THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED BENEFICE OF GODSTONE AND BLINDLEY HEATH

England & Wales · Charity number 1143975

Details

Other names	UNITED BENEFICE OF GODSTONE AND BLINDLEY HEATH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2011-09-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Rectory 17 Ivy Mill Lane Godstone Surrey
Phone	01883741945
Email	benefice@godstone.net
Website	www.godstonebenefice.org.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Activities: The Benefice comprises 3 churches-the parish of St Nicholas serving the community of Godstone;St Stephen's church serving the community of South Godstone; the parish of St John serving the community of Blindley Heath. The primary function is to provide a faith and worship centre in each community in accordance with the traditional parochial and pastoral ministry of the Church of England

Classification

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

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Geography

- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£117,335	£107,606	-	-
2023-12-31	£93,273	£90,286	-	-
2022-12-31	£124,376	£93,258	-	-
2021-12-31	£94,274	£92,823	-	-
2020-12-31	£71,442	£83,933	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev PETER O'CONNELL	Chair	2016-06-07
CAROL ANN CRYER		2011-09-26
Helen Pursley McRobert		2022-05-13
JANET SARAH MACKINNON		2011-09-26
Karen Jackson		2020-10-16
LOUISE CASE		2011-09-26
Rev Evelyn Randall		2016-04-28
Trevor Gordon Nightingale		2022-05-13

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED BENEFICE OF GODSTONE AND BLINDLEY HEAT

England & Wales - Charity number 1143975

Accounts

St Nicholas' Church, Godstone

St Stephen's Church, South Godstone

St John's Church, Blindley Heath

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of the UNITED BENEFICE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31st December 2024

INCUMBENT
Revd Peter O'Connell
The Rectory, 17 Ivy Mill Lane,
Godstone, Surrey

Registered Charity - 1143975

ANNUAL REPORT
THE BENEFICE AND PARISH OF GODSTONE & BLINDLEY HEATH
For the year ended 31st December 2024

The Parish Church of St Nicholas serving the community of Godstone.
St Stephen's Church serving the community of South Godstone as a Parish Centre of Worship
The Parish Church of St John serving the community of Blindley Heath

Parochial boundaries are compatible with the civic authority of Godstone Parish Council and within the Tandridge District Council responsible for East Surrey.

Correspondence addresses for the Benefice are:-

Incumbent	Revd Peter O'Connell The Rectory, 17 Ivy Mill Lane Godstone, Surrey RH9 8NH
PCC Secretary:	Karen Jackson
Benefice Office:	Email - benefice@godstone.net Telephone 07428 348651

Benefice Structure and Organisation
As set out in the Pastoral Measure signed by the Bishop of Southwark on the 3 May 1997, the Benefice structure is as follows: An overall PCC is the legal entity for the three churches. This PCC has devolved its powers, as appropriate, for the running of the individual churches to an elected body known as a District Church Council (DCC). These councils are, however, responsible to the overall PCC. Each DCC and the PCC to form such sub-committees, and a standing committee, as are required for the smooth running of the particular church. The PCC membership is elected by the DCC members, themselves elected at the Annual General Meeting of each church.

Ministerial Co-operation
The PCC and each DCC is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, to co-operate with the Incumbent and the ministry team, in promoting in the Benefice and parish the whole ministry of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Members of the PCC and DCCs
These are as set out on page 7.

Church Electoral Rolls

Following the annual meetings in 2024 the Electoral Roll figures are as follows:

St Nicholas' Church	102
St Stephen's Church	15
St John's Church	16

Mission Aims and Objectives

The following summarises our Mission Statement and these are to be achieved through church services, the occasional children's, youth and general outreach and the community involvement of the ministerial team and congregation members. Each church belongs to and serves its respective village.

STATEMENT OF MISSION

We seek to fulfill Christ's challenging commandment that we love God and our fellow human beings as ourselves, through:

Commitment to the nurture of our spiritual life by:

- regular private prayer
- being receptive to the Word of God
- sharing in corporate worship
- using opportunities to learn from each other
- an openness in worship, embracing both the formal and informal.

Being a Christian presence and engaging with our local and wider communities by:

- being a welcoming church family serving all within our community
- accepting and valuing the diverse gifts and traditions of others
- valuing opportunities for outreach, including recognizing the significance of our church school and aiming to ensure that our buildings are welcoming environments for use by others
- widespread and effective communication
- witnessing and sharing our faith
- being aware of opportunities for prayerful and practical responses to challenges in the community, world and church
- valuing opportunities for growth and being willing to embrace change.

Activities in the Year

During the last year the three Churches of the Parish, St Nicholas' in Godstone, St Stephen's in South Godstone and St John's in Blindley Heath have continued with their primary function of providing a faith and worship centre in each community. This is in accordance with the traditional parochial and pastoral ministry of the Church of England.

Worship and other activities have taken place during the year as normal. The number of regular worshippers has remained stable over the last year but continues to be on the low side so we are doing everything we can to attract more people to attend our services and other events. Weddings and funerals, study groups, social functions and community events have all taken place but sadly none of the churches are able to sustain a junior church.

The churches celebrated major festivals and events such as Lent, Easter, Whitsun, Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christingle and Christmas with relatively good attendance. Collections from some of these events were given to various charities.

An on-line service continued to be streamed each week from St Stephen's church as people unable to attend a church in person benefit from this.

The involvement, as governors, of clergy and parishioners with St Stephen's Church School has continued and the school attended St Stephen's Church on several occasions.

Maintenance of our ancient but beautiful buildings is an important part of ministry and our ability for the church to be visible in each community is very relevant to people who live here. Use of the buildings by parishioners and the wider community is key to our visibility and many people continued to play their part in the looking after of each church, notably in the cleaning and decoration. A sense of loving care is evident which is complemented by the welcome and friendly atmospheres which prevails in all three churches.

St Nicholas and St Stephen's were subject to a Quinquennial Inspection during 2021 and St John's in 2022. The reports confirmed that the churches remain in generally good condition. Any urgent matters have already been dealt with and some minor items requiring attention will be acted upon in due course.

Some progress on the building projects at St Nicholas, where a project leader has now been appointed, and St John's has been made and it is hoped that these can now be moved forward subject to sufficient funds. At St John's a grant was received from Surrey County Council for £27,000 towards installing a soil pipe for the proposed toilets in the church but a faculty is still awaited. The St Nicholas' Hospitality Project continues to be hampered by the lamentably slow response from the diocesan DAC, the body that scrutinises all historic building projects. Some £60,000 has been saved mainly within the Friends of St Nicholas. The real value of this decreases every month because of rising projected costs.

We also continued to share our witness with Godstone Baptist Church, with a number of joint activities in Godstone.

The link that was set up in 2016 with the parish of St John's in Rutendo in Zimbabwe continued throughout the year but was severed in 2025.

The Youth Centre in Godstone, St Stephen's Jubilee Rooms and St John's Church Hall are available for church and non-church organisations in each village. They are much appreciated meeting places and it is hoped that the level of activities they are used for can continue and be increased.

Socially we try to be an active Benefice. There is a monthly Café Connect in Godstone at which money is raised for various charities and a weekly coffee morning in South Godstone. St Nicholas held a Christmas chocolate tombola and there was a summer fayre at St Stephen's. There were various activities at St John's including an Easter egg hunt, cream teas, quizzes, a barn dance and skittles.

St Nicholas is grateful for the support of the Friends of St Nicholas which funds many of the fabric projects either directly or via donations and is holding money towards the hospitality project.

We are grateful for the ministry and support provided by Revd Peter O'Connell and the assistance of our Assistant Priest, Revd Evelyn Randall, reader Liz Windridge, Wendy Hewitt from Hurst Green and Nick Smith from Lingfield during this year. We also extend our thanks to the Churchwardens, officers and members of the DCC's and PCC who continued to work hard over the last year to ensure that we continued to promote God's Kingdom in this place.

We remain optimistic about the coming year. It is hoped that some of the big projects to upgrade the facilities within St Nicholas and St John's churches will come to fruition. We are hopeful of a good and progressive year and thank everyone for their faithful support.

We ask for God's blessing on us, and our work undertaken in his name.

Finance Report

Net funds of the whole Benefice increased overall by £9,729 prior to the revaluation of investments. The value of the investment portfolio at St Stephen's increased by £2,540. This has resulted in an overall increase in reserves of £12,269 for the Benefice as a whole. The level of donations, which included £6,038 from the Friends of St Nicholas (registered charity no. 278948), showed an overall increase which is mainly due to a significant grant of £27,000 to St John's towards replacing a soil pipe. St John's also received a grant of £5,000 to replace the floor in the hall. Numbers in the congregations at both St Nicholas and St Stephen's in particular, have remained low which continues to have an impact on income.

