

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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:	<u>Email - <a href="mailto:benefice@godstone.net">benefice@godstone.net</a></u> 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**

Louise Case  
Graham Millar

**St Stephens**  
Karen Jackson  
Vacant

**St Johns**

Trevor Nightingale  
Helen McRobert

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

**ST NICHOLAS**

**ST STEPHENS**

**ST JOHNS**

**Deanery Synod Members: also Ex-Officio DCC's**

Louise Case  
Caroline Coles  
Vacant

Karen Jackson

Vacant

**Elected Members from DCCs**

Margaret Shelley  
Vacant  
Vacant

Carol Cryer  
Janet MacKinnon

Christine McPhail  
Patricia Rose

**DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS**

**Rector**  
**Churchwardens**  
**Vice Chair**  
Lay: Louise Case  
**Treasurer**  
Vacant  
**Secretary**  
Alison McCormick

**Rector**  
**Churchwardens**  
**Vice Chair**  
Lay: Karen Jackson  
**Treasurer**  
Janet MacKinnon  
**Secretary**  
Karen Jackson

**Rector**  
**Churchwardens**  
**Vice Chair**  
Lay: Trevor Nightingale  
**Treasurer**  
Vacant  
**Secretary**  
Patricia Rose

Miranda Bass  
Jenny Benham  
Jenefer Bull  
Caroline Coles  
Di Grose  
Rita Hale  
Diane Hoy  
Lyn Jones  
Margaret Shelley

Joyce Brown  
Carol Carey  
Elaine Childs  
Carol Cryer  
Janet MacKinnon  
Cathy Snell

Annabell Askew  
Ann Bell  
Pauline Ginner  
Christine McPhail  
Joan Wall

Di Grose

**Electoral Roll Officers**

Janet MacKinnon

Vacant

Vacant

**Gift Aid Recorders**

Janet MacKinnon

Vacant

**United Benefice of Godstone and Blindley Heath**

**Full**

**BALANCE SHEET  
as at 31 December 2022**

<u>2021</u>		<u>2022</u>
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
<u><b>197,331</b></u>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>219,559</b></u>
	<b>Represented by Funds</b>	
	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
<u>97,124</u>	Total Unrestricted funds	<u>124,826</u>
	Restricted Funds	
100,207	St Stephens investment account	94,733
<u>100,207</u>	Total restricted funds	<u>94,733</u>
<u><b>197,331</b></u>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>219,559</b></u>

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		2022		
Total Funds		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
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
<b>Resources expended</b>				
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)	<u>94,892</u>	<u>94,892</u>
	<u>100,207</u>	<u>100,207</u>

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	<u>5,755</u>	<u>2,339</u>
	<u>94,733</u>	<u>100,207</u>

## 3. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Sundry debtors	<u>1,462</u>	<u>1,588</u>
	<u>1,462</u>	<u>1,588</u>

## 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	<u>0</u>	<u>190</u>
	<u>11,220</u>	<u>12,275</u>

## **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 Acthave 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