving Envelopes	346.60
2007 Honoraria	880.00
2007 Music Extra	1,110.55
2007 Music for High services	4,138.00
2007 Music Licensing	169.00
2007 Music sheets	162.32
2007 Publicity	481.34
2007 Repair and Replacement	691.73
2007 Sacristy Supplies	704.15
2007 Service Sheets	448.57
2007 Upkeep of Services - other	145.42
<b>Total 2007 Upkeep of Services</b>	9,617.99
<b>2016 Salaries &amp; Support</b>	
2016 Accounts Manager	5,603.09

**Profit & Loss**

January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
2016 Cantors	
Choral Scholars	4,981.89
Scholar deputies	1,435.00
2016 Cantors - Other	672.63
Total 2016 Cantors	7,089.52
2016 Caretaker	11,143.68
2016 Church Secretary	5,499.57
2016 Er Pension	377.34
2016 Organists	6,317.53
Total 2016 Salaries & Support	36,030.73
3000 Fund Raising	
3000 Dublin Tour 2022	1,989.13
Total 3000 Fund Raising	1,989.13
4000 Church Administration	
4000 Advertising	30.00
4000 Computer Hardware	192.77
4000 Computer Software	138.07
4000 IT Support	2,196.69
4000 Stationery/IT Consumables	174.78
4000 Telephone & broadband	1,594.12
Total 4000 Church Administration	4,326.43
6000 Musician Fees	1,075.00
Bank Service Charges	195.74
Concerts & Events	
Activities Expenses	25.00
Concerts - core expenses	
PRS tariff for concerts	388.07
Total Concerts - core expenses	388.07
Total Concerts & Events	413.07
Gifts and Honoraria	337.60
Miscellaneous	272.88
Parish Events	4,401.17
Payroll Expenses	
Pensions expense	529.98
Payroll Expenses - Other	612.00
Total Payroll Expenses	1,141.98
Professional Fees	
Accounting/Audit Fees	240.00
Total Professional Fees	240.00
Repairs & Renewals	1,613.72
Total Expense	176,865.65
Net Ordinary Income	19,846.54
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
Decrease in value of investment	93,132.32
Total Other Expense	93,132.32
Net Other Income	-93,132.32
Profit for the Year	<b>-73,285.78</b>

## **Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St George's, Bloomsbury**

This report on the accounts of the St George's, Bloomsbury for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, which are set out on the annexed pages, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2005 ('the Regulation') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('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 the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25.

### **Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the 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 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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**29 March 2023**