Overall, the Benefice increased its pledge to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund for 2024 resulting in an increase of 1.3%. All the churches continue to seek savings on their day-to-day running expenses, even so these still increased during the year, particularly utility costs. In addition, St John's spent £19,000 on replacing the floor in the hall. Although income at St John's, excluding the grants, exceeded its normal costs by a small amount both St Nicholas and St Stephen's churches ran at a deficit which is causing concern about generating sufficient income in both cases. External giving, which includes donations to both secular and non-secular charities, has continued. These mainly come from the monthly Café Connect at St Nicholas.

The planned internal refurbishment at both St John's and St Nicholas has not yet commenced but funds are continuing to be set aside.

Quinquennial inspections at St Nicholas and St Stephen were carried out in 2021 and in 2022 at St John's resulting in expenditure on the fabric at all three churches. These will be due again in 2026 and 2027.

Our net assets of £239,148 at the end of the year include investments of £107,023 which are funds restricted for use at St. Stephen's Church. The investments are currently held under the custody of the Diocese of Southwark but the responsibility for the management of all investments rest with the PCC as Trustees. Although there are cumulative cash balances of £138,446 across the Benefice, cash flow continues to be a key concern with each church endeavouring to increase income from both donations and fund raising and to keep costs under control, both of which continue to present difficulties.

Approved by the PCC on 14 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman) Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

UNITED BENEFICE PCC and DCC STRUCTURE at 31 December 2024

Chair: Peter O'Connell

Vice Chair: Trevor Nightingale

Co-opted Members

Revd Evelyn Randall
Liz Windridge

Church Wardens

St Nicholas	**St Stephens**	**St Johns**
Graham Millar	Karen Jackson	Trevor Nightingale
Vacant	Vacant	Helen McRobert

Treasurer: Janet MacKinnon **Secretary:** Karen Jackson

ST NICHOLAS	**ST STEPHENS**	**ST JOHNS**
	Deanery Synod Members: also Ex-Officio DCC's	
Louise Case	Karen Jackson	Vacant
Vacant		
Vacant		
	Elected Members from DCCs	
Margaret Shelley	Carol Cryer	Vacant
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant
Vacant		

DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS

Rector	**Rector**	**Rector**
Churchwardens	**Churchwardens**	**Churchwardens**
Vice Chair	**Vice Chair**	**Vice Chair**
Lay: Graham Millar	Lay: Karen Jackson	Lay: Trevor Nightingale
Financial Administrator	**Treasurer**	**Treasurer**
Louise Case	Janet MacKinnon	Trevor Nightingale
Secretary	**Secretary**	**Secretary**
Alison McCormick	Karen Jackson	Kristie Mumbi Ndung'U
Jenny Benham	Joyce Brown	Annabell Askew
Jenefer Bull	Carol Carey	Ann Bell
Di Grose	Elaine Childs	Pauline Ginner
Diane Hoy	Carol Cryer	Joan Wall
Lyn Jones	Janet MacKinnon	
Revd Evelyn Randall	Cathy Snell	
Margaret Shelley		
	Electoral Roll Officers	
Di Grose	Janet MacKinnon	Helen McRobert
	Gift Aid Recorders	
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath

Full BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2024

2023		2024
102,924	Investments	107,023
	Current Assets	
455	Debtors	3,621
133,515	Cash At Bank and In Hand	138,446
133,970		142,067
	Current Liabilities	
10,015	Creditors Due Within One Year	9,942
123,955	Net Current Assets	132,125
226,879	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	239,148
226,879	**NET ASSETS**	**239,148**
	Represented by Funds	
	Unrestricted Funds	
68,384	St Nicholas' funds	59,353
12,950	St Stephen's funds	13,922
37,788	St John's funds	54,084
4,833	United Benefice funds	4,766
123,955	Total Unrestricted funds	132,125
	Restricted Funds	
102,924	St Stephens investment account	107,023
102,924	Total restricted funds	107,023
226,879	**TOTAL FUNDS**	**239,148**

Approved by the PCC on 15 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman)

Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2024

2023 Total Funds		2024 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Incoming resources			
64,182	Donated income	57,296		57,296
0	Recurring grants	0		0
5,705	Investment income	3,207	4,210	7,417
23,386	Activities for generating funds	20,622		20,622
0	Non-Recurring Income	32,000		32,000
93,273	Total incoming resources	113,125	4,210	117,335
	Resources expended			
40,389	Diocesan pledge	40,914		40,914
582	Clergy expenses	578		578
4,816	Assignment of fees	5,464		5,464
28,553	Church running expenses	43,967		43,967
0	Costs Related to Trading	0		0
5,120	Salaries and support costs	6,285		6,285
3,215	Management and administration	3,680		3,680
0	Major capital expenditure	0		0
7,611	Donations to charities	6,718		6,718
90,286	Total resources used	107,606	0	107,606
2,987	NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	5,519	4,210	9,729
0	Transfers between funds	0	0	0
2,987	NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	5,519	4,210	9,729
0	Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	0	0	0
4,333	Revaluation of investments	0	2,540	2,540
7,320	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	5,519	6,750	12,269
219,559	Fund balances at 1 January 2024	123,955	102,924	226,879
226,879	FUND BALANCES at 31 DECEMBER 2024	129,474	109,674	**239,148**

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024
Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statement includes all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted Funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on the fund.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

There is one trust fund held for the churches which relates to St Stephen's. The capital of St Stephen's trust fund is restricted and can be applied for the maintenance of the church building. The dividends and interest from the fund are accumulated in a separate fund and is unrestricted.

Resources and Expenditure

Planned giving, interest, collections, legacies and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds submitted as annual claims are recognized in the year in which the claim is made.
The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Any furnishing or equipment used within the church premises of less than £5,000 is written off when acquired. The PCC has not acquired any asset in excess of £5,000 since moving from a receipts and payments basis.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December 2024.

2. Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
St Stephen – Trust fund (income)	14,149	12,590
St Stephen – Trust fund (capital)	92,874	90,334
	107,023	102,924
These are invested as follows:		
M&G Charifund Accumulation Units	42,858	39316
CBF Investment Fund Income shares	59,176	57,852
CBF Deposit Account	4,898	5,756
	107,023	102,924

3. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Sundry debtors	3,621	445
	3,621	445

4. Current Liabilities

	2024 £	2023 £
Assignment of fees	3,714	3,481
Accruals	4968	5,464
Prepaid wedding and funeral fees	1235	900
Other prepayments	25	170
	10,015	10,015

5. Unrestricted funds

St Nicholas' funds include £9,413 set aside towards new hospitality facilities.

St John's funds represent £53,272 in respect of the church, which includes funds for toilet facilities, the organ and the car park totalling £42,065, and £813 in respect of the church hall.

The United Benefice funds include £16 carried forward in respect of monies received to assist the needy in the parish.

6. Staff Costs

The Benefice has one employee who is the parish administrator. Payments to individuals were made at two churches for organists.

Independent Examiner's Report
To the United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath PCC

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 as set out on pages 1 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required for this year, under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC, covering St Nicholas' church, St Stephen's Church and St John's church, and a comparison of those accounts with the records. It also included considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to the matters set out on the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed: .....

Name: K Christmas
Qualification: ACA
Address: White Cottage
The Enterdent
Godstone
Surrey RH9 8EG

Date:

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED BENEFICE OF GODSTONE AND BLINDLEY HEAT

England & Wales - Charity number 1143975

Accounts

St Nicholas' Church, Godstone

St Stephen's Church, South Godstone

St John's Church, Blindley Heath

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of the UNITED BENEFICE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31st December 2023

INCUMBENT
Revd Peter O'Connell
The Rectory, 17 Ivy Mill Lane,
Godstone, Surrey

Registered Charity - 1143975

ANNUAL REPORT
THE BENEFICE AND PARISH OF GODSTONE & BLINDLEY HEATH
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Worship and other activities have taken place during the year as normal. The number of regular worshippers has increased at St John's but have still not recovered to pre covid pandemic levels at St Nicholas and St Stephen's. Weddings and funerals, study groups, junior church, social functions and community events have all taken place.

The churches celebrated major festivals and events such as Lent, Easter, Whitsun, Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christingle and Christmas with relatively good attendance. Collections from many of these events were given to various charities.

An on-line service continued to be streamed each week from St Stephen's church as people unable to attend a church in person benefit from this.

The involvement, as governors, of clergy and parishioners with St Stephen's Church School has continued and the school attended St Stephen's Church on several occasions.

Maintenance of our ancient but beautiful buildings is an important part of ministry and our ability for the church to be visible in each community is very relevant to people who live here. Use of the buildings by parishioners and the wider community is key to our visibility and many people continued to play their part in the looking after of each church, notably in the cleaning and decoration. A sense of loving care is evident which is complemented by the welcome and friendly atmospheres which prevails in all three churches.

St Nicholas and St Stephen's were subject to a Quinquennial Inspection during 2021 and St John's in 2022. The reports confirmed that the churches remain in generally good condition. Any urgent matters have already been dealt with and some minor items requiring attention will be acted upon in due course.

Some progress on the building projects at St Nicholas, where a project leader has now been appointed, and St John's has been made and it is hoped that these can now be moved forward subject to sufficient funds. The St Nicholas' Hospitality Project continues to be hampered by the lamentably slow response from the diocesan DAC, the body that scritinises all historic building projects. Almost £60,000 has been saved with nothing spent. The real value of this decreases every month because of rising projected costs.

We also continued to share our witness with Godstone Baptist Church, with a number of joint activities.

The link that was set up in 2016 with the parish of St John's in Rutendo in Zimbabwe continued throughout the year.

The Youth Centre in Godstone, St Stephen's Jubilee Rooms and St John's Church Hall are available for church and non-church organisations in each village. They are much appreciated meeting places and it is hoped that the level of activities they are used for can continue and be increased.

Socially we try to be an active Benefice. There is a monthly Café Connect in Godstone at which money is raised for various charities and a weekly coffee morning in South Godstone. There was a Christmas tree festival at St Nicholas' and summer and autumn fayres at St Stephen's. There were various activities at St John's including an Easter egg hunt, cream teas, quizzes, a barn dance and skittles.

St Nicholas is grateful for the support of the Friends of St Nicholas which funds many of the fabric projects either directly or via donations.

We are grateful for the ministry and support provided by Revd Peter O'Connell and the assistance of our Assistant Priest, Revd Evelyn Randall, reader Liz Windridge and Wendy Hewitt from Hurst Green during this year. We also extend our thanks to the Churchwardens, officers and members of the DCC's and PCC who continued to work hard over the last year to ensure that we continued to promote God's Kingdom in this place.

We are optimistic about the coming year. It is hoped that some of the big projects to upgrade the facilities within St Nicholas and St John's churches will come to fruition. We are hopeful of a good and progressive year and thank everyone for their faithful support.

We ask for God's blessing on us, and our work undertaken in his name.

Finance Report

Net funds of the whole Benefice increased overall by £2,987 prior to the revaluation of investments. The value of the investment portfolio at St Stephen's increased by £4,333. This has resulted in an overall increase in reserves of £7,320 for the Benefice as a whole. The level of donations, which included £3,997 from the Friends of St Nicholas (registered charity no. 278948), showed an overall decrease which is mainly due to a significant legacy in 2022. No grants were received in the year. Numbers in the congregations at both St Nicholas and St Stephen's have declined which continues to have an impact on income.

All three churches increased their pledges to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund for 2023 resulting in an overall increase of just over 2% across the Benefice, although this does put a strain on resources. All the churches continue to seek savings on their day-to-day running expenses, even so these still increased during the year, particularly utility costs. The apparent reduction is due to a lower number of weddings and funerals resulting in less being paid out to the Diocese and other related fees. External giving, which includes donations to both secular and non-secular charities, has continued. These mainly come from the monthly Café Connect at St Nicholas.

The planned internal refurbishment at both St John's and St Nicholas has not yet commenced but funds are continuing to be set aside.

Quinquennial inspections at St Nicholas and St Stephen were carried out in 2021 and in 2022 at St John's resulting in expenditure on the fabric at all three churches.

Our net assets of £226,879 at the end of the year include investments of £102,924 which are funds restricted for use at St. Stephen's Church. The investments are currently held under the custody of the Diocese of Southwark but the responsibility for the management of all investments rest with the PCC as Trustees. Although there are cumulative cash balances of £133,515 across the Benefice, cash flow continues to be a key concern with each church endeavouring to increase income from both donations and fund raising and to keep costs under control, both of which continue to present difficulties.

Approved by the PCC on 25 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman)

Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

UNITED BENEFICE PCC and DCC STRUCTURE at 31 December 2023

Chair: Peter O'Connell

Vice Chair: Graham Millar

Co-opted Members

Revd Evelyn Randall
Liz Windridge

Church Wardens

St Nicholas	**St Stephens**	**St Johns**
Graham Millar	Karen Jackson	Trevor Nightingale
Vacant	Vacant	Helen McRobert

Treasurer: Janet MacKinnon **Secretary:** Karen Jackson

ST NICHOLAS	**ST STEPHENS**	**ST JOHNS**
	Deanery Synod Members: also Ex-Officio DCC's	
Louise Case	Karen Jackson	Vacant
Caroline Coles		
Vacant		
	Elected Members from DCCs	
Margaret Shelley	Carol Cryer	Vacant
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant
Vacant		

DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS

Rector	**Rector**	**Rector**
Churchwardens	**Churchwardens**	**Churchwardens**
Vice Chair	**Vice Chair**	**Vice Chair**
Lay: Graham Millar	Lay: Karen Jackson	Lay: Trevor Nightingale
Financial Administrator	**Treasurer**	**Treasurer**
Louise Case	Janet MacKinnon	Trevor Nightingale
Secretary	**Secretary**	**Secretary**
Alison McCormick	Karen Jackson	Kristie Mumbi Ndung'U
Jenny Benham	Joyce Brown	Annabell Askew
Jenefer Bull	Carol Carey	Ann Bell
Di Grose	Elaine Childs	Pauline Ginner
Diane Hoy	Carol Cryer	Christine McPhail
Lyn Jones	Janet MacKinnon	Joan Wall
Revd Evelyn Randall	Cathy Snell	
Margaret Shelley		
	Electoral Roll Officers	
Di Grose	Janet MacKinnon	Helen McRobert
	Gift Aid Recorders	
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath

Full

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2023

2022		2023
8,732	S/S Invesments - Accum Inc	12,590
86,001	S/S Investments - Capital	90,334
94,733	Investments	102,924
	Current Assets	
1,462	Debtors	455
134,584	Cash At Bank and In Hand	133,515
136,046		133,970
	Current Liabilities	
11,220	Creditors Due Within One Year	10,015
124,826	Net Current Assets	123,955
219,559	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	226,879
219,559	**NET ASSETS**	**226,879**
	Represented by Funds	
	Unrestricted Funds	
71,926	St Nicholas' funds	68,384
12,175	St Stephen's funds	12,950
37,007	St John's funds	37,788
3,718	United Benefice funds	4,833
124,826	Total Unrestricted funds	123,955
	Restricted Funds	
94,733	St Stephens investment account	102,924
94,733	Total restricted funds	102,924
219,559	**TOTAL FUNDS**	**226,879**

Approved by the PCC on 25 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman)

Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2023

2022 Total Funds		2023 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Incoming resources			
88,372	Donated income	64,182		64,182
0	Recurring grants	0		0
3,802	Investment income	1,847	3,858	5,705
28,689	Activities for generating funds	23,386		23,386
3,513	Non-Recurring Income	0		0
124,376	Total incoming resources	89,415	3,858	93,273
	Resources expended			
39,533	Diocesan pledge	40,389		40,389
478	Clergy expenses	582		582
9,861	Assignment of fees	4,816		4,816
29,045	Church running expenses	28,553		28,553
0	Costs Related to Trading	0		0
3,675	Salaries and support costs	5,120		5,120
2,912	Management and administration	3,215		3,215
0	Major capital expenditure	0		0
7,754	Donations to charities	7,611		7,611
93,258	Total resources used	90,286	0	90,286
31,118	NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	(871)	3,858	2,987
0	Transfers between funds	0	0	0
31,118	NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	(871)	3,858	2,987
0	Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	0	0	0
(8,890)	Revaluation of investments	0	4,333	4,333
22,228	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(871)	8,191	7,320
197,331	Fund balances at 1 January 2023	124,826	94,733	219,559
219,559	FUND BALANCES at 31 DECEMBER 2023	123,955	102,924	**226,879**

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023
Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statement includes all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted Funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on the fund.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

There is one trust fund held for the churches which relates to St Stephen's. The capital of St Stephen's trust fund is restricted and can be applied for the maintenance of the church building. The dividends and interest from the fund are accumulated in a separate fund and is unrestricted.

Resources and Expenditure

Planned giving, interest, collections, legacies and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds submitted as annual claims are recognized in the year in which the claim is made.
The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Any furnishing or equipment used within the church premises of less than £5,000 is written off when acquired. The PCC has not acquired any asset in excess of £5,000 since moving from a receipts and payments basis.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December 2023.

2. Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
St Stephen – Trust fund (income)	12,590	8,732
St Stephen – Trust fund (capital)	90,334	86,001
	102,924	94,733
These are invested as follows:		
M&G Charifund Accumulation Units	39,316	36,140
CBF Investment Fund Income shares	57,852	52,838
CBF Deposit Account	5,756	5,755
	102,924	94,733

3. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sundry debtors	445	1,462
	445	1,462

4. Current Liabilities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Assignment of fees	3,481	3,623
Accruals	5,464	6,947
Prepaid wedding and funeral fees	900	650
Other prepayments	170	0
	10,015	11,220

5. Unrestricted funds

St Nicholas' funds include £9,100 set aside towards new hospitality facilities.

St John's funds represent £24,326 in respect of the church, which includes funds for toilet facilities, the organ and the car park totalling £14,990, and £13,462 in respect of the church hall.

St Stephen's funds include £136 carried forward in respect of the defibrillator.

The United Benefice funds include £16 carried forward in respect of monies received to assist the needy in the parish.

6. Staff Costs

The Benefice has one employee who is the parish administrator. Payments to individuals were made at two churches for organists.

Independent Examiner's Report
To the United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath PCC

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 as set out on pages 1 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required for this year, under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC, covering St Nicholas' church, St Stephen's Church and St John's church, and a comparison of those accounts with the records. It also included considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to the matters set out on the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed: .....K Christmas.....

Name: K Christmas
Qualification: ACA
Address: White Cottage
The Enterdent
Godstone
Surrey RH9 8EG

Date: 29 October 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED BENEFICE OF GODSTONE AND BLINDLEY HEAT

England & Wales - Charity number 1143975

Accounts

St Nicholas' Church, Godstone

St Stephen's Church, South Godstone

St John's Church, Blindley Heath

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of the UNITED BENEFICE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended 31st December 2022

INCUMBENT
Revd Peter O'Connell
The Rectory, 17 Ivy Mill Lane,
Godstone, Surrey

Registered Charity - 1143975

ANNUAL REPORT
THE BENEFICE AND PARISH OF GODSTONE & BLINDLEY HEATH
For the year ended 31st December 2022

The Parish Church of St Nicholas serving the community of Godstone.
St Stephen's Church serving the community of South Godstone as a Parish Centre of Worship
The Parish Church of St John serving the community of Blindley Heath

Parochial boundaries are compatible with the civic authority of Godstone Parish Council and within the Tandridge District Council responsible for East Surrey.

Correspondence addresses for the Benefice are:-

Incumbent	Revd Peter O'Connell The Rectory, 17 Ivy Mill Lane Godstone, Surrey RH9 8NH
PCC Secretary:	Karen Jackson
Benefice Office:	Email - benefice@godstone.net Telephone 07428 348651

Benefice Structure and Organisation
As set out in the Pastoral Measure signed by the Bishop of Southwark on the 3 May 1997, the Benefice structure is as follows: An overall PCC is the legal entity for the three churches. This PCC has devolved its powers, as appropriate, for the running of the individual churches to an elected body known as a District Church Council (DCC). These councils are, however, responsible to the overall PCC. Each DCC and the PCC to form such sub-committees, and a standing committee, as are required for the smooth running of the particular church. The PCC membership is elected by the DCC members, themselves elected at the Annual General Meeting of each church.

Ministerial Co-operation
The PCC and each DCC is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, to co-operate with the Incumbent and the ministry team, in promoting in the Benefice and parish the whole ministry of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Members of the PCC and DCCs
These are as set out on page 7.

Church Electoral Rolls

Following the annual meetings in 2022 the Electoral Roll figures are as follows:

St Nicholas' Church	72
St Stephen's Church	15
St John's Church	18

Mission Aims and Objectives

The following summarises our Mission Statement and these are to be achieved through church services, the occasional children's, youth and general outreach and the community involvement of the ministerial team and congregation members. Each church belongs to and serves its respective village.

STATEMENT OF MISSION

We seek to fulfill Christ's challenging commandment that we love God and our fellow human beings as ourselves, through:

Commitment to the nurture of our spiritual life by:

- regular private prayer
- being receptive to the Word of God
- sharing in corporate worship
- using opportunities to learn from each other
- an openness in worship, embracing both the formal and informal.

Being a Christian presence and engaging with our local and wider communities by:

- being a welcoming church family serving all within our community
- accepting and valuing the diverse gifts and traditions of others
- valuing opportunities for outreach, including recognizing the significance of our church school and aiming to ensure that our buildings are welcoming environments for use by others
- widespread and effective communication
- witnessing and sharing our faith
- being aware of opportunities for prayerful and practical responses to challenges in the community, world and church
- valuing opportunities for growth and being willing to embrace change.

Activities in the Year

During the last year the three Churches of the Parish, St Nicholas' in Godstone, St Stephen's in South Godstone and St John's in Blindley Heath have continued with their primary function of providing a faith and worship centre in each community. This is in accordance with the traditional parochial and pastoral ministry of the Church of England.

Following the coronavirus pandemic, worship and other activities were similar to pre-pandemic years although the number of regular worshippers has not recovered. Weddings and funerals, study groups, junior church, social functions and community events are all taking place again.

The churches celebrated major festivals and events such as Easter, Whitsun, harvest, remembrance day, Christingle and Christmas with relatively good attendance.

An on-line service continued to be streamed each week from St Stephen's church as people unable to physically attend a church benefit from this.

The involvement of clergy and parishioners with St Stephen's Church School as governors has continued and the school attended St Stephen's Church on several occasions.

Maintenance of our ancient but beautiful buildings is an important part of ministry and our ability just visibly to 'be' the church in each community is very relevant to people who live here. Use of the buildings by parishioners and the wider community is key to our visibility and many people continued to play their part in the looking after of each church, notably in the cleaning and decoration, and a sense of loving care is evident which is complemented by the welcome and friendly atmospheres which prevails in all three churches.

St Nicholas and St Stephen's were subject to a Quinquennial Inspection during 2021 and St John's in 2022. The reports confirmed that the churches remain in generally good condition. Any urgent matters have already been dealt with and some minor items requiring attention will be acted upon in due course.

Little progress on the building projects at St Nicholas and St John's has been made in the last three years but it is hoped that these can now be moved forward subject to sufficient funds.

We also continued to share our witness with Godstone Baptist Church, with a number of joint activities.

The link that was set up in 2016 with the parish of St John's in Rutendo in Zimbabwe continued throughout the year.

The Youth Centre in Godstone, St Stephen's Jubilee Rooms and St John's Church Hall are available for church and non-church organisations in each village. They are much appreciated meeting places and it is hoped that the level of activities they are used for can continue and be increased.

Socially we try to be an active Benefice. There is a monthly Café Connect in Godstone at which money is raised for various charities and a weekly coffee morning in South Godstone which was extended to be a 'warm space'. There was a Christmas Fayre at both St Nicholas' and St Stephen's. There were various activities at St John's including an Easter egg hunt, cream teas, quizzes and skittles. The bereavement group continued and a new singing group started.

St Nicholas is grateful for the support of the Friends of St Nicholas which funds many of the fabric projects either directly or via donations.

We are grateful for the ministry and support provided by Revd Peter O'Connell and the assistance of our Assistant Priest, Revd Evelyn Randall, reader Liz Windridge and Wendy Hewitt from Hurst Green during this year. We also extend our thanks to the Churchwardens, officers and members of the DCC's and PCC who continued to work hard over the last year to ensure that we continued to promote God's Kingdom in this place.

We are optimistic about the coming year. It is hoped that some of the big projects to upgrade the facilities within St Nicholas and St John's churches will come to fruition. We are hopeful of a good and progressive year and thank everyone for their faithful support.

We ask for God's blessing on us, and our work undertaken in his name.

Finance Report

Net funds of the whole Benefice increased by £31,118 prior to the revaluation of investments but this was after a one off legacy of £31,300 for St Nicholas church. The value of the investment portfolio at St Stephen's fell by £8,890. This has resulted in an overall increase in reserves of £22,228. The level of donations, which included £6,515 from the Friends of St Nicholas (registered charity no. 278948), showed an overall increase. A grant of £3,512 was received from Southwark Diocese towards the increased fuel costs. The effects of the covid pandemic are now minimal but numbers in the congregations are still not back to their pre covid levels which continues to have an impact on income.

The Forman's Fund is administered by St John's Church DCC and has received income of £118 in this capacity which will be paid out as donations.

Only one of the churches increased its pledge to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund for 2022 but even so this resulted in an overall increase of just over 2% across the Benefice. All the churches continue to seek savings on their day-to-day running expenses, even so these still increased during the year, particularly utility costs. The level of external giving, which includes donations to both secular and non-secular charities increased after the reduced levels of the last few years.

The planned internal refurbishment at both St John's and St Nicholas has not yet commenced but funds are continuing to be set aside.

Quinquennial inspections at St Nicholas and St Stephen were carried out in 2021 and in 2022 at St John's resulting in expenditure on the fabric at all three churches.

Our net assets of £219,559 at the end of the year include investments of £94,733 which are funds restricted for use at St. Stephen's Church. The investments are currently held under the custody of the Diocese of Southwark but the responsibility for the management of all investments rest with the PCC as Trustees. Although there are cumulative cash balances of £134,584 across the Benefice cash flow continues to be a key concern with each church endeavouring to increase income from both donations and fund raising and to keep costs under control, both of which continue to present difficulties.

Approved by the PCC on 25 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman) Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

UNITED BENEFICE PCC and DCC STRUCTURE at 31 December 2022
Chair: Peter O'Connell

Vice Chair: Karen Jackson

Co-opted Members
Revd Evelyn Randall
Liz Windridge

Church Wardens

St Nicholas	**St Stephens**	**St Johns**
Louise Case	Karen Jackson	Trevor Nightingale
Graham Millar	Vacant	Helen McRobert

Treasurer Janet MacKinnon **Secretary** Karen Jackson

ST NICHOLAS	**ST STEPHENS**	**ST JOHNS**
Deanery Synod Members: also Ex-Officio DCC's		
Louise Case	Karen Jackson	Vacant
Caroline Coles		
Vacant		
Elected Members from DCCs		
Margaret Shelley	Carol Cryer	Christine McPhail
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Patricia Rose
Vacant		

DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS

Rector	**Rector**	**Rector**
Churchwardens	**Churchwardens**	**Churchwardens**
Vice Chair	**Vice Chair**	**Vice Chair**
Lay: Louise Case	Lay: Karen Jackson	Lay: Trevor Nightingale
Treasurer	**Treasurer**	**Treasurer**
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant
Secretary	**Secretary**	**Secretary**
Alison McCormick	Karen Jackson	Patricia Rose
Miranda Bass	Joyce Brown	Annabell Askew
Jenny Benham	Carol Carey	Ann Bell
Jenefer Bull	Elaine Childs	Pauline Ginner
Caroline Coles	Carol Cryer	Christine McPhail
Di Grose	Janet MacKinnon	Joan Wall
Rita Hale	Cathy Snell	
Diane Hoy		
Lyn Jones		
Margaret Shelley		
Electoral Roll Officers		
Di Grose	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant
Gift Aid Recorders		
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath

Full BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2022

2021		2022
100,207	Investments	94,733
	Current Assets	
1,588	Debtors	1,462
107,811	Cash At Bank and In Hand	134,584
109,399		136,046
	Current Liabilities	
12,275	Creditors Due Within One Year	11,220
97,124	Net Current Assets	124,826
197,331	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	219,559
197,331	**NET ASSETS**	**219,559**
	Represented by Funds	
	Unrestricted Funds	
44,023	St Nicholas' funds	71,926
9,425	St Stephen's funds	12,175
34,610	St John's funds	37,007
9,066	United Benefice funds	3,718
97,124	Total Unrestricted funds	124,826
	Restricted Funds	
100,207	St Stephens investment account	94,733
100,207	Total restricted funds	94,733
197,331	**TOTAL FUNDS**	**219,559**

Approved by the PCC on 25 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman)

Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2022

2021 Total Funds		2022 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Incoming resources			
62,370	Donated income	88,372		88,372
0	Recurring grants	0		0
3,208	Investment income	386	3,416	3,802
23,596	Activities for generating funds	28,689		28,689
5,100	Non-Recurring Income	3,513		3,513
94,274	Total incoming resources	120,960	3,416	124,376
	Resources expended			
38,745	Diocesan pledge	39,533		39,533
376	Clergy expenses	478		478
11,183	Assignment of fees	9,861		9,861
27,487	Church running expenses	29,045		29,045
0	Costs Related to Trading	0		0
4,420	Salaries and support costs	3,675		3,675
2,147	Management and administration	2,912		2,912
3,600	Major capital expenditure	0		0
4,865	Donations to charities	7,904		7,754
92,823	Total resources used	93,408	0	93,258
1,451	NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	27,552	3,416	31,118
0	Transfers between funds	0	0	0
1,451	NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	27,552	3,416	31,118
0	Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	0	0	0
12,079	Revaluation of investments	0	(8,890)	(8,890)
13,530	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	27,552	(5,474)	22,228
183,801	Fund balances at 1 January 2021	97,124	100,207	197,331
197,331	FUND BALANCES at 31 DECEMBER 2022	124,676	94,733	**219,559**

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022
Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statement includes all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted Funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on the fund.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

There is one trust fund held for the churches which relates to St Stephen's. The capital of St Stephen's trust fund is restricted and can be applied for the maintenance of the church building. The dividends and interest from the fund are accumulated in a separate fund and is unrestricted.

Resources and Expenditure

Planned giving, interest, collections, legacies and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds submitted as annual claims are recognized in the year in which the claim is made.
The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Any furnishing or equipment used within the church premises of less than £5,000 is written off when acquired. The PCC has not acquired any asset in excess of £5,000 since moving from a receipts and payments basis.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December 2022.

2. Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
St Stephen – Trust fund (income)	5,315	5,315
St Stephen – Trust fund (capital)	94,892	94,892
	100,207	100,207
These are invested as follows:		
M&G Charifund Accumulation Units	36,140	38,016
CBF Investment Fund Income shares	52,838	59,852
CBF Deposit Account	5,755	2,339
	94,733	100,207

3. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Sundry debtors	1,462	1,588
	1,462	1,588

4. Current Liabilities

	2022 £	2021 £
Assignment of fees	3,623	7,243
Accruals	6,947	3,692
Prepaid wedding and funeral fees	650	1,150
Other prepayments	0	190
	11,220	12,275

5. Unrestricted funds

St Nicholas' funds include £7,927.89 set aside towards new hospitality facilities.

St John's funds represent £24,471 in respect of the church, which includes funds for toilet facilities, the organ and the car park, and £12,536 in respect of the church hall.

St Stephen's funds include £213 carried forward in respect of the defibrillator.

The United Benefice funds include £16 carried forward in respect of monies received to assist the needy in the parish.

6. Staff Costs

The Benefice has one employee who is the parish administrator. Payments to individuals were made at two churches for organists and at one church for cleaning and grass cutting.

Independent Examiner's Report
To the United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath PCC

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 as set out on pages 1 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required for this year, under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC, covering St Nicholas' church, St Stephen's Church and St John's church, and a comparison of those accounts with the records. It also included considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to the matters set out on the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed: .....

Name: K Christmas
Qualification: ACA
Address: White Cottage
The Enterdent
Godstone
Surrey RH9 8EG

Date: 26 October 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED BENEFICE OF GODSTONE AND BLINDLEY HEAT

England & Wales - Charity number 1143975

Accounts

St Nicholas' Church, Godstone

St Stephen's Church, South Godstone

St John's Church, Blindley Heath

ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
UNITED BENEFICE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL

For the year ended 31st December 2021

INCUMBENT
Revd Peter O'Connell
The Rectory, 17 Ivy Mill Lane,
Godstone, Surrey

Registered Charity - 1143975

ANNUAL REPORT
THE BENEFICE AND PARISH OF GODSTONE & BLINDLEY HEATH
For the year ended 31st December 2021

The Parish Church of St Nicholas serving the community of Godstone.
St Stephen's Church serving the community of South Godstone as a Parish Centre of Worship
The Parish Church of St John serving the community of Blindley Heath

Parochial boundaries are compatible with the civic authority of Godstone Parish Council and within the Tandridge District Council responsible for East Surrey.

Correspondence addresses for the Benefice are:-

Incumbent	Revd Peter O'Connell The Rectory, 17 Ivy Mill Lane Godstone, Surrey RH9 8NH
PCC Secretary:	Karen Jackson
Benefice Office:	Email - benefice@godstone.net Telephone 07428 348651

Benefice Structure and Organisation
As set out in the Pastoral Measure signed by the Bishop of Southwark on the 3 May 1997, the Benefice structure is as follows: An overall PCC is the legal entity for the three churches. This PCC has devolved its powers, as appropriate, for the running of the individual churches to an elected body known as a District Church Council (DCC). These councils are, however, responsible to the overall PCC. Each DCC and the PCC to form such sub-committees, and a standing committee, as are required for the smooth running of the particular church. The PCC membership is elected by the DCC members, themselves elected at the Annual General Meeting of each church.

Ministerial Co-operation
The PCC and each DCC is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, to co-operate with the Incumbent and the ministry team, in promoting in the Benefice and parish the whole ministry of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Members of the PCC and DCCs
These are as set out on page 7.

Church Electoral Rolls

Following the annual meetings in 2021 the Electoral Roll figures are as follows:

St Nicholas' Church	78
St Stephen's Church	15
St John's Church	18

Mission Aims and Objectives

The following summarises our Mission Statement and these are to be achieved through church services, the occasional children's, youth and general outreach and the community involvement of the ministerial team and congregation members. Each church belongs to and serves its respective village.

STATEMENT OF MISSION

We seek to fulfill Christ's challenging commandment that we love God and our fellow human beings as ourselves, through:

Commitment to the nurture of our spiritual life by:

- regular private prayer
- being receptive to the Word of God
- sharing in corporate worship
- using opportunities to learn from each other
- an openness in worship, embracing both the formal and informal.

Being a Christian presence and engaging with our local and wider communities by:

- being a welcoming church family serving all within our community
- accepting and valuing the diverse gifts and traditions of others
- valuing opportunities for outreach, including recognizing the significance of our church school and aiming to ensure that our buildings are welcoming environments for use by others
- widespread and effective communication
- witnessing and sharing our faith
- being aware of opportunities for prayerful and practical responses to challenges in the community, world and church
- valuing opportunities for growth and being willing to embrace change.

Activities in the Year

During the last year the three Churches of the Parish, St Nicholas' in Godstone, St Stephen's in South Godstone and St John's in Blindley Heath have continued with their primary function of providing a faith and worship centre in each community. This is in accordance with the traditional parochial and pastoral ministry of the Church of England.

However, due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic, worship and other activities were again severely curtailed for the first half of the year. Weddings and funerals continued to be impacted and there were limited study groups, junior church and social functions or community events.

The churches celebrated major festivals and events such as Easter, Whitsun, harvest, remembrance day, Christingle and Christmas with the latter celebrations almost back to normal.

An on-line service continued to be streamed each week but normal services at all three churches resumed in the second half of the year subject to appropriate restrictions.

The involvement of clergy and parishioners with St Stephen's Church School as governors has continued although the school was not able to attend St Stephen's Church on all the occasions when it usually would but normality was resumed towards the end of the year.

Maintenance of our ancient but beautiful buildings is an important part of ministry and our ability just visibly to 'be' the church in each community is very relevant to people who live here. Although the building were not used as much in 2021 as would normally be the case, many people continued to play their part in the looking after of each church, notably in the cleaning and decoration and a sense of loving care is evident which is complemented by the welcome and friendly atmospheres which prevail.

St Nicholas and St Stephen's were subject to a Quinquennial Inspection during 2021. The reports confirmed that the churches remain in generally good condition. Any urgent latters have already been dealt with and some minor items requiring attention in due course.The inspection for St John's will be carried out in 2022.

Little progress on the building projects at St Nicholas and St John's has been made in the last two years but it is hoped that these can now be moved forward subject to sufficient funds.

We also continued to share our witness with Godstone Baptist Church, although still much curtailed, during 2021.

The link that was set up in 2016 with the parish of St John's in Rutendo in Zimbabwe continued throughout the year.

Although still not used as much as usual in 2021, the Youth Centre in Godstone, St Stephen's Jubilee Rooms and St John's Church Hall are available for church and non-church organisations in each village. They are much appreciated meeting places and it is hoped that most of the activities they are used that recommenced in the latter part of 2021 and will now continue into 2022.

Socially we are normally an active Benefice but these were limited in the year. Monthly Café Connect in Godstone and coffee mornings in South Godstone started again in the summer and there was a craft fair and a Christmas tree fair at St Nicholas. It is hoped that more activities will take place in 2022, including celebrations for the Queen's jubilee.

St Nicholas is grateful for the support of the Friends of St Nicholas which funds many of the fabric projects either directly or via donations.

We are grateful for the ministry and support provided by Revd Peter O'Connell and the assistance of our Assistant Priest, Revd Evelyn Randall, reader Liz Windridge and Wendy Hewitt from Hurst Green during this, again, difficult year. We also extend our thanks to the Churchwardens, officers and members of the DCC's and PCC who continued to work hard over the last year to ensure that we continued to promote God's Kingdom in this place.

We are optimistic about the coming year and, as restrictions are lifted. Services are much more like normal and many of our activities have resumed. It is hoped that some of the big projects to upgrade the facilities within St Nicholas and St John each building will come to fruition. We are hopeful of a good and progressive year and thank everyone for their faithful support.

We ask for God's blessing on us, and our work undertaken in his name.

Finance Report

Net funds of the whole Benefice increased by £1,451 prior to the revaluation of investments, however, the value of the investment portfolio also increased by £12,079 following more positive economic conditions after the covid pandemic. This has resulted in an overall increase in reserves of £13,530. The level of donations, which included £10,174 from the Friends of St Nicholas (registered charity no. 278948), showed an overall increase. A grant of £5,000 was received from The Gold Bottle Trust (Hoare Trustees) during the year which was shared between ST Nicholas and St John for their refurbishment works. The covid pandemic continued to have a severe impact on the amount of income received at all three churches, particularly in the first half of the year when weddings and fundraising events were curtailed.

The Forman's Fund is administered by St John's Church DCC and has received income of £115 in this capacity which will be paid out as donations.

Only one of the churches increased its pledge to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund for 2021 but even so this resulted in an overall increase of 2% over the benefice. All the churches continue to seek savings on their day-to-day running expenses, even so these still increased during the year. The level of external giving, which includes donations to both secular and non-secular charities, increased after the reduced levels of 2020.

The planned internal refurbishment at both St John's and St Nicholas has not yet commenced but funds are continuing to be set aside.

Quinquennial inspections at St Nicholas and St Stephen were carried out in resulting in additional expenditure. The next inspection at St John's will be carried out in 2022.

Our net assets of £197,331 at the end of the year include investments of £100,207 which are funds restricted for use at St. Stephen's Church. The investments are currently held under the custody of the Diocese of Southwark but the responsibility for the management of all investments rest with the PCC as Trustees. Although there are cumulative cash balances of £107,811 across the Benefice cash flow continues to be a key concern with each church endeavouring to increase income from both donations and fund raising and to keep costs under control, both of which have been particularly difficult this year.

The covid pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the financial position of all three churches in 2021 but it is hoped things will improve in 2022.

Approved by the PCC on 3 October 2022 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman) Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

UNITED BENEFICE PCC and DCC STRUCTURE at 31 December 2021

Chair: Peter O'Connell

Vice Chair: Karen Jackson

Co-opted Members
Revd Evelyn Randall
Liz Windridge

Church Wardens

St Nicholas	**St Stephens**	**St Johns**
Louise Case	Karen Jackson	Vacant
Graham Millar	Vacant	Vacant

Treasurer Janet MacKinnon **Secretary** Karen Jackson

ST NICHOLAS	**ST STEPHENS**	**ST JOHNS**
	Deanery Synod Members: also Ex-Officio DCC's	
Louise Case	Karen Jackson	Vacant
Vacant		
Vacant		
	Elected Members from DCCs	
Margaret Shelley	Eileen Bourne	Christine McPhail
Vacant	Carol Cryer	Patricia Rose

DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS

Rector	**Rector**	**Rector**
Churchwardens	**Churchwardens**	**Churchwardens**
Vice Chair	**Vice Chair**	**Vice Chair**
Lay: Louise Case	Lay: Karen Jackson	Lay: Vacant
Treasurer	**Treasurer**	**Treasurer**
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant
Secretary	**Secretary**	**Secretary**
Alison McCormick	Karen Jackson	Patricia Rose
Miranda Bass	Eileen Bourne	Annabell Askew
Jenny Bull	Joyce Brown	Ann Bell
Di Grose	Carol Carey	Pauline Ginner
Rita Hale	Elaine Childs	Christine McPhail
Lyn Jones	Carol Cryer	Trevor Nightingale
Margaret Shelley	Janet MacKinnon	Joan Wall
Jenny West	Cathy Snell	
Philippa Woods		
	Electoral Roll Officers	
Di Grose	Janet MacKinnon	Patricia Rose
	Gift Aid Recorders	
Vacant	Janet MacKinnon	Vacant

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath

Full BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2021

2020		2021
85,078	Investments	100,207
	Current Assets	
1,738	Debtors	1,588
103,899	Cash At Bank and In Hand	107,811
105,637		109,399
	Current Liabilities	
6,914	Creditors Due Within One Year	12,275
98,723	Net Current Assets	97,124
183,801	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	197,331
183,801	**NET ASSETS**	**197,331**
	Represented by Funds	
	Unrestricted Funds	
52,488	St Nicholas' funds	44,023
10,574	St Stephen's funds	9,425
31,226	St John's funds	34,610
4,435	United Benefice funds	9,066
98,723	Total Unrestricted funds	97,124
	Restricted Funds	
85,078	St Stephens investment account	100,207
85,078	Total restricted funds	100,207
183,801	**TOTAL FUNDS**	**197,331**

Approved by the PCC on 3 October 2022 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman)

Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

JaMackinnon

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2021

2020 Total Funds		2021 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Incoming resources			
53,124	Donated income	62,370		62,370
0	Recurring grant	0		0
1,967	Investment income	158	3,050	3,208
16,784	Activities for generating funds	23,596		23,596
1,123	Non-Recurring Income	5,100		5,100
72,998	Total incoming resources	91,224	3,050	94,274
	Resources expended			
37,980	Diocesan pledge	38,745		38,745
528	Clergy expenses	376		376
6,570	Assignment of fees	11,183		11,183
19,385	Church running expenses	27,487		27,487
0	Costs Related to Trading	0		0
3,705	Salaries and support costs	4,420		4,420
2,943	Management and administration	2,147		2,147
9,977	Major capital expenditure	3,600		3,600
2,845	Donations to charities	4,865		4,865
83,933	Total resources used	92,823	0	92,823
(10,935)	NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	(1,599)	3,050	1,451
0	Transfers between funds	0	0	0
(10,935)	NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	(1,599)	3,050	1,451
106	Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	0	0	0
(1,347)	Revaluation of investments	0	12,079	12,079
(12,176)	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(1,599)	15,129	13,530
195,977	Fund balances at 1 January 2021	98,723	85,078	183,801
183,801	FUND BALANCES at 31 DECEMBER 2021	97,124	100,207	**197,331**

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021
Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statement includes all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted Funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on the fund.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

There is one trust fund held for the churches which relates to St Stephen's. The capital of St Stephen's trust fund is restricted and can be applied for the maintenance of the church building. The dividends and interest from the fund are accumulated in a separate fund and is unrestricted.

Resources and Expenditure

Planned giving, interest, collections, legacies and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds submitted as annual claims are recognized in the year in which the claim is made.
The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Any furnishing or equipment used within the church premises of less than £5,000 is written off when acquired. The PCC has not acquired any asset in excess of £5,000 since moving from a receipts and payments basis.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December 2021.

2. Investments

	2021 £	2020 £
St Stephen – Trust fund (income)	5,315	758
St Stephen – Trust fund (capital)	94,892	84,320
	100,207	89,763
These are invested as follows:		
M&G Charifund Accumulation Units	38,016	31,952
CBF Investment Fund Income shares	59,852	52,328
CBF Deposit Account	2,339	818
	100,207	89,763

3. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Sundry debtors	1,588	1,738
	1,588	1,738

4. Current Liabilities

	2021 £	2020 £
Assignment of fees	7,243	1,202
Accruals	3,692	4,052
Prepaid wedding and funeral fees	1,150	1,500
Other prepayments	190	160
	12,275	6,914

5. Unrestricted funds

St Nicholas' funds include £6,146 set aside towards new hospitality facilities.

St John's funds represent £23,950 in respect of the church, which includes funds for toilet facilities, the organ and the car park, and £10,210 in respect of the church hall.

St Stephen's funds include £213 carried forwards in respect of the defibrillator.

6. Staff Costs

The Benefice has one employee who is the parish administrator. Payments to individuals were made at two churches for organists and at one church for cleaning.

Independent Examiner's Report
To the United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath PCC

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 as set out on pages 1 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required for this year, under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC, covering St Nicholas' church, St Stephen's Church and St John's church, and a comparison of those accounts with the records. It also included considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to the matters set out on the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed: K Christmas.....

Name: K Christmas
Qualification: ACA
Address: White Cottage
The Enterdent
Godstone
Surrey RH9 8EG

Date: October 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED BENEFICE OF GODSTONE AND BLINDLEY HEAT

England & Wales - Charity number 1143975

Accounts

St Nicholas' Church, Godstone

St Stephen's Church, South Godstone

St John's Church, Blindley Heath

ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
UNITED BENEFICE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL

For the year ended 31st December 2020

INCUMBENT
Revd Peter O'Connell
The Rectory, 17 Ivy Mill Lane,
Godstone, Surrey

Registered Charity - 1143975

ANNUAL REPORT
THE BENEFICE AND PARISH OF GODSTONE & BLINDLEY HEATH
For the year ended 31st December 2020

The Parish Church of St Nicholas serving the community of Godstone.
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PCC Secretary:	Karen Jackson
Benefice Office:	Email - benefice@godstone.net Telephone 07428 348651

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Ministerial Co-operation
The PCC and each DCC is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, to co-operate with the Incumbent and the ministry team, in promoting in the Benefice and parish the whole ministry of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Members of the PCC and DCCs
These are as set out in the attached sheet.

Church Electoral Rolls

Following the annual meetings in 2020 the Electoral Roll figures are as follows:

St Nicholas' Church	70
St Stephen's Church	16
St John's Church	16

Mission Aims and Objectives

The following summarises our Mission Statement and these are to be achieved through church services, the occasional children's, youth and general outreach and the community involvement of the ministerial team and congregation members. Each church belongs to and serves its respective village.

STATEMENT OF MISSION

We seek to fulfill Christ's challenging commandment that we love God and our fellow human beings as ourselves, through:

Commitment to the nurture of our spiritual life by:

- regular private prayer
- nurture of healing ministry
- being receptive to the Word of God
- sharing in corporate worship
- using opportunities to learn from each other
- an openness in worship, embracing both the formal and informal.

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- being a welcoming church family serving all ages within our community
- accepting and valuing the diverse gifts and traditions of others
- valuing opportunities for outreach, including recognizing the significance of our church school and aiming to ensure that our buildings are welcoming environments for use by others
- widespread and effective communication
- witnessing and sharing our faith
- being aware of opportunities for prayerful and practical responses to challenges in the community, world and church
- valuing opportunities for growth and being willing to embrace change.

Activities in the Year

During the last year the three Churches of the Parish, St Nicholas' in Godstone, St Stephen's in South Godstone and St John's in Blindley Heath have continued with their primary function of providing a faith and worship centre in each community. This is in accordance with the traditional parochial and pastoral ministry of the Church of England.

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, worship and other activities were severely curtailed from mid-March and throughout the rest of the year. Weddings and funerals bore significant impact and there were no study groups, junior church or social functions and very limited community events.

The churches celebrated major festivals and events such as Christmas, Christingle, Easter, Whitsun and harvest and remembrance day as best they could via on-line services with attendance at the churches subject to the restrictions in place at the time. For Christmas the choir and other parishioners recorded a service of 'Nine lessons and carols' which was made available on a CD.

From March an on-line service was streamed each week and once restrictions after the first lock down were eased services, where people could attend, were re-introduced at all three churches subject to the appropriate restrictions. The rector also streamed a daily evening prayer and organised an interesting series of talks by guest speakers on 'Why am I an Anglican' during lent

The involvement of clergy and parishioners with St Stephen's Church School as governors has continued although the school was unable to attend St Stephen's Church on the occasions when it would in any normal year.

Maintenance of our ancient but beautiful buildings is an important part of ministry and our ability just visibly to 'be' the church in each community is very relevant to people who live here. Although the building were not used very much in 2020, many people continued to play their part in the looking after of each church, notably in the cleaning and decoration and a sense of loving care is evident which is complemented by the welcome and friendly atmospheres which prevail.

All three churches were last subject to a Quinquennial Inspection during 2016. Although the reports confirmed that the churches remain in generally good condition some minor items requiring attention were identified. The next inspection will take place in 2021.

During the year a new floor was laid in the back rooms at St Stephen's but we still await progress on the building projects at St Nicholas and St John's.

We also continued to share our witness with Godstone Baptist Church, although very much curtailed, during 2020.

The link that was set up in 2016 with the parish of St John's in Rutendo in Zimbabwe continued throughout the year.

Although hardly used in 2020, the Youth Centre in Godstone, St Stephen's Jubilee Rooms and St John's Church Hall are available for church and non-church organisations in each village. They are much appreciated meeting places and it is hoped that most of the activities they are used for can recommence in 2021.

Socially we are normally an active Benefice but, other than a couple of village coffee mornings in

Godstone and South Godstone when restrictions allowed, none of our usual activities took place during the year:

We are grateful for the ministry and support provided by Revd Peter O'Connell and the assistance of our Assistant Priest, Revd Evelyn Randall during this particularly difficult year. In order for people to join in a weekly Sunday Service, and other types of service, services were live streamed from St Stephen's church via facebook or youtube and our thanks go to Caleb O'Connell for his technical input. During the year we welcomed Liz Windridge as a reader who is licensed to the Benefice. We also extend our thanks to the Churchwardens, officers and members of the DCC's and PCC who continued to work hard over the last year to ensure that we continued to promote God's Kingdom in this place.

We are optimistic about the coming year and, as restrictions start to lift, we are hoping that services will be able revert to something more normal and that many of our activities will be able to resume. It is hoped that some of the big projects to upgrade the facilities within St Nicholas and St John each building will come to fruition. We are hopeful of a good and progressive year and thank everyone for their faithful support.

We ask for God's blessing on us, and our work undertaken in his name.

Finance Report

Net funds of the whole Benefice decreased by £10,936 prior to the revaluation of investments, however, the value of the investment portfolio also decreased by £1,347 following a decline in in economic conditions due to the covid pandemic. This has resulted in an overall decrease in reserves of £12,177. The level of donations, which included £4,159 from the Friends of St Nicholas (registered charity no. 278948), showed an overall decrease. A grant of £1,000 was received from Ecclesiastical during the year which was shared between the three churches for their refurbishment works. The covid pandemic has had a severe impact on the amount of income received at all three churches. As well as the level of general giving and donations being reduced it was not possible for any weddings to take place or to hold fundraising events and the use of the churches facilities was substantially reduced.

The Forman's Fund is administered by St John's Church DCC and has received income of £113 in this capacity which will be paid out as donations.

Although two churches increased their pledges to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund for 2020 one church found it necessary to reduce theirs so across the Benefice there was an overall 1.3% decrease in this. All the churches continue to seek savings on their day-to-day running expenses and some costs fell due to the lower number of services. The level of external giving, which includes donations to both secular and non-secular charities, was much reduced, as for much of the year it was not possible to hold the monthly coffee mornings at either St Nicholas' (where all the money raised is used to support a number of charities, many of them local) or St Stephen's.

At Stephen's church it was found necessary to carry out some immediate repairs to the floor in the Jubilee rooms which meant using £5,000 from the investment fund and also deleted its general reserves by £4,000. The planned internal refurbishment at both St John's and St Nicholas has not yet commenced.

The last quinquennial inspections at each of the three churches were in 2016 and, although nothing major was identified, expenditure is still required on an ongoing basis to keep the churches in good order. The next inspection will be carried out in 2021.

Our net assets of £183,801 at the end of the year include investments of £85,078 which are funds restricted for use at St. Stephen's Church. The investments are currently held under the custody of the Diocese of Southwark but the responsibility for the management of all investments rest with the PCC as Trustees. Although there are cumulative cash balances of £103,899 across the Benefice cash flow continues to be a key concern with each church endeavouring to increase income from both donations and fund raising and to keep costs under control, both of which have been particularly difficult this year.

The covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the financial position of all three churches and this will continue into 2021.

Approved by the PCC on 27 May 2021 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman)

Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

UNITED BENEFICE PCC and DCC STRUCTURE at 31 December 2020

Chair: Peter O'Connell

Vice Chair: Karen Jackson

Co-opted Members
Revd Evelyn Randall

Church Wardens

St Nicholas	St Stephens	St Johns
Louise Case	Karen Jackson	Vacant
Graham Millar	Vacant	Vacant

Treasurer Janet MacKinnon **Secretary** Karen Jackson

ST NICHOLAS	ST STEPHENS	ST JOHNS
	Deanery Synod Members: also Ex-Officio DCC's	
Louise Case	Karen Jackson	Vacant
Vacant		
Vacant		
	Elected Members from DCCs	
Ruth Shearing	Eileen Bourne	Christine McPhail
Margaret Shelley	Carol Cryer	Patricia Rose

DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS

Rector	**Rector**	**Rector**
Churchwardens	**Churchwardens**	**Churchwardens**
Vice Chair	**Vice Chair**	**Vice Chair**
Lay: Louise Case	Lay: Karen Jackson	Lay: Vacancy
Treasurer	**Treasurer**	**Treasurer**
Margaret Dupre	Janet MacKinnon	Keith Rose
Secretary	**Secretary**	**Secretary**
Alison McCormick	Karen Jackson	Patricia Rose
Miranda Bass	Eileen Bourne	Annabell Askew
Felicity Gresser	Joyce Brown	Pauline Ginner
Di Grose	Carol Carey	Christine McPhail
Rita Hale	Elaine Childs	Trevor Nightingale
Lyn Jones	Carol Cryer	Joan Wall
Ruth Shearing	Janet MacKinnon	
Margaret Shelley	Cathy Snell	
Jenny West		
Philippa Woods		
	Electoral Roll Officers	
Di Grose	Janet MacKinnon	Patricia Rose
	Gift Aid Recorders	
Margaret Dupre	Janet MacKinnon	Keith Rose

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2020

2019		2020
89,763	Investments	85,078
	Current Assets	
0	Debtors	1,738
110,437	Cash At Bank and In Hand	103,899
110,437		105,637
	Current Liabilities	
4,223	Creditors Due Within One Year	6,914
106,214	Net Current Assets	98,723
195,977	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	183,801
195,977	**NET ASSETS**	**183,801**
	Represented by Funds	
	Unrestricted Funds	
61,109	St Nicholas' funds	52,488
15,609	St Stephen's funds	10,574
28,808	St John's funds	31,226
688	United Benefice fund	4,435
106,214	Total Unrestricted funds	98,723
	Restricted Funds	
89,763	St Stephens investment account	85,078
89,763	Total restricted funds	85,078
195,977	**TOTAL FUNDS**	**183,801**

Approved by the PCC on 27 May 2021 and signed on its behalf by

Revd Peter O'Connell (PCC Chairman)

Janet MacKinnon (PCC Treasurer)

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2020

2019 Total Funds		2020 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	Incoming resources			
67,326	Donated income	53,124		53,124
0	Recurring grant	0		0
4,185	Investment income	411	1,556	1,967
29,543	Activities for generating funds	16,784		16,784
4,570	Non-Recurring Income	1,123		1,123
105,624	Total incoming resources	71,442	1,556	72,998
	Resources expended			
38,460	Diocesan pledge	37,980		37,980
1,169	Clergy expenses	528		528
10,516	Assignment of fees	6,570		6,570
28,965	Church running expenses	19,385		19,385
0	Costs Related to Trading	0		0
6,765	Salaries and support costs	3,705		3,705
6,680	Management and administration	2,943		2,943
47,089	Major capital expenditure	9,977		9,977
8,722	Donations to charities	2,845		2,845
148,366	Total resources used	83,933	0	83,933
(42,742)	NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	(12,492)	1,556	(10,936)
0	Transfers between funds	5,000	(5,000)	0
(42,742)	NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	(7,492)	(3,444)	(10,936)
0	Gains and losses on sale of fixed assets	0	106	106
13,500	Revaluation of investments	0	(1,347)	(1,347)
(29,242)	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(7,492)	(4,685)	(12,177)
225,219	Fund balances at 1 January 2020	106,215	89,763	195,977
195,977	FUND BALANCES at 31 DECEMBER 2020	98,723	85,078	**183,801**

United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath
Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020
Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statement includes all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted Funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on the fund.

Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

There is one trust fund held for the churches which relates to St Stephen's. The capital of St Stephen's trust fund is restricted and can be applied for the maintenance of the church building. The dividends and interest from the fund are accumulated in a separate fund and is unrestricted.

Resources and Expenditure

Planned giving, interest, collections, legacies and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds submitted as annual claims are recognized in the year in which the claim is made.
The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Moveable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Any furnishing or equipment used within the church premises of less than £5,000 is written off when acquired. The PCC has not acquired any asset in excess of £5,000 since moving from a receipts and payments basis.

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December 2020.

2. Investments

	2020 £	2019 £
St Stephen – Trust fund (income)	758	4,203
St Stephen – Trust fund (capital)	84,320	85,560
	85,078	89,763
These are invested as follows:		
M&G Charifund Accumulation Units	31,932	36,659
CBF Investment Fund Income shares	52,328	50,856
CBF Fixed Interest shares	0	654
CBF Deposit Account	818	1,594
	85,078	89,763

3. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Sundry debtors	1,738	0
	1,738	0

4. Current Liabilities

	2020 £	2019 £
Assignment of fees	1,202	675
Accruals	4,052	2,923
Prepaid wedding and funeral fees	1,500	625
Other prepayments	160	0
	6,914	4,223

5. Unrestricted funds

St John's funds represent £21,578 in respect of the church, which includes funds for toilet facilities, the organ and the car park, and £9,648 in respect of the church hall.

6. Staff Costs

The Benefice has one employee who is the parish administrator. Payments to individuals were made at two churches for organists and at one church for cleaning and grass cutting.

Independent Examiner's Report
To the United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath PCC

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020 as set out on pages 1 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. They consider that an audit is not required for this year, under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC, covering St Nicholas' church, St Stephen's Church and St John's church, and a comparison of those accounts with the records. It also included considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to the matters set out on the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed: ....K Christmas.....

Name: K Christmas
Qualification: ACA
Address: White Cottage
The Enterdent
Godstone
Surrey RH9 8EG

Date: 28 March 2